

JBSA LEGACY

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JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO

NOVEMBER 12, 2021



BRIAN G. RHODES

Air Force service members from the 62nd Fighter Squadron, Luke Air Force Base, Arizona, conduct flight line operations in support of the F-35 Lightning II while on temporary duty Oct. 28 at Joint Base San Antonio-Kelly Field in San Antonio.

502nd Air Base Wing hosts F-35 squadron for training

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470th MIB companies conduct exercises to improve intelligence gathering systems

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Airman's daughter saved by JBSA-Lackland firefighter

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DOD, VA work hand in hand for better outcomes for veterans, officials tell Senate

By Terri Moon Cronk

DOD NEWS

Strategic planning is the bedrock of the joint effort between the Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs and it sets a condition for collaborative work to improve the outcome for active duty personnel who are separating from the service and for veterans, Gilbert R. Cisneros Jr., undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness, told a Senate committee on Nov. 3.

Cisneros and his VA counterpart, Donald Remy, deputy secretary of veterans affairs, testified Nov. 3 before the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee. The work between the two departments reflects their shared vision for the future and enduring commitment to service members, veterans, their families and caregivers, Cisneros said.

"I'm also pleased to share that Secretary Remy and I recently signed the VA-DOD Joint Strategic Plan, charting our joint endeavor for the next six years," he told committee members.

The VA-DOD partnership has never been stronger, Cisneros said. "Our roles and responsibilities position us well to ensure open and frequent dialogue, lead



HANAH ABERCROMBIE

Vandenberg Air Force Base members serve breakfast during the 2019 Santa Barbara County Veteran Stand Down in Santa Maria, California. During the event, Airmen served food and provided assistance for the veterans.

change, resolve conflict, guide joint actions, initiatives, programs and policy. We have already developed a meaningful open-door cooperative relationship, which has yielded results, some of which I've highlighted in my written testimony," he said.

"Military-to-civilian readiness is one area Secretary Remy and I are both committed to. It aligns more than 20

transitional programs, activities and actions owned by multiple offices and agencies under an overachieving framework during a critical and officially designed transition period, which extends from 365 days pre- to 365 days post-separation," Cisneros said.

Standardized assessments and exams, integrated programs, mental health touchpoints, and a new online single, authoritative tailored statement of benefits are all components of this important framework that we continue to champion, Cisneros told the Senate committee.

Interoperability and shared business practices are critical to increasing access and improving outcomes for service members and veterans, Cisneros said.

As of September 2021, there are 147 active health care resource sharing agreements and 35 active non-medical agreements nationally, he said, adding that these agreements cover a wide range of support services, operating and integrating programs like the VA-DOD Integrated Disability Evaluation System.

"Secretary Remy and I are committed to the collaborative efforts needed to realize the strategic vision laid out in the VA-DOD joint strategy," Cisneros said.

Proud Week essential to installation excellence

502ND AIR BASE WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Joint Base San Antonio's installation commander, and commander of the 502nd Air Base Wing, Brig. Gen. Caroline M. Miller, has declared the week of Nov. 15-19, 2021, as JBSA Cleanup, or Proud, Week. This, the second event of its kind this year, supports a culture of installation excellence.

Mission partners across JBSA have been asked to join forces to improve and maintain the appearance of this proud, historical installation. All partners are asked to organize teams of personnel to safely clean up and improve the

appearance of their respective JBSA areas.

Trash, debris, old pallets, deteriorated sandbags, broken picnic tables and gazebos, tree branches, unused traffic cones and other unsightly items are all things that need to be identified and removed.

For items too large to safely remove, the 502nd Civil Engineer Squadron will have curbside service available to assist. The CE customer service telephone numbers for assistance with these items are: JBSA-Lackland, 210-671-5555; JBSA-Fort Sam Houston and JBSA-Camp Bullis, 210-466-5555; and JBSA-Randolph, 210-652-5555.

Teams are asked to place

items at curbside, if possible, to allow for easy access by Civil Engineer personnel. Please do not put items in the street.

Civil Engineers have also designated "U-FIX-IT" locations: JBSA-Lackland, building 5497; JBSA-Fort Sam Houston and JBSA-Camp Bullis, building 4197, Bay F-4; and JBSA-Randolph, building 891, to provide cleanup and appearance improvement items for organizations to use in this effort.

Rakes, brooms, trimmers, trash bags, wheelbarrows, gloves and safety goggles will be provided on a first-come, first-served basis at the designated U-FIX-IT locations. Organizations are asked to

augment the items provided to help ensure adequate safety and cleanup supplies are available during Proud Week.

Once trash bags are filled, they should be deposited in one of the designated dumpsters in the unit area. Dumpsters will be available for green waste and regular trash.

Installation excellence is a continuous culture, with JBSA cleanup an important tool used to sustain this excellence. Base appearance is also a continuous effort which requires year-round involvement and dedication by all. So, let's come together and work together to keep JBSA the premier installation in the Department of Defense!

JBSA LEGACY

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Feedback Fridays

By 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: I recently noticed that the Selfridge East gate at JBSA-Lackland is now closed. It would have been nice to know this a little earlier, in order to adjust our morning for the additional commute time.

It makes no sense to close it when traffic has started picking back up and people are returning to work and no longer working from home.

I can only imagine what traffic would look like on Thursdays when you take into consideration the family and friends showing up for Basic Military Training graduations. Why would they close alternate

gates when the main gate is still a construction zone? Having just one lane to exit during peak times just doesn't make sense. Not only does it cause significant backups but there's an increased safety risk. I just don't get it.

Could you please shine some light on the reasoning behind these changes?

A: Thank you for your question!

The road project ended early and we sincerely apologize for failing to advertise this earlier, knowing the impact that this had on individuals commute in the morning.

The Selfridge East Gate was

temporarily open during the Luke East road project to offset lane limitations on the East side of base. That project is complete and Luke East has returned to normal. There are four to five open gates on main base to include Growdon, Security Hill and Luke West, which remain open and have little to no wait. We recommend people use the other gates during peak hours to minimize wait.

In the meantime, we are discussing options with the 37th Training Wing on ways to minimize graduation traffic impact. Hopefully that will produce some long term results that will help mitigate traffic coming into JBSA-Lackland.

DOD civilian employees must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 by Nov. 22

By Terri Moon Cronk
DOD NEWS

The Department of Defense wants to remind its civilian workforce that employees must be fully vaccinated with the COVID-19 shot series by Nov. 22. That date includes the two-week waiting period for full vaccination effectiveness following the final vaccine dose, a DOD official said.

The memo is called Force Health Protection Guidance (Supplement 23) Revision 2 "Department of Defense Guidance for Coronavirus Disease 2019 Vaccination Attestation, Screening Testing and Vaccination Verification."

It provides the latest guidance to put in place additional force health protection and workplace safety measures to reduce the transmission of COVID-19.

The guidance includes each employee's attestation and proof of vaccination, verification by his or her supervisor, and testing of employees not fully vaccinated or exempt from vaccination.

Similar workplace safety measures, including vaccination attestation, verification and screening/testing also apply to on-site contractors and official visitors.

The Nov. 22 mandate applies to all non-exempt federal employees regardless of whether they telework or work in a DOD

office. Exemptions for medical or religious reasons as required by law should have been filed by Nov. 8, he said.

Because the mandate flows from the White House to the Defense Department, DOD put out its initial memo on vaccination requirements to the civilian workforce on Oct. 1 from Deputy Secretary of Defense Kathleen Hicks, said Steve Jones, director of DOD's force readiness and health assurance policy.

DOD civilian employees can receive their vaccinations at any DOD vaccination site, including military medical treatment facilities. They may also opt to receive their vaccinations at other locations such as retail stores, private medical practices, and/or local and state public health department sites, Jones noted. He added that employees must have a record of their vaccinations.

The deadline for contractors may vary, he said. Contractors' deadline for full vaccination is expected to be Dec. 8, or for newly covered contracts after that date, no later than the first day of performance under the new contract, he added.

Military personnel are issued vaccination guidance from their branch of service.

"Our goal is to maximize vaccinations," Jones said, adding there is no shortage of vaccines.



COURTESY PHOTO

The Nov. 22 vaccine mandate applies to all non-exempt federal employees. Exemptions for medical or religious reasons as required by law should have been filed by Nov. 8.

Joint Base San Antonio honors veterans who continue to serve

By David DeKunder

502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

On Nov. 11, Veterans Day was observed in ceremonies and events around the nation, including at Joint Base San Antonio.

Veterans Day honors the men and women who have served in the U.S. military, and here at JBSA, many of those veterans continue to serve as civilian Department of Defense personnel.

To commemorate this special day, several provided their thoughts on what Veterans Day means to them and how they continue to serve their country through their work.



ALEJANDRA M. ZIER

ALFREDO PAEZ ARMY VETERAN AND ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Paez served in the Army for 24 years in various capacities as a combat medic, physical therapy technician, recruiter and as noncommissioned officer in charge of the Department of Rehabilitation Medicine at Brooke Army Medical Center. He is currently an administrative officer and health system specialist in the Department of Pharmacy at BAMC.

"I feel awesome about my role," said Paez of his current position at BAMC. "I can honestly say I would have a huge void in my existence if I wasn't doing what I'm doing today as part of the team as a civil service employee.

"I think it's a great day to commemorate those veterans who came before me," he said. "I don't think I even



think about myself on Veterans Day, I think about all those who had it way harder or gave their life serving our country. Also, it makes me think of everybody who doesn't serve in the military but that supports those efforts -- family

members, spouses, kids, parents of those that serve, and the things they go through when we are far away and in harm's way — they're the ones back home bearing the brunt and keeping things going."

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VETERANS

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JJOHN JOINER NAVY VETERAN AND SAFETY OFFICER

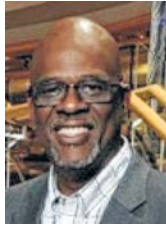


Joiner served in the Navy for 22 years, retiring as a senior chief petty officer. His roles in the Navy included being a vertical launch technician and a corpsman. He is now the safety officer at Naval

Medical Research Unit San Antonio, or NAMRU-SA.

"I love working here as the safety manager and the emergency manager for the command," he said. "Being a veteran, it's nice to give back to those who are still serving and help them out because of what we do here," he said. "Part of the NAMRU-SA mission is to save lives. So, it kind of fits into the background of what I use to do as a Navy corpsman, continuing with the mission forward."

JAY SIMMONS AIR FORCE VETERAN AND CHIEF OF CYBERSPACE SYSTEM SUPPORT



Simmons was in the Air Force for 23 years. He retired in 2002 and is now the 688th Cyberspace Wing chief of cyberspace systems support.

As chief, Simmons believes what they do, providing essential

IT support, directly ensures the wing can fulfill its mission to provide cyberspace support downrange to a worldwide customer base.

"Most people don't understand how reach back has a direct influence on real world operations, but I know it does and that is what makes the actions me and my team perform every day important to ensure the safety and security of American citizens," Simmons said.

"I would hope on Veterans Day, everyone will take a second to realize and thank those who have been totally willing to make the ultimate sacrifice for freedom and the safety of the country," he said.

ASHLEY SNIPES MARINE CORPS VETERAN AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS SPECIALIST



Ashley Snipes served in the Marines Corps for eight years, completing two enlistments from 2002 to 2010. Her first enlistment was as a Marine musician flute player stationed at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego.

Then, she worked in public affairs at Headquarters, Recruiting Station Phoenix, Arizona. Snipes is now in the command information section at 502nd Air Base Wing Public Affairs.

"I'm proud I have been able to continue my service as a civilian in the DOD," Snipes said. "It's never any easy decision to transition away from active service; civil service has allowed me to continue to give back to an organization that helped me when I needed it most."

"Veterans Day is a bittersweet reminder about the friends we've lost along the way," Snipes said. "It's also a chance to connect and reflect with friends and family who served or are still serving."

DANIEL SCHAELER AIR FORCE VETERAN AND AIRCRAFT MAINTAINER



Schaefer served for 24 years in the Air Force before retiring in 2011. He currently works in aircraft logistics at the 12th Flying Training Wing at JBSA-Randolph.

"I am fairly new here and worked in the private sector after I retired in 2011," Schaefer said. "I was trying for quite a while to get back in the Air Force as a civilian because I missed it so much. The camaraderie, teamwork, organization, and sense of family. When I was hired on and came back into the gate of JBSA-Randolph as a member of the team again and not just a retiree, I was so happy and actually had to hold back a tear of joy when I pulled into the T-38 maintenance parking lot and saw the planes."

FORT SAM HOUSTON

470th MIB companies conduct exercises to improve intelligence gathering systems

By David DeKunder

502ND AIR BASE WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Two companies with the 470th Military Intelligence Brigade at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston conducted exercises from Sept. 21-23 to familiarize themselves with intelligence-gathering equipment and refine processes for expeditionary operations in South and Central America.

Soldiers from Company A, 312th Military Intelligence Battalion, conducted a training exercise with the Survey, Collection, and Analysis Mobile Platform, or SCAMP, and Air Vigilance systems, while Company B, 312th Military Intelligence Battalion, took part in the Deployable Intelligence Support Element, or DISE, exercise. Both exercises were conducted at JBSA-Camp Bullis.

Maj. Joshua Taft, 312th MI BN operations officer, said the exercises provided service members in both companies the opportunity to rehearse procedures to transport, set up, operate and tear down intelligence platforms.

These assets will be utilized to support U.S. Army South, or ARSOUTH, and the U.S. Southern Command, or USSOUTHCOM, operational requirements and deployments in Central and South America and the Caribbean.

He said by going through the hands-on exercises, service members will be able to gather and disseminate data and information to commanders on the field in a timely manner.

"These platforms allow us to deploy at the discretion of the



COURTESY PHOTO

Soldiers from Company B, 312th Military Intelligence Battalion, participated in the Deployable Intelligence Support Element, or DISE, exercise in September at Joint Base San Antonio-Camp Bullis.

commander and assist in information collection and dissemination," Taft said.

The objective of the SCAMP/AV Field Training Exercise was for the service members to exercise the concepts of expeditionary Signals Intelligence, or SIGINT, collection and analysis to support ARSOUTH requirements.

The exercise provided the opportunity for Company A to refine standard operating procedures associated with both platforms, preparing both leaders and Soldiers for future operations to support ARSOUTH and USSOUTHCOM.

Troops in the exercise were able to operate both intelligence collection platforms. The SCAMP is an expeditionary

tool meant to support the decision-makers with a SIGINT survey mission, with a solution for collection and analysis, while providing a smaller logistics footprint. The AV offers forward-deployed elements enhanced indications and warnings for force protection.

Taft said the 312th MI BN received both intelligence-gathering systems during the summer.

During the exercise, service members were separated into two teams, one which operated SCAMP, the other, the AV system, said Taft.

Troops utilizing the SCAMP executed processing, exploitation and dissemination to produce finished intelligence products, practicing setting up and tearing down antennas and

equipment which is part of the SCAMP system. The team working on the AV established connectivity and showed proficiency in the deployment and redeployment of the platform's sensor.

The DISE exercise was held for two days. The goal of this exercise was to give the service members assigned to Company B, 312th MI BN the opportunity to practice expeditionary intelligence support for ARSOUTH contingency requirements.

The DISE provides forward intelligence analysis to ARSOUTH's contingency command post in a deployed environment.

This exercise evaluates the DISE's ability to rapidly deploy and establish connectivity to sensitive intelligence systems.

Taft said the DISE is a forward analytical element that consolidates information from forward units in a deployed environment. It fuses information from multiple sources to provide decision-makers with enhanced situational awareness in contingency operations. He said the DISE exercise is conducted about one to two times every 3 months.

Company B, 312th MI BN utilizes the DISE for both wartime and non-wartime situations, including humanitarian efforts, Taft said.

"We recently used this capability in Honduras last year after Hurricanes Eta and Iota," he said. "Because of the amount of severe weather associated with Central America and the Caribbean, there's a good chance it will be used again. In Honduras, the platform offered additional insight on risks to potentially flooded roadways and neighborhoods. The DISE provided the enhanced capability to support the distribution of humanitarian aid."

Taft said the 10 troops from Company B, 312th MI BN who participated in the DISE exercise work on this capability on a daily basis; it is part of their duties in the company.

"We want to make sure that we can deploy our equipment and our platforms properly," Taft said. "By rehearsing and refining our procedures and processes here at JBSA, we will be able to deploy at a moment's notice in the event of an emergency to support our higher headquarters with additional intelligence capabilities."

IMCOM commander engages Army community partners

By Erinn Burgess

U.S. ARMY INSTALLATION
MANAGEMENT COMMAND
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

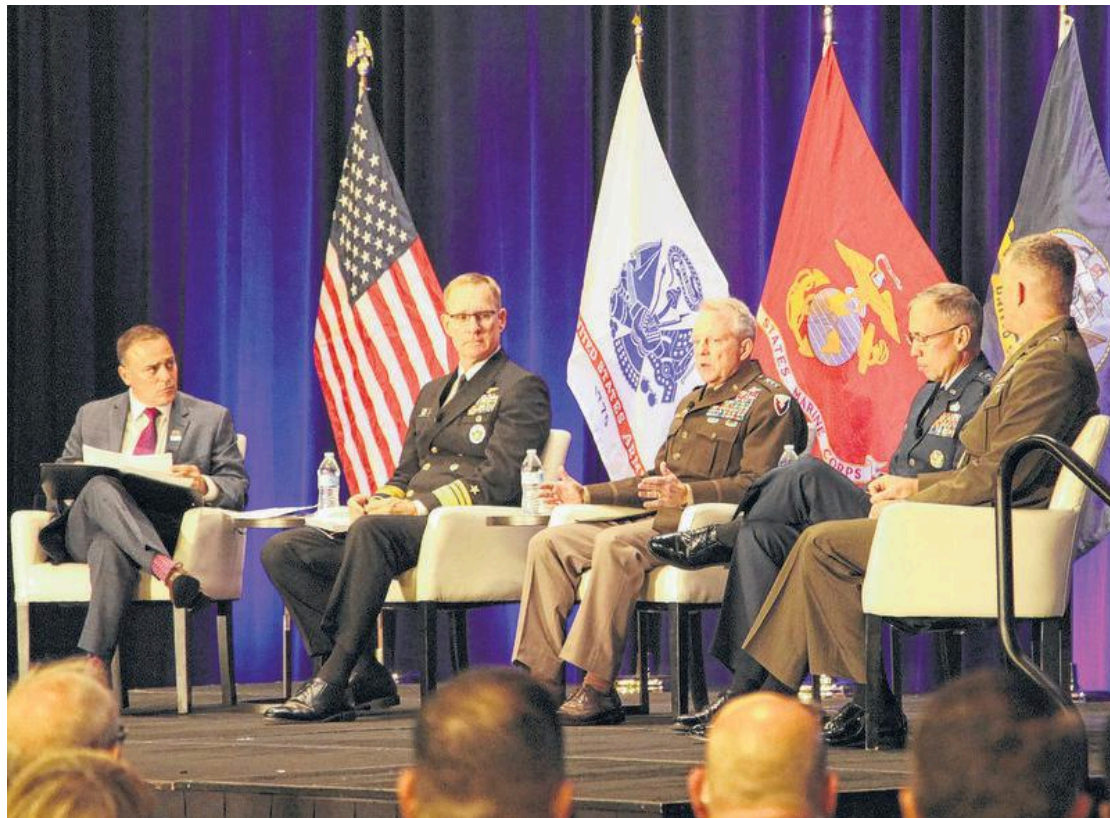
Lt. Gen. Douglas Gabram, commanding general of U.S. Army Installation Management Command, welcomed military, business and civic leaders to the annual Installation Innovation Forum hosted by the Association of Defense Communities in San Antonio Nov. 1-3.

Headquartered in San Antonio, IMCOM provides the programs and services that deliver quality base support for Soldiers, families and civilians at 97 installations around the world, enabling readiness for a globally responsive Army.

Joining his counterparts from the Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps to engage a diverse audience of organizational leaders from communities that support military installations, Gabram and many of IMCOM's key leaders were able to dialogue with the group to network and create the kind of partnerships that strengthen our nation.

Gabram opened the event engaging those at the conference interested in Army communities. He began recalling the first time he addressed the forum, two weeks after he took command of IMCOM in January 2020 just as COVID-19 was beginning to impact the lives of Soldiers, families and communities in the Republic of Korea, Italy, and then Germany.

COVID-19 proved garrison commanders as "the center of gravity for the Army during the pandemic," Gabram said. He went on to detail the initiative, creativity, leadership and communication skills garrison commanders employed to protect their



ERINN BURGESS

Lt. Gen. Douglas Gabram speaks during the Installation Innovation Forum Opening General Session in San Antonio on Nov. 1. The forum, hosted by the Association of Defense Communities, featured key installation management leaders and a diverse audience of organizational leaders.

communities. "Many of you in this room will attest to the positive impact they had at your home station."

As for conducting mission command during a pandemic, "We were on it early. We got ahead of it because we were able to develop tactics, techniques and procedures for protecting these small cities and then rapidly share them across the command," he said.

"While garrison commanders were battle-tested during the pandemic, they continued to make strides in Army housing and permanent change of station moves through partnerships," Gabram said.

"There is no more Army housing crisis," he stated, noting that of 87,000 houses in the Army Residential Communities Initiative

inventory, 64 Army families are displaced today, adding most of these are planned upgrades or renovations. Gabram also described the weekly meetings between senior Army and housing partner leaders that continue to drive this number down.

The increased integration with housing partners has "accelerated and improved our ability to solve problems,"

Gabram said, mentioning that partners are investing more than \$1.1 billion over the next five years.

While worldwide labor shortages placed increasing demand on PCS moves, "a total Army team effort made a big difference in a very difficult operating environment," Gabram said.

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FORUM

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Through partnerships, the Army moved 53,000 people and 72,000 shipments from April through September.

Gabram concluded his opening remarks with a focus on engaging with partners outside of the fence.

“We are interlinked in so many ways — power, water, utilities — we can’t do what we do without you. The ‘No Fence Lines’ concept is very important to me,” he said.

The keynote event of day one of the conference featured a panel of key leaders diving into issues shaping the future of installation management.

Gabram, joined by Vice Adm. Yancy Lindsey, commander, Navy Installations Command; Maj. Gen. John Wilcox, commander, Air Force Installation and Mission Support Center; and Brig. Gen. Jason Woodworth, commander, Marine Corps Installations-West, answered questions ranging from funding and resources to infrastructure and training.

Again, Gabram emphasized the importance of the garrison commanders



ERINN BURGESS

Lt. Gen. Douglas Gabram, commanding general of U.S. Army Installation Management Command, welcomes military, business and civic leaders to the annual Installation Innovation Forum.

as the center of gravity in ensuring developments in line with Army priorities. Since Soldiers and families

live, work and train on installations, the leaders at the installations have a profound impact on attracting,

retaining and enabling the force.

“Whether it’s infrastructure, housing, child development ... there are so many requirements. This means we have to stay focused on well-thought-out priorities,” he said.

“Garrison commanders are the center of gravity for resource management and their ability to convene the right groups — in and outside the fence line — to solve problems and get things done.”

While each branch of service works to provide quality of life services within the installation fence lines, senior leaders recognize that sometimes not all needs are met without the help of community counterparts.

“It all comes down to partnerships,” said Karen Holt, ADC vice president, who opened the session. “It is a dynamic ecosystem that feeds innovation.”

Gabram echoed the importance of this system: “The mission doesn’t happen without the support of our civilian communities and partners like you who house much of our workforce, teach our children, employ our spouses, and provide the care or services not available at our installations. Partnerships that transcend the fence line make a difference every day.”

ARNORTH military hospital support to FEMA begins in Utah, continues in four states

U.S. ARMY NORTH PUBLIC AFFAIRS

At the request of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, one monoclonal antibody infusion team, consisting of approximately 15 active duty military medical personnel, deployed to Utah.

U.S. Army North, under U.S. Northern Command's oversight, will provide operational command of the team.

"These 15 military medical personnel, who comprise the first monoclonal antibody infusion team the Department of Defense has deployed, join approximately ten thousand others who have supported the whole-of-government response to the COVID-19 pandemic since March 2020," said Lt. Gen. John R. Evans Jr., ARNORTH commander. "Whether it is defending the nation or defeating this virus and saving lives, we will use every tool in our arsenal to protect the American people."

The military medical personnel include a medical

"Whether it is defending the nation or defeating this virus and saving lives, we will use every tool in our arsenal to protect the American people."

Lt. Gen. John R. Evans Jr., ARNORTH commander

doctor, nurses, and other healthcare workers from the U.S. Air Force.

This team, which will support Intermountain St. George Regional Hospital in St. George, Utah, joins four other teams currently working in four hospitals — one in Alabama, one in Idaho, and two in Washington.

ARNORTH is the joint force land component command of USNORTHCOM.



SPC. RICHARD BARNES

Air Force Capt. Katie Armstrong, a registered nurse assigned to Task Force Baton Rouge, draws blood from a patient at Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Oct. 22. U.S. Northern Command, through U.S. Army North, remains committed to providing flexible Department of Defense support to the COVID-19 response.

Army South DCG-I conducts engagement with Jamaica Defence Force

By Donald Sparks

U.S. ARMY SOUTH PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Brig. Gen. Hernando Garzon, Army South deputy commanding general-interopability, conducted a virtual key leader engagement Oct. 22 with Brig. Markland A. Lloyd, Jamaica Defence Force, Support Brigade commander.

The leaders discussed logistical preparation and planning in a

constrained environment, load planning for air, land, and sea transfers, and port opening as a result of a Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief response.

Army South is committed to supporting the efforts of partner nations to increase institutional capacity and regional collaboration for humanitarian assistance and disaster relief — one of the greatest challenges facing the region.



Brig. Gen. Hernando Garzon, Army South deputy commanding general-interopability, conducted a virtual key leader engagement Oct. 22 with Brig. Markland A. Lloyd, Jamaica Defence Force, Support Brigade commander. The leaders discussed logistical preparation and planning in a constrained environment, load planning for air, land, and sea transfers, and port opening as a result of a Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief response.

COURTESY PHOTO

AUSA emphasizes importance of national resilience

By Charlotte Reavis

U.S. ARMY NORTH PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The definition of the word resilience is “the capacity to recover quickly from difficulties.” As a nation, it is imperative that we are resilient, especially in the face of pandemics, natural disasters, and other crises that can strike suddenly and leave a large impact. National resilience is also vital to a strong national defense and our ability to protect the homeland.

At this year’s Association of the United States Army meeting, the Homeland Security Seminar discussed the topic of “Enhancing National Resilience.” The seminar, held Oct. 12, 2021, had several panel speakers and participants from the Department of Defense, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and the deputy assistant Secretary of Defense for Homeland Defense Integration and Defense Support of Civil Authorities.

The panel brought together these federal partners to spark a conversation on how each organization is focused on national resilience through their response efforts to natural disasters and defense support of civil authorities.

“Resilience and preparedness are two cornerstones of what we need to be a stronger country,” said John K. Tien, deputy secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, who provided remarks during the panel. “Our ability to execute our mission depends in large part on collaboration with the Department of Defense, with other agencies, with state, local, tribal, and territorial governments, with communities themselves. These partnerships are the foundation of our resilience and our security as a nation.”

Tien was not the only one who spoke on the importance of joint government and interagency collaboration, especially in times of national need.

Lt. Gen. A. C. Roper, the deputy commanding general of U.S. Northern Command, highlighted the fact that USNORTHCOM, the joint service combatant command for the United States, was created in a time of great need to help national resilience after Sept. 11, 2001. He also highlighted how Northern Command has had to adapt since its inception to various natural

disasters such as Hurricane Katrina and COVID-19.

“Resiliency needs to be a whole-of-nation discussion,” Roper said. “Our resiliency can either motivate conflict or it can deter it. A resilient nation helps de-escalate in crisis, just as an ill-prepared nation emboldens attack.”

He continued to say that through DSCA missions, as federal and interagency partners work together to fight and rebuild after a natural disaster, it shows that we as a nation are resilient. By rapidly recovering from each situation, we are showing how resilient we are as a nation and therefore deterring our adversaries, which fortifies homeland defense.

Lt. Gen. John R. Evans Jr., the commanding general for U.S. Army North and NORTHCOM’s Joint Force Land Component Command, echoed Roper by stating that while homeland defense is the number one priority, DSCA is the most common activity the command assists with.

He went on to recount how Army North has assisted with some of the worst natural disasters in the nation’s history over the last three years, including wildland firefighting and hurricane response. Evans also talked about the impact of Operation Allies Welcome, the Southwest Border mission, and especially COVID-19 on the nation.

“Prior to COVID-19, most natural disasters involved only one or two of FEMA’s 10 regions,” Evans said during the panel remarks. “Our national response to the COVID pandemic required ARNORTH to activate and deploy our Defense Coordinating Elements from all ten FEMA regions nearly simultaneously for the first time in history.”

Each panelist also spoke on the process of requesting support at the federal level during times of national disasters.

Outside of the speakers, the three panelists included Heather C. King, the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Homeland Defense Integration and Defense Support of Civil Authorities, Joel Doolin, the Director for the Office of National Assessment and Integration from the Federal Emergency

RESILIENCE continues on 18

LACKLAND

Airman's daughter saved by JBSA-Lackland firefighter

By Jason Wilkinson

502ND AIR BASE WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

"The whole time I'm carrying her, I can feel her fading ... choking, gasping for air, as well as a little blood coming out of her mouth."

On Aug. 18, Senior Airman Brian Chambers found his daughter choking and drove her to the Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland Fire Station 1.

Jacob Mathie, lead firefighter for the 502nd Air Base Wing at JBSA-Lackland, was able to perform first response triage and unblock the child's airway.

Chambers, a contract specialist with the 502nd Contracting Squadron, had grilled the day before, and on a Thursday evening, his wife was eating some of the leftovers. He was upstairs when he heard something no parent wants to hear.

"I heard my wife yell 'she's not breathing, she can't breathe,'" Chambers said. "I ran downstairs, and my wife was trying to give her CPR."

The wife was holding their younger child, so Chambers took over the CPR attempts. He was unable to clear the blockage.

"I haven't been trained in CPR, but I was trying to do what I have seen," Chambers said. "I even tried to hook it out of her throat, but that wasn't working either. At that point, I could see a little blood in her mouth."

Chambers made the decision to take her to the hospital. On the way there, he began calculating the time needed to

get into the emergency room and get medical attention. He worried it was time he did not have.

"To get there, park, carry her inside, and then tell them what's going on — it would take too long," Chambers said. "So I decided to take her to the fire station."

As he pulled into the fire station, he could feel his child fading. It was then that he came into contact with Mathie, a person not only familiar with first responder CPR, but a CPR instructor as well.

"I had just got done working out and was doing some laundry, which is in our stalls, when a vehicle pulled up front slamming on the horn," Mathie said.

A gentleman jumps out of his car holding a blue, limp baby that's not moving or breathing — he hands the baby to me and says 'help me.'"

After determining what had happened, Mathie began CPR.

"After about a set and a half of the Heimlich, I was able to get the hot dog out of her throat," Mathie said. "I rubbed her chest to get her to breathe, and she started breathing."

Mathie reports that color started coming back, but they loaded her into an ambulance to have her fully checked out.

Chambers said his daughter almost instantly appeared as though nothing had happened, but the hospital visit confirmed that she was fine. He did indicate that hot dogs are off the menu for a while, however.

Parents interested in CPR courses can contact the American Red Cross for classes near them.



PHOTOS BY JASON WILKINSON

TOP: Jacob Mathie, 502nd Air Base Wing lead firefighter, Fire Station 1, assisted Senior Airman Brian Chambers who brought his choking daughter to the station at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland.



LEFT: U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Brian Chambers, holds his daughter at Lion's Park on Oct. 14 at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland. Chambers found his daughter choking and drove her to the JBSA-Lackland Fire Station 1, where she was assisted by firefighter Jacob Mathie.

IAAFA program acts as force multiplier, security cooperation tool

By Col. Carlos Carrasco Rodriguez
IAAFA INTERNATIONAL DEPUTY COMMANDANT

Since 1943, the Inter-American Air Forces Academy has promoted Security Cooperation principles through the delivery of education and training to 23 Western Hemisphere Partner Nations. The academy carries on this tradition by delivering in-residence curriculum encompassing three core tasks: technical, professional military education and aircrew training.

The delivery of these competencies across 31 courses relies on the professionalism and expertise of IAAFA's instructor corps. This group of professionals includes a cadre of Latin American guest instructors, known as Partner Nation Guest Instructors or PNGIs.

IAAFA's PNGI program is authorized through bilateral agreements between the Office of the Under Secretary of the

Air Force, International Affairs and each of the participating partner nations.

These agreements allow IAAFA to invite instructors to fill roles across the organization's operations as mission requires it. This program serves as a force multiplier allowing the academy to recruit hard-to-find expertise, country-specific perspectives and diversity into its manning portfolio.

For instance, the PNGI program serves as the cornerstone of IAAFA's PME and aircrew training; PNGI engagement allows the academy to meet instructor-to-student ratios, inject operational relevancy and alleviate U.S. Air Force staffing constraints. The flexibility of the PNGI program also provides a scalable and customizable process to match shifting mission requirements and Security Cooperation themes such as Diversity and Inclusion, empowerment of

the enlisted workforce, and Women, Peace and Security.

Today, IAAFA hosts 11 guest instructors from Brazil, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Mexico, Paraguay and Peru who deliver curriculum to Latin American and U.S. Air Force students across 10 courses in Spanish. These professionals account for 18 percent of IAAFA's instructor corps and serve as a strong signal of our partner nations' investment in the development of their future senior leaders.

An illustration of this investment is former PNGI Lt. Col. Maria Tejada Quintana from the Dominican Republic, who in 2015 became the first female guest instructor pilot in the history of the academy. After three years at IAAFA, she returned to her home country, received a promotion and is now the first woman in her service to command a fighter squadron.

Commodore Anibal Leiva from the Argentinian Air Force served as IAAFA's Deputy International Commandant and as a flight instructor; upon his return to Argentina, he became the wing commander of the largest air base and is now a senior member of his country's Joint Staff.

Most recently, two former IAAFA PNGIs became the Chief and Deputy Chief of the Paraguayan Air Force.

The collaboration between SAF/IA, IAAFA and Partner Nations provides a flexible education and training tool to deliver relevant and current curriculum to students and is an important mechanism to reinforce Security Cooperation shared goals between the U.S. and the Western Hemisphere. Overall, this program serves as AETC's key engagement tool and counterweight to Great Power competitors in the Latin American theater of operations.

502nd Air Base Wing hosts F-35 squadron for training

By Jason Wilkinson

502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The 502nd Air Base Wing hosted the 62nd Fighter Squadron, an F-35 Lightning II squadron from Luke Air Force Base, Arizona, during their training visit to Joint Base San Antonio-Kelly Field from Oct. 15-29.

The 62nd FS trained with F-16 Fighting Falcons from the 149th Fighter Wing and the 301st Fighter Wing, and T-38 Talons from the 12th Flying Training Wing. The various units practiced air combat maneuvering, where fighters have to identify “adversary” aircraft using aircraft sensors and maneuver as a formation to win a simulated air battle.

“There are so many units here we can integrate with,” said Lt. Col. Tyler Smith, 62nd FS commander. “We are integrating with the 149th Fighter Wing, across the ramp, and flying with their F-16s.”

Smith explained that the opportunity to train with the different aircraft here is extremely valuable and more efficient, as training with F-16s and T-38s is significantly cheaper than flying against other F-35s. It also gives the student pilots experience integrating with different aircraft.

“Beyond student training, our instructor pilots can integrate with the F-16s, practicing more complex and advanced tactics which makes all parties involved more proficient,” Smith said.

Smith was grateful for the support and assistance that the 502nd provided.

“The 502nd Operations Support Squadron has been a big enabler for us,” Smith said.

Whether it’s fuel personnel, weather, security, and fire department, or any of the other 502nd units supporting, Smith recognized how much the



PHOTOS BY BRIAN G. RHODES

Air Force service members from the 62nd Fighter Squadron, Luke Air Force Base, Arizona, conduct flight line operations in support of the F-35 Lightning II while on temporary duty Oct. 28 at Joint Base San Antonio-Kelly Field, Texas.

support from the 502nd OSS helped his squadron accomplish their training mission.

“We are just being a gracious host and assisting with whatever they need from airfield operations to weather forecasting,” said Yolanda Seals, 502nd OSS director of operations. “It’s awesome we have a facility and a great team that can support various missions in multiple ways.”

Seals and Smith both recognize that this training mission has given the 502nd an opportunity to work with the most advanced fighter in the fleet.



The training gives the student pilots experience integrating with different aircraft. The various units practiced air combat maneuvering, where fighters have to identify “adversary” aircraft using aircraft sensors and maneuver as a formation to win a simulated air battle.

AFIMSC centralizes critical communication capability with standup of PMO

By Malcolm McClendon

AIR FORCE INSTALLATION AND MISSION
SUPPORT CENTER PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Air Force Installation and Mission Support Center's Cyberspace Systems Support Branch took on a new mission that will make a positive impact on field communications when it became the Department of the Air Force's Land Mobile Radio Product Management Office Oct. 18.

The PMO will provide centralized management of the core LMR network and subscriber procurements for all Airmen and Guardians. Traditionally, management of the program was handled at the major command level. Through this initiative, the office aims to improve service and save the Air and Space Forces money and resources.

"By centralizing LMR oversight, we estimate more than \$300 million in savings over the next 10 years," said Don Lewis, Cyberspace Systems Branch chief. "The individual bases will continue to manage local site operations, but we will provide a single source for policy and technical support, PMO-level advocacy for requirements, standard levels of service, and strategic planning and lifecycle management.

"We'll be a one-stop-shop for LMR for the entire enterprise."

The establishment of the office began in 2018 with a coordinated effort by AFIMSC's Installation Support Directorate and the Air Force Installation Contracting Center.

"With the help of the Category Management Office at AFICC, we were able to assemble the Category



U.S. Air Force Capt. Orr "Recoil" Genish uses a land mobile radio as he watches a B-1B Lancer land at Naval Support Facility Diego Garcia on Oct. 17. Pacific Air Forces maintain ready and postured forces to support global operations.

HANNAH MALONE

Intelligence Report team to analyze the LMR infrastructure, subscriber procurements and sustainment requirements, costs, governance and conduct market research," said Rich Lapiere, who served on the CIR team while working for Air Education and Training Command. He is now the LMR PMO chief. "We then presented to recommendations to the Air Force Chief Information Officer in 2020, who approved them all."

Later in 2020, the team proposed the Category Execution Plan, which laid out the recommendation to stand up the

LMR PMO at AFIMSC. On Oct. 18 of this year, Under Secretary of the Air Force Gina Ortiz Jones signed the Program Guidance Letter to activate the office.

"This was an all-hands-on-deck effort here at AFIMSC," said Cyberspace Support Division Chief Col. Rick Brown. "Our great partners in the AFICC Category Management Office did a phenomenal job facilitating the CIR and the CEP. We gathered the right subject matter experts to build a powerful business case."

The PMO will serve as a model for

other Base Operations Support IT commodities AFIMSC manages, added Lewis.

"We're looking at this as a proof-of-concept for a better way to lifecycle manage all IT capabilities for our installations," he said. "These include IT Infrastructure, which we are proposing to be the next category management study, but we also think we can help improve voice and unified capabilities service provision."

Thanks to AFIMSC leadership's willingness to lean forward and accept some risk, Lewis said the team achieved Initial Operational Capability "at birth." They were able to establish over-hire positions and begin the hiring process to build the team, which allowed them to hit the ground running on day one of operations.

With half the team already in place, the PMO should be fully staffed by the end of the year. When it achieves Full Operational Capability, projected for December 2022, it will have assumed all DAF LMR management and oversight roles, including publishing new governance documentation on behalf of the Air Force CIO.

"With the team reaching IOC immediately, it puts us at least six months ahead of the game," Brown said. "We're always looking for better ways to support the Airmen and Guardians who get the job done on our installations.

"The real winners of this initiative are users of land mobile radio capabilities: our first responders, our flight line operators, our maintainers, and everybody who needs that capability for day-to-day command and control and operational communications."

Ready for TRICARE Open Season? Don't forget to update DEERS

BY TRICARE COMMUNICATIONS

We're less than a month away from TRICARE Open Season. That means it's time to start thinking about your and your family's health care needs for next year.

Are you planning to make changes to your TRICARE

plan? Will you be enrolling in a new plan for the first time or staying in the plan you already have? Regardless of your situation, make sure you show up as eligible for TRICARE in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System, or DEERS.

"Showing that you're eligible

for TRICARE in DEERS and keeping your information updated are essential steps for obtaining and maintaining TRICARE coverage," said Jeremy Schneider, a program analyst with TRICARE Policy and Programs at the Defense Health Agency. "Please see your local ID card office if you

believe eligibility information in DEERS is incorrect."

What is DEERS?

DEERS is a database of active duty and retired service members, their family members, and others who are eligible for TRICARE coverage. The database lists

your military status, family status, contact information, TRICARE plan, and more. Sponsors are automatically registered in DEERS. Your uniformed service determines your eligibility and records it in DEERS, as described in the

TRICARE continues on 18

RANDOLPH

myLearning transitions to final phase, enhancing user experience and accessibility

By Master Sgt. Caitlin Jones-Martin
AIR EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMMAND

myLearning, the Department of the Air Force's learning system, is entering the final phase of its rollout and aiming to be fully operational by the end of the year.

Air Education and Training Command's Learning Services team at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph worked across the Air Force to replace and improve upon legacy platforms previously used by Airmen and Guardians. The myLearning system debuted earlier this year as the modern solution to meet Airmen where they are with 21st century learning capabilities.

"Today's strategic environment requires multi-capable Airmen and Guardians who have on-demand access to the latest training," said Maj. Gen. Andrea Tullios, AETC deputy commander. "myLearning helps infuse agility into our training ecosystem by giving trainers at every level access to quality curriculum, and by streamlining how we push current training material to the Total Force. Airmen are our strategic advantage — well-led, well-trained Airmen turn equipment and weapons systems into capabilities, and myLearning will be a critical resource for our training community."

The final operating capability of myLearning achieves many of the benchmarks the program set in March.



COURTESY GRAPHIC

The program touts improved accessibility over the legacy Advanced Distributed Learning Service, or ADLS, interface, enhances interoperability with users' records that travel with the individual regardless of assigned unit, and streamlines several learning applications like ADLS and Enterprise Blended Learning Service, or EBLs, into one seamless platform.

"Achieving our force development goals with the myLearning platform is a huge win for Airmen and Guardians across the force," said Floyd A. McKinney, AETC chief of learning services. "We wanted to create a

platform for our users that modernized the more traditional, stove-piped learning IT systems into an integrated service that serves our members. By the end of the year, myLearning will meet the member where they are, whether it's on a Department of Defense network computer or a personal tablet in the comfort of their own home."

The platform experienced a number of challenges during its phase I and II implementation, the largest of which prevented users from being able to access completion certificates for required annual courses, like Cyber Awareness. Feedback from users across

the field has enabled the myLearning team to continuously improve the system and close thousands of help desk tickets.

"Any new system of this magnitude is going to have its initial issues," said Bill Muse, AETC Learning Services program manager. "We are aware of these issues and our team is working to mitigate, respond, and provide permanent solutions to our customers. As we continue to implement our major features, we are also focused on resolving and refining. We encourage personnel to continue communicating their feedback for the platform through their unit training managers and help desk submissions when issues arise."

myLearning debuted as a modern and interactive solution in March and replaced training modules previously found on older systems. Since then, myLearning has successfully migrated to CloudOne, allowing for increased functionality in cloud computing when accessing courses. The new system also boasts enhanced data analytics which allows training experts to see which courses have a high pass/fail rate or which courses need improvement.

Course developers will continue to update and migrate their content on myLearning using the latest technologies on a secure platform suitable for CUI/FOUO content. So far, over 670,000 users have accessed myLearning to complete more than 1.8 million courses.

Registration open for 'Power of Professional Couples' panel

AIR EDUCATION AND TRAINING
COMMAND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Air Education and Training Command Mentorship Council will host a virtual mentorship symposium on Nov. 18, 2021, beginning at 9 a.m. central time.

The symposium will be live on ZoomGov and centers on

the "Power of Professional Couples" and features military and civilian service couples discussing a range of topics including:

- Work/Life balance
- Finding Passion in your work
- Managing Life Transitions and Obstacles
- Effectively Communicating
- Managing individuals careers

together
• Working Dual Military / Join Spouse issues/assignments (AFPC).

Separate panels (listed below) will be hosted during time indicated:

9 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. central

Panel A - Chief Master Sgts. Jewell and Nicole Hicks (ACC/AETC)

Panel B - Maj.'s Lamin and Kimberly Jackson (AFPC)

1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. central

Panel A - Maj.'s Katherine & Michael Hewlett (AFSOC)

Panel B - Maj.'s Christina & Daniel Pfeiffer (AETC/AFPC)

Panel C - Mr. Cedric & Mrs. Quency (Que) Henson (GS-15 AFMC & GS-13 AETC)

3 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. central

Panel A - Maj. Elise Luch and Capt. Brent Luch (AETC/JA & AFPC)

Panel B - Brig. Gen. Cartier & Dr. Anne Harrington (AETC/A3 and Doctorate professor)

Register through Nov. 16 to receive zoom logon information.

Air Force Learning Professionals Communities of Practice on 'The Air Force Starts Here' podcast

AIR EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMMAND
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

A look at the Air Force Learning Professionals "Communities of Practice" is the focus of the latest episode of "The Air Force Starts Here," released Nov. 2.

On episode 58 of the podcast, Dan Hawkins from the Air Education and Training Command public affairs teams talks with Dana Horn from the HQ AETC/A3BP Learning Professionals branch about how her team is accelerating change in line with Air Force Chief of Staff



Gen. Charles Q. Brown, Jr.'s Action Order-Airmen and advancing force development across the Air Force with the recent launch of their learning professionals communities of practice.

Topics discussed include the why and how the Communities of Practice on MilSuite have been formed to support the continuous learning of learning, how the communities of practice came about after collaboration with others on the AETC staff revealed a gap in developmental information, the collaborative aspect of development,

and much more.

The professional development podcasts are designed to help communicate and inform Total Force Airmen across the globe on relevant, timely topics related to the recruiting, training, education and development fields.

Podcasts can be listened to on the government network on the AETC website, or via mobile application as well as on Apple Podcasts and Spotify.

Future episodes are set to cover a wide range of topics, including innovation.

TRICARE

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TRICARE Plans Overview. But as a sponsor, you must add your eligible family members to DEERS. If you're a family member who's age 18 or older, you may update your own contact information.

When to update DEERS:

It's always good to review your personal information in DEERS before the start of TRICARE Open Season, so you don't miss important

communications and enrollment deadlines. But, keep in mind, you should be updating your DEERS record anytime you have a Qualifying Life Event.

"Anytime you or a family member experiences a life event, like retiring or separating from active duty, marriage, having a baby, moving, or another situation, you'll need to update your information in DEERS," added Schneider.

What information might you need to update in DEERS? It can be things like your phone number, email address, home address, or marital status. Or you may need to register a family member if

you're a sponsor. Keeping information up-to-date in DEERS will help you and your family access your TRICARE benefit and get the care you need.

How to update DEERS:

Updating your DEERS information is quick and easy. You have a few options to choose from:

Online: Log in to milConnect

Phone: Call 1-800-538-9552

(TTY/TDD: 1-866-363-2883) or fax updates to 1-800-336-4416

In-person: Visit a local RAPIDS ID Card Office (**Note:** Call or check website for operating hours and COVID-19 procedures)

Mail: Mail updates to: Defense Manpower Data Center Support Office, Attention: COA 400 Gigling Road Seaside, CA 93955-6771

Once you've registered in DEERS and updated your records, you're ready to start exploring TRICARE health plans. This year's open season runs from Monday, Nov. 8, until Monday, Dec. 13. Open season doesn't apply to all health plans. Visit TRICARE Open Season to learn more about your options. For more on updating DEERS, visit the DEERS page.

RESILIENCE

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Management Agency, and Lt. Gen. Jon A. Jensen, the Director of the Army National Guard.

Maj. Gen. Robert Whittle, the deputy commanding general for U.S. Army North, facilitated the panel and the question and answer session at the end.

When asked what one of the biggest challenges is for enhancing resilience, a majority of the panelists mentioned

information and cybersecurity issues, including combatting misinformation. They also echoed the importance of federal organizations working together with state and local agencies to ensure coordination at all levels.

"Our DSCA mission is homeland defense," Roper said. "Building national resiliency is homeland defense. Through DSCA, we are helping our fellow Americans in a time of crisis and by doing so, we are actually demonstrating our resiliency and that is homeland defense."