

# JBSA

# LEGACY

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JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO

SEPTEMBER 24, 2021



SENIOR AIRMAN TYLER MCQUISTON

U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Keilen Evans, 902nd Security Forces Squadron military working dog handler, follows his MWD to the end of a tunnel during a training exercise Aug. 27 at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph.

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# Commentary: On resilience through the storm

**By Senior Master Sgt. Elise Redziniak**

FIRST SERGEANT, AIR FORCE LIFE CYCLE  
MANAGEMENT CENTER

*"We don't have to do all of it alone. We were never meant to." - Brene Brown*

Have you ever wondered how huge trees withstand strong storms and not get knocked down due to the high winds and torrential downpours?

I found this very interesting that although trees are so tall and look like they could fall at any moment, they actually lean into other surrounding trees to help take the load off that they are carrying and they have the ability to streamline their shape to allow the wind to move more effectively through them.

Also, palm trees are able to withstand wind up to 145 mph and actually get stronger from the storms they endure. This reminded me of the parallelism of the trees ability to survive and our ability to remain resilient during some of life's toughest storms.

Former Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Kaleth O. Wright said "I used to think resilience was the ability to bounce back, but I now see it is the ability to move through the hardships, the pain, the fear, and the suffering."

We have all had our fair share of struggles in life and some issues that we have had to work through stem from relationship, financial, health complications, workplace stress, and changes in life. It is important to note that resiliency is not something that we are born with but instead we work on developing through life's storms by internalizing behaviors, thoughts, and actions.

There are moments in life where we experience such heart wrenching situations and we do not know how we will move on from the hurt but it is helpful to take these feelings and thoughts day-by-day, find stress-relieving outlets and a network of people to navigate through the adverse times.

Some ways to handle stress, change, and challenges in life is to work on your thoughts and have a sense of awareness to negative self-talk and instead try to view the situation in a more positive way. This will help reframe the circumstance and allow you to develop courses of action to move through it. Our behaviors also enable us to navigate tough times such as refraining from turning to poor coping skills and self destructive behaviors but instead focus on a physical outlet of exercising or look into mindfulness apps to utilize.



SENIOR AIRMAN ALEX KAELEKE

Rumination is when we are constantly on a loop and thinking about what we are going through, this can be really tough to break if we do not have outlets to release our brains from it. We have to take a deliberate approach in breaking the negative loop and to release our thoughts so we can take action.

Meditation and mindfulness breathing activities can help slow down, organize, or distract us from the loop to focus on a stress-reducing activity. Exercise is another great tool to reduce anxiety and to work stress out to improve our mood. Also, mindfulness and exercising can be used in tandem by doing some type of activity in staying connected to what you are hearing, feeling within your body, and seeing.

Our actions influence our level of resiliency and some helpful ways to do this is by developing strong and trusting relationships with people who care for you and want to see you as your best version. A close friend is comforting to know that you are not alone in not just the good times but also the bad ones. Having positive people in your life can help build resiliency.

Another action to work on is self-awareness as it is critical to know how you're feeling through tough times and to know your strengths and weaknesses. Focusing on your successes will help motivate you to work through with confidence in your abilities and strengths.

We can become so consumed with the issue that we are facing that solving the

problem seems very distant because we are spending time and energy in the situation but not focusing on the process of traversing the environment. It is extremely helpful to rely on supervisors and agencies such as the Chaplain, Military Family Life Consultant, Military OneSource, or Employee Assistance Program to discuss your situation with a licensed counselor who can help refocus your situation.

I have noticed that talking through my issues with one of the aforementioned counselors is helpful as they provide clarifying questions, allow a safe space for thoughts to be released and organized, and are geared towards goal-oriented counseling.

Adversity gives us the ability to look back at lessons that were learned and gives clarity as to why we had to endure that storm to get to the next chapter of life. Adopting these skills and making them habits will continue to build character and help others through their life events. The ability to be vulnerable with others in what you have been through can be extremely helpful in connecting to people who are enduring a similar situation.

Remember to be more adaptable like trees and know roots are not strengthened during a short period but throughout their lives. Allow yourself to lean into others and give people an opportunity to lean into you when they are facing life's storms.

The Air Force Resilience website has contact information for counseling and outreach sources listed in this article: <https://www.resilience.af.mil/>.

Oklahoma  
National  
Guardsmen Spc.  
Gage Stone (left),  
a truck driver  
with Company A,  
120th Engineer  
Battalion, 90th  
Troop Command,  
hands supplies to  
a resident of a  
neighborhood in  
LaPlace,  
Louisiana, Sept. 7.

## JBSA LEGACY

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# Feedback Fridays

**Brig. Gen. Caroline M. Miller**  
502D AIR BASE WING COMMANDER

Feedback Fridays is a weekly forum that aims to connect the 502d Air Base Wing with members of the Joint Base San Antonio community. Questions are collected during commander's calls, town hall meetings and throughout the week.

If you have a question or concern, please send an email to [jbsapublicaffairs@gmail.com](mailto:jbsapublicaffairs@gmail.com) using the subject line "Feedback Fridays."

Questions will be further researched and published as information becomes available.

**Q: How does the Military Housing Office and JBSA leadership advise residents to proceed when they are told to start with the Privatized Owners (PO) before engaging with Military Housing Office (MHO), chain of command, and resident**

**advocate, but the local PO, Lackland Family Homes, does not regularly answer phone calls, return messages, or respond to emails?**

**A:** Residents are always encouraged to start with the PO, but if the issue is not resolved, please utilize your resident advocate. Your resident advocates are here for you. We typically find the issue can be resolved through our resident advocates and military housing office (MHO). Additionally, if the issue continues, please complete a Satisfacts survey. The monthly response rate is only 19% for Hunt and 14% for Balfour Beatty. Your assessment and comments pertaining to the PO customer service is extremely important and a vital part of their overall grade.

**Q: Is JBSA law enforcement doing anything about cars speeding to**



COURTESY GRAPHIC

**and from the Lackland golf course, besides the flashing sign?**

**A:** Security Forces continue to enforce speed limits across the installation. The safety of our residents and visitors across JBSA remain our top

priority. The mobile radar system, the warning signs and our Security Force patrols are just a few of the many layers that emphasize safety and enforce driving laws across JBSA every day. Thank you for assisting us in keeping JBSA safe!

## Relationships, connections, support critical to preventing suicide

**By David Agan**  
FORT RUCKER PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Challenges created by the pandemic have left many feeling stressed and isolated. During times like these, relationships and interpersonal connections to family and friends are vital to a person's wellbeing.

As the Department of Defense and the Army observe Suicide Prevention Month this September, officials say it's critical for people to remember the role that social connections play in preventing suicide, and that help is always available.

This year's theme, "Connect to Protect: Support is Within Reach," emphasizes the importance of personal connections and encourages everyone to "reach" for support when in need, says Traci Waters, Army Substance Abuse Program manager.

"A person who is at risk for suicide has often isolated themselves from their loved ones," Waters said. "Our personal connections can help keep us from getting to a dark place that may cause us to contemplate suicide."

Connections, whether between

friends or family, can be protective factors against suicide, Waters added. "Building those connections and maintaining them is key to supporting our mental health."

Raising awareness of suicide prevention and available support resources is only a part of the reason for observing Suicide Prevention Month. Equally important is the emphasis on recognizing when someone is in need and identifying ways to offer help. Sometimes, offering a helping hand can be as simple as lending an ear, says Waters.

"If you know someone who's going through a difficult time, one of the ways you can support them is to simply offer a listening ear. Striking up a conversation is probably the easiest way to help them feel comfortable sharing their concerns," Waters said. Sharing personal experiences can also help people establish common ground. Once someone feels comfortable enough to share their concerns, "hopefully, they will feel comfortable seeking help as well."

How can people get help?

"The easiest way is to start with

your leader," Waters said. Leaders can help guide people in the right direction to get the support they need. Individuals can also reach out directly to community agencies.

"There are numerous organizations on the installation who are available to assist, including the Department of Behavioral Health, chaplains, the Military Family Life counselor, Army Community Services, and the Employee Assistance Program, located within the Army Substance Abuse Program," Waters said.

Another area of focus for this year's observance is lethal means safety. "When we refer to lethal means, we're talking about easy access to items that can be used to cause harm to oneself, like weapons, medications or sharp objects," Waters said. "While everyone with access to these items is not necessarily at risk for suicide, a person who is at risk with easy access to such means could be at higher risk."

While COVID-19 continues to create new challenges for everyone, the ASAP manager underscored the resources on post that remain available in spite of the pandemic.

"There are a variety of ways that the pandemic has affected us all emotionally. We want everyone to know that we're still here even though our services may be limited or adjusted. Please reach out and we will support you in every way we can."

"Throughout September, it is important for each of us to focus on connecting to protect the servicemembers and military families in our lives. We have a moral duty to protect each other — now more than ever," Waters said. "If you are concerned [for someone's safety], or if they are at imminent risk for suicide, do not leave them alone. Seek help immediately. Contact the Suicide Prevention LifeLine, 24/7, at (800) 273-8255 (press 1) or call a chaplain, a healthcare provider, an emergency room, or 9-1-1."

People are reminded to utilize the following resources for assistance:

- Army Suicide Prevention Program
- Veterans Crisis Line
- Military OneSource
- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline 800-273-8255 (24/7)
- Army Reserve Suicide Prevention page

# JBSA commander issues mandatory COVID-19 vaccine order

## 502nd Air Base Wing Public Affairs

All active duty Air Force personnel currently assigned to Joint Base San Antonio must receive their initial COVID-19 vaccine dose by Sept. 28, per an order signed Sept. 14 by 502nd Air Base Wing and JBSA Commander Brig. Gen. Caroline Miller.

The order follows the Aug. 24 Secretary of Defense mandate for members of the Armed Forces to receive the COVID-19 vaccine, along with Sept. 3 Department of the Air Force guidance directing all active duty Airmen and Guardians to be fully vaccinated by Nov. 2, and all Ready Reserve members be fully vaccinated by Dec. 2.

Per Miller's order, individuals who are not yet fully vaccinated against COVID-19 are ordered to receive an initial dose of a COVID-19 vaccine with full licensure approval from the Food and Drug Administration and provide proof to their commander by Sept. 28.

Additionally, individuals are ordered to receive the second dose of the same vaccine and provide proof to their commander by Oct. 19.

Individuals who previously received the completed vaccination series, but whose military medical records do not reflect it, are required to provide proof of vaccination to their commander by Sept. 30. Individuals with a completed request for a religious accommodation or proof of a medical exemption approved by a military medical provider must also provide proof to their commander by Sept. 30.

"The benefits of vaccination are clear — it provides a safe and effective approach to the global fight against COVID-19," Miller said. "We are committed to maintaining the health, welfare and readiness of our Total Force. This is a necessary step in doing so."

"I encourage everyone to get your vaccine as soon as possible. The ultimate goal is to ensure we are mission-ready. Please discuss any concerns you have about the vaccine with a medical provider or your leadership team," she said.

Mandatory vaccination through a military provider will initially only



## COVID-19

VACCINATION INFORMATION

### VACCINE SITES

Brooke Army Medical Center and Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center offer the Pfizer vaccine to all DoD beneficiaries ages 12 and older at the following sites:

**Training Support Center on main post Fort Sam Houston Building 4110, 2536 Garden Avenue.**

Beneficiaries can make a same-day appointment on TRICARE Online or by calling the appointment line at 210-916-9900.

**VACCINATION HOURS:** Monday - Friday By Appointment

**WALK-IN HOURS:** Tuesdays | 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Wednesdays | 8 a.m. to 3pm

**WHASC, 1100 Wilford Hall Loop, Lackland Air Force Base in the atrium at the C entrance.**

**VACCINATION HOURS:** Thursday & Friday By Appointment | 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**WALK-IN HOURS:** Thursday & Friday | 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

### SCREENING & TESTING

#### BAMC's SCREENING & TESTING SITE

- Located on the first floor of the parking garage.
- Open Monday - Friday | 8 a.m. to noon
- Appointments are not required.

#### JBSA-LACKLAND's SITE

- Located on the ground floor of the parking garage (follow the blue cones on Wilford Hall Loop).
- Open Monday - Friday | 8 a.m. to noon
- Appointments are not required.

- Both sites administer the PCR test.
- Results will be available on the TRICARE Patient Portal at [www.tricareonline.com](https://www.tricareonline.com).
- Positive results will receive a call back within 72 hours.



### AS A REMINDER:



**All individuals are required to wear a face covering while in a military medical facility.**

BROOKE ARMY MEDICAL CENTER

*Brooke Army Medical Center and Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center offer the FDA-approved Pfizer vaccine to all Department of Defense beneficiaries ages 12 and older.*

include the Pfizer-BioNTech mRNA COVID-19® vaccine (widely referred to as "Comirnaty®"), which is currently the only vaccine approved by the FDA. Airmen and Guardians may continue to volunteer to receive the COVID-19 vaccines approved under Emergency Use Authorization, including Moderna, Janssen and AstraZeneca, from both military and civilian providers.

Brooke Army Medical Center and Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center offer the FDA-approved Pfizer vaccine to all Department of Defense beneficiaries ages 12 and older at the following sites:

► **BAMC Training Support Center,** 2536 Garden Ave., JBSA-Fort Sam Houston

Vaccination hours: Monday through Friday by appointment

Walk-in hours: Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; Wednesday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

► **Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center,** 1100 Wilford Hall Loop, JBSA-Lackland

Vaccination hours: Thursday and Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Walk-in hours: Thursday and Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Beneficiaries can make a same-day appointment on TRICARE Online or by calling the appointment line at 210-916-9900.

Group vaccination time slots are being scheduled through the 502d ABW Crisis Action Team for units who have 20 or more service members who require vaccination.

Service members should consult their unit leadership to see if group

vaccination dates apply to them.

Additional information and FAQ about the Air Force mandatory COVID-19 vaccine implementation are available at: <https://go.usa.gov/xMDMr>.

Vaccination deadlines are set for Army, Navy and Marine Corps personnel as well.

Active duty Army members are required to be fully vaccinated by Dec. 15, and Reserve and National Guard members by June 30, 2022.

Active duty Navy and Marine Corps members are required to be fully vaccinated by Nov. 28, and Reserve members by Dec. 28.

Joint service personnel assigned to Joint Base San Antonio should reach out to their respective leadership for questions, concerns or further guidance.

# Independent entity to oversee sexual assault cases in Army

By Joseph Lacadan

ARMY NEWS SERVICE

To better protect Soldiers from sexual harassment and assault, the Army will establish an office designed to make decisions to take action on such crimes, the service's top civilian leader said Sept.

7. "We have a moral responsibility to take care of our Army family like it's our own family," said Secretary of the Army Christine E. Wormuth during a live stream of the National Discussion on Sexual Assault and Harassment Prevention at America's Colleges, Universities and Service Academies.

Under direction from the Defense Department, each of the nation's military branches will create similar offices amid growing concerns of sexual harassment and sexual assault cases in the armed forces. Previously, commanders bore the responsibility of prosecuting sexual assault cases, but now the new offices will assume that role.

"For too long, far too many survivors have suffered in silence," said Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III, a former Army general. "One assault is too many ... This is a top priority for me."

The Army announced earlier this year that it will overhaul its Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention program, or SHARP, following an independent review of command culture at Fort Hood, Texas.

While Wormuth did not disclose the full details of the office, the change will be among the sweeping reforms the DOD will take to combat incidents.

Wormuth said the branch will focus on three areas in an attempt to eradicate sexual assault and harassment from its ranks.

The first will be prevention, which she said begins with Army commanders and leaders at the squad level. The focus area aligns with the service's "This Is My Squad" initiative, which promotes unit cohesion at the service's most basic levels.

"We must ensure that all our leaders are focused on building a culture of caring for each other," Wormuth said.

Next, the Army will focus on upgrading its response to incidents. The Fort Hood Independent Review Committee concluded that the service needed to improve its response to sexual assault and harassment cases at the

installation.

Jill Londagin, Army SHARP director, said in March that the Army was working to develop a single, uniform regulation to guide SHARP leaders and counselors. The service has also begun to restructure the Army Criminal Investigation Command.

Army leaders must respond swiftly not just in sexual assault incidents but also if a Soldier experiences harassment, discrimination, or physical or verbal attacks, their peers should take action and inform leaders, Wormuth said.

"It's critical that we respond effectively and sensitively when sexual harassment or assault does happen," Wormuth said.

Following reported disappearances and deaths of Soldiers at Fort Hood and the passing of Minnesota resident George Floyd, the Army instituted a measure called Project Inclusion, a holistic effort that encourages diversity and inclusion. The Army has also engaged in a speaking tour where Army senior leaders visited Army installations in an effort to connect leaders with Soldiers.

"We have to demonstrate the courage to take action," she said.

Finally, the Army will strive to improve its accountability during such incidents. That's where the new office will step in, along with further reforms, she said. She added that the Army will focus on having practical, evidence-based programs in place to help aid all three areas of focus.

Austin ordered a 90-day independent review commission to identify solutions to solve the military's sexual assault and harassment problem. Based on the IRC's recommendations this summer, the DOD developed evidence-based options to hold the Army and other military branches to greater accountability. The measures will help create a culture of inclusion while pledging to better care for survivors.

The DOD has asked Congress to add sexual assaults and harassment as an "offense" under the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

The secretary said that commanders ultimately bear responsibility to combat such incidents. By protecting service members from unwanted harassment and assault will strengthen readiness and help the military protect the country, he added.

"We're going to keep our country safer by keeping our people safer," Austin said.



# FORT SAM HOUSTON

## COVID-19 survivor advocates for vaccine

By Elaine Sanchez

BROOKE ARMY MEDICAL CENTER  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

A nearly fatal bout with COVID-19 drove the Harris family to do something they had been on the fence about before. They got the vaccine.

With a wife and three sons, Tim Harris was not willing to take another gamble with his life.

"I've been in rocket attacks in Afghanistan, motorcycle and car accidents, and gunshots at the club, but I never had that feeling of impending doom," said Harris, a mobilization and planning specialist, U.S. Army Medical Center of Excellence, and Army retiree. "There were many moments when I thought I was going to die from COVID-19."

As with most people, the symptoms started gradually, he said. He woke the morning of June 15, 2020, with body chills, aches and a headache, and immediately went for a COVID-19 test. He received word he was positive the next day. While he hoped for mild symptoms, he soon began to decline. He lost his appetite, had difficulty breathing and suffered from hallucinations as his fever spiked to 104.

"I felt so bad one night, I told my wife to call 911," he said. "It was the scariest moment of my life."

On June 25, the ambulance crew wheeled him away, leaving his wife, Dionne, to wait and pray. At that time, patients were unable to have any visitors with them in the hospital unless in the most dire of conditions.

"I felt so helpless," Dionne said. "As a helpmate, that is a hard emotion to accept. I prayed, then grabbed the camera and began taking pictures because I wasn't sure if that was the last time I would ever physically see him again."

Harris was admitted to Brooke Army Medical Center and, despite interventions, became increasingly worse. One night, exhausted and gasping for breath, Harris called his wife in desperation.

"Help me," he pleaded with his wife. "I can't breathe. Help me."



Tim Harris, a mobilization and planning specialist, U.S. Army Medical Center of Excellence, is sedated while on a ventilator at Brooke Army Medical Center, Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston June 27, 2020.

COURTESY PHOTO

"I got off the phone and told God, 'I'm ready. I am so tired,'" he said, choking up. "It was so much on the body, I couldn't take it anymore. The harder I tried to live, the more I was dying."

Alarmed by her husband's tone, Dionne did her best to stay calm. "I knew I needed to keep it together and get him some help," she said.

She immediately called the nurses' station. "Within minutes, his physician called me," Dionne said. "He informed me that Tim would need to be intubated that evening or he would not survive through the night."

Shortly after, Harris' care team inserted a breathing tube and placed him on a ventilator. He knew of several people who did not wake up after that type of intervention and prepared himself for that same fate. "Just before they put me under, I asked myself, 'Is this the end?' I asked God to forgive me for all my sins and begged him to take care of my family."

As the doctors explained to Harris, a mechanical ventilator partially or fully takes over the breathing process, helping to support patients as they battle severe respiratory symptoms. According to a study published in the Journal of Medical Ethics in July 2020, approximately 2.5

percent of patients require mechanical ventilation while their body fights COVID-19. While further data is needed, current literature indicates that patient mortality for those needing ventilation ranges between 35 and 40 percent.

"We continue to see many very sick patients with COVID-19 hospitalized, admitted to the ICU, intubated for ventilator support, and even needing extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (heart-lung support) in an attempt to save their lives," said Air Force Col. Heather Yun, infectious disease physician and BAMC's deputy commander for medical services. "No one thinks they will be the one to need a ventilator or have a bad outcome with COVID-19, but we see this every day."

"Unlike 2020, in 2021, these events are almost entirely preventable with the vaccine," she added. "Mr. Harris is one of the fortunate ones to recover."

Harris was on the ventilator for just over 24 hours. When he woke up, his first thought was one of gratitude. "I thought of my family and I thanked God," he said.

Aided by the period of rest, Harris slowly began to recover from the virus and was discharged from the hospital on July 4, 2020.

"I'll never forget when I first saw my wife's face when she came to pick me up," he said. "I was so excited to see her."

Harris said he will forever be grateful for BAMC's lifesaving care. "I received excellent care and appreciate the hard work and dedication to duty from the entire staff. I know they don't do it for the accolades or the glory. They do it because they love helping others and I will never forget that."

Harris isolated himself to keep his family safe, but after his isolation period ended, he reunited with his then-2-year-old son. "He was so amazing and loving," he said. "He is normally very energetic, but that day, he just sat next to me on the couch and watched TV with me."

Harris was hospitalized again a few days later due to stomach pain. It was a short stay, but worthwhile, he said. "My roommate had COVID-19 and I saw the same fear I felt in his eyes," he said. "God put me in that room for a reason. I was able to encourage my roommate, pray with him, and let him know he was going to make it. And he did. We both made it."

While he had been uncertain about the vaccine in the past, Harris did not hesitate when offered the shot in February 2021. "I knew, even if I got COVID-19 again, that the vaccine would lessen the symptoms," he said. "I didn't want to go through another hospitalization, and I wanted to do my part for my community."

Since his illness, Harris has become a staunch advocate of the vaccine, especially after losing several of his closest friends to COVID-19. "If you have something against the vaccine, before you decide not to take it, do your research first. Don't take someone else's word for it. Look at the facts."

While he's come a long way, Harris still struggles with symptoms such as lung pain and short-term memory loss — a small price to pay for the gift of life, he said.

"I've often wondered, 'why did I survive,' when so many others didn't," he said. "I'm not sure of the answer. I'm just trying to live a better life and not take anything for granted. But I would give anything to have another moment with my friends."

# Mission and Installation Contracting Command leader inducted into Order of St. Maurice

By Daniel P. Elkins

MISSION AND INSTALLATION CONTRACTING  
COMMAND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The commanding general of the Mission and Installation Contracting Command is the latest inductee of the Order of St. Maurice following a ceremony Sept. 15 at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

Brig. Gen. Douglas Lowrey was inducted into the Order of St. Maurice by Col. Jeffrey Bryson, the U.S. Army South director of operations and a fellow Infantryman, on behalf of the National Infantry Association and U.S. Army Infantry Branch during the ceremony that was also broadcast live online.

"The Order of St. Maurice Award recognizes individuals who have contributed significantly to the Infantry in ways that stand out in the eyes of the recipient's seniors, subordinates and peers," Bryson said. "These individuals must also demonstrate the highest standards of integrity and moral character, an outstanding degree of professional competence, and serve the United States Army Infantry or the Infantry community with distinction."

Bryson said during the ceremony that induction into the order entails review by an arduous and discriminatory committee of tried and proven Army Infantrymen and Infantry patriots.

Upon receipt of the award, Lowrey reflected on his legacy of service. His grandfather, a World War II recipient of the Silver Star and Purple Heart who had 400-plus days in combat, advised him to "take care of your Soldiers and they'll take care of you." His father, a career law enforcement officer and former Army Infantry officer who was awarded the Bronze Star and two Purple Hearts, told him "to take care of your noncommissioned officers and listen to them."

"I wanted to be part of something bigger than myself," Lowrey said of their influences in choosing a career path. "I wanted to belong to the best and have a sense of brotherhood. The Infantry did not disappoint."

The MICC commanding general went on to say that the Infantry has taught him three lessons he continues to put



Col. Jeffrey Bryson presents Brig. Gen. Douglas Lowrey the Order of St. Maurice award on behalf of the National Infantry Association and U.S. Army Infantry Branch during an induction ceremony Sept. 15 at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

into practice today — an organization that is ready and resourced with a winning attitude, can accomplish anything; people love to compete, whether physical or mental, which reaps benefits; and lead from the front and do what you ask others to do. He

added that he applies this same Infantry mentality to the contracting profession.

"This award is not about me, it represents the great Infantry Soldiers who I was granted the opportunity to lead," Lowrey said. "I will wear this

medallion with pride and will always keep a little Infantry inside me. I've often told people I'm an Infantryman trapped in a contracting body. That means that when there's an obstacle, you breach it; when you're feeling tired, go harder."

Lowrey earned his commission as an Infantry officer through the Reserve Officer Training Corps in 1994 after graduating from Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, Oklahoma.

His Infantry assignments have included platoon leader of Company C, 3rd Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment at Fort Stewart, Georgia, during which he deployed to Kuwait in support of Operation Intrinsic Action; support platoon leader and later executive officer for Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion; logistics officer for the 2nd Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment in the Republic of Korea; and commander, Company B, later Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion.

After entering the Army Acquisition Corps, Lowrey continued to support the contracting needs of the Infantry during assignments of increasing responsibility at the contracting battalion, brigade and headquarters levels. He was promoted to brigadier general in September 2020. Lowrey assumed command of the MICC during a ceremony in front of the MICC's Long Barracks headquarters in May 2021.

Headquartered at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, the Mission and Installation Contracting Command consists of about 1,500 military and civilian members who are responsible for contracting goods and services in support of Soldiers as well as readying trained contracting units for the operating force and contingency environment when called upon. As part of its mission,

MICC contracts are vital in feeding more than 200,000 Soldiers every day, providing many daily base operations support services at installations, facilitate training in the preparation of more than 100,000 conventional force members annually, training more than 500,000 students each year, and maintaining more than 14.4 million acres of land and 170,000 structures.



# Army Combined Arms Center commander visits MEDCoE

By Tish Williamson

U.S. ARMY MEDICAL CENTER OF  
EXCELLENCE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Lt. Gen. Theodore Martin, U.S. Army Combined Arms Center commander, visited the U.S. Army Medical Center of Excellence at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Sept. 8-10.

This is the first time Martin has visited MEDCoE since he took command of CAC and Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, in May. Martin visited MEDCoE on another occasion during his previous assignment as deputy commanding general and chief of staff of the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command, or TRADOC, based at Fort Eustis, Virginia.

"The more time I spend at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston and the Medical Center of Excellence, the more impressed I am with the breadth and depth of the United States Army's commitment to professional medicine and professional medical care for not only our Soldiers, but also our families," Martin said.

CAC is one of five subordinate commands and centers under TRADOC and has operational control of MEDCoE, one of their centers of excellence. CAC helps deliver professional military education and functional training through 20 other branch and seven non-branch schools. It is the force modernization proponent for unified land operations and combined arms operations.

During his visit, Martin received an overview brief on the various MEDCoE priority programs and initiatives to include the 68W Combat Medic, Theater Medical Information Requirement, Operational Health



JOSE RODRIGUEZ

*Lt. Gen. Theodore Martin (right), commander, U.S. Army Combined Arms Center, hosts a Leader Professional Development session for Basic Officer Leader Course students assigned to the U.S. Army Medical Center of Excellence Blesse Auditorium Sept. 9.*

Information Technology, Master Medic Trainer, and the Medical Logistics Future Design Update.

Martin stopped by the Company A, 232nd Medical Battalion Field Training Exercise to interact with 68W Combat Medics in their final phase of advanced individual training. He observed Soldier medics putting their skills to the test in map orientation, simulated patrol operations, react to contact, casualty collection, prolonged field care as well as a battalion aid station and medical evacuation operations.

Throughout the three-day visit, the general also took

time to host leader development sessions with MEDCoE battalion commanders, company commanders and basic officer leader course, or BOLC, students.

During his leader professional development session with BOLC students, Martin acknowledged the "turbulence" that the young officers may face during their Army careers. "Successful officers develop skills that help navigate the various challenges they may face."

Martin said, "My objective today is to give you my best military advice on what you can do to make your

contribution to the Army a success and to be part of the building blocks that will help us build and maintain combat-ready units."

In his opening comments, Martin described the many ways the Army is changing and adapting, including culture changes, and how he expects the young officers to "lead" their way out of difficult situations. He also answered more than a dozen questions from the group of more than 200 junior officers in a question-and-answer session that lasted a full hour.

"If you tolerate any deviation from the Army standard, you are aiding and

abetting the enemy," Martin explained. "You will, however, not be alone; you will have noncommissioned officers to help you."

Martin offered poignant, personal stories from his time after BOLC when, he recalled, he learned a lot from the noncommissioned officers in his first assignment.

"They will help you with your skills, and they will help you lead the first unit you go to," Martin said. "What they need from you is positive, aggressive, and uncompromising leadership, especially when it comes to safety and character; those are non-negotiable."



# New health maintenance resource available for military beneficiaries

By Lori Newman

BROOKE ARMY MEDICAL CENTER  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS


The San Antonio Market has developed a comprehensive tool to help military beneficiaries understand the current recommended health maintenance guidelines. The guidelines are displayed in an easy-to-read format with space for the patient to record their screening information details.

"Preventive care is the key to maintaining the health and wellness of our patients, but there are numerous guidelines out there for patients to sort through," said Army Col. (Dr.) Timothy Switaj, market assistant director for clinical operations. "This health maintenance guide provides a summary of the key nationally accepted, evidence-based guidelines for preventive care in the United States. We added a tracking section to this guide so that patients are able to track their own preventive care and participate in the maintenance of their health."

"The conditions through the COVID-19 pandemic reinforced the need for us, as healthcare providers, to do everything we can to help keep our patients healthy," Switaj added. "We hope this will help empower our patients to more actively pursue preventive care."

It is important to note, the guidelines apply to healthy adults and children. Someone's health plan may differ based on their medical history. People should speak with their primary care manager to develop a specific preventive plan.

"The goal of screening is an opportunity for a clinician to identify risk factors for disease, prevent disease, and develop a specific plan tailored to a patient's health and wellbeing," said Air Force Maj. (Dr.) Dianne Frankel, Internal Medicine and Preventive Medicine physician, Office of the Command Surgeon, Air Education and Training Command. "Preventive screening guidelines are developed by subject matter experts using evidence-based medicine



**SAN ANTONIO MARKET**

## Health Maintenance Guidelines

**Please Note**

The following guidelines apply to healthy adults in the general population. The right plan for your care may differ based on your medical history, family history, personal preferences and lifestyle, as well as your physician's experience.

You and your physician should work together to develop a specific preventive health screening plan for you.

**Adult Screening Guidelines**

**Breast Cancer Screening (women only)**

**Mammography**  
Every 1-2 years starting at age 40.

**Physician Breast Exam**  
Annually starting at age 40.  
Self-Breast Exams (after being taught)  
Monthly starting at age 20.  
A referral is not required for a screening mammogram.  
Call (210) 914-4229 / 2726 to schedule.

**Cervical Cancer Screening (women only)**

Pap test starting at age 21.  
- Every 3 years unless abnormal.  
- After age 30 can extend to 5 years with negative HPV testing.  
- After age 45 or a hysterectomy should discuss screening interval with provider.  
A referral is not required for a pap appointment.  
Call 210-914-9900 to schedule.

**Colorectal Cancer Screening**  
Starting at age 45  
- Colonoscopy (preferred method of screening) - Every 10 years  
- Flexible Sigmoidoscopy - Every 5 years (may extend to 10 years with annual FIT testing)  
- CT Colonography - Every 5 years  
- FIT-DNA (a.k.a. Cologuard) - Every 3 years  
- Fecal Immunochemical Testing (FIT) - Annually  
- Fecal Occult Blood Test (FOBT) - Annually  
A referral or order from your Primary Care Manager is required.

**Prostate Cancer Screening (men only)**  
- Consider testing between ages 55 and 69.  
- Risk based decision in discussion with provider or starting at age 40 for men of African descent or with prostate cancer in a primary relative.  
A referral or order from your Primary Care Manager is required.

**Lung Cancer Screening**  
- Risk based decision in discussion with provider for current or former smokers aged 50-80.  
A referral or order from your Primary Care Manager is required.

**Skin Cancer Screening**  
- Annual full body skin exam starting at age 50 with risk factors.  
- Can be performed by your Primary Care Manager.  
Call (210) 914-9900 to schedule an appointment.  
A referral is required if you need to see Dermatology.

**Oral Cancer Screening**  
- Oral and pharyngeal cancers should be screened for annually starting around age 18.  
- If using tobacco products, screening should begin at the age of first use.  
See your dental care provider | A referral is not required.

**Diabetes Screening**  
**Blood Test**  
- Every 3 years for ages 40-70 with risk factors (i.e. overweight or obese, family history, etc.)  
- Once at age 45 if no risk factors.  
A referral or order from your Primary Care Manager is required.

**Cholesterol Screening**  
**Blood Test**  
- Every 5 years starting at age 40 or earlier based on risk.  
A referral or order from your Primary Care Manager is required.

**Hypertension Screening**  
- Annual blood pressure starting at age 18 with risk factors.  
- Every 3-5 years for ages 18-29 without risk factors then annually starting at age 40.  
A referral is not required but blood pressure screening is typically done in conjunction with an appointment.

**Osteoporosis Screening (women only)**  
**DEXA scan**  
- Every 2 years starting at age 65.  
- Earlier in women at increased risk.  
A referral or order from your Primary Care Manager is required.

**Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (men only)**  
**Ultrasound**  
- Once between ages 65 and 75 with any history of smoking.  
A referral or order from your Primary Care Manager is required.

**Depression Screening**  
- Annually starting at age 11.

**Adult Immunization Guidelines**  
- Diphtheria/Tetanus (Td or Tdap) - Every 10 years  
- Influenza (Flu) - Annually  
- Zoster (Shingles) - At age 50 (2 shot series)  
- Pneumococcal - At age 65 or if high risk between ages 19-64 (2nd shot 5 years after 1st)  
- Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) - Ages 18-45 if not received as child (3 shot series)  
- Meningococcal - Prior to college or residential living if not already vaccinated at age 16 or older. Some colleges require an additional vaccine for Meningococcal II.  
- COVID-19 - One-time vaccination for ages 12 and up.  
A referral or order from your Primary Care Manager may be required.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT:

Detailed Pediatric Schedule | [https://downloads.aap.org/AAP/PDF/periodicity\\_schedule.pdf](https://downloads.aap.org/AAP/PDF/periodicity_schedule.pdf)  
Women's Health | ACOG | <https://www.acog.org/womens-health>  
Vaccines and Immunizations | CDC | <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines>  
USPSTF | <https://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/uspstf/>  
Choosing Wisely | <https://www.choosingwisely.org/>  
HealthyChildren.org - American Academy of Pediatrics | <https://www.healthychildren.org>

JUSTIN RODRIGUEZ

*The San Antonio Market has developed a comprehensive tool to help military beneficiaries understand the current recommended health maintenance guidelines. The guidelines are displayed in an easy-to-read format with space for the patient to record their screening information details. To view and print the current health maintenance guidelines, visit [https://bamc.tricare.mil/Portals/143/documents/Preventive Care/SA-Market-Health-Guidelines\\_Rev-07.pdf](https://bamc.tricare.mil/Portals/143/documents/Preventive%20Care/SA-Market-Health-Guidelines_Rev-07.pdf).*

decision making. Utilization of preventive health screening guidelines can prevent illness and death from the leading causes of diseases in the United States."

Frankel said both adult and pediatric preventive health screening guidelines

are updated by the CDC, United States Preventive Services Task Force and other agencies on a frequent basis as they obtain additional evidence-based information.

Additionally, health disparities occur among populations of different races,

sexual identities, disabilities and socioeconomic status in the utilization of preventive health screenings. This has been recognized and published in both civilian and military health systems.

"A patient should not hesitate to contact their PCM if they have questions on the application of these guidelines to their health," she said. "Virtual health appointments can be utilized to discuss and identify a patient's risk factors with the assistance of preventive health screening guidelines for many diseases to include; certain cancers, high cholesterol, high blood pressure, and diabetes."

For example, lung cancer screening requires risk-based dialogue between the clinician and patient prior to a referral from the PCM for radiological services. A comprehensive discussion weighing the risks and benefits of screening tests/exams can be critical for a patient's health and peace of mind.

Along with adult screening guidelines, it is also important to follow the recommended pediatric guidelines for well-baby visits and vaccinations.

"Routine well-child visits are so important because they provide critical growth and developmental screenings to optimize your child's physical, mental and social health," said Air Force Lt. Col. (Dr.) Crystal Palmatier, pediatrician, Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center. "These visits also give you and your child the opportunity to become comfortable with their medical team and to ask any questions that you have about nutrition, sleep, behavior, etc. Well visits aren't only about medical concerns, it is looking at the whole child."

"Routine childhood immunizations are vitally important in preventing serious illnesses that could affect your family," she added.

To view and print the current health maintenance guidelines, visit [https://bamc.tricare.mil/Portals/143/documents/Preventive Care/SA-Market-Health-Guidelines\\_Rev-07.pdf](https://bamc.tricare.mil/Portals/143/documents/Preventive%20Care/SA-Market-Health-Guidelines_Rev-07.pdf).

# MEDCoE hosts hospitalization summit at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston

By Tish Williamson

U.S. ARMY MEDICAL CENTER OF EXCELLENCE  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

More than 200 virtual and nearly 50 in-person attendees participated in a hospitalization summit hosted by the Army Capability Manager-Army Health System, or ACM-AHS, at the U.S. Army Medical Center of Excellence, or MEDCoE, Sept. 8-10 at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

The overall purpose of the summit was to inform Army stakeholders on hospitalization doctrine, organization, training, materiel, leadership, education, personnel, facilities and policy analysis in order to identify gaps, lessons learned and tactics or procedures to assure future operational success. Attendees included the U.S. Army Forces Command Surgeon, planners with the U.S. Army Medical Materiel Development Agency, or USAMMDA, hospital center and field hospital command teams and MEDCoE planners and leaders.

During the three-day event, attendees received a welcome brief and

scene-setter remarks from the MEDCoE Command Team of Maj. Gen. Dennis LeMaster, commanding general; J.M. Harmon III, deputy to the commanding general; and Command Sgt. Maj. Clark Charpentier.

Participants also received overview briefs on modernization, fielding and divestiture from USAMMDA and participated in focus groups and working groups. Focus areas included medical logistics future design update training, equipment fielding, AHS modernization in support of WayPoint 2028 and AimPoint 2035, and lessons learned from current operations and exercises.

Harmon thanked both planners and attendees and said the summit will prove to be a critical event as the MEDCoE examines the performance of Army hospitals during future operations.

"Full credit for the success of this summit goes to the visionary ACM-AHS team and the dynamic noncommissioned officer and officer attendees," Harmon said. "As we look to shape the role of future Army hospitals, the information gathered



COURTESY PHOTO

*Maj. Gen. Dennis LeMaster, U.S. Army Medical Center of Excellence commanding general, provided opening remarks for the hospitalization summit Sept. 8 in Blesse Auditorium at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.*

from the participants, representing multiple U.S. services and all components of the Army Medical Department, will be instrumental in defining how these hospitals will be

manned, trained, and equipped for success in all environments."

For more information about future ACM-AHS-focused summits, visit <https://armyfuturecommand.com/>.





JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO

# FORCE SUPPORT SQUADRON

## Monthly Events

October

### Attention

Due to COVID-19 event times and dates may change, and for the safety of both staff and customers, current HPCON guidance will be followed at all locations.

### Bowling

#### Halloween fun is at the bowling center

Come out to any of the JBSA Bowling Centers Oct. 30 in a Halloween costume for a chance to win a chance to win prizes all night long. A grand prize will be awarded at the end of the evening for the best costume at each location.

JBSA-Fort Sam Houston's costume party is held from 5-10 p.m. JBSA-Lackland hosts a costume party from 6-10 p.m., and JBSA-Randolph from 6-9 p.m. For more information, call JBSA-Lackland at 210-671-1234, JBSA-Fort Sam Houston at 210-221-4740, and JBSA-Randolph at 210-652-6271.

#### Single military members bowl for free

All JBSA Bowling Centers are inviting single active-duty military members to come out and bowl three games for free during their single military member nights. JBSA-Fort Sam Houston offers this deal every Sunday from 3-7 p.m., JBSA-Lackland every Friday from 6-9 p.m. and JBSA-Randolph Saturdays from 6-9 p.m. For more information, call JBSA-Lackland at 210-671-1234, JBSA-Fort Sam Houston at 210-221-4740, and JBSA-Randolph at 210-652-6271.

#### Customers enjoy special rates

Join the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Bowling Center every Tuesday and Wednesday from opening to closing for a \$5 Bowling Special. Patrons will play three games for \$5. For more information, call 210-221-4740.

The JBSA-Lackland Bowling Center offers a special \$7.50 per hour rate every Friday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Patrons can also come out Tuesdays from opening to closing for three games for only \$5. For more information call, 210-671-1234.

#### Patrons bowl under the stars

The JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Bowling Center holds cosmic bowling every Saturday from 4-9 p.m. everyone is invited to come out and enjoy this party under the lights while a DJ provides musical entertainment. For more information, call 210-221-4740.

Check out the JBSA-Randolph Bowling Center Saturdays from 6-9 p.m. for Galactic Bowling. Galactic Bowling features cosmic lights combined with LED Center Punch Deck Lighting, LED Lane Capping, LED Ceiling Lights and is enhanced with three 118" projection screens playing "mom approved" music videos. Select your preferred exciting option to bowl at the special rate of \$15 per hour per hour of bowling. For more information, call 210-652-7271.

#### Patrons take part in the lunch loyalty program

Swing by any JBSA Bowling or Golf location and pick up a lunch loyalty card. Customers earn one punch for every combo meal purchased. After 10 punches, customers get their next combo free. Punches can be earned and redeemed at any JBSA Bowling or Golf location. For more information, call JBSA-Lackland at 210-671-1234, JBSA-Fort Sam Houston at 210-221-4740, and JBSA-Randolph at 210-652-6271.

### Clubs

#### Families party out on the deck

Families come out to the JBSA-Randolph Parr Club Oct. 8 from 4-8 p.m. for Family Deck Night. Enjoy a family friendly night on the deck with live music, games, bounce houses and more. Food and beverages will be available for purchase. For more information please call 210-658-7445 or email jbsarandolphclubs@gmail.com. This is free for members and only costs \$5 for nonmembers.

#### Bingo fun is at the club

Bingo takes place at the JBSA-Randolph Kendrick Club every Sunday at 3 p.m. and Monday-Thursday at 6:30 p.m. in the Ballroom. Admission is free for members and \$10 for nonmembers. Members have the chance to win full jackpots and nonmembers can try to win half jackpots. Don't forget to play every Tuesday and Wednesday to qualify for the monthly member prize give-away. Prizes for October are designer purses.

Bingo Extravaganza is held Oct. 4 and 18 at 6:30 p.m. Join us for a chance to win a larger jackpot. Birthday Bingo is held Oct. 12. Club members with a birthday in Oct. receive a complimentary bingo machine. Randolph Club members only along with ID and proof of membership required. For more information, call 210-652-3056.

#### Customers are appreciated

The JBSA-Lackland Gateway Club hosts Customer Appreciation Night in the Fiesta Ballroom Oct. 26 from 5-7 p.m. Live entertainment is provided by DJ Tony Style. The price is \$12.50 for members and \$15.50 for nonmembers. The menu features lobster bisque soup, traditional tossed salad, roast turkey with champagne mushroom sauce & cranberry chutney, prime rib with burgundy au jus, glazed ham, corn bread dressing, whipped potatoes, broccoli spears with hollandaise sauce, mixed vegetables, freshly baked yeast rolls, fresh fruit cups, pumpkin pie and pecan pie. For more information, call 210-652-7034.

#### Halloween is celebrated at the club

Join the JBSA-Randolph Parr Club Oct. 24 at 10 a.m. for a kiddie costume contest and bingo for the kids. Children (12 and younger) play for free and can win great prizes. All kids should dress in Halloween attire for a chance to win a

prize. There will be a total of five games of bingo played and complimentary food for the kids (12 and younger). This event is free, has limited seating and reservations are required. Club members may start making their reservations on Oct. 4 and non-members on Oct. 11. To make a reservation or for more information, please call 210-658-7445 between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. or email jbsarandolphclubs@gmail.com.

Patrons have some spooky fun at the JBSA-Lackland Gateway Club Oct. 29 from 5-11 p.m. Come out in a costume for an evening consisting of dancing, contests with prizes and music by DJ Tony Style. Admission is free. For more information, call 210-645-7034.

The JBSA-Randolph Parr Club hosts the Parr Club House of Horrors Oct. 30. Thrill seekers can come out from 5-8 p.m. to experience Halloween thrills and chills. Part of the club will be turned into a walk-through haunted house filled with scary fun. The event includes free food for members and food for purchase for non-members. For more information, please call 210-658-7445.

### Canyon Lake

#### Patrons learn how to be safe on the water

Please join us Oct. 9 and 23 from 10 a.m. to noon at the JBSA Recreation Park @ Canyon Lake at the Hancock Cove Beach for a two-hour class on the kayaks and paddle boards. The cost for the class is \$20 per person, and is \$10 for children 16 and younger. This class is required to rent kayaks and paddle boards at Canyon Lake. Youth, 16 and younger must be accompanied by a sponsor during the class and during equipment rental. To reserve a spot, please call 830-964-3576 or email jbsalodgingres@gmail.com.

Join us Oct. 9 and 23 from 10 a.m. to noon at the JBSA Recreation Park @ Canyon Lake at the Hancock Cove Marina for a two-hour course covering everything you need to know about boat operation, rules of the water and safety guidelines. The cost for the class is \$40 per person and there are limited spots. Participants for the boating class must be 21 years or older and have completed the Boater Safety course one of the following locations, boaterexam.com, Boat-ed.com, BoatUS.org, or iLearnToBoat.com. To reserve a spot or for more information, call 830-964-3576 or email jbsalodgingres@gmail.com.

#### Boat tour offered at Canyon Lake

The JBSA Recreation Park @ Canyon Lake encourages everyone to come out for the Beyond the Marina Boat Tour Oct. 16 and 30 from 10-11:30 a.m. Enjoy an hour and a half chauffeured boat tour around Canyon Lake. Encounter breath taking scenic views, discover the lake's history and the town that still resides beneath. This is open to all DoD ID cardholders. The



# JBSA FSS

cost for the tour is \$30 per adult and \$15 per child 12 and younger. Register by contacting our call center at 830-964-3576 or email [jbsalodgingres@gmail.com](mailto:jbsalodgingres@gmail.com).

## Patrons look for hidden haunts

JBSA Recreation Park @ Canyon Lake lodging guests have a chance to take home a happy Halloween treat, Oct. 24-31. Check into any lodging units for a chance to win. Guests that find the hidden haunt toy in their unit should bring it to the office to get the prize. Happy hunting. For more information, call 830-964-3576.

## Patrons save money with an annual pass

Purchase a Canyon Lake annual pass for only \$75. Pass holders get into both the Sunny Side and Hancock Cove side of the park. Otherwise, the daily entry fee for the park is \$10 per visit, per vehicle. Annual passes include a vehicle and boat/trailer pass and are valid for one year from date of issue. For more lodging information, call 210-964-3576 or email [jbsalodgingres@gmail.com](mailto:jbsalodgingres@gmail.com) and for Boat Rentals and Marina information, please email [jbsamarinasuper@gmail.com](mailto:jbsamarinasuper@gmail.com).

## Community Services

### Patrons keep their cars road ready

Let the JBSA-Lackland Auto Hobby Shop technicians prepare your vehicle for any vacations planned during the hottest season of the year. The full service department provides tune-ups, charging system tests, oil changes, undercarriage, suspension and drive-line inspections, A/C systems performance test, repairs, Texas state inspections and more. The self-service side gives the do-it-yourself crowd a place to work on a vehicle and access to many tools that may not be in a home garage. Moreover, since COVID-19 is still around, the Auto Hobby Shop is still offering a complete vehicle disinfection service for only \$35. To make an appointment, call 210-671-3549. Please note the following changes in business hours; Tuesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Wednesday and Friday from 9 a.m., to 6 p.m. Saturday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and is closed Sunday and Monday.

### Precious memories are framed for a lifetime

Both the JBSA-Lackland and the JBSA-Randolph Frame Shops offer discounted framing services for all framing needs. Their expert framer will help customer design a one of a kind custom frame to display those precious memories or special achievements. In addition, they will match any off-base price on a comparable custom framing job. For questions about framing, please call 210-671-5503 for JBSA-Lackland or 210-652-5142, option 3 for JBSA-Randolph.

## Equestrian Center

### Customers go on trail rides every weekend

The JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Equestrian Center encourages everyone age 7 and older to come out for a trail ride. No experience is required and rides are by appointment only every Saturday and Sunday at 9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. Trail rides are \$30 per rider. All riders must arrive 30 minutes prior to their appointment time. Adults must accompany children under

the age of 13. Riders must be at least 4 feet, 6 inches tall and weigh no more than 200 pounds. Weekday trail rides, group rides and team-building rides are available by appointment for \$40 per person. To make reservations, call 210-224-7207.

For the smaller riders that aren't quite ready for trail rides the equestrian center also offers parent-led pony rides for \$10 for children age 6 and younger. Pony rides are offered every Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Adults must accompany their children and availability is on a first come, first served basis. Pony rides can also be coordinated for weekdays on an appointment basis as well as for parties or other special events held on site. A covered deck is available for small parties for half-day use for \$50. For more information, call 210-224-7207.

### Riders of all experience levels attend lessons

The JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Equestrian Center offers horseback riding lessons for beginners and advanced riders in both English and Western style riding. Therapeutic riding lessons are also available and taught by certified instructors. Horses, saddles and tack for lessons will be provided if needed. Patrons must be at least seven years old. The price is \$60 per hour for a private lesson, \$50 for semi-private and \$40 for group lessons. Lessons are available by appointment only most days of the week and in the evenings. Helmets are also available if needed for the lessons. For more information, call 210-224-7207.

## Fitness

### Runners participate in a relay

Come out to the JBSA-Randolph Rambler Fitness Center's Three Mile Wingman Relay Oct. 7 at 7:30 a.m.

at Eberle Park to run this three-mile relay. The first team member must complete the 1.5 mile run route in order for the second team member to start running the next 1.5 miles. For more information, call 210-652-7263.

### Athletes take on a triathlon

Stop by the JBSA-Lackland Warhawk Fitness Center Oct. 12 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and compete in the Indoor Triathlon. This challenge is set to push and inspire gym goers of all levels and abilities. The distances have been chosen so you can complete the challenge in one visit to the gym. Registration is not required. For more information, call 210-671-2016.

### Contestants pushed to their limits

Come out to the JBSA-Lackland Kelly Fitness Center for a Push-Up/Pull-Up challenge on Oct. 15 from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. Competitors attempt to perform the most push-ups in one minute and most pull-ups in one minute. This takes place at the Kelly Outdoor Sports Court. For more information, call 210-925-4848.

### Patrons compete in a tug-of-war

Stop by the JBSA-Lackland Gillum Fitness Center Oct. 15 at 7 a.m. for a Tug-of-War Contest. This tug-of-war will be a double elimination format. This is open to all DoD ID cardholders. For more information, please call 210-977-2353.

### Patrons celebrate fall with healthy exercise

Celebrate fall with the JBSA-Randolph Rambler Fitness Center Oct. 16 at Heritage park starting at 7:30 a.m. This Fall Fitness Celebration is for all ages, including young ones. There is a 5K run for our runners and 1.5 mile run/walk for the young athletes and their parents who would



The content and layout in the Force Support Squadron section of this newspaper was provided by the Joint Base San Antonio FSS Marketing Team. No federal endorsement of sponsors intended.



## Outdoor Recreation

### Concealed carry classes offered

The Camp Bullis Rod-N-Gun Recreation Center (RNGRC), building 6215, is providing Concealed Handgun License (CHL) classes Oct. 9 and 23 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. To register for the class, students must be 21 years old, unless they are active duty military 18 years or older (DoD ID cardholders only). Students must also meet Federal qualifications to purchase a handgun. Students need to be familiar with their firearm and have prior shooting experience—no first time shooters. Facemasks must be worn during COVID-19. The cost of the class is \$75. Successful completion of this class is required to apply for a Texas CHL. To register, go to <http://www.chlregistration.com> and select "Register for Class" and then select "Dan Willis - Leatherneck Arms." For more information, call Mr. Dan Willis at 210-363-2332 or the RNRC at 210-295-7577 or 210-296-7529.

### Patrons rent all the recreation essentials

The JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Outdoor Equipment Center has equipment rentals for everyone, to include camping, water fun, fishing boats, speedboats, sports and party equipment, tables, chairs and bouncy castles. There are also rental RV campers, mobile grills and portable grills. In addition, equipment rental has a resale car lot. For more information, call 210-221-5224 or 210-221-5225.

JBSA-Lackland Outdoor Recreation offers a full list of party items for summer fun to include tables, chairs, cotton candy machines, margarita machines, party speakers, champagne fountains and many more items. For more information, please call 210-925-5532.

The JBSA-Randolph Equipment Checkout has tables, chairs, canopies, ice chests, and water jugs that might be needed for those birthday parties, holiday dinners or backyard BBQ. Patrons can also rent roll-away beds with mattress, aluminum cots, and sleeping bags for great prices. For more information, visit the Community Service Mall, bldg. 895, or call 210-652-5640.

### Boaters learn the rules of the water

All JBSA-Outdoor Recreation locations require a Boaters Safety Course certificate from Texas Parks and Wildlife in order for customers to rent our motorized watercraft over 15HP.

Approved Texas Boaters Safety Courses can be taken online at: <http://www.boaterexam.com>, <http://www.boat-ed.com> or <https://www.boatus.org/onlinecourse/Texas.asp>. For more information, call JBSA-Fort Sam Houston at 210-221-5224 or 210-221-5225, JBSA-Lackland at 210-925-5532 or 210-925-5533 and JBSA-Randolph can be reached at 210-652-5142.

### Patrons enjoy the fall weather outdoors

As the heat of the summer dies down and the cooler fall temperatures have arrived it is the perfect time to plan family fun at Saldo Park. The park can be reserved at the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Outdoor Equipment Center. Reservations can be made up to 30 days in advance and include picnic tables and a BBQ stand. The

park is open from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. For more information, call 210-221-5224.

When getting everyone back together again, be sure to consider Eberle Park when planning your next family gathering or office party. Eberle Park must be reserved prior to use at the JBSA-Randolph Outdoor Recreation Office. Patrons can rent each pavilion for \$35, the grill and serving house for \$20 each and all the facilities for only \$50. Head to Outdoor Recreation, in the Community Services Mall (bldg. 895) to reserve Eberle Park now or call 210-652-5142.

## Youth Programs

### Youth get registered for fall sports

All JBSA Youth Locations are gearing up for Basketball and Cheerleading. Registration begins Oct. 1 and runs until Oct. 29. Basketball is for ages 5 and older and costs \$55 per youth. Cheerleading is for youth ages 5 and older and costs \$50 per youth. Cheerleading is not available at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston. A current sports physical, immunization records and flu vaccine are required at time of registration. For more information call JBSA-Fort Sam Houston at 210-221-3502 or 210-221-5519, JBSA-Lackland at 210-671-2388 or JBSA-Randolph at 210-652-3298.

### Teens party all night long

Youth ages 9-12 are encouraged to come to the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Patch/Chafee Youth Center Oct. 1-2 from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. for a lock-in with the theme of PJs and DJs. Youth come dressed up in their favorite pajamas and get ready for an all-nighter with music, games, contests, and more. The cost is \$10 per person. To secure your pillow and to register, please call 210-221-3630 by Sept. 29.

### Youth skate the night away

Boogie down at the JBSA-Randolph Youth Center Oct. 15 from 7-9 p.m. for Skate night. This time around Skate Night is given an 80's theme. Prizes will be awarded to the funkier attire. There will be concessions available for purchase. This event is for youth 9 and older. The fee is \$5 for members and \$7 for nonmembers. To sign-up, call 210-652-3298.

### Parents are given a much-needed break

All JBSA Child and Youth Programs can give parents that much needed break through the GPAB or PNO Programs. These programs are for children 6 weeks to 12 years old. Cost is \$25 per child with a sibling discount or free with a Give Parents a Break referral. The last day to register is the Wednesday prior to the event. JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Parents Night Out is held Oct. 15 from 6-10 p.m. JBSA-Lackland holds Parents night out Oct. 16 from 1-5 p.m. and JBSA-Randolph on Oct. 16, from 6-10 p.m. For more information or to register call JBSA-Fort Sam Houston at 210-221-5002, JBSA-Lackland at 210-671-2388 or JBSA-Randolph at 210-652-4946.

### Youth get registered for camp

Requests for care for all holiday camps are handled through MilitaryChildCare.com. Families who need childcare for their children while they are out of school for

the Thanksgiving school break can request care beginning Oct. 18. Requests will be taken until full. Fees are based on total family income and all required paperwork must be on file. The Thanksgiving Camp will be held from Nov. 22-25. Nov. 26 is an "AETC Family Day" and care will be offered on a reservation basis only. For more information call JBSA-Fort Sam Houston at 210-221-5151, JBSA-Lackland at 210-671-2388 or JBSA-Randolph at 210-652-3298.

### Children are equipped to stay home alone

The JBSA-Randolph Youth Programs holds their Home Alone Class Oct. 20 from 5-6 p.m. This free class is designed to give children, ages 10-18, the basic tools and knowledge to be able to confidently stay home alone. For more information and to sign up, please call Youth Programs at 210-652-3298.

### Families learn about what youth programs has to offer

Come out to the JBSA-Lackland Youth Center Oct. 22 from 4-5:30 p.m. to see what they have to offer at National Lights on After School. This is a yearly event that calls attention to the importance of after-school programs and the need to keep the lights on and the doors open after the school day ends. For more information, call 210-671-2388.

### Families come out for Halloween fun

JBSA-Lackland Youth Programs is hosting their 3rd annual Trunk-R-Treat Oct. 29 from 6:45 -8:45 p.m. Unit/ Organization volunteers are requested to bring vehicles out to participate as a "trunk" and for a chance to win door prizes. Trunk decorating will begin at 6:15 p.m. and candy is provided to all participating trunks. Event starting time is at 6:45 p.m. To reserve your a or for more information, please call 210-671-2388.

JBSA-Randolph Youth Programs in partnership with AAFES is hosting a spooky evening of family friendly Halloween activities. Come out to the AAFES parking lot Oct. 29 from 6:30-8 p.m. for a night full of arts-and-crafts, themed movies, games, and more. The event is free and will take place in the AAFES parking lot. For more information, call 210-652-3298.

## STAY CONNECTED

Stay current on Joint Base San Antonio 502d Force Support Squadron events, specials and daily activities.  
<https://jbsatoday.com>





# LACKLAND

## Total Force Defenders beta testing AFSFC's new weapons qualification course

By Joe Bela

AIR FORCE INSTALLATION AND  
MISSION SUPPORT CENTER  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Defenders from across the Total Force are currently beta testing a new Air Force security forces weapons qualification course designed to enhance proficiency across the career field.

Developed by the Air Force Security Forces Center, a primary subordinate unit of the Air Force Installation and Mission Support Center, the proposed course will seamlessly instruct, test and evaluate weapons training for the more than 38,000 active duty, Air National Guard, Air Force Reserve and government civilian security forces members.

Twelve active duty bases, two Air National Guard bases and one Air Force Reserve base are currently participating in the one-year beta test, which began June 1.

"The weapons qualification course is a forward-thinking effort, focused on enabling Defenders to adapt to a changing operational environment. Together, we will organize, train and equip Defenders to remain the most proficient and ready force," said Brig. Gen. Roy Collins, director of Security Forces and deputy chief of staff for Logistics, Engineering and Force Protection.

"This improved course of fire will allow our Defenders to focus more on weapons proficiency after initial qualification," Collins added. "Once qualified on any weapon in our inventory, it is imperative to immediately start to build



SENIOR AIRMAN ALEX MILLER

*An Airman assigned to the 355th Security Forces Squadron fires an M4A1 carbine during beta testing of the Air Force Security Forces Centers' proposed weapons qualification course at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Arizona, Aug. 11.*

upon proficiency and repetition to create Defenders who are ready to operate in current and future environments."

The four-block qualification course supports many of the 32 recommendations proposed by the Security Forces Defender NEXT Initiative. One aspect of the new initiative seeks to modify weapons and tactics capabilities with a focus on airbase ground defense as a foundational requirement for Defenders across the Total Force.

Although a viable rifle and carbine qualification course is currently in place for security forces, "senior leaders

recognized a need for enterprise-level change with an emphasis on continuous and realistic training across the career field," said Jason Seibel, AFSFC's chief of Air Force combat arms at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas.

The course, in testing, incorporates training on a quarterly basis rather than annual weapons qualification, as is currently the case for Airmen and Guardians in the security forces career field. This transition to proficiency training integrates four blocks of training:

Block 1: Carbine marksmanship fundamentals

and simulator training

Block 2: Short-range combat training and shoot, move and communicate skills training

Block 3: Limited visibility engagement training and virtual reality scenario-based training

Block 4: Marksmanship qualification and live-fire proficiency training for select Defenders

"The course provides instructors with what is called a building-block instruction method," Seibel said. "Each block of training builds on the previous block. Defenders must successfully complete Blocks 1, 2 and 3 before taking the final qualification block. In this way,

we develop Airmen from the novice, who graduates basic military training, to the expert Defenders who attend our advanced course, ensuring proficiency throughout their careers."

Tech. Sgt. George Henry III, 355th Security Forces Squadron combat arms instructor at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Arizona, which is one of the test sites for the course, said it's giving the career field a standardized way to accomplish weapons proficiency.

"This new course of fire will be used to pave the way for how Defenders qualify throughout the entire enterprise. Defenders will be shooting, moving and communicating during the entirety of the course," he said.

Throughout the training, Defenders and combat arms instructors at each of the 15 test sites will provide data and feedback to Seibel and other combat arms training team developers at AFSFC. When beta testing ends May 31, 2022, the AFSFC team will analyze the input from the test sites and finalize the policy guidance with the goal of implementing the course by October 2022.

"This new course ... benefits all Airmen who are charged with protecting our assets day and night. Today's threats are evolving and our Defenders need to as well," said Staff Sgt. Logan Goode, 355th SFS combat arms instructor. "Our Defenders will become more versatile and agile than ever before, allowing for better base defense and operations abroad."

*Senior Airman Alex Miller, 355th Wing Public Affairs, contributed to this story.*

# JBSA housing advocates aim to build communities, trust

By Jason Wilkinson

502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Housing residents at Joint Base San Antonio installations have two powerful allies they might not know about — Beverly Ebbers and Cathy Wiley.

Ebbers and Wiley work as housing advocates for JBSA-Lackland and JBSA-Randolph, respectively. The housing advocate program is designed to provide a liaison between military housing residents and their landlord, whether it is Balfour Beatty at JBSA-Lackland or Hunt at JBSA-Randolph, the privatized companies that run on-base housing at these installations.

“My role is to assist families with concerns in regard to housing,” Ebbers said. “If I am not able to assist them with their particular concerns, I provide them with resources or point them in the right direction.”

Concerns range from understanding the Tenant Bill of Rights to work order challenges. Both of these advocates understand how something seemingly small can have a big footprint in a family’s life.

“It can be something as simple as a dishwasher not working,” Wiley said. “But a dishwasher not working to a spouse with four kids under the age of seven, whose military member is deployed, is huge.”

This understanding and concern for the military family come naturally, as they each have prior experience living in and working with military housing.

Ebbers grew up with a father who was a career Marine and has a husband who retired from the Army in 2018. Wiley is an Air Force veteran and has a husband who retired from the Air Force. Both come with years of experience in property management.

“I understand very well the stresses that come from moving from across the country or across the world, and lodging with your children and your pets,” Ebbers said. “You’re just wanting to go into a clean, ready home.”

Both listed the relationships they form with the residents as one of their favorite things about the job. Working to increase the sense of community is a goal for them and the residents they are in contact with.

“I want to make sure people have a home where they can really make memories, and be comfortable,” Wiley said.

“Having lived the lifestyle and understanding the challenges, and being able to address those and move things in a positive direction — I think that’s my favorite part of the job,” Ebbers said.

Both ladies were effusive in their praise for the resident councils and leadership with which they



*Cathy Wiley (left) and Beverly Ebbers (right) work as housing advocates for Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland and JBSA-Randolph, respectively. The housing advocacy program is designed to give on-base housing residents a voice.*

PHOTO COMPOSITE BY JASON WILKINSON

**“It can be something as simple as a dishwasher not working. But a dishwasher not working to a spouse with four kids under the age of seven, whose military member is deployed, is huge.”**

Cathy Wiley, JBSA housing advocate

work. The resident councils consist of diverse members of the on-base housing community — from junior enlisted to colonels.

“Without the engagement and support of the local leadership on this installation, as well as the wing, I wouldn’t be able to do my job as effectively,” Ebbers said. “And I may be biased, but I think I have the best resident council in the Air Force.”

It’s easy to tell that both are committed to the communities they serve, with genuine excitement to help residents, build relationships, and inspire trust.

“I have an office here, but my true office is out in the community,” Wiley concluded.

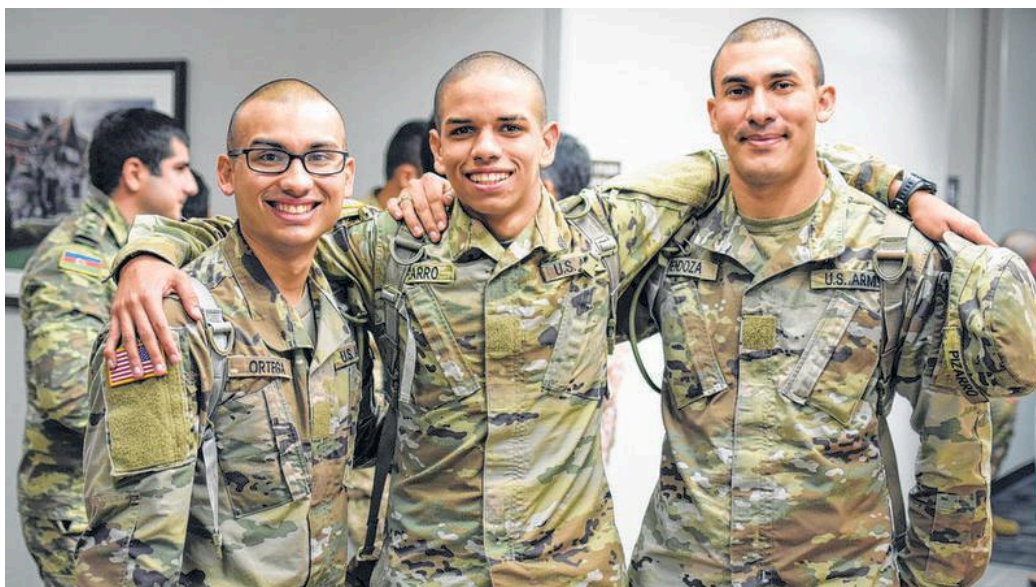
For assistance, call 210-347-5807.



## DEFENSE LANGUAGE INSTITUTE ENGLISH LANGUAGE CENTER RECOGNIZES NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

*Although the Defense Language Institute English Language Center hosts many international students, it also hosts U.S. Army trainees who come from communities where English is not the primary language spoken.*

*This includes many students of Hispanic-American descent. These students go on to serve the United States as U.S. Army soldiers. National Hispanic Heritage Month is celebrated from Sept. 15 to Oct. 15. During the observance, the United States recognizes the contributions and influence of Hispanic Americans to the history, culture, and achievements of the United States.*



COURTESY PHOTO

# DOD celebrates National Hispanic Heritage Month

By David Vergun

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE NEWS

It's a time to reflect on the contributions and sacrifices Hispanics have made to the United States, not just in the military, but in all walks of life.

A significant number of Hispanics have served in all of the nation's wars beginning with the Revolutionary War. Sixty-one service members of Hispanic or Latino heritage have been awarded the Medal of Honor, the highest medal for valor. Two were sailors, 13 Marines and 46 soldiers.

Their stories of heroism are many. Here are two.

**Marcelino Serna** emigrated from Mexico to Texas in 1916. Although he was a Mexican citizen, he enlisted in the U.S. Army when World War I started April 2017. His request to enlist was granted and he was later shipped with other soldiers to the battlefields of France.

Serna's unit, Company B, 355th Infantry Regiment, 89th Division, was engaged in heavy fighting in the Meuse-Argonne region, Sept. 12, 1918.

During that day, Serna, a private, wounded a German sniper with his Enfield rifle and then advanced to an enemy trench where he threw three grenades, resulting in the death of 26 enemies and the capture of 24.

On Nov. 7, 1918, Serna was wounded in both of his legs by sniper fire. The fighting ended four days later on Nov. 11, when the armistice was declared.

During his recovery, Army Gen. John J. Pershing, commander of the American Expeditionary Forces, pinned a Distinguished Service Cross to his uniform. He was the first Hispanic American to receive the DSC,



Serna



Cantu

COURTESY PHOTOS

the second-highest medal for valor.

Ferdinand Foch, the supreme commander of the allied forces, awarded Serna the French Croix de Guerre for bravery.

In 1924, Serna became a U.S. citizen and settled in El Paso, where he died in 1992 at the age of 95.

On Sept. 29, 2016, the United States designated the Customs and Border Protection Port of Entry at Tornillo, Texas, as the "Marcelino Serna Port of Entry."

**Army Pvt. David B. Barkley Cantu** also served in the 89th Division in France during World War I and was Hispanic.

On Nov. 9, 1918, he and another soldier volunteered to swim across the Meuse River near Pouilly-sur-Meuse to get behind German lines and gather information

about troop strength. On his return trip, he got cramps while swimming and drowned. The other soldier made it back to his unit and provided the commander with the intelligence the two had gathered.

For his bravery, Cantu was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor. Also, France awarded him the Croix de Guerre, and Italy, the Croce al Merito di Guerra.

### National Hispanic Heritage Month

Hispanic Heritage Month began as Hispanic Heritage Week in 1968 when President Lyndon Johnson signed the observance into law.

National Hispanic Heritage Month was first proclaimed by President George H. W. Bush in 1989.

The Sept. 15 start of the heritage month is significant because it is the anniversary of independence for the Latin American countries of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence days on Sept. 16 and Sept. 18, respectively. Also, Columbus Day or Día de la Raza, which is Oct. 12, falls within this 30 day period.

Those who claim to be Latino or Hispanic make up 17.6% of the active duty force, numbering 235,972 as of July 2021, according to the Defense Manpower Data Center.

The 2020 U.S. Census Bureau report indicated that Hispanics or Latinos make up 18.7% of the total U.S. population.

The Hispanic or Latino population was 62.1 million in 2020. The Hispanic or Latino population grew 23% between 2010 and 2020, according to the Census Bureau.

# AFICC awards Pool 3 in architect & engineering services contract series

**Air Force Installation and Mission Support Center  
Public Affairs**

A collaborative effort between the Air Force Installation Contracting Center and Air Force Civil Engineer Center led to the award of Pool 3 contracts Aug. 30, 2021, as part of the \$2 billion Architect-Engineer Next program consisting of four contractor pools.

The contracts, awarded by the 772nd Enterprise Sourcing Squadron, support the Air and Space Forces' infrastructure design and construction mission.

Pool 3 contracts are a partnership between AFICC, AFCEC, Air Force Foreign Material Sales and the U.S. Army Installation Management Command and cover projects focused on general infrastructure requirements to include non-airfield paving and utilities in the United States.

Three of the four pools under AE Next have now been awarded — Pool 4 was awarded in February to 17 contractors and Pool 1 in July to 14 contractors.

**“We’re excited to partner with these small businesses to deliver design capabilities for infrastructure work throughout the United States. We look forward to a long and productive relationship between these firms, Air Force installations and Space Force installations.”**

**Dr. Tim Sullivan,  
chief of AFCEC’s Technical Services Division**

AFCEC, who oversees the Air Force's military construction program, will continue to work with AFICC to award Pool 2, the remaining pool in the AE Next program. It focuses on facilities across installations in the United States.

Under Pool 3, eight small-business contracting firms will provide a full spectrum of world-class design and consulting capabilities to enhance installation readiness and lethality with resilient and sustainable infrastructure.

“We’re excited to partner with these small businesses to deliver design capabilities for infrastructure work throughout the United States,” said Dr. Tim Sullivan, chief of AFCEC’s Technical Services Division. “We look forward to a long and productive relationship between these firms, Air Force installations and Space Force installations.”

In addition to the Air and Space Forces, the Pool 3 contract suite is also available to U.S. Army IMCOM.

“AFCEC’s longstanding partnership and collaboration with industry is critical to delivering the resilient and combat-ready infrastructure we need,” said Col. Dave Norton, deputy director of AFCEC’s Facility Engineering Directorate. “Through the AE Next program, AFCEC helps installations get superior design capabilities and innovative engineering solutions to effectively drive forward complex construction programs and meet mission priorities.”

AFCEC’s Facility Engineering Directorate is overseeing the four awards in the AE Next program and is working with contractors on the execution of services to ensure they are delivered on time and within budget.

## 433RD MDG COMMANDER RETIRES AFTER 30 YEARS



TECH. SGT. MIKE LAHRMAN

Col. Michael C. Brice (left) addresses Reserve Citizen Airmen at Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center for the last time as 433rd Medical Group commander at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland Sept. 12. Brice has served as 433rd MDG commander since July 2019, following commander positions at the 310th Aeromedical Dental Squadron, Buckley Air Force Base, Colorado, and the 934th Aeromedical Staging Squadron, Minneapolis-St. Paul Air Reserve Station, Minnesota. He was previously assigned to the 433rd Airlift Wing from 1994 to 2014.



# RANDOLPH

## Military Working Dogs: JBSA's four-legged defenders

**By Senior Airman  
Tyler McQuiston**  
502ND AIR BASE WING  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Members and canines from the 902nd Security Forces Squadron's military working dog section train daily together to practice operations such as drug and explosive detection, aggressor apprehension, specialized missions, and daily base patrols.

The training forms a bond between the MWDs and their handlers to ensure the safety of JBSA personnel, property and resources.

"Military working dogs are our partners," said Tech. Sgt. Mark Devine, 902nd SFS kennel master. "They are family."

The 341st Training Squadron at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland is responsible for the initial training of all MWD handlers in MWD patrol, basic training, detection and first aid.

The Department of Defense MWD Center at the 341st TRS breeds the puppies and trains them from birth to pass the certification process to become MWDs.

Dogs that don't meet DOD criteria are adopted or released to local law enforcement agencies. The primary breed of MWDs in the Air Force are Dutch Shepherds and Belgian Malinois.

"Our day-to-day routine starts by feeding the dogs," said Senior Airman Taylor Bryant, 902nd SFS MWD handler. "We give them a



PHOTOS BY SENIOR AIRMAN TYLER MCQUISTON

*U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Taylor Bryant, 902nd Security Forces Squadron military working dog handler, runs with his MWD during a hurdle training exercise Aug. 27 at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph.*

one-hour rest period before beginning training."

Handlers groom and run through basic obedience commands with their MWDs to strengthen their relationship. They complete various demonstrations in the training yard to prepare them for real-world scenarios. If the MWD performs satisfactorily after each training exercise, the handler praises them for their progress.

"I recently became a handler and building a connection with my dog is a great experience," Bryant said.

Throughout the day, handlers put their MWDs in the kennels to give them breaks in between training segments, allowing them to cool off and get plenty of rest.

"I like being a military working dog handler because of how rewarding it is," Devine said. "A handler



*U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Keilen Evans (right), a military working dog handler, performs MWD training by mimicking the motions of Tech. Sgt. Mark Devine (left), a kennel master, both assigned to the 902nd Security Forces Squadron Aug. 27 at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph*

**"It feels really good to train with my dog. I treat her like she's a daughter to me, and we try to learn as much as we can in this time that we have together."**

**Senior Airman Taylor Bryant, 902nd SFS MWD handler**

requires early mornings, long days and late nights. It is extremely fulfilling to see all of the hard work you and your partner have done and the results of it."

Whenever MWDs start showing signs of slowing down, a kennel master will put together a disposition package, retiring that dog and looking for a suitable home for them.

Devine said the disposition package takes about two

months from start to finish. After that, the dog will live its retired life with either a prior handler or a suitable adoptee.

Until then, MWDs continue to train alongside their handlers here to provide protection for JBSA's installations and members.

"It feels really good to train with my dog," Evans said. "I treat her like she's a daughter to me, and we try to learn as much as we can in this time that we have together."

# AETC training technician wins 2021 SAIGE Military Meritorious Service Award

By C Arce

AIR EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMMAND  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

An Air Education and Training Command training technician, who is also a Citizen Potawatomi Nation member, won the 2021 Society of American Indian Government Employees, or SAIGE, Military Meritorious Service Award.

Jeffrey Johnson, mobile training team technician for international training and education at the Air Force's Security Assistance Training Squadron; and an active member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, won the award.

The SAIGE Military Meritorious Service Award honors military members, veterans and Department of Defense civilian employees, who have risen above and gone beyond the mission, and whose attributes best epitomized the qualities and core values of their respective military service.

"I couldn't be more proud of Jeff," said Col. Brian Afflerbaugh, Air Force Security Assistance Training commander and Johnson's nominating official. "He has an incredible work ethic and his commitment to success is second to none. He is building partnership capacity and strengthening alliances every day. Not only that, but he is also an amazing educator and leader in his American Indian heritage."

The goal of the MTT program is to teach partners and allies various things, such as the English language, flight operations, aircraft maintenance, and general military operations for humanitarian aid and disaster relief.

From Jan. 1, 2019, to March 31, 2021, Johnson acquired and scheduled thousands of courses and hundreds of mobile training teams for international military students within and outside of the United States. This supported a training portfolio valued at \$10.9 billion for 157 foreign nations, and fulfills the Secretary of the Air Force's priority of strengthening our alliances.

"I feel very humble," Johnson said. "Because this award represents the way I live, it brings in all my worlds into one — a veteran, a civilian employee and an American Indian serving my country and my people."

**"I couldn't be more proud of Jeff. He has an incredible work ethic and his commitment to success is second to none. He is building partnership capacity and strengthening alliances every day. Not only that, but he is also an amazing educator and leader in his American Indian heritage."**

Col. Brian Afflerbaugh,  
Air Force Security Assistance  
Training commander and  
Johnson's nominating official

Johnson also enhanced awareness and appreciation of American Indian heritage, culture and traditions within the local community through his involvement in the Traditional American Indian Society and the Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph American Indian Heritage Committee.

"We, the American Heritage Committee, are able to educate and share our culture with the local base community," Johnson said. "We also bring history alive to the base schools, and children really do enjoy seeing us and talking to us about our culture."

As the vice-chairman for JBSA-Randolph's National American Indian Heritage Month committee, he also initiated three programs: Military Youth day, art projects and exhibition dances.

Johnson is the fourth person from Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph to win the SAIGE Military Meritorious Service Award. He was awarded by Afflerbaugh during a virtual ceremony on Sept. 15.



COURTESY PHOTO

Jeffrey Johnson has been awarded the 2021 SAIGE Military Meritorious Service Award.



# JBSA commemorates POW/MIA Recognition Day

**By Staff Sgt. Preston Cherry**  
502ND AIR BASE WING  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Members of the Joint Base San Antonio community took part in a 5K run commemorating Prisoners of War and Missing in Action Recognition Day Sept. 18 at Heritage Park at JBSA-Randolph.

POW/MIA Recognition Day was established in 1979 by President Jimmy Carter and is recognized annually on the third Friday of September. Members at JBSA observed the day on Saturday to show that no service member is ever forgotten.

"This is a time for us to commemorate heroes of America who went the extra mile, and some the ultimate sacrifice, for the freedoms and American way of life as we know it," said Senior Master Sgt. Sidney Frith, event coordinator and 502nd Air Base Wing command and control operations superintendent.

The event started with the handoff of a POW/MIA flag which shows an image of a POW silhouette and the words, "You Are Not Forgotten," written at the bottom.

"The flag handoff is necessary to show that everyone is behind the cause of the flag," Frith said. "By handing the flag to the lead runner, it shows we are dedicated to teamwork, and we will blindly go wherever needed to pursue the safe return of our heroes."

The run also included poster boards along the route showing pictures and information on some of the MIA who still have not returned home.

"As a committee, we pulled together to do research so that we could bring the commemoration closer to home," Frith said. "Together, we found heroes who were from Texas and shared their stories. They are just a small sample of the unaccounted-for personnel."

Approximately 200 service members, family and community members signed up



Joint Base San Antonio community members participate in a 5K run commemorating Prisoners of War and Missing in Action Recognition Day, Sept. 18 at the Heritage Park at JBSA-Randolph.

PHOTOS BY SENIOR AIRMAN TYLER MCQUISTON



Rene Ramos, veteran and retired U. S. Navy Senior Chief Petty Officer, holds a Prisoners of War and Missing in Action flag during a 5K run commemorating POW/MIA Recognition Day, Sept. 18 at the Heritage Park at JBSA-Randolph.

to participate in the run.

Frith said the event was just one of the many other events happening around the globe for the same cause.

"Our ability to come together

for the commemoration of the POW/MIAs is a reflection of a much bigger commitment to never forgetting those lost, as well as those to the left and right of us," Frith said.



Joint Base San Antonio community members participate in a 5K run commemorating Prisoners of War and Missing in Action Recognition Day, Sept. 18 at the Heritage Park at JBSA-Randolph. The run included multiple poster boards along the route showing pictures and information on some of the MIA who still have not returned home.