

JBSA LEGACY

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JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO

NOVEMBER 5, 2021



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Resources available for Airmen seeking anxiety, depression, burnout

By Senior Master Sgt. Elise Redziniak
AIR FORCE LIFE CYCLE MANAGEMENT CENTER
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

As the weather begins to change and days get shorter and cooler, some individuals may notice a shift in mood, too.

This change in mood may be Seasonal Affective Disorder — some people call it the “winter blues.” It is common to want to “hibernate” more when the days have more dark than light. The changing seasons, the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, and the upcoming holiday season can all contribute to low feelings and frayed nerves.

Daily work stress, juggling family priorities and seeming barrage of never-ending bad news can also spark feelings of anxiousness and sadness. There are many Air Force and base resources available to help those who are struggling.

Besides getting some daily physical exercise, sunlight and fresh air and limiting news consumption, here are some resources that may help you.

One-Stop Shop: The Air Force Connect app (<https://www.afmc.af.mil/News/Article-Display/Article/1731357/>) is available for free on Android and iOS from the Google Play and Apple App stores. Be sure to add your place of

assignment/employment as a “favorite” and click the “helping center” box for all local resources.

Employee Assistance Program: Provides civilian employees and their families with free, confidential resources and support to help manage normal everyday life challenges that may impact job performance and personal wellbeing. Examples include counseling, financial and legal services. All Air Force civilian personnel — including non-appropriated funds, or NAF, employees; Guard and Reserve; and family members may use the program at no charge to the individual or family member. The EAP provides the same services and access to care provided in the past with continued access 24/7 via telephone, website or in-person. Call 866-580-9078 or visit online at www.afpc.af.mil/Airman-and-Family/Personal-and-Work-Life/.

Affirmative Employment Program: The program is responsible for promoting positive action in all personnel administrative and management matters including recruitment, employment, and promotion. It is also designed to promote equal opportunity and to identify and eliminate discriminatory practices and policies. The program ensures equal

opportunity for all employees by evaluating employment practices to eliminate barriers based off of race, color, religion, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation and disability.

For both military and civilian personnel:

Chaplain: Meetings are 100% confidential. Chaplains do not have a duty to warn the command team. In fact, they cannot tell anyone anything an individual discloses, but will ensure the member obtains the necessary help.

Veteran’s Crisis Line: Call 800-273-8255, then press “1.” Chat online by texting: 838255.

Resources for military and dependents

Military Family Life Consultant: Does not create a record and will meet members anywhere. Youth or Adult counseling. Call 937-972-1054 or 937-203-6461.

Military OneSource: Up to 12 free sessions with civilian counselor in the area. Call 800-342-9647.

Mental Health: Call 937-257-6876.

If you or someone you know is in immediate distress, call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 800-273-TALK (8255). You can also text the Crisis Text Line: HELLO to 741741.

Did you know? Knowledge key in cybersecurity

By Lorie Risner
88TH COMMUNICATIONS SQUADRON
CYBERSECURITY SUPPORT LEAD

What’s a great and free way to protect your devices? Knowledge.

Staying informed and practicing good cyber hygiene is the easiest way to ensure you do not become a victim of or easy target for cybercriminals.

Cybersecurity Awareness Month is a great way to gain the cyber knowledge you need for awareness of the current cyber landscape and how to navigate through it without falling prey to cybercrime.

Did you know:

Cybercrime comes in many forms, including identity theft,

financial fraud, ransomware, stalking, online bullying and hacking. At best, cybercrime can cause major inconvenience and annoyance for a victim. At worst, it can result in financial ruin or even threaten a victim’s reputation or personal safety.

46 percent of the most costly cybercrime events resulted from an insider threat, and 34 percent of insider-threat cases targeted the collection of personally identifiable information.

Consumers are increasingly using their mobile devices for online banking, payments and shopping without instituting mobile cybersecurity such as keeping their devices updated and using strong passwords or

two-factor authentication.

Links in email and online posts are often the way cybercriminals compromise your computer.

#whenindoubtthrowitout

Your home’s wireless router is the primary entrance for cybercriminals to access all your connected devices. Changing the factory-set default password and username will better secure your Wi-Fi network.

With every social media account you sign up for, every picture you post and status you update, you are sharing information about yourself with the world. There is no delete button on the internet. #sharewithcare



COURTESY PHOTO

Daylight Savings Time ends in 2021 on Sunday, Nov. 7. The clocks will fall back one hour.

JBSA LEGACY

**Joint Base San Antonio
Editorial Staff**

**502nd Air Base Wing
and JBSA Commander**

BRIG. GEN.

CAROLINE M. MILLER

**502nd ABW/JBSA
Public Affairs Director**

LT. COL. GINA “FLASH” McKEEN

Editor

STEVE ELLIOTT

Staff

LORI BULTMAN

DAVID DEKUNDER

SENIOR AIRMAN

TYLER McQUISTON

DRESHAWN MURRAY

**JBSA LEGACY
ADVERTISEMENT OFFICE
EN COMMUNITIES
P.O. Box 2171
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS 78297
210-250-2052**

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Feedback Fridays

Brig. Gen. Caroline M. Miller

502D AIR BASE WING AND JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO
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 using the subject line "Feedback Fridays." Questions will be further researched and published as information becomes available.

Q: The time is coming near for me to receive my mandatory COVID-19 vaccine and I still cannot find it within me to take it.

I am still waiting on the answer for the religious exemption package I submitted, but in case that doesn't go my way, I was wanting to know my options.

Where I sit currently, I have enough time in service to retire, even though that is not my first option.

If I do decide to retire, will I be still forced to receive the vaccine? Are there any penalties that I may face if I go this route as far as payback requirements for training?

Thank you for your time.

A: Thank you for your questions.

While Airmen and Guardians wait on the review of their religious exemption package, they will not be required to get vaccinated.

Airmen and Guardians have the option of

requesting separation or retirement at any time via the myPers Self-Service action.

Any Airmen or Guardian with an approved separation or retirement as of Nov. 1, 2021, with an approved separation or retirement date of April 1, 2022, or earlier would not be required to vaccinate.

Those unvaccinated service members with an approved separation or retirement date within the established timeframes will still be required to follow all CDC and Department of Defense COVID-19 related force health protection measures.

In accordance with AFI 36-3203, Service Retirements, paragraph 3.8., "Waiver of Restrictions," request an Active Duty Service Commitment waiver in conjunction with their retirement or separation application, each payback requirement will be considered on its own merit.

Community participation in Mission Thanksgiving canceled amid COVID-19 concerns

By Tish Williamson

U.S. ARMY MEDICAL CENTER OF EXCELLENCE
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

For the second year in a row, community participation in a program that connects Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Soldiers with volunteer hosts for Thanksgiving is canceled.

"Mission Thanksgiving," a program where the San Antonio community generously opens their homes to provide home-cooked Thanksgiving meals for Soldiers in medical training at the U.S. Army Medical Center of Excellence, or MEDCoE, is canceled this November, as it was in 2020, amid concerns of community spread of COVID-19.

"We were really looking forward to inviting the community back this year," said Maj. Gen. Dennis LeMaster, the MEDCoE commanding general. "Unfortunately, the risk of COVID-19 spread for our trainees is still at an unacceptable level."

He says that everyone is looking forward to putting COVID behind them in the near future so worthwhile community events like Mission Thanksgiving may resume.

"I thank all of those who were willing to host Soldiers this year, and I hope we



COURTESY PHOTO

Soldiers in training at the U.S. Army Medical Center of Excellence, or MEDCoE, at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston await link-up with a host Family for Mission Thanksgiving in 2019, prior to COVID-19.

can connect you with some of our well-deserving Soldiers next year," the general added.

The Mission Thanksgiving program has been an Army tradition at

JBSA-Fort Sam Houston for more than 20 years.

Though community members cannot participate this year, they can tune in to MEDCoE social media to watch

unit-hosted Soldier festivities.

For more information, visit the MEDCoE Mission Thanksgiving webpage at <https://medcoe.army.mil/mission-thanksgiving>.

DOD Move.mil website relocates to Military OneSource

U.S. TRANSPORTATION COMMAND
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON — The Department of Defense recently launched a new landing page on MilitaryOneSource.mil designed to serve as a replacement for its previous information hub, Move.mil.

The new page, PCS & Military Moves, features the resources and assistance a moving customer might need for their entire relocation experience, saving time with easier access to information from one centralized location.

Move.mil closed Nov. 1, 2021. Visitors will now be redirected to MilitaryOneSource.mil and U.S. Transportation Command will provide updates to content as needed.

Customers can access the PCS & Military Moves landing page under the Moving & Housing section on the Military OneSource website. Once there, they can schedule a move and find resources related to shipping their personal property, as well as other aspects of their move.

Key information and tools include:

Resources to help manage personal property shipments:

- Login for the Defense Personal Property System
- Transportation office and customer service contacts
- Guides and articles explaining each step of the moving process
- Videos with news updates and tips
- Frequently asked questions about moving personal property
- Brochures and fact sheets about claims, policies, entitlements, etc.
- Moving assistance tailored for each service branch

Assistance in preparing to move and settling into a new community:

- Financial counseling services
- Renting or buying a house
- Tips for living overseas
- Connections with a variety of family and school support services
- Finding employment for a spouse
- Tools for creating moving task lists
- Information about new duty stations

For nearly a year, the U.S. Transportation Command's Defense

Personal Property Management Office collaborated with the Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Military Community and Family Policy to transition personal property information to MilitaryOneSource.mil. The resulting web pages now provide a single access point for service members and their families to plan the full spectrum of their move.

"The primary factor driving this transition has improved customer service by providing service members and their families with a single, integrated location to access information, resources and assistance during their moving experience," said Air Force Col. Joel Safranek, director of the Defense Personal Property Management Office for the U.S. Transportation Command.

MilitaryOneSource.mil provides comprehensive information, resources and assistance on every aspect of military life. The updated web pages are designed for service members, DOD civilian employees and their families who are or will be impacted by a move.

"DOD's Military OneSource program provides 24/7 support to military members and their families," said Erika Slaton, Associate Director, Military Community Support Programs. "The Military OneSource website already provides significant relocation information, tools and resources. This made it the perfect place to create a centralized location for our military community."

Military OneSource is a DOD-funded program that is both a call center and a website providing comprehensive information, resources and assistance on every aspect of military life. Military OneSource services are available worldwide 24 hours a day, seven days a week, at no cost to the user at 800-342-9647 or via secure live chat.

For Defense Personal Property System, or DPS questions, contact your local transportation office or call 800-462-2176. The Customer Service page under the PCS & Military Moves section also includes an extensive list of additional support services for specific portions of a move.

U.S. Army North dedicates training facility to distinguished Texas Soldier

By **Lori A. Bultman**
502ND AIR BASE WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

U.S. Army North (Fifth Army) honored the late Lt. Col. Milton J. Landry Oct. 29 by dedicating a building in his honor.

Landry, a 1936 Texas A&M graduate whose first duty station was Fort Sam Houston, received the Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism while serving with the 36th Infantry Division, then part of Fifth Army, Dec. 15, 1943, near San Pietro Infine, Italy, according to his medal citation.

The then-major was recognized for the actions he took leading his battalion in an attack on the enemy-held town, where they were met with strong enemy opposition. His forces suffered heavy casualties caused by intense, accurate enemy crossfire.

Braving a veritable hail of artillery and small arms fire, Landry reorganized his force, and, displaying utter



U.S. Army Lt. Gen. John R. Evans Jr., U.S. Army North commanding general, far right, stands with Linda Landry as two members of the U.S. Army Texas National Guard, 141st Infantry Regiment, hold the plaque to be placed on a building dedicated to Landry's father, Lt. Col. Milton J. Landry, during a memorial ceremony on Oct. 29 at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

fearlessness, moved around among the forward elements of his command. Just after dark, he led a second assault mission, but this assault was also stopped by enemy fire and minefields.

During the remainder of the

night, Landry made two reconnaissance trips within enemy lines and was wounded in the hand. He reorganized his battalion, now greatly reduced in strength, and made two more attacks, finally reaching the objective with seven officers

and 32 enlisted men.

With daylight, Landry's small force was brought under enemy fire from all directions, but he continued to encourage his officers and men to hold their ground despite the fact he was again wounded. The battalion defeated all enemy efforts until they were ordered to withdraw late that afternoon.

At the time of his actions in San Pietro Infine, Landry was just 29 years old.

"Lt. Col. Landry represents the very best of Fifth Army, courageous, selfless, resilient, and caring," said Lt. Gen. John R. Evans Jr., U.S. Army North commander. "It is very fitting we memorialize this building in his name, as the G7 responsible for training Fifth Army to be the best we can be in defending our great nation."

Landry's daughter, Linda Landry, was in attendance at the dedication and expressed her gratitude for the recognition of her father's contributions to the U.S. Army.

"My father was probably one

of the fairest men I have ever met in my entire life," she said. "He absolutely believed in everything this country stands for. He was proud to be an Aggie, he was proud to be in the service, he was proud to be an Army Soldier."

Landry said her father spent time in the hospital after he was medically evacuated on his 30th birthday, in 1944, and noted that he credited the medics for ensuring he would eventually be buried at the Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery and not in Italy.

"I think it is most appropriate that he be memorialized here," she said. The tri-service Medical Education and Training Campus located at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston is where medics are trained.

More information on Landry may be found on the dedication plaque located at building 4015, on the corner of Hood and Sustainment Streets on Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

AFCLC launches updated culture guide app, introduces new educational course with certificate

By **Lori M. Quiller**
AFCLC OUTREACH TEAM

Airmen now have at their fingertips the opportunity to receive credit for learning about another country's culture while simultaneously responding to the chief of staff of the Air Force's action order to understand the nation's strategic competitors.

This can be achieved by accessing the latest version of the Air Force Culture and Language Center's Air Force Culture Guide app.

The director of the AFCLC, Howard Ward, unveiled version 2.0 of the app to a virtual audience on Oct. 15, 2021, the last day of the 2021 Virtual Air

University Language, Regional Expertise and Culture Symposium.

Ward described the heavily updated app as a one-stop-shop for "accessible, relevant, impactful curriculum" in addition to culture field guides.

"It's a delivery method that can deploy curriculum at enterprise scale, untethered from the constraints of government systems, which is especially great for total force Airmen, and it's designed to accelerate learning for strategic competition by putting AFCLC's 'Global Classroom' right in your pocket," he said.

Shortly after its original release in 2017, *The Wall Street Journal* recognized the app as one of six indispensable apps

for business travelers.

Changes to the original app include: **Enhanced accessibility to AFCLC's Expeditionary Culture Field Guides** – Users no longer need to download one of the 69 guides to view content. Touch the block containing the name of the guide for it to open. Plus, there are seven new ECFGs on the way.

Accelerated learning for strategic competition – Touch the Courses button at the bottom of the screen to view the first new course. Developing Cultural Competence is designed to baseline the user on what culture is, why it matters and how users can learn more as their career progresses. Two more courses will be released soon.

These courses will allow each service member to achieve Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Charles Q. Brown Jr.'s Action Order Charlie individually by learning the fundamentals of culture for adversary understanding. Upon completing these courses, users will receive a certificate ready to upload to their learning record, as applicable.

A video library will be coming soon to further enhance learning capabilities on the go. The app is available through the App Store and Google Play, and it's safe for Department of Defense mobile devices. More than 20,000 individuals are already utilizing the app, and for those individuals, an automatic update to Version 2.0 is now available.

FORT SAM HOUSTON

Army Medicine tests new smartphone and tablet apps at JBSC-Camp Bullis

By Jose E. Rodriguez

U.S. ARMY MEDICAL CENTER OF EXCELLENCE
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The U.S. Army Medical Test and Evaluation Activity, or USAMTEAC, in collaboration with the United States Army Medical Materiel Development Activity, or USAMMDA, recently tested two medical devices employing the latest in smartphone technology in critical hands-on assessments during a simulated real-world scenario at two different locations at Joint Base San Antonio-Camp Bullis.

Utilizing mobile device applications and technology, the USAMTEAC team tested a Heat Strain Decision Aid, or HSDA, and Mental Acuity and four different Ultrasound Field Portable, or USFP, devices.

If adopted for use, these systems bring portability, ease of use, and lower maintenance requirements in a compact size to deployed Army Medicine.

The HSDA is an operational planning mobile application designed to be readily installed and accessed on any handheld mobile device.

This application allows unit commanders to perform real-time risk assessments for heat injury based on environmental factors, activity levels, and individual clothing factors based on algorithms derived from Technical Bulletin 507.

The HSDA incorporates an output display that provides operational planners with estimates of the warfighter's core temperature and calculates recommended safe work times, water requirements and risk of heat casualties.

The application calculates probabilities of heat injury and illness for training and deployed operations. Geared for Infantry units and mission planners, HSDA combines state-of-the-art laboratory-based models and the Six Cylinder Thermal Model to predict the risk of heat illness/injury in Soldier populations.



JOSE E. RODRIGUEZ

Lt. Col. Brett Gendron, a 65D Emergency Medicine Physician Assistant at Brooke Army Medical Center, tests one of the four Ultrasound Field Portables at a test conducted by the U.S. Army Medical Test and Evaluation Activity at Joint Base San Antonio-Camp Bullis.

The HSDA diagram depicts a functional view of data flow that generates core body and sweat rate outputs from four categories of inputs derived from end-users.

The USFP is a new requirement to fill a capability gap for the Tactical Combat Medical Care military provider Medical Equipment Set. This test assessed the operational effectiveness and suitability of the USFP to assist with an acquisition decision.

The USFP is a rapid, non-invasive, diagnostic imaging device to visualize or rule out injuries, such as internal bleeding, collapsed lung, or musculoskeletal injuries.

This device will bring diagnostic imaging to Role 1 in the Battalion Aid Station, and at the Role 2 Area/Brigade Support Treatment Platoon to improve the care provider's ability to triage life-threatening injuries and prioritize emergency evacuation, as well as diagnose lesser injuries, providing treatment in-place, and fostering a return to duty in prolonged field care scenarios.

During the test, there were four different USFP devices. Test players with various specialty backgrounds performed focused assessments on high-fidelity phantoms and live volunteer participants with the USFP

and used a tablet and a cell phone to view the ultrasound images.

"This one is pretty impressive," said Lt. Col. Brett Gendron, a 65D Emergency Medicine Physician Assistant at Brooke Army Medical Center, in describing the USFP. "They all bring something to the table, and this one I think has been the easiest to use. Portability is paramount, not requiring a large system that requires logistical support."

After testing USAMTEAC prepares a detailed report for a decision authority to review and possible procurement and fielding. Visit their website at medcoe.army.mil/usamteac to learn more.

MICC welcomes new leaders to JBSA-Fort Sam Houston

By Ryan Mattox

MISSION AND INSTALLATION CONTRACTING
COMMAND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Soldiers and civilians from the Mission and Installation Contracting Command Field Directorate Office-Fort Sam Houston and MICC-Fort Sam Houston contracting office recently welcomed their new leaders at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

Aundair Kinney has been named the deputy director of FDO-Fort Sam Houston, and Kimberly Wentreck is the director of MICC-Fort Sam Houston contracting office.

"I am very excited to be a part of a new leadership team and this organization," Kinney said. "I am here to guide and support the command and our workforce. I am a people person and look forward to meeting the workforce and getting to know them. This is a wonderful opportunity to grow and shape new leaders and develop our bench to be successful."

Kinney most recently served as the chief of the Joint Services Branch in the Healthcare Readiness Contracting Office with the U.S. Army Healthcare Activity located at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston.

She managed the execution of strategic pre-award contract actions supporting medical readiness and healthcare delivery to the Army Medical Command, Military Entrance Processing Command and Defense Health Agency.

In 2017, she was the director of the MICC-Fort Hood contracting office in Texas, providing contract support to the Fort Hood Garrison, Operational Test Command and Army Test and Evaluation Command. She deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Freedom Sentinel in 2015, serving as the deputy to the commander of the former Expeditionary Contracting Command-Afghanistan.

Kinney began her Army career as a division chief with the 410th Contracting Support Brigade at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston. She was formerly employed as a director at the Environmental Protection Agency in various roles after having begun her contracting career at



COURTESY PHOTO

Aundair Kinney is the deputy director of the Mission and Installation Contracting Command Field Directorate Office-Fort Sam Houston at Joint Base San Antonio, Texas. She most recently served as the chief of the joint services branch in the healthcare readiness contracting office with the U.S. Army Healthcare Activity located at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston.

Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.

FDO-Fort Sam Houston provides full-spectrum support for meals and lodging programs and the Army advertising program, in addition to providing contingency senior contracting official oversight for the newly assigned Army North mission.

ARNORTH conducts unified land operations in support of U.S. Northern Command in order to detect, deter and defeat threats to the nation, conduct support of civil authorities, and security cooperation initiatives to defend the United States and its interests.

The FDO supports Soldier and family readiness with its mission partners. Installation readiness and Soldier support is accomplished through the Strong Bonds and administrative support contracts. Operational support is provided to ARNORTH and U.S. Central Command Acquisition Support Services contract for the CENTCOM's area of responsibility, Soldier for Life contracts, and cemetery and mortuary support contracts.

"I am truly honored to be in this position. working with really smart people which can take our services to the next level," Wentreck said.



COURTESY PHOTO

Kim Wentreck is the director of the Mission and Installation Contracting Command Fort Sam Houston contracting office at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, Texas. Prior to be named director of MICC-Fort Sam Houston, Wentreck served as the deputy to the commander for Army Contracting Command-Afghanistan.

Prior to coming to MICC-Fort Sam Houston, Wentreck served as the deputy to the commander, Army Contracting Command-Afghanistan. ACC-Afghanistan provided support to more than 43,000 joint U.S. and coalition forces, civilians, and contractor employees. The command's contracting personnel managed a \$19.4-billion contract portfolio critical in the support of the Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan, U.S. National Support Element-Afghanistan, U.S. Forces-Afghanistan, and the Resolute Support Mission-NATO.

For the past 15 years, Wentreck has supported the MICC and its mission

partners in various positions and capacities. She was appointed as the MICC task/deliver order competition ombudsman for all complaints associated with awards under \$25 million. Additionally, she has filled numerous critical acquisition positions during recruitment actions.

Wentreck has more than 30 years of professional experience in contracting and program management in support of DOD and Army programs. She is an Army Acquisition Corps member with Level III Defense Acquisition Workforce Improvement Act certification in contracting, Level I certification in program management and a graduate of Army Management Staff College Sustaining Base Leadership and Management and Federal Executive Institute Strategic Leadership programs.

"My mantra is to mentor, train and guide my workforce to build 'bench strength' in the organization," Wentreck said. "This means leveraging my extensive training and experiences to mentor the workforce and my customers. I think we need to start transferring our knowledge and experiences to our younger workforce before we retire. They are ready, really dedicated and hungry to move this organization to the next level."

In fiscal 2021, MICC-Fort Sam Houston contracting personnel performed administration actions on more than 900 supplies, services, construction, energy and environmental contracts valued at more than \$420 million. The average awarded amount was \$372,000, which illustrates the complexity of the work performed by MICC-Fort Sam Houston.

Notice of public meeting to discuss Fort Sam Houston Independent School District's state financial accountability rating

The Fort Sam Houston Independent School District will hold a public meeting at 11 a.m. Nov. 18 to discuss the Fort Sam Houston Independent School District's rating of "A" for "Superior Achievement" on

the state's financial accountability system.

The meeting will take place in the Professional Development Center at 1908 Winans Road, San Antonio, Texas.

Joint Base San Antonio celebrates National American Indian Heritage Month

By **Maria F. Rodriguez**

AFFIRMATIVE EMPLOYMENT
PROGRAM MANAGER

802ND FORCE SUPPORT SQUADRON

National American Indian Heritage Month is observed from Nov. 1-30 and members of Joint Base San Antonio are encouraged to celebrate.

The national observance month recognizes American Indians for their respect for natural resources and the Earth, for having served with valor in our nation's conflicts and for their many important and distinct contributions to the

United States.

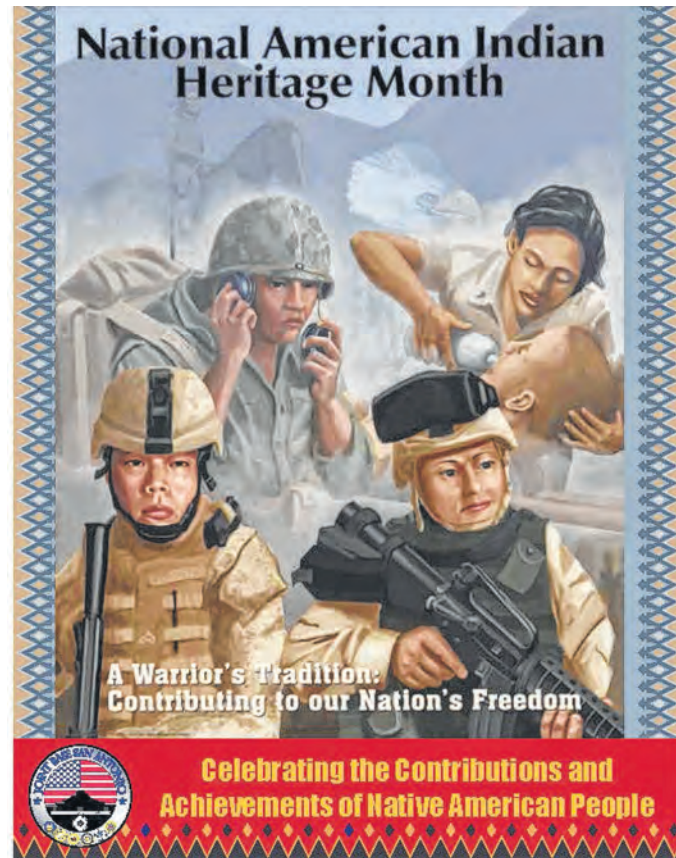
According to the National Congress of American Indians, the observance is also "an opportunity to educate our workforce, raise awareness about the uniqueness of Native people, and the myriad of ways in which tribal citizens have conquered challenges to maintain voice and dignity and to remain an influencing presence in a rapidly evolving nation."

In observance of National American Indian Heritage Month, Joint Base San Antonio is displaying

posters and display tables at library locations across JBSA as well as at Military and Family Readiness Centers at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, JBSA-Lackland and JBSA Randolph.

Visitors to the libraries and MFRCs are encouraged to follow COVID-19 health and safety procedures, including practicing physical distancing.

For additional information, call 210-221-1408 or email usaf.jbsa.502-abw.mbx.jbsa-fsh-cps@mail.mil.



Cancer diagnosis leads Airman to BAMC for lifesaving treatment

By Lori Newman

BROOKE ARMY MEDICAL CENTER
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

A rare cancer diagnosis led a young Airman to Brooke Army Medical Center for lifesaving care.

Airman 1st Class Chelsea Kernan was at her first duty station at Malmstrom Air Force Base in Great Falls, Montana, when she began experiencing pain in her left hip.

"I was in a lot of pain and I was limping," said the 25-year-old Security Forces specialist. "When I coughed, sneezed or laughed it would give me excruciating pain."

An MRI revealed a three-inch mass. She was diagnosed with Ewing's sarcoma, a rare type of cancer that occurs in bones or in the soft tissue around the bones. It most often begins in the leg bones and in the pelvis. Kernan was sent to BAMC for treatment in September 2020.

"Ewing's sarcoma happens at a rate of one in a million in the United States," explained Air Force Lt. Col. (Dr.) Della Howell, pediatric hematologist/oncologist. "It's more common in the second decade of life.

In Chelsea's case, it was in her pelvic bone.

Before being treated for the cancer, Kernan underwent in vitro and egg preservation to help sustain her ability to have children.

"Sometimes the cancer treatments can damage the ovaries and make women, even young women, go into premature menopause," said Air Force Maj. (Dr.) Samantha Simpson, a reproductive endocrinologist. "By doing in vitro and freezing her eggs, she is assured of her future fertility and increases the chance she can have her own children."

Kernan's cancer treatment began with six inpatient chemotherapy treatments, which took about three months to complete. She then underwent a hemipelvectomy, a surgical procedure to remove a portion of her pelvic girdle. After she recovered from the surgery, she had 11 more cycles of chemotherapy.

"She spent almost a year with our Pediatric Oncology service from the



JASON W. EDWARDS

Surrounded by friends, family and caregivers, Air Force Airman 1st Class Chelsea Kernan, security forces specialist, prepares to ring the Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Clinic bell, signaling the end of her cancer treatment at Brooke Army Medical Center, Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, on Oct. 15. Kernan, originally from Smithton, Illinois, had been battling Ewing's Sarcoma, a rare type of bone cancer.

time she was diagnosed until the time she finished her treatments," Howell said. "Since she has no signs of any cancer at this time, we are hopeful she will have a very good prognosis. Our goal of treatment was to cure her of her cancer."

Kernan celebrated this significant milestone Oct. 15 by ringing the bell in the Pediatric Hematology/Oncology

Clinic. This is a festive rite of passage when someone finishes their cancer treatment.

"We don't say that someone is fully cured until they've had about five years of time being cancer-free," Howell said. "She'll need to keep getting imaging studies to make sure the cancer doesn't come back."

The young Airman is currently

undergoing physical therapy at the Center for the Intrepid. Her goal is to continue her Air Force career in Security Forces.

Even though Kernan's treatment was grueling, she is thankful.

"I love BAMC and my doctors and nurses," she said. "I think BAMC was honestly the best place I could get treatment."

Virtual Appointment Management office reaches significant milestone

By Lori Newman

BROOKE ARMY MEDICAL CENTER
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Virtual Appointment Management Office, assigned to the Virtual Medical Center, celebrated a significant milestone recently. They scheduled more than 100,000 Virtually Integrated Patient Readiness Remote, or VIPRR, clinic appointments.

"I am extremely amazed at this accomplishment," said Army Lt. Col. Jenny Hayes, Virtual MEDCEN deputy director of administration. "The VAMO staff performs daily as a high functioning team and answers each call with professionalism, providing accurate, compassionate and timely scheduling for service members. Their efforts make a tremendous impact on the readiness of our warfighters."

The VIPRR was developed by the Army in 2016 to improve readiness for remotely located Soldiers without organic Army medical support in Europe, the Middle East and Africa. Today, the VIPRR Clinic offers remote primary care virtual health and medical readiness to all military services.

These services include synchronous personal health assessments, pre- and post-deployment health assessments, post-deployment health reassessments and other readiness health services for active duty service members.

"VIPRR is the most productive periodic health assessment clinic in the direct care system," Hayes said. "They completed more than 33,000 PHAs and other readiness exams in the fiscal year 2020, compared to less than 1,000 in FY 2019 and they completed over 60,000 visits in FY 2021."



LORI NEWMAN

The Virtual Appointment Management Office, assigned to the Virtual Medical Center, celebrate a significant milestone. They scheduled more than 100,000 Virtually Integrated Patient Readiness Remote clinic appointments. Back row (left to right): Garrett Johnson, Dayna Kelm, Army Lt. Col. Gary Legault, Cheryl Burgin and Jeffrey Burgwin. Middle row (left to right): Susana Manriquez, Julia Cardona and Lisa Martin. Front row (left to right): Erica Banda, Army Lt. Col. Jenny Hayes and Valerie Escobedo.

The virtual assessments helped service members avoid more than one thousand miles of travel in FY 2020, saving both travel funds and lost duty time, Hayes explained.

"Additionally, VIPRR began integrating with Military Treatment Facility appointing centers and the Nurse Advice Line to provide additional acute

primary care capacity," she said.

In the future, the Military Health System plans to explore the expansion of this capacity for more readiness exams and also to integrate into regional appointing centers to increase available capacity in geographical areas where the network is not as robust.

"Our VAMO staff is a remarkable team, with outstanding leadership from Lt. Col. Hayes," said Jeff Burgwin, Virtual MEDCEN deputy director.

"Scheduling 100,000 virtual health appointments is an amazing milestone. We are so proud of their accomplishment and dedication to the VMC

mission to synchronize, standardize and coordinate virtual medical services across the enterprise supporting readiness programs.

"They serve as the first line in care coordination to make sure the patient and provider are in the right place for the virtual health encounter," he added.

LACKLAND

AFIMSC acquisition team in running for DOD award for COVID-19 efforts

By Debbie Aragon

AIR FORCE INSTALLATION AND MISSION
SUPPORT CENTER PUBLIC AFFAIRS

A small Air Force Installation and Mission Support Center team recently garnered Air Force-level recognition for its vast life-saving impact during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The 45-person, 773rd Enterprise Sourcing Squadron team was selected as an Air Force nominee for the Department of Defense 2021 David Packard Excellence in Acquisition Award.

The award is given to teams that “demonstrate exemplary acquisition excellence, innovation and reform,” according to the DOD website for the awards program.

The 773rd ESS, a unit with AFIMSC’s Air Force Installation Contracting Center, delivers patient care and medical support sourcing solutions to the Air Force Surgeon General at 76 military treatment facilities worldwide.

From executing quick-turn contracts to increasing the cleaning standards at various medical treatment facilities in accordance with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, to awarding a \$33 million contract for COVID-19 test kits, the work the squadron accomplished during the COVID-19 pandemic was critical in protecting more than 2.6 million beneficiaries worldwide, said Lt. Col. Ethel Seabrook-Hennessy, 773rd ESS commander.

Embracing the Air Force Chief of Staff’s “Accelerate Change or Lose” charge, the 773rd ESS team continues to quickly execute and respond to its mission partner requirements, she said.

“Whether it’s supporting the Air Force Surgeon General’s \$1 billion medical contracting portfolio, leading the efforts on the \$700 million Department of the Air Force to the Defense Health Agency acquisition transition, or executing four enterprise-wide contract vehicles for



LUKE ALLEN

The 773rd Enterprise Sourcing Squadron led by commander Lt. Col. Ethel Seabrook-Hennessy is an Air Force nominee for the Department of Defense 2021 David Packard Excellence in Acquisition Award for “exemplary acquisition excellence, innovation and reform.”

cloth face coverings in four versus 60 days, the change agents of the 773rd ESS continue to be innovative and courageous problem solvers,” the commander said.

“In a testament to the squadron’s duty to protect and support the Air Force’s medical operations, the squadron quickly divided into two teams to work ongoing Air Force Surgeon General requirements and COVID-19 pandemic workload, which added an additional 4,000 man hours to the squadron’s already taxing portfolio.”

One team, the Rapid Response Team, supported urgent COVID-19 response efforts while the other continued executing and managing the squadron’s \$1 billion enterprise-wide portfolio.

A key example of the squadron’s

gargantuan COVID-19 response effort was COVID-19 Test Kit acquisition.

Last fall with only three weeks remaining in the fiscal year, the 773rd received a critical \$33 million requirement in support of the Air Force Medical Readiness Agency.

Although there was already an enterprise-wide contract vehicle in place with the Joint Program Executive Office for Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Defense, it was only providing 500 COVID-19 tests a week to the Air Force because of the great need across all services. At the time, the Air Force demand was well over 7,000 per week, Seabrook-Hennessy said.

“Staying in constant contact with our mission partner, legal, as well as the acquisition clearance authority, the team

was able to come up with an acquisition strategy, solicit and award this herculean effort in just over two weeks,” she said.

The speed and flexibility of the 773rd ESS team was “extremely critical in the procurement of commodities related to the treatment or testing of COVID-19 based on the velocity and turnover of products within the global market, resorting in severe supply chain shortages,” said Blake Smith, chief of Air Force Medical Service Central Contracts Program, AFMRA.

The BioFire COVID-19 test contract, awarded by the enterprise sourcing squadron, directly aided DOD and Air Force testing strategies being used to

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59th MDW: Patient and Family Partnership Council works to improve patient experience

By Airman Joshua Rosario
59TH MEDICAL WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Committed to providing high-reliability healthcare, the 59th Medical Wing offers myriad programs designed to enhance patient satisfaction through open feedback.

One of the programs that works solely to improve the patient experience is the Patient and Family Partnership Council.

"We are trying to make sure we have the best patient and Military Treatment Facility working relationship moving forward by ensuring trust and transparency with our beneficiaries," said Trevor Brown, 59th Medical Wing chief of patient experience.

A recent patient improvement the council is responsible for is the establishment of reserved parking spots at Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center



AIRMAN JOSHUA ROSARIO

Members of the Patient and Family Partnership Council, seen here Oct. 20 at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, meet quarterly to discuss matters of patient experience, evaluate current processes and make changes to better the conditions of the San Antonio Market Military Treatment Facilities.

for mothers with young children.

The council meets quarterly

to discuss matters of patient experience, evaluate current processes and make changes

to better the conditions of the San Antonio Market MTFs for not only patients,

but for staff as well.

"The role of the PFPC is what I view as an engagement activity," said Wesley Hardin, Defense Health Agency deputy program manager. "We're actively engaging with the beneficiaries and even the staff who are part of the PFPC. It's about that collaboration, that synergistic approach toward giving them the best quality care we can give. I think this is a powerful forum and it's going to grow over time as we gain more interest in it."

The PFPC is accepting individuals who are interested in joining and want to make a difference in the patient's experience. Members of the PFPC represent SAMHS MTFs and help the PFPC mission by sharing health care experiences, participating in discussion groups.

For more information on becoming a PFPC member, call 210-292-6688.

AWARD

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break the chain viral disease transmission and eliminate risks to our warfighters and DOD mission, said Smith.

"Without the 773rd ESS and its focus on speed/flexibility within the acquisition process, the Air Force Medical Service and its line partners would have encountered significant risk to mission critical functionalities," he added.

The BioFire test panels not only better meet the demand for COVID-19 testing across the Air Force but also detect 21 additional respiratory pathogens to help clinicians detect or rule out other common causes of respiratory illnesses in about 45 minutes.

In addition to COVID-19 response, during the award period the 773rd ESS also

"masterfully led the transition of 44 enterprise-wide contracts valued at \$700 million to DHA, paving the way for the Department of the Air Force to address the Fiscal Year 2017 National Defense Authorization Act, keeping the Air Force Surgeon General mission intact and ensuring there are no gaps in health and welfare services for more than 2.6 million beneficiaries," Seabrook-Hennessy said.

"We were at the leading edge of market research for many organizations as the pandemic started," said Ernest Medina, 773rd ESS contracting specialist, "which led to multiple awards on supplies needed across the DOD."

"The work of the squadron over the last year really gives you a sense of pride, along with a humbling experience in that we are all in this COVID-19 pandemic together. There is



PEDRO TENORIO

Tech. Sgt. Jonisha Gibson, 82nd Medical Group clinical laboratory noncommissioned officer in charge, prepares a sample for testing at Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas, an Air Education and Training base.

nothing we can't accomplish if we just work as a team and in our squadron as a family," Medina said.

"I am extremely proud of all of the hard work and dedication of the 773rd ESS," the commander said. "The

45-member squadron has made significant impacts by not only supporting the pandemic efforts, but by also pioneering the Department of the Air Force to the Defense Health Agency acquisition transition.

"To be recognized as an Air Force nominee for this award is a complete honor. I am truly blessed and privileged to be working alongside an amazing team who goes above and beyond to support our mission partners," she said.

"The recognition for this award is just icing on the cake for the simple fact that, as a squadron, we know what we are capable of and we are all very grateful to have been given the opportunity to support our nation in this time of need," Medina said.

Packard award winners will be announced in December during the virtual 2021 Defense Acquisition Awards Ceremony.

AFIMSC Ventures accelerates change across I&MS enterprise

By Shannon Carabajal

AIR FORCE INSTALLATION AND MISSION
SUPPORT CENTER PUBLIC AFFAIRS

A small team of innovation experts at the Air Force Installation and Mission Support Center is empowering speed, innovation and change across the service.

Since its inception in November 2018, the center's Ventures innovation office has helped Airmen land \$70 million in funding to pursue ideas for delivering better, faster installation and mission support.

The team has fully developed a dozen of those ideas, ranging from software and mobile applications to equipment modifications and quality of life projects. They have several more innovations in various stages of design.

"Our innovation team knows how to cut through bureaucracy, forging partnerships between industry and our Airmen and Guardians to deliver innovative solutions, including sourcing the funding to turn concepts into capabilities," said Col. Lance Clark, director of AFIMSC's Expeditionary Support and Innovation Directorate. "Their work is helping families get better support and giving commanders tools to deliver faster, leaner and more lethal operations."

The team combines strong government and industry partnerships with a knack for navigating contract, acquisition and funding programs to take ideas from conception and development to testing and implementation.

The office, comprised of three project managers, stood up with a budget of \$1 million. Nearly 90 percent of project funding, however, comes from other government and industry sources.

"It's pretty great to be a part of innovation full time," said Emilie Miller, one of the project managers. "We're moving much-needed innovative ideas forward, working with key stakeholders and seeing projects come to life."

Serving as the innovation center for the entire installation and mission support community, ideas come to the



JIM MARTINEZ

The Air Force Installation and Mission Support Center's innovation office, AFIMSC Ventures, has helped Airmen land \$70 million in funding to pursue ideas for delivering better, faster installation and mission support.

team through a variety of ways, including the annual AFIMSC Innovation Rodeo. During the 2021 event, all eight finalists received funding and support for their ideas.

"We are always happy to talk through ideas and help drive them to full implementation," said Dustin Dickens, another project manager. "We often connect with innovators, Spark Cells and other innovation teams at AFWERX innovation collaboration events and project efforts. We also had great success at the San Antonio Innovation Summit, connecting with city, industry, and Airmen and Guardians."

When a good idea comes in, the project managers get to work determining viability, building a team with the right stakeholders and partners, and charting a path forward.

The overall goal is an innovation that is repeatable and available across the enterprise, said Pitman Kennedy, the third member of the team.

"We work very hard to vet the ideas with the appropriate functional owners and key stakeholders early in the process. We determine feasibility and a path to scale in parallel to project execution," he said. "This allows us to align the right stakeholders to sustain the projects long term."

AFIMSC primary subordinate unit

spark teams also help evaluate ideas, especially during the innovation rodeo, and support them through the innovation process, Miller said.

"Their involvement helps us include the appropriate stakeholders and supports our efforts as we further refine and potentially transition these projects into sustainment, building a bridge over that innovation valley of death," she said. "They have invaluable functional expertise that keeps us working together and moving forward."

Fully developed projects by the team include:

» Intelligent (Smart) Lockers —

A secure mail locker system on installations available to Airmen and Guardians living in dorms. The systems give residents convenient access to their mail and packages while freeing up space and reducing mail-processing times at installation post offices. Installation of the first lockers at Robins Air Force Base, Georgia, by the end of the year will establish a repeatable process available to other installations.

» **eCitations** — An electronic system to replace hand-written traffic citations. The eCitation system allows Defenders on patrol to rapidly scan driver's licenses and auto-populate information onto a citation. A contract for the system has been awarded; delivery and implementation is underway at Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho.

» **Agility for Firefighters** — An initiative to switch from gas-powered to electric tools for firefighters. Switching to electric reduces equipment weight, lowers fuel costs and, most importantly, makes it easier and faster to reach and treat victims. Firefighting equipment was purchased and is being tested for feasibility and sustainability at Eglin Air Force Base, Florida.

» **Augmented Reality for Utility and Communications Infrastructure** — Replacing the current manual mapping of underground cabling and wiring with the use of augmented reality glasses to save time and simplify processes. Testing and training is in progress at Eglin Air Force Base

and Hurlburt Field, Florida.

» **Virtual Innovation Support Integration Operations Network, or VISION** — A web-based software application establishing an Air Force innovation ecosystem tool allowing project entry, management, education, team establishment, collaboration, chat, analytics, task management and tracking of innovation ideas. Developed and tested under the name Digital Innovation Dashboard, the concept was revised using input from AFWERX, Spark Cells and multiple major commands. It resulted in full release with collaboration from Platform One in record time. VISION is now available for use Air Force wide: <https://vision.apps.dso.mil>.

» **Kinderspot App** — A mobile app that centralizes and streamlines the subletting of short-term slots at military child development centers. The app launched at nine installations in 2021; further refinement is in progress and future rollout is expected soon.

» **Wing Feedback App** — A crowdsourced tool that helps service providers and installation leadership improve all services across the base. The mobile app gives users an easy-to-use avenue to share feedback about their experiences with services and facilities they use regularly on an Air Force installation. The app is in testing at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas; Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas; and Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma. The development team and stakeholders are continually refining features and focus to better serve customers.

» **What's Up App** — An installation community events mobile app aimed at building connectedness and camaraderie among Airmen and Guardians. The app serves as a centralized bulletin board for an installation or organization. It has been released at Yokota Air Base, Japan, and Clear Space Force Station, Alaska, and is in testing at AFIMSC. The team is prepping for additional base rollout including Eglin Air Force Base, Florida.

RANDOLPH

EFMP adds dedicated, specialized attorney to Central Cell

By Traci Howells

AIR FORCE PERSONNEL CENTER
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Exceptional Family Member Program welcomed a specialized attorney from the Judge Advocate General Corps, or JAGC, to the EFMP Central Cell here as part of continuing efforts to provide access and support for families.

Bringing a unique set of experiences to the EFMP Central Cell, Sharon Ackah recently assumed the role of Chief of Air Force Exceptional Family Member Legal Assistance and Policy. In her new role, Ackah oversees the Department of the Air Force's growing legal assistance mission to provide increased assistance to EFMP families.

"Everything in my background has given me training, perspective, experience and passion for the

work of the EFMP Central Cell," she said. "I feel so connected to this mission."

Ackah is a public health professional with specialized training in management and policy sciences and has spent more than a decade as a health policy analyst and program manager. Overall, her career encompasses 20-plus years serving the needs of children and families, often in education settings, through health, policy and legal interventions.

"I am fascinated by the intersection of law and public health," Ackah said. "I studied public health law to help enable healthier communities."

The EFMP Central Cell has expanded over the past year, consolidating Air Force resources into one central location, streamlining processes, and adding team members, all while ensuring better access for families



SAHARA L. FALES

enrolled in the program.

"The addition of a JAGC attorney to the EFMP Central Cell is a huge win for our families," said Tammy Hern, chief of the Exceptional Assignment Programs division. "Having a dedicated expert assigned to assist families facing obstacles in the special education process is a big step toward improving the EFMP experience for our Airmen and Guardians and their families. Ackah is training attorneys across the AF and providing reach back support whenever needed."

Ackah will focus on special education law, connecting families with base-level legal resources while collaborating with EFMP staff in the Central

Cell to create the best possible solutions for members and their families.

Families facing obstacles in their children's special education experience should first contact or visit their local Judge Advocate offices, Ackah said. There they will find attorneys who can assist or help connect them with other resources. If families are unable to get their issues resolved at the local level, they should reach out to the EFMP Central Cell.

Families can find contact information for their local Judge Advocate legal assistance office at <https://legalassistance.law.af.mil/>.

"We are focused on growing the legal assistance mission to provide increased assistance to EFMP families with their special education legal issues," Ackah said. "The DAF's base-level attorneys are

incredible resources."

Another key portion of her role will be outreach to families, stakeholder groups, Family Support Coordinators, and others.

"We strongly encourage feedback and will continue looking for opportunities where we can grow our special education legal services to support our Air Force families," she said.

EFMP families can find more information through these resources:

► Email the EFMP Central Cell at afpc.dp3x.workflow@us.af.mil.

► DAF Family Vector website at <https://daffamilyvector.us.af.mil>.

► Contact Total Force Service Center at 800-525-0102 or 210-565-0102, option 7.

► Direct message DAF EFMP Facebook page, www.facebook.com/AirForceEFMP.

AETC hosts virtual innovation summit Nov. 10

AIR EDUCATION & TRAINING
COMMAND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The 6th Innovation Summit, or iSummit, will be hosted virtually by Air Education and Training Command officials Nov. 10 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

The theme for the event is, "Innovation Accelerators You Need to Know." The iSummit is designed to advance collaboration by providing AETC Airmen at all levels. It's also a platform to share experiences on innovation activities and replicate success



AETC A9

stories while identifying potential internal/external business partners to discuss

and counter obstacles to innovation.

This iSummit introduces AETC innovators to processes and platforms that can help them quickly bring their innovations to the end-user, thus having a more immediate impact on our ability to fly, fight, and win.

"This quarter's theme supports AETC innovators who are looking for people or processes that can help quickly get their game-changing projects from idea to innovation to impact," Col. Tom

Wegner, director of AETC's Analysis and Innovation, said. "I strongly encourage all First Command innovators to dial in to learn about these innovation accelerators."

The iSummit will include an AFWERX representative who will provide innovators with the resources, support, and scaling opportunities available through the AFWERX organization.

Officials from AETC/A6 will cover the pathfinder process to expedite authority to operate on Air Force networks, as well

as the resources and expertise A6C offers innovators.

Experts from Air Force Life Cycle Management Center, or AFLCMC, will share valuable information on Platform One, a Department of Defense-wide path to accreditation of commercial off-the-shelf or government off-the-shelf software via development, security, and operations.

Airmen interested in attending the event can contact members of the Innovation Advancement Division team at aetc.a9a.workflow.2@us.af.mil.

Interservice Physician Assistant program accepting applications

By Toni Whaley

AIR FORCE PERSONNEL CENTER PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Interservice Physician Assistant Program, or IPAP, is accepting applications through Jan. 21, 2022, from active duty enlisted and officer service members interested in caring for Airmen, Guardians and their families.

IPAP is a 29-month, two-phase program that includes 16 months of classroom and hands-on instruction at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam

Houston, followed by 13 months of various clinical rotations at a military medical treatment facility.

“This unique multi-service opportunity is open to enlisted members and officers from any career field within the Department of the Air Force to include the Space Force,” said Col. Melanie “MJ” Ellis, Physician Assistant Associate Corps Chief. “We typically have 200-300 people start the application process. Of those, approximately 200 submit their

applications, with 120-130 actually meeting the board to vie for only 35-45 seats. This is a highly competitive program seeking the best and most qualified applicants.”

Enlisted members in the grades of E-4 through E-8 as of Aug. 1, 2022, with a minimum of three years and less than 12 years of service as of Aug. 1, 2022, are eligible. Officers in the grades of O-1 through O-3 as of Aug. 1, 2022, with less than six years of service as of Aug. 1, 2022, can apply.

Academic prerequisites required before applying. It is recommended that most of the applicant’s classes be completed within the last five years. However, all mandatory math and science courses must be completed within the last 10 years.

“IPAP is a very unique, accelerated program with a lot of volume,” said Maj. Kevin Graham, IPAP instructor and 42G Education Consultant. “The academic requirements may seem intense, but they provide a distilled picture of an applicant’s readiness to receive very challenging material in a massive volume at a very quick speed. This [program] is one of the few times

in life where I ran into something that was a marathon distance run at a sprinter’s pace.”

In general, no waivers will be considered for prerequisites, such as Time in Service, or academics. However, due to COVID-19 limitations, a waiver may be requested for shadowing hours and Scholastic Assessment Test scores. It is important to note, all waivers must be included in the application.

“The waiver gets you into the door because we understand shadowing is being limited at some MTFs due to the resurgence of COVID-19,” said Maj. James Moore, 42G Career Field Operations Officer. “We encourage you to do everything you can to put your best application forward...leave it all on the table...no regrets. In my opinion, this is the best program ever. We change lives by taking care of people and their (healthcare) issues.”

For information on the application process, contact your local Education Service Office, the Knowledge Exchange (Kx) website at kx.health.mil/kj/kx3/afbsceducation, or view the Interservice Physician Assistant Program FAQ at <https://youtu.be/GHpJDtYBPA>.