

JBSA

LEGACY

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JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO

NOVEMBER 26, 2021



Master Sgt. Ricardo Alonso, 837th Training Squadron International Force Protection flight chief, stands in a river bed at the Army Jungle Operations Training Course in Sept. 24 in Hawaii.

COURTESY PHOTO

IAAFA instructor participates in Army Jungle Operations course

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MEDCoE hosts 32nd Medical Brigade Change of Command

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BMT increases guests, adds Airman's run to ceremony

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TRICARE Open Season underway, explore your options

By TRICARE Communications

TRICARE Open Season is upon us. That means it's time to consider your health care options for 2022. TRICARE Open Season began Monday, Nov. 8 and ends Monday, Dec. 13.

If you're enrolled in or eligible for a TRICARE Prime option or TRICARE Select, open season applies to you. This is your chance to enroll in a health plan or change health plans for coverage that starts Jan. 1, 2022.

"It's important to take open season seriously each year," said Elan Green, chief of TRICARE Health Plan's Member Benefits and Reimbursement Section. "This could be your only chance all year to impact health plan options for you and your family."

Outside of TRICARE Open Season, you can only enroll in or change your TRICARE Prime or TRICARE Select plan following a Qualifying Life Event, as outlined in the TRICARE Qualifying Life Events Fact Sheet. This means if you're currently not enrolled in a TRICARE health plan and choose not to enroll in one by Dec. 13, you'll only be able to receive care at military hospitals and clinics if space is available.

Who is eligible for TRICARE Open Season?

If you're enrolled in or eligible for TRICARE Prime, including the US Family Health Plan (USFHP), or TRICARE Select, open season applies to you.

But it doesn't apply to active duty service members. Open Season also doesn't apply to the four premium-based health plans: TRICARE Reserve Select, TRICARE Retired Reserve, TRICARE Young Adult, and Continued Health Care Benefit Program.

If you're under age 65, entitled to Medicare Part A and Part B, and covered by TRICARE For Life (TFL), open season does apply to you. You have the option to enroll in TRICARE Prime if you live in a Prime Service Area. However, TRICARE Open Season doesn't apply to you, if you're age 65 or older, entitled to Medicare Part A and Part B, and covered by TFL. TFL coverage is automatic if you have Medicare Parts A and B.

Not sure what TRICARE plans you may be eligible for? Use the TRICARE Plan Finder.

What changes can be made during open season?

If you're eligible for TRICARE Open Season, you have three choices:

► **Stay in your plan:** If you want to stay in your current TRICARE health plan, you don't have to take any action. You'll continue in your current health plan through 2022 or as long as you're eligible.

► **Enroll in a plan:** If you're eligible for a TRICARE Prime option or TRICARE Select but not enrolled, you can enroll in a plan now.

► **Change plans:** If you're already enrolled in a TRICARE Prime option or TRICARE Select, you can switch health plans. You may also switch between individual and family enrollment.

Not sure how TRICARE Prime, USFHP, or TRICARE Select differ?

You can compare health plans using the TRICARE Compare Plans Tool. You can also look up costs for each plan with the TRICARE Compare Costs Tool. Just choose the plan you'd like to see and answer a few questions about who you are.

Cost changes are coming in 2022, so you should review your plan's costs, even if you're already enrolled. See 2022 health plan costs.

How do I enroll or change plans?

To enroll or change your health plan, use one of these options:

► **Online:** Log in to milConnect and click on the "Manage health benefits" button.

► **By phone:** Call your TRICARE regional contractor or USFHP Designated Provider.

► **By mail:** Submit your enrollment form to your regional contractor or USFHP Designated Provider.

► **In-person:** Visit an overseas TRICARE Service Center, or make an appointment with your USFHP Designated Provider.

Federal Benefits Open Season

Are you eligible for dental or vision coverage through the Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP)? The Federal Benefits Open Season also starts Nov. 8. FEDVIP dental and vision plans are separate, and you may not qualify for both. To be eligible for FEDVIP vision coverage, you must be enrolled in a TRICARE health plan or eligible for TFL.

Those who may be eligible for FEDVIP vision coverage include:

- Active duty family members
- National Guard and Reserve members and their family members
- Retired service members and their eligible family members
- TRICARE For Life beneficiaries

Those who may be eligible for FEDVIP dental coverage include:

- Retired service members and their family members
- Retired National Guard and Reserve members and their family members
- TRICARE For Life beneficiaries

You can learn more about eligibility and your FEDVIP options at the BENEFEDS website. If you already have a FEDVIP plan and don't want to make a change to your existing plan, you don't need to take action during open season. Your coverage will continue in 2022. But check to make sure you understand any changes to your plan and costs for next year.

Before you make any changes to your health care plan this open season, be sure to check that your family's information is up to date in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS). If you don't show as eligible for TRICARE in DEERS or your information is incorrect or out-of-date, it could prevent you from using your TRICARE benefit.

Remember that you have only a few weeks until Dec. 13 and the end of open season. So, don't wait. Review your current plan, consider your coverage options for 2022, and make sure you and your family choose the best health care plan to fit your needs.

JBSA LEGACY

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Feedback Fridays

Brig. Gen. Caroline M. Miller
502D AIR BASE WING AND JOINT BASE
SAN ANTONIO COMMANDER

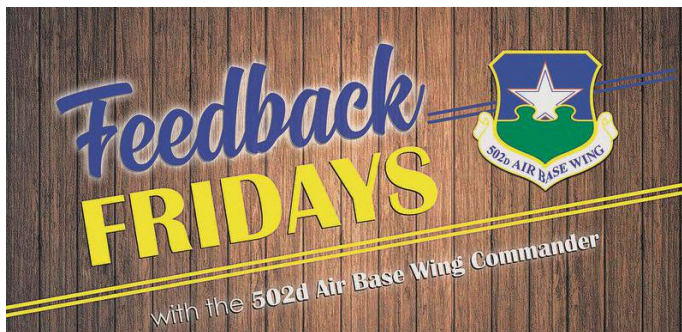
Feedback Fridays is a weekly forum that aims to connect the 502d Air Base Wing with members of the Joint Base San Antonio community. Questions are collected during commander's calls, town hall meetings and throughout the week.

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: I am scheduled for a PT test around the start of the New Year and I have been hearing rumors of new options to choose from for different aspects of the test.

My question is, will I have the multiple options based on my date



COURTESY GRAPHIC

and what do these options consist of?

Also, will some aspects of the test be eliminated like the waist measurement portion? Thank you for your time in advance.

A: Thank you for your question, as this

is big news for Airmen going forward.

The Air Force will officially add new alternative components to physical fitness assessment beginning Jan. 1, 2022.

Airmen will be able to choose from the following options to meet the strength and cardiovascular

requirements:

- » Traditional 1.5-mile run or high aerobic multi-shuttle run
- » The two-kilometer walk will remain a fitness component for those who are not medically cleared to perform the two approved aerobic options.
- » Traditional push-ups or hand release push-ups
- » Traditional sit-ups, cross-leg reverse crunch, or plank

You can view the new scoring charts here: <https://www.afpc.af.mil/Portals/70/documents/FITNESS/5%20Year%20Chart%20Scoring%20Including%20Optional%20Component%20Standards%20-%202021m11%200219.pdf>

Airmen can schedule their assessment and sign up for their desired cardio option via myFitness, which will be available for scheduling starting Dec. 10. While members can select their desired cardio option when scheduling their assessment, you will select your desired strength component at the time of your assessment.

Changes coming to TRICARE retail network pharmacies

By TRICARE Communications

There are changes coming soon to the TRICARE retail pharmacy network. Starting Dec. 15, 2021, CVS Pharmacy will join the TRICARE network. At the same time, Walmart, Sam's Club and some community pharmacies will leave the network.

Express Scripts is the TRICARE pharmacy contractor. They manage the TRICARE retail pharmacy network under a contract with the Department of Defense. Express Scripts reached a new agreement that adds CVS Pharmacy to the network of pharmacies.

"Beneficiaries will continue to have many convenient and nearby in-network options," said U.S. Public Health Service Cmdr. Teisha Robertson, a pharmacist with the Defense Health Agency's Pharmacy Operations Division. "Express Scripts' partnership with CVS Pharmacy ensures most beneficiaries have a network pharmacy located near their home or work."

The current TRICARE retail pharmacy network offers access to over 59,000 pharmacies. With this change, nearly 90% of beneficiaries will have access to a network pharmacy within

five miles of their home.

Walmart and Sam's Club have more than 5,300 locations nationwide. CVS Pharmacy has nearly 10,000 pharmacy locations. You can find CVS pharmacies inside many Target stores.

A group of around 3,000 community pharmacies will also leave the TRICARE network this year. But more than 14,000 community pharmacies will remain in the network.

Keep in mind that using home delivery or a military pharmacy are still lower-cost options for you. You have to pay copayments when you use home delivery or any retail network pharmacy. Although these copayments are set to change next year, it isn't because of this network change.

If you have a prescription at Walmart, Sam's Club, or any other impacted pharmacy, you need to transfer it to a new network pharmacy before Dec. 15. If you filled a prescription at one of the impacted pharmacies, you'll receive communication from Express Scripts. These communications will have recommendations on how you can fill your prescriptions at a new network pharmacy. You can also find a network pharmacy near you by visiting the



SENIOR AIRMAN CHEYENNE LARKIN

There are changes coming soon to the TRICARE retail pharmacy network. Starting Dec. 15, CVS Pharmacy will join the TRICARE network. At the same time, Walmart, Sam's Club and some community pharmacies will leave the network.

Express Scripts website. CVS Pharmacy will be in the network starting Dec. 15.

Do you use specialty or limited distribution medications? If so, you'll get a letter from Express Scripts detailing how you can transfer your prescriptions to a new specialty network pharmacy. You may also receive a phone call from an Express Scripts representative. They can help you move your medication to a new specialty network pharmacy that's near you.

If you fill a prescription at Walmart, Sam's Club, or community pharmacy leaving the network on or after Dec. 15,

it will be a non-network pharmacy. This means you'll have to pay the full cost of your prescription upfront. You'll also need to file a claim for partial reimbursement. Check out Filling Prescriptions to learn more. You can also refer to the TRICARE Pharmacy Program Handbook.

If you need to find a new network pharmacy, you can search for one on the Express Scripts website. You can also call Express Scripts at 1-877-363-1303 to help you find one close to you. Do you have questions about your pharmacy benefit? You can learn more by visiting Pharmacy on the TRICARE website.

FORT SAM HOUSTON

MEDCoE hosts 32nd Medical Brigade Change of Command

By Tish Williamson

U.S. ARMY MEDICAL CENTER OF EXCELLENCE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The 32nd Medical Brigade change of command ceremony was hosted by Maj. Gen. Dennis LeMaster, commander, U.S. Army Medical Center of Excellence, or MEDCoE, at the MacArthur Parade Field at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Nov. 11.

For MEDCoE, which celebrated its centennial anniversary in 2020 with little fanfare due to the global COVID-19 pandemic, the change of command was the first opportunity to gather such a large group in the representation of the command. With improving local COVID-19 conditions, masks were not required for vaccinated personnel during the outdoor ceremony.

The change of command ceremony featured Col. Wesley Anderson, the outgoing 32nd Medical Brigade commander, relinquishing command to incoming commander Col. Marc Welde. The ceremony was preceded by a historic photo with more than 4,000 MEDCoE Soldiers and civilians in formation on the field.

In addition to a panoramic group photo taken by MEDCoE Public Affairs, drone pilots assigned to the Air Force Civil Engineer Center out of JBSA-Lackland captured a bird's-eye view of the historic formation. MEDCoE's Medical Video Television, or MEDVID TV, also filmed the event that consisted of the 323rd Army Band "Fort Sam's Own" accompaniment, an invocation delivered by Chaplain (Maj.) Oyedeji Idowu, "Honors to the Nation" sung by Col. Princess Atunrase, the passing of the unit colors between commanders, a pass in review, and the Army Song.

Comprised of more than 1,000 military cadre, 800 civilian staff and faculty, as well as more than 5,000 students, MEDCoE is the largest civilian-accredited service school within the Department of Defense. MEDCoE trains more than 34,000 soldiers in more than 360 training and education programs annually.



PHOTOS BY JOSE E. RODRIGUEZ

Col. Marc Welde, 32nd Medical Brigade incoming commander, accepts the unit colors from Maj. Gen. Dennis LeMaster, commanding general, U.S. Army Medical Center of Excellence, during the change of command ceremony at MacArthur Field at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Nov. 10.

LeMaster said the 32nd Medical Brigade, MEDCoE's sole training brigade which is made up of five battalions and 23 companies, is the largest training brigade in the Army. He recalled a long list of accomplishments that he attributed directly to the professionalism and dedication shown at all levels within the brigade.

While dealing with the added pressure of the pandemic since March 2020, the 32nd Medical Brigade's leaders, drill sergeants, instructors, and trainers shouldered the majority of the responsibility to ensure the Army's pipeline of trained and ready medical professionals remained securely open.

"This is where it all begins; it starts with the brigade commander," LeMaster told the audience of

more than 200 senior leaders and MEDCoE personnel. "Over a 24-month period, Col. Wes Anderson's leadership resulted in more than 45,000 Soldiers and civilians entering into the operational force while facilitating critical transitions during the COVID-19 global pandemic.

"From many milestone events, from implementing the Army's 'People First' strategy to conducting controlled movements for nearly 20,000 Soldiers into and out of the training pipeline safely as part of the command's COVID-19 mitigation strategy, Anderson's tenure will be remembered due to its marked success," LeMaster said. "Wes and the 32nd team have excelled and succeeded in so many ways."

The general thanked Anderson for the leadership, mentorship, dedication and compassion he demonstrated throughout his entire command.

"The foundation of success you built within the brigade, with its strong teams, innovative processes, and a commitment to people first, as well as your passion for excellence, education and mentorship, will be your lasting legacy," LeMaster added.

The general also lauded Welde, a recent graduate of the Senior Service College at the U.S. Naval War College, as the right choice to build on the foundation set by Anderson, as the command looks toward the future.

"Marc is a gifted and seasoned leader who has commanded the United Army Medical Materiel Center-Korea, he's a combat veteran, and he understands the mission which he assumed a few moments ago," LeMaster said.

Speaking directly to Welde, LeMaster characterized the members of a command as a family during his closing remarks.

"Marc, Wes has done an outstanding job leading this organization to new heights, and now you have the tremendous privilege and responsibility to care for the newest members of your family," LeMaster said. "I know you are up to the task."



The U.S. Army Medical Center of Excellence Command Team of Maj. Gen. Dennis LeMaster (front center), Joseph Harmon III (front left) and Command Sgt. Maj. Clark Charpentier (front right) hosted a group photo with more than 4,000 Soldiers and Civilians gathered at MacArthur Field at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston prior to the 32nd Medical Brigade change of command Nov. 10.

ARMY SOUTH CG VISITS PANAMA TO STRENGTHEN RELATIONSHIPS



COURTESY PHOTO

A U.S. Army South delegation, including Maj. Gen. William L. Thigpen (second from left), ARSOUTH commanding general, traveled to Panama City, Panama, to conduct a key leader engagement with the commander of the National Border Service, or SENAFRONT Panama, and meet with United States Embassy representatives Nov. 8 to strengthen the Panamanian bilateral relationship and assess partnership sites. U.S. Army South is part of a multinational and whole-of-government team working to advance security throughout Central and South America and the Caribbean in order to protect our shared values and way of life.

PERUVIAN ARMY DELEGATION VISITS ARSOUTH



DONALD SPARKS

U.S. Army South Commanding General Maj. Gen. William Thigpen (right) greets Brig. Gen. Carlos E. Bojorquez (left), 1st Multipurpose Brigade Commander, Peruvian Army at the Army South headquarters at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston to begin a Peruvian Army distinguished visit Nov. 15. The Peruvian delegation was in Texas for a week-long visit to discuss future training opportunities between the two armies. These defense partnerships are vital to the hemisphere's security and prosperity and the collective ability to meet complex global challenges.

Holiday in a Box event spreads cheer to families of deployed service members

By David DeKunder

502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Military & Family Readiness Center brought holiday cheer to spouses and children of deployed service members by giving them the opportunity to make gift packages for their service members during its Holiday in a Box event Nov. 12.

Holiday in a Box was hosted and put together by the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston M&FRC's Hearts Apart team. Hearts Apart is a program that provides social activities that bring families of deployed service members together to encourage friendships and ease the strain of separation from their loved ones.

With Christmas music playing in the background, spouses and children gathered in a classroom decorated for the holidays at the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston M&FRC to create and make the gift packages, which contained gifts, pictures and cards for service members deployed overseas.

"The point of this is to have families who are separated from their service member or their loved ones due to a deployment, they're geographically separated or on temporary duty," said Senaida Aranda, JBSA-Fort Sam Houston M&FRC community readiness specialist.

"They can come on in here and we supply them with a flat-rate shipping box with some decorations and stocking stuffers for their loved one," Aranda said. "We help them set it up, put it together and then they can take it home and finish it off and send it over to their loved one overseas or wherever they are stationed."



DAVID DEKUNDER

Nathan Ortiz (right) helps his mother, Crystal Ortiz, decorate and prepare a holiday gift package for Sgt. Gabriel Ortiz, who is deployed overseas, during the Holiday in a Box event held at the Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Military & Family Readiness Center Nov. 12.

The military spouses and children created and decorated gift packages using items provided by the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston M&FRC, including crayons, markers, coloring sheets, construction, tissue and wrapping paper and arts and crafts accessories. Gift items for the deployed service members such as toiletries, toothpaste, wipes and

snacks, were also provided.

Kelly Schupp and her daughter Bristol, 4, made a gift package for her husband, Air Force Master Sgt. Travis Schupp, who is deployed. Their gift package consisted of handmade crafts and cards from the couple's two children.

"They really care about the families and making sure we are taking the time to connect together," said Schupp, referring to the Hearts Apart program and the Holiday in a Box event. "It just makes things easier keeping them (service member) in mind and being able to do things for the service member."

Crystal Ortiz and her four-year-old son, Nathan, were busy preparing a gift package for her husband, Sgt. Gabriel Ortiz, who is on deployment in Honduras. The package was decorated with green construction paper and included a snack and present.

Ortiz said she appreciated the Holiday in a Box event was held in a small setting that wasn't crowded.

"They are working one on one with us, so they're really involved with us," Ortiz said. "I love that they have everything for us, we just come and enjoy ourselves here."

Linsha Wingate put together a gift package that included goodies, decorations and holiday snacks for her husband, Air Force Tech Sgt. Michael Wingate, who is deployed in Germany.

"I told him last week, 'I'm going to come to this event,' and build him a box," Wingate said. "So, he's very anxiously waiting for what surprise he gets for the holidays."

Joint Transition Readiness Center hosts virtual workshop for transitioning service members

By David DeKunder

502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Transitioning service members and their families will be able to learn about resources that can help them as they separate or retire from the military during a virtual workshop being conducted by the Joint Transition Readiness Center, or JTRC, at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Dec. 3.

The Transition Information Program workshop will include four panel discussions on topics of importance for transitioning service members, who are either separating or retiring from the

military, and their family members.

Jon Vance, JTRC transition services manager, said each panel discussion will have a 30-minute presentation given by subject matter experts with a 30-minute question and answer session for the transitioning service members.

The panels will cover subject areas including employment networking opportunities, which will be conducted by Jose Ontiveros, JBSA Transition and Workforce Alliance SkillBridge/Career Skills Program manager, and Serafina De Los Santos, JBSA Transition and Workforce Alliance chair and 502nd Force

Support Group executive director.

The panels will cover subjects including understanding healthcare outside of the military and how to obtain and enroll in a health insurance plan; resources on how to find housing in the local area and what benefits, including from the Department of Veteran Affairs, or VA, which can be utilized to apply for a home mortgage; and what VA benefits and insurance are available for transitioning service members.

Besides Ontiveros and De Los Santos, other subject matter experts include representatives from Christus Health, Humana, the VA and the Texas

Veterans Land Board.

Information on resources provided through the Transition Information Program workshop will help transitioning service members get prepared as much as possible for civilian life, Vance said.

"They're topics that are important," he said. "Basically, with the workshop providing good information, they can use the information to make decisions on what is available in the local area."

Registration for the Transition Information Program workshop is at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/transition-information-program-tickets-171254866917>.

New director leads MICC center for installation operations, support contracts

By Ryan Mattox

MISSION AND INSTALLATION CONTRACTING
COMMAND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

A former director of procurement services at NASA is the director of the Mission and Installation Contracting Command Installation Readiness Center at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

Mike Vicory arrived in late October to lead the command's newly formed center.

"While I have only been on board for a few weeks, I have been very impressed with the professionalism and dedication of the Installation Readiness Center and Field Directorate Office-Fort Sam Houston team," Vicory said. "Since the IRC is new, I am excited about the prospect to shape the IRC's operating posture moving forward and demonstrating our value to the Army."

Vicory most recently served as the director of procurement services at the NASA Shared Services Center at the Stennis Space Center in Mississippi, where he oversaw the execution of the agency's grants, cooperative agreements and small business innovation research and technology transfer contracts, enterprise software licenses, and contracts that support agency-wide requirements, to include information technology business services. He also oversaw the execution of all agency requirements under the simplified acquisition threshold, which is \$250,000.

Prior to his time at NASA, he spent 16 years working for both the Navy and Marine Corps in Washington, D.C., as both a contracting officer and procurement analyst.

Vicory earned a bachelor's degree in political science and history from Santa Clara University in California and a Master of Business Administration from George Washington University in Washington.

In early fiscal 2021, the MICC began filling vacant positions and seeking a director for the MICC IRC. The MICC IRC team is realigned to report directly to the MICC FDO-Fort Sam Houston.

The IRC serves as the strategic central location to award new and follow-on contracts for installation operations and support in order to strategically align MICC contract execution with its major



RYAN MATTOX

Mike Vicory is the director of the Mission and Installation Contracting Command Installation Readiness Center at Joint Base San Antonio Fort Sam Houston.

mission partners' readiness priorities and lines of effort.

Since the initial operational capability of IRC and move of the command's full food service center of excellence workload and staff under the IRC earlier this year, five full food services and dining facility attendants contracts have been awarded in excess of \$280 million to support requirements at Fort Stewart, Georgia; Fort Drum, New York; Fort Wainwright, Alaska; Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington; and Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. These efforts enabled the Army to provide millions of meals for Soldiers across the nation.

"We were very fortunate to keep the full food services team together and

become part of the IRC from the beginning," said Gary Stevens, who was leading the IRC team until October. "The team was operating on auto-pilot, while others were concentrating on hiring actions, establishing a new Department of Defense activity address code, getting access to all of the systems needed and setting up the new office."

Stevens added that an integrated process team met weekly following the publishing of the operations order contributing to the initial startup success.

The IRC also supports the base operations contract portfolio, which is in the early stages of the process to award a contract for operation requirements at

Dugway Proving Ground in Utah. Once the IRC staff finishes the process and awards the contract, it will be transferred to the MICC-Dugway Proving Ground contracting office for administration.

"The IRC was stood up so the MICC can more effectively promote strategic Army category management objectives that will optimize support for our Soldiers," Vicory said. "This will be realized in the form of increased savings, reduced procurement actions lead times and standardization of services across the Army for those vital life support functions like food service and base operations."

The IRC is expected to reach full operational capability by spring 2022.

LACKLAND

IAAFA instructor joins in Army Jungle Operations course, brings experience to partner nation students

By Vanessa R. Adame

37TH TRAINING WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Army Jungle Operations Training Course near Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, is a two-week course designed to prepare joint forces members to survive in a jungle environment. One of the Inter-American Air Forces Academy's instructors recently attended the highly competitive training Sept. 13-24, along with other enlisted and officer members.

Master Sgt. Ricardo Alonso, International Force Protection flight chief, was one of only five service members outside of the Army's Lightning Academy to be selected for the training course. When the course ended, only 65 of 96 members remained, with Alonso among them.

"I pushed my body and abilities to a level I never thought possible," Alonso said. "Every single day was a challenge to keep from being eliminated from the course. It feels amazing to be one of the graduates."

The course focused on jungle mobility training, waterborne operations, combat tracking, jungle tactics, survival training and situation awareness exercises. As part of the course, members spent six consecutive days in the jungle, navigating the rough terrain while lugging at least 60 pounds of gear needed to operate in combat missions. Students were required to tie 12 critical knots and harnesses to secure rope bridges over rivers and rappel to navigate the elevated terrain throughout the course.



COURTESY PHOTOS

Master Sgt. Ricardo Alonso, 837th Training Squadron International Force Protection flight chief, stands in a river bed at the Army Jungle Operations Training Course in Sept. 24 in Hawaii.

"The jungle was the biggest challenge during the course," Alonso said. "The tasks and objectives that one needs to accomplish the day to day are difficult to begin with, and when you add the jungle and weather elements into the equation, the difficulty of the tasks increases immensely."

The training will help International Force Protection Flight provide better instruction to partner nation

students enrolled in IAAFA courses such as Ground Defense Leadership, which develops its lesson plans from the Jungle Operations Training Course.

"It's a reality that the most critical security threats and challenges to our region like narco-drug trafficking, human trafficking and terrorist plots are happening in jungle terrains such as the Darien Gap between Panama and

"The jungle was the biggest challenge during the course. The tasks and objectives that one needs to accomplish the day to day are difficult to begin with, and when you add the jungle and weather elements into the equation, the difficulty of the tasks increases immensely."

Master Sgt. Ricardo Alonso,
International Force Protection flight chief



Master Sgt. Ricardo Alonso, 837th Training Squadron International Force Protection flight chief, along with joint forces members, pull a team member during a rescue exercise as part of the Jungle Operations Training Course Sept. 24 in Hawaii.



Master Sgt. Ricardo Alonso, 837th Training Squadron International Force Protection flight chief, and joint forces members pull a team member during a rescue exercise as part of the Jungle Operations Training Course Sept. 24 in Hawaii.

Colombia, considered the world's most dangerous jungle," said Senior Master Sgt. Alejandro Velez, 837th Training Squadron superintendent. "It's very

important that we become subject matter experts in order to support our partner nation needs and continue being the partner nation of choice."



JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO

FORCE SUPPORT SQUADRON

Monthly Events

December

Attention

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

Bowling

Students party before the holidays

Students are invited to come out to the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Bowling Center Dec. 10, 5-10 p.m. for one last bowling party before heading out for the holidays. For more information please call 210-221-4740.

Children bowl with a holiday favorite

Come bowl with the Grinch and help him get into the holiday spirit. Children 12 and younger get one game, rental shoes and a bag of holiday treats for only \$5. JBSA-Fort Sam Houston holds Bowling with the Grinch Dec. 11 from noon to 2 p.m. JBSA-Lackland hosts Dec. 18 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and JBSA-Randolph is also held Dec. 18, from 9 a.m. to noon. For more information, please call JBSA-Fort Sam at 210-221-4740, JBSA-Lackland at 210-671-1234, or JBSA-Randolph at 210-652-7271.

Holiday shopping deals are at the bowling center

The JBSA-Randolph Bowling Center Pro Shop is offering up to 10 to 25 percent off selected balls, bags and shoes. Now to Dec. 23. Stop in, check out the new equipment and great deals. First come first served for stock on hand only (no special orders). For more information, please call 210-652-6271.

Bowlers compete in a tournament

Join the JBSA-Randolph Bowling Center for the Military Bowling Championship Tune-Up Tournament Dec. 27 at 6 p.m. The tournament will be a four-game scratch singles format on the Las Vegas Military Championship oil pattern. Cost is \$50 and prizes will be given based on the number of entries. To sign up, call 210-652-6271.

Customers enjoy special rates

Come out to the JBSA-Randolph Bowling Center Dec. 26 from noon to closing for Galactic Bowling with a Family Bowling Special of \$10 per hour, per lane for up to six players for Traditional Bowling, BESX Madd Games or Hyperbowling or \$3.75 per game, per person (does not include rental shoes). For more information, please call 210-652-6271.

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

The JBSA-Lackland Bowling Center offers a special \$10 per hour rate every Wednesday from 5-9 p.m. and a \$7.50 per hour rate every Friday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Patrons can also come out Tuesdays

from opening to closing for three games for only \$5. For more information call, 210-671-1234.

Patrons bowl under the stars

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

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

Clubs

Patrons unwind at the club

Come to the JBSA-Lackland Gateway Club Dec. 3, 10, and 17 from 5-10 p.m. for Variety Night. Hosted in the Lone Star Lounge, relax in the lounge or enjoy the weather out on the patio with pool tables and big screen TVs as DJ Tony Style plays a wide variety of music. For more information, please call 210-645-7034.

Bingo fun is at the club

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

Bingo Extravaganza is held Dec. 6 and 13, 6:30 p.m. Join us for a chance to win a larger jackpot. Birthday Bingo is held Dec. 14. Club members with a birthday in December receive a complimentary bingo machine. Randolph Club members only along with ID and proof of membership required. For more information, call 210-652-3056.

Children spend the day with Santa

Being the kids out to the JBSA-Lackland Gateway Club Dec. 4, 9-11 a.m. for breakfast with Santa. The event includes a buffet, music, contests with prizes and a visit from Santa. The menu features fluffy scrambled eggs, crispy bacon, home fried potatoes, pork sausage, biscuits and country gravy, pancake bar, orange juice/coffee/hot chocolate bar, Christmas cookies, candy canes and a Christmas cake. The cost for this event is \$10 per person for members and \$12 per person for non-members. Reservations may be made until Dec. 1. To make a

reservation or for more information, call 210-645-7034. No refunds after Dec. 2.

Santa is at the JBSA-Randolph Parr Club Dec. 19 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. ready for photos with the kids and to listen intently to their Christmas wishes. There will be hot chocolate and candy canes for all the children from 9-11 a.m. Kiddie Bingo will be begin at 10 a.m. There will be a total of five games of bingo played and complimentary food for the kids (12 and younger). This event is open to everyone and is free with limited seating. Patrons may start making their reservations on Dec. 6. To make a reservation or for more information, call 210-658-7445 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., or email jbsarandolphclubs@gmail.com. Reservations are required to attend this event.

Canyon Lake

Boat tour offered at Canyon Lake

The JBSA Recreation Park @ Canyon Lake encourages everyone to come out for the Beyond the Marina Boat Tour Dec. 11 from 10-11:30 a.m. Enjoy an hour and a half chauffeured boat tour around Canyon Lake. Encounter breath taking scenic views, discover the lake's history and the town that still resides beneath. This is open to all DOD ID cardholders. The cost for the tour is \$30 per adult and \$15 per child 12 and younger. Register by contacting our call center at 830-964-3576 or email jbsalodgingres@gmail.com.

Cooking class offered at the lake

Come out to the JBSA Recreation Park @ Canyon Lake Dec. 18 from 1-2 p.m. for the Dutch Oven Cooking Class. Patrons can enjoy the cooler weather while learning a new skill, to make some scrumptious treats for family and friends. The cost for this class is \$20 per person. To reserve a spot, please call 830-964-3576 or email jbsalodgingres@gmail.com.

Patrons save money with an annual pass

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

Community Programs

Families dine with holiday favorites

Everyone is invited to sign up for Grub with the Grinch Dec. 11 from 8:30-11:30 a.m. at the JBSA-Lackland Gateway Club. Come out for brunch and Holiday

JBSA FSS

crafts as well as photos with Santa and the Grinch. This event is open to all DOD ID cardholders. Interested parties need to pre-register by sending an email to JBSAcommunityevents@gmail.com with their name, number of people in their party, preferred time slot and a phone number. Completed registration will be accompanied with a confirmation email. Registration closes on Dec. 7. For more information please call 210-652-5763.

Community Services

Customers kickoff the holiday with some crafts

Stop by JBSA-Lackland Arnold Hall Dec. 18 from 2-6 p.m. for a fun afternoon painting ornaments. Snacks will be provided and adult beverages will be available for purchase. Registration is required. The cost is \$10 per person and all supplies will be provided. To register, call 210-671-2619.

Patrons keep their cars road ready

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

Precious memories are framed for a lifetime

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

Equestrian Center

Customers go on trail rides every weekend

The JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Equestrian Center encourages everyone age 7 and older to come out for a trail ride. No experience is required and rides are by appointment only every Saturday and Sunday, 9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. Trail rides are \$30 per rider. All riders must arrive 30 minutes prior to their appointment time. Adults must accompany children under the age of 13. Riders must be at least 4 feet, 6 inches tall and weigh no more than 200 pounds. Weekly trail rides, group rides and team-building rides are available by appointment for \$40 per person. To make reservations, call 210-224-7207.

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

Riders of all experience levels attend lessons

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

Fitness

Workouts take a festive twist

The JBSA-Lackland Chaparral Fitness Center makes it easy to this season a Fit Season. Come by Dec. 1 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. and pick up the 12-day challenge workout and punch card at the front desk. Complete 12 days straight and get a chance to spin the prize wheel. For more information, please call 210-671-2401.

The JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Jimmy Brought Fitness Center invites everyone to come out Dec. 11-12 for the 12 Days of Christmas Fitness Event Dec. 11-22. There will be a ladder style workout posted following the 12 Twelve Days of Christmas carol. Participants will complete the workout each day leading up to Christmas. For more information, call 210-221-1234.

Customers enjoy a basketball game

Come join the JBSA-Lackland Chaparral Fitness Center Dec. 3-5 from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. for the 46th Annual Joe Hall Varsity Military Basketball Tournament. For more information call 210-671-2401.

Athletes participate in a self monitored marathon

The JBSA-Randolph Rambler Fitness Center invites everyone to come out Dec. 6-10 for an Indoor Marathon. This is a self-monitored program based on honor system. Participants are to try to complete 26.2 miles running/walking within one week. Participants may pick up their cards to record their mileage at the front desk. For more information, please call 210-652-7263.

Athletes push their limits

Contestants come out to the JBSA-Lackland Warhawk Fitness Center Dec. 8 at 12:30 p.m. for a Bench Press Competition. Participants will have three lift opportunities to lift as much weight as they can. The most weight lifted will be recorded. No registration required. For more information, call 210-671-2016.

Patrons have one minute to complete as many push-ups and sit-ups as they can Dec. 15 from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the JBSA-Lackland Kelly Fitness Center. For more information,

please call 210-925-4848.

The JBSA-Lackland Warhawk Fitness Center invites everyone to come out Dec. 16 at 3:30 p.m. to squat until you drop. In this squat challenge, each participant will perform as many squats as possible. Highest recorded total wins. No registration required. For more information, call 210-671-2016.

Competition heats up on the court

The JBSA-Lackland Gillum Fitness Center is hosting a double elimination Volleyball tournament Dec. 10 7-9 a.m. Each team must have minimum of four people and teams are authorized substitutes. Each game will be played to 25 points with rally scoring in effect. For more information, please call 210-977-2353.

Come to the JBSA-Lackland Chaparral Fitness Center to show off some three-point shooting skills Dec. 16 at noon. Each shooter will have 60 seconds to shoot from five designated positions around the three-point line. The shooter who makes the most baskets will win a prize. Sign up deadline is Dec. 10. For more information, please call 210-671-2401.

Calling all runners

Patrons are encouraged to wear an ugly sweater Dec. 11 at 9 a.m. at the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston METC Fitness Center and participate in this Fun Run 5K at the Aquatic Center Parking Lot. A prize will be given out for the ugliest sweater. For more information call, 210-808-5709.

Bikers stay fit over the holidays

All bikers are welcomed to come and cycle those holiday calories away Dec. 18, 8 a.m. with the JBSA-Randolph Rambler Fitness Center at Heritage Park. Patrons are challenged to stay in shape while completing the 10-mile course. For more information, please call 210-652-7263.

Football fans make game time predictions

At the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston METC Fitness Center patrons are encouraged to choose their picks every week during the NFL Weekly Pick'em Contest. Each week participants choose which NFL teams will win their match-up. The person with the most correct picks wins a prize. Tie breakers are decided by guessing the total score for the Monday night football match-up. Picks are due every Thursday by 3 p.m. This contest runs through Jan. 9, 2022. For more information, call 210-808-5709.

Patrons search for candy canes while staying fit

Patrons have fun and go on a candy cane hunt. During the month of December, the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Jimmy Brought Fitness Center is hosting a candy cane fitness hunt. There will be candy canes hidden throughout the facility with a fit activity attached. When you find it, complete the fitness activity and then enjoy the candy cane. For more information, call 210-221-1234.

Golf

Golfers participate in a scramble

Join the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Golf Course Dec. 3, 12:30 p.m. for the Warrior Golf Scramble. The cost for this golf scramble is \$30 for DOD ID cardholders and Fort Sam Houston Golf Club members and \$40 for nonmembers.

Price includes greens fee, golf cart and lunch for players. The event is limited to the first 60 paid players. Sign up through The Greens @ JBSA App. Golfers will be sent their start times and all the necessary information. For more information, call 210-222-9386.

Join the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Golf Course Dec. 18 at 12:30 for the Holiday Scramble. This event is a two-person scramble. The entry fee is \$20 per person plus green fees and cart rental. Entry fee includes lunch and prizes. Deadline to sign up is Dec. 16. Sign up through The Greens @ JBSA App. Golfers will be sent their start times and all the necessary information. For more information, call 210-222-9386.

We Need a Little Christmas
Dec. 3-18 *By Shawn Kjos*

A Christmas music extravaganza bringing an abundance of holiday cheer to you with over 30 Christmas classics including White Christmas, Sleigh Ride, The Christmas Song, Santa Baby, I'll be Home for Christmas, Blue Christmas, Silent Night and so many more! Featuring your favorite Harlequin powerhouse vocalists. Make sure that the Harlequin is on your Christmas wish list this December!

The Harlequin Theatre • 210.222.9694
Sam Houston Theatre • 2472 Stanley Rd.

Golfers compete in a tournament

The JBSA-Lackland Gateway Hills Golf Course holds the Gateway Cup Championship Dec. 11-12, starting at 8 a.m. This tournament is two-day individual stroke play championship. Entry fee for the event is \$30 and covers prizes and lunch on the second day of competition. This is a triple points event. This tournament is open to anyone; however, players must have played in at least four events throughout the year to compete for end of year prize payouts. Register on-line with The Greens @ JBSA App. The last day to sign up is Dec. 9. For questions, please call 210-671-3466.

The holidays bring great sales to customers

Come by the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Golf Course Dec. 11, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and take advantage of the holiday sale. Once done shopping, customers will draw a tee for discounts off their entire purchase but cannot add items

after drawing their discount tee. Come get some Christ shopping in while enjoying seasonal treats. For more information please call, 210-221-5863.

All customers are invited to come to the JBSA-Lack Gateway Hills Golf Course Pro Shop Dec. 18-24 to find the perfect gift for the golfers on their holiday gift list, receive 5 percent off all merchandise and annual green players receive 10 percent off purchases. For every \$15 spent after discounts, patrons are entered into a drawing for a free membership. Some restrictions apply because of company policies. All items must be paid for the day of the sale to be considered for the drawing. For more information, please call 210-671-3466.

Information Tickets & Travel

Patrons take a trip to the amusement park

Come out to any JBSA Information Tickets and Travel (ITT) location to get discounted tickets to the local amusement parks and attractions. This is the perfect time to visit all the fun holiday themed celebrations San Antonio has to offer. For more information please call ITT at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston at 210-808-1378, JBSA-Lackland at 210-671-3059, and JBSA-Randolph at 830-266-9333.

SeaWorld® San Antonio tickets can be purchased for discounted rate of \$55 each for one day admission. Call ITT for other ticket options. Active-duty military can visit wavesofhonor.com for free tickets for themselves and three dependents. For more information please call ITT JBSA-Fort Sam Houston at 210-808-1378, JBSA-Lackland at 210-671-3059, and JBSA-Randolph at 830-266-9333.

Six Flags Fiesta® Texas tickets can be picked up for \$31 per person for one day admission for ages three and older. Contact ITT for other ticket options. For more information please call ITT at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston at 210-808-1378, JBSA-Lackland at 210-671-3059, and JBSA-Randolph at 830-266-9333.

The San Antonio Zoo is open year round. Discounted tickets start at \$15. Included in the standard admission is the special seasonal Zoo Lights. As the animals go to sleep for the night the Zoo grounds awaken with holiday lights and cheer. Zoo Lights runs now thru Jan. 2 For more information please call ITT at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston at 210-808-1378, JBSA-Lackland at 210-671-3059, and JBSA-Randolph at 830-266-9333.

Military & Family Readiness

All is calm, all is bright holiday celebration held

JBSA Exceptional Family Members and Hearts Apart families are invited to the All is Calm, All is Bright Holiday Celebration on Dec. 10 at the JBSA-Lackland Arnold F Community Center. The registration deadline is Dec. 1 call 210-671-3372 or email 802fss.fsfr.1@us.af.mil.

Workshop helps transitioning service members

Transitioning service members attend the virtual Transition Information Program workshop, Dec. 3 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., to receive information on local services, VA benefits, health insurance, housing benefits and more. To register, call 210-916-7322.

Credit and debt management offered

Participants learn how credit scores are calculated, key factors for improving credit scores, tips for managing credit and debt, and the importance of protecting your credit during the virtual Credit & Debt Management workshop, Dec. 7, from 9-11 a.m. To register, call 210-221-2705.

Parents prepare for baby

Active-duty expecting parents receive information on financial planning from conception to college, support programs offered within the community and parenting skills during the virtual Bundles for Babies workshop, Dec. 8 from 9-11 a.m. To register, call 210-671-3722.

Attendees get familiar with Thrift Savings Plan

Participants review the different aspects of a Thrift Savings Plan like contribution limits, return rates, tax-deferred investments, and more during the virtual TSP workshop, Dec. 9 from 10 a.m. to noon. To register, call 210-671-3372.

Service members review survivor benefits

Military personnel and their spouse meet virtually with a Survivor Benefit Plan counselor to become familiar with the options, effects, and advantages of SBP virtually on Dec. 9 from 9-10:30 a.m. To register, call 210-652-2104 or 210-652-5321.

Insight of retirement planning offered

Whether just entering the workforce or a seasoned veteran, discover the secrets of a successful retirement plan during the virtual Retirement Planning for Military and GS workshop, Dec. 9, 10-11:30 a.m. To register, call 210-652-5321.

Outdoor Recreation**Concealed carry classes offered**

The Camp Bullis Rod-N-Gun Recreation Center (RNGRC), bldg. 6215, is providing Concealed Handgun License (CHL) classes Dec. 4 and 11 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Students must be 21 years old to register for the class, unless they are active-duty military age 18 or older. Students need to be familiar with their firearm; no first time shooters. Students must also meet Federal qualifications to purchase a handgun. The cost of the class is \$80. Successful completion of this class is required to apply for a Texas LTC license. To register, go to <http://www.chlregistration.com> and select "Register for Class" and then select "Dan Willis - Leatherneck Arms." For more information, call Mr. Dan Willis at 210-363-2332 or the RNGRC at 210-295-7577 or 210-296-7529.

Customers safely store RVs, boats and more

There are 440 storage sites available for rent at Camp Bullis. The cost is \$50 per month or \$480 per year. Customers need a DOD ID card, current registration and proof of insurance prior to signing for a RV storage site. For more information, call 210-295-7529.

Patrons rent all the recreation essentials

The JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Outdoor Equipment Center has equipment rentals for everyone, to include camping, water fun, fishing boats, speedboats, sports and

party equipment, tables, chairs and bouncy castles. There are also rental RV campers, mobile grills and portable grills. In addition, equipment rental has a resale car lot. For more information, call 210-221-5224 or 210-221-5225.

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

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

Boaters learn the rules of the water

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

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

Youth Programs**Youth are registered for winter camp**

Requests for care for all holiday camps are handled through MilitaryChildCare.com. Families who need childcare for their children while they are out of school for Winter Break can request care now. Requests will be taken until full. Fees are based on total family income and all required paperwork must be on file must be on file through the Child Youth Program Business Management System. Winter camps take place Dec. 20 to Jan. 3 on JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, Dec. 20 to Jan. 4 at JBSA-Lackland and Dec. 17 to Jan. 4 for JBSA-Randolph. For more information, please call JBSA-Fort Sam Houston at 210-221-5002, JBSA-Lackland at 210-671-2388, and JBSA-Randolph at 210-652-4946.

Teens have fun with a lock in

Teens ages 13-18 are invited out Dec. 10 from 8 p.m. to 7 a.m. at the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Patch/Chaffee Youth Programs for a fun lock-in with the theme of Teen Stars—Teen Dreams. Dress to impress and then change into athletic attire to play. The cost is \$10 per person. To register, please call 210-221-3630 by Dec. 6.

Parents are given a much-needed break

All JBSA Child and Youth Programs locations can give parents that much needed break through the Give Parents a Break and Parents Night Out programs. These programs are for children 6 weeks to 12 years old. Cost is \$25 per child with a sibling discount or free with a Give Parents a Break referral. The last

day to register is the Wednesday prior to the event.

JBSA-Fort Sam Houston hosts Parents Night Out Dec. 11 from 1-5 p.m. JBSA-Lackland hosts on Dec. 11, 6-10 p.m. and JBSA-Randolph on Dec. 10 6-10 p.m. For more information, please call JBSA-Fort Sam Houston at 210-221-5002, JBSA-Lackland at 210-671-2388, and JBSA-Randolph at 210-652-4946.

Families get a sweet treat at the drive through

All youth members and their families are invited to join us for "Drive Thru Fun Freebie" at the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston W. Ed Parker Youth Programs Dec. 16 from 4:30-6 p.m. Participants will receive cocoa with mini-marshmallows and a sugar cookie, along with a few other sweet items to make each cookie special and unique. For more information, please call 210-221-3502.

Youth have fun at a winter camp

Pre-teen camp is on at JBSA-Lackland Youth Programs Dec. 20 to Jan. 5 from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Get ready for weekly themed camps in STEM, Culinary Arts, Fine Arts and Coding. Space is limited and advance registration is required. The cost for camp is for ages 9-12 and costs \$110 per week or \$25 per day. Please call the Lackland Youth Programs at 210-671-2388 to reserve a spot.

Kids learn healthy habits at camp

JBSA-Randolph Youth Programs holds the Fit Kids camp Dec. 20-22 from 9-11 a.m. Fit Kids is a camp geared to give each camper the basic knowledge of strength and conditioning while incorporating cardio and healthy eating habits to assist each child with sports performance or just an overall healthier lifestyle. Each participant will focus on setting goals, improving strength and endurance while having Fun with Fitness. Cost is \$30 per youth and space is limited. For more information or to sign up, call 210-652-3298.

STAY CONNECTED

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Alamo Spark Cell drives innovation throughout Air Force

By Airman 1st Class
Melody Bordeaux

59TH MEDICAL WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Throughout the Air Force, teams referred to as Spark Cells serve as a hub for innovation. The 59th Training Group's Alamo Spark Cell is a collaborative team that focuses on improving training at the Medical Education and Training Campus at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

"Our Spark Cell team works with the whole campus here and also works with the Air Force Medical Modeling and Simulation Training at JBSA-Randolph," said Tech. Sgt. Daniel Hauversburk, 382nd Training Squadron biomedical equipment technician course instructor. "We have every person we can get involved with within the campus and we brainstorm ideas. We ask ourselves, how can we innovate and accelerate training?"

Even during the pandemic, these innovators have implemented new ideas to help improve their students' education.

"We've accomplished creating an environment for supplemental training aids within the student dormitory," Hauversburk said. "We are working toward providing them with high-speed internet, giving students the ability to use virtual reality and augmented reality tools. This makes it possible for students outside the classroom environment to get hands-on experience training."

However, innovation goes beyond the training environment. The Alamo Spark Cell is consistently working toward simplifying time-consuming tasks. This was highlighted when the Alamo Spark Cell won "Best Team Robot" in the 2021 Robot 4 Every Airman competition.

"The Robot 4 Every Airman competition is an Air Force and Space Force-wide cyber challenge," Hauversburk said. "We identify a process that could be automated, saving time and energy for our Airmen and Guardians to focus on their actual jobs. For the competition, we created a weekly activity report robot. Our WAR bot collects data from various simplified excel sheets that our Airmen have filled



AIRMAN 1ST CLASS MELODY BORDEAUX

Tech. Sgt. Daniel Hauversburk, 382nd Training Squadron biomedical equipment technician course instructor, gives students a safety brief at the Medical Education and Training Campus, Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Oct. 29.

in and then produces a PowerPoint within the fraction of the time it used to take."

After the WAR bot won "Best Team Robot," Alamo Spark Cell expanded it throughout the Air Force.

"The WAR bot has been briefed and demoed at countless bases as part of the effort to push more units into learning how our process automation robot can benefit the Air Force," Hauversburk said. "Different organizations contact me and I refer them to the Air Force Center of Excellence for our process automation. They train and provide them with all resources."

The Alamo Spark Cell also focuses on machine learning, printing 3D models for training and recently proposed the Functional Academic Skills Test project, Hauversburk added.

"The Functional Academic Skills Test allows students with civilian-recognized accreditation to accelerate training," Hauversburk explained. "For some of the programs, up to 12 months of training time is saved, which means a huge cost saving at \$450 a day for each student."

Airmen and Guardians can join Spark Cells and help bring their innovative ideas to a possible tangible reality.

"If anyone has a passion for innovation they can reach out to us or their local Spark Cells," said Hauversburk. "We all want to collaborate together and leverage each other's skills to accomplish projects for the Air Force."

For more information on pursuing innovation, reaching out to Spark Cells and utilizing Squadron Innovation Funds, visit the Air Force Innovation Hub at <https://www.afwerx.af.mil/index.html>.

More resources are available at <https://digitalu.af.mil/>. Digital University provides Airmen with free enrollment in more than 12,000 courses.

BMT increases guests, adds Airman's run to graduation ceremony

37th Training Wing Public Affairs

Beginning with the Nov. 24 Basic Military Training Graduation ceremony, graduates can invite up to four visitors. The Airman's Run returned as a public event Nov. 24. However, there are important caveats to the increase of visitors for graduations scheduled for Dec. 2, 9 and 16.

BMT graduates scheduled for the Dec. 2, 9 and 16 ceremonies will be allowed to add two additional visitors to their guest list if they meet the following criteria:

- ▶ Must be Department of Defense ID Card holders or be 17 years of age or younger.
- ▶ Must be fully vaccinated if age 12 and over; must present proof of vaccination to gain entry to the graduation venue.

BMT graduates scheduled for the Dec. 29 ceremonies will start their visitor process with



CHRISTA D'ANDREA

Effective Nov. 24, Basic Military Training graduates may now invite up to four guests to graduation events, including the Airman's Run. The Airman's Run will now take place on Thursdays at 7:30 a.m. and the graduation ceremony will be at 10 a.m.

the option of inviting all four visitors. This means additional visitors will not have to meet age or DOD ID card requirements.

All visitor requests are controlled by the trainees themselves. They determine who to invite to graduation

events, subject to background checks for installation access. Individuals may not submit requests on their own behalf.

As a reminder, installation access and ceremony access are two separate procedures.

Installation access is determined by the installation

commander and Security Forces vetting procedures.

BMT graduation access is more restrictive due to the close-quarters environment and limited capacity. Access to the installation does not guarantee access to BMT graduation events.

With the return of the Airman's Run as a public event as of Nov. 24, the graduation schedule will be as follows:

- ▶ 7:30 a.m. — Airman's Run observed at the Airman's Arena
- ▶ 8 a.m. — Welcome Briefing in the Auditorium a.m.
- ▶ 8:45 a.m. — New spouse orientation in the Chiefs Room
- ▶ 10 a.m. — Graduation Ceremony at the Airman's Arena

All events take place at the Pfingston Reception Center. Visitors should follow the USAF BMT Facebook page and www.basictraining.af.mil for the latest official ceremony and entrance requirements. BMT events are an amazing milestone for graduates, their families and the nation, so don't let other unofficial sources of information create confusion or otherwise diminish the occasion.

For more information, email 37TRW.PA.INBOX@us.af.mil.

IAAFA takes security cooperation mission to Colombia

By Vanessa R. Adame

37TH TRAINING WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Instructors at the Inter-American Air Forces Academy at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland took their mission to Colombia to teach Colombian Air Force students Aug. 27 to Sept. 22.

Five instructors from the 837th Training Squadron were on a mobile training team to teach approximately 40 officers and enlisted Colombian Air Force students in cyber networks, cyber security, and intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance courses at Escuela de Inteligencia Aérea TJ Edgar E. Contreras B., in Bogotá.

The courses combined both officer and enlisted Colombian Air Force members.

In-country engagements like this one provide an additional perspective to IAAFA cadre and staff beyond the Academy's primary in-residence mission.

"Being in country gives you an opportunity to see how that country accomplishes their missions and allows the team to assess if what they're teaching is relevant and up-to-date with our partner nations," said Capt. Marissa Gaytan, 837th Training Squadron flight commander.

Students in the ISR Fundamentals course received instruction on the Distributed Common Ground System operations — the Air Force's weapon system to process, exploit, and disseminate intelligence from ISR platforms. Additionally, they took part in an exercise where they learned to utilize ISR platform capabilities, weather, and commander's intent to decide which platforms support the humanitarian operations.

The scale of the curriculum, public health precautions and larger than usual class provided additional workload for the IAAFA instructors.

"We made sure we had two instructors present at all times and allowed more time for practical exercises," Gaytan said.

In addition to ISR efforts, 12 students who participated in the cyber network and cyber security courses learned the fundamentals to build and secure a



COURTESY PHOTO

From left: Tech. Sgt. Salvador Chavez, Tech. Sgt. Carlos Villanueva, Capt. Marissa Gaytan, Staff Sgt. Aiko Little and Master Sgt. Lidia De La Cruz gather in front of Escuela de Inteligencia Aérea TJ Edgar E. Contreras B., in Bogotá. The instructors with the 837th Training Squadron were on a mobile training team to teach Colombian Air Force students in cyber networks, cyber security, and intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance courses Aug. 27 to Sept. 22.

network. IAAFA instructors also took the opportunity to see the Colombian Air Force's cyber capabilities up close.

"We saw their facilities, their operational floor layouts, their network topologies," said Tech. Sgt. Salvador Chavez, 837th TRS cyber networks and security instructor. "This is something that is very crucial in the development of curriculum. Without actually seeing how they work, the tools they utilize, and how much of their network is organized, we can't really pinpoint what is needed in those countries."

After four weeks of instruction, the students earned their certificates during a ceremony attended by their peers, friends, and supervisors.

"Being in country gives you an opportunity to see how that country accomplishes their missions and allows the team to assess if what they're teaching is relevant and up-to-date with our partner nations."

Capt. Marissa Gaytan, 837th Training Squadron flight commander

A different point of view: A married couple's BMT experience

By Joe Gangemi

37TH TRAINING WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Almost every evening over the last year, Staff Sgt. Sarah Bento, a Military Training Instructor assigned to the 433rd Training Squadron, would come home to share her experiences as an instructor with her husband, Devon. Her words undoubtedly had an impact on Devon because, in September, he began experiencing BMT first-hand.

"It was by coincidence that he decided to enlist at the same time I'm working as an MTI," Sarah said. "Despite hearing about the difficulties experienced in BMT, he knew he didn't want to regret missing out on this opportunity that he had wanted for years already."

Although Devon has been interested in joining the military, it took COVID-19 and Winter Storm URI for him to consider all of his options. When he finally decided on enlisting in the Air Force, he thankfully had Sarah for an insider look to his new life.

"By the time he had decided to enlist, I had already been using him to practice teaching classes and applying certain lessons to," said Sarah, a seven-year veteran.

"It was more difficult than I thought it would be. I thought I learned a lot from Sarah," Devon said. "Experiencing BMT as a trainee made me realize how difficult of a job my spouse has."

Both from San Jose, California, Sarah and Devon grew up approximately four miles apart, but they

didn't meet until December 2015 and were married three years later.

During an assignment at Buckley Air Force Base in Colorado, Sarah had the chance to be a First Term Airman Center instructor, which fueled her desire to become an MTI.

"To get to influence and mentor so many young Airmen, before they've had any real experience within the Air Force, was a dream of mine," said Sarah, a Public Health specialist outside of this Developmental Special Duty. "The MTIs that I had in BMT were incredible and significantly impacted my life in a positive way, and I wanted to have that same opportunity."

Upon graduating from Military Training Instructor School in November, Sarah left with two awards — Excellence in Instruction and Distinguished Graduate.

Devon was assigned to the 320th Training Squadron during BMT, coincidentally the same squadron Sarah was assigned to when she went through in January 2015.

"Over the 7.5 weeks of training and squadron realignments, I experienced two different squadrons and interacted with four instructors," Devon said. "Their hard work and dedication were apparent and made a positive impact on me understanding the Air Force Core Values and the importance of teamwork."

Devon is now attending technical training at Sheppard Air Force Base to become an Aircraft Metals Technology specialist.



JOE GANGEMI

Staff Sgt. Sarah Bento embraces her husband, Airman 1st Class Devon Bento, after his Basic Military Training graduation at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland Oct. 28.

First five Master Military Training Leaders selected in 37th TRW

By Annette Crawford

37TH TRAINING WING

The aiguillette that hangs from a Master Military Training Leader's left shoulder is distinctive. The mixed colors of royal and navy blue signify the superior performance, ethics and leadership that are hallmarks of reaching that achievement, awarded to only the top 10 percent of the MTL corps.

Five noncommissioned officers now have the distinction of being the first MTLs in the 37th Training Wing to wear that aiguillette. The new Master MTLs are Tech. Sgt. Joseph Bengfort, Tech. Sgt. Kevin Davis, and Staff Sgt. Michael Diaz, 343rd Training Squadron; Tech. Sgt. Eric Fileccia, formerly with the 343rd TRS and now assigned to the 37th Training Support Squadron; and Staff Sgt. Rory Kosater, 344th TRS, Detachment 1, Port Hueneme, California.

According to Senior Master Sgt. Kelli Jackson, superintendent of Military Training at the 37th Training Group, becoming a Master MTL is a three-phase process. First is the administrative review: They must have 18 months of front-line experience, score 90 percent or higher on their most recent fitness assessment, meet 8B100 criteria outlined in the Air Force Enlisted Classification Directory, and be recommended by their squadron chain of command. No points are tallied from Phase I in the overall score. If they meet all the criteria, the MTLs go forward to Phase II, which is a 30-question knowledge exam.

"If they pass that, they move to the final phase, which consists of evaluations. MTLs must master the craft of conducting room inspections, open ranks, drill and ceremony, physical training sessions, and an Airmanship 200 session," Jackson explained.

While mandatory requirements are outlined in Air Education and Training Command Instruction 36-2651, the Master MTL program within the 37th TRW was developed by Jackson and three other members of the 37th TRG: Tech. Sgts. Daniel Shortt, Morgan Grebens and Matthew Daum.

Here's a look at the first five NCOs in the 37th TRW to become Master MTLs:



ANNETTE CRAWFORD

Maj. Jaime Hernandez Jr., 343rd Training Squadron commander, speaks to the audience at the ceremony Dec. 11, 2001, where three of the five new Master Military Training Leaders received their aiguillettes.

Tech. Sgt. Joseph Bengfort

Bengfort, a native of Sanger, Texas, joined the Air Force in 2011. His primary Air Force Specialty Code, or AFSC, is 2W071, Munitions Systems. He became an MTL in 2018.

"My greatest rewards [of this job] are the good people I have met along my Air Force journey," he said.

Tech. Sgt. Kevin Davis

Davis, originally from Eagle, Idaho, joined the Air Force in 2011 and became an MTL on Sept. 27, 2018. His primary AFSC is 3D1X3, Radio Frequency Transmission Systems. He said the best part of his job is the chance to help Airmen.

"I've had opportunities to help Airmen going through both good times, like getting married, and tough

times, like the loss of a loved one," he said. "I help them navigate what they can and need to do next during this phase of their military career."

Staff Sgt. Michael Diaz

Diaz joined the Air Force in April 2012 and said he distinctly remembers leaving for the Military Entrance Processing Station on Easter Sunday. His primary AFSC is 2FoX1, Fuels. Originally from Lubbock, Texas, he became an MTL in October 2018.

"The greatest reward of this job is the leadership experience I will take back to my career field," he said.

Tech. Sgt. Eric Fileccia

Fileccia joined the Air Force in 2010. Originally from San Diego, he became an MTL on May 1, 2018. His primary AFSC is 2A6X5, Aircraft

Hydraulics.

"The most rewarding part about my job is mentoring young Airmen," he said. "I hope to make an impact on their Air Force careers and guide them into a direction that leads to success."

Staff Sgt. Rory Kosater

Originally from Dayton, Ohio, Kosater joined the Air Force in November 2012. His primary AFSC is 2T3X1, Mission Generation Vehicular Equipment Maintenance, and he became an MTL in June 2018.

"I have a unique opportunity to mentor the next generation of Airmen in the career field," he said. "I can provide insight to the students that wasn't available from MTLs at this location [Port Hueneme, California] previously."

RANDOLPH

479th FTG showcases flight operations mission for STEM students

By Maj. John Tiner

12TH FLYING TRAINING WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The 479th Flying Training Group hosted 12 eighth-grade STEM students from the Summerdale School at Naval Air Station Pensacola on Nov. 3, 2021. The visit gave students exposure to flight operations to include the control tower, T-6 simulators, aircrew flight equipment, and T-6/T-1 static displays.

The visits have become a yearly tradition in hopes of sparking an interest in military aviation within the local youth community. Many of the students have no military or aviation background so the exposure serves as a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

Throughout the past few years, many of the students have benefitted from the partnership and shown increased motivation and diligence in their schooling, as well as extracurricular activities, due to their newfound interest in military service and the aviation career field.

"This partnership has really grown throughout the past three to four years. It's incredible to see these students light up and experience things they likely never would have experienced otherwise, whether that be visiting the control tower, observing the maintenance personnel, flying the simulators, or viewing the static aircraft displays," said Maj. John Tiner, 479th Flying Training Group T-6 branch chief.

"The school's program director provides feedback throughout the year regarding student performance in the classroom which has continually increased due to their newfound motivation following these visits," Tiner added. "If we can continue to provide that spark for even a single student, we've done something right."



Maj. John Tiner, 479th Flying Training Group combat system officer instructor, explains the capabilities of the T-6 Texan II aircraft to STEM students from the Summerdale School Nov. 3 at Naval Air Station-Pensacola.

PHOTOS BY BENJAMIN FASKE



Capt. Katie Meckler and Maj. Kiersten Thompson, 479th Flying Training Group combat system officer instructors, show STEM students from the Summerdale School a T-1 Jayhawk aircraft November 3 at Naval Air Station-Pensacola.

Breast Cancer Awareness 5K participant details her struggles against cancer

By Olivia Mendoza Sencalar

502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

In April 2020, in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, Blanca Conde was preparing for her daily run in her neighborhood.

While getting dressed, the 59-year-old medical assistant raised her arm and felt a lump on the left side of her breast. It didn't hurt, but it scared her. She immediately made an appointment with her physician, hoping it was nothing serious.

On April 23, she received a call confirming she had stage 2 breast cancer. Conde's life changed in the blink of an eye as her worst fear came true.

As a testament to her experiences and her resilience, Conde ran in the Breast Cancer Awareness 5K Run/Walk held at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph's Heritage Park Oct. 30.

"This was my first 5K run, I owed it to myself because I'm so grateful to be here," she said. "I was happy to be there with my husband, granddaughter and grandson, as well as meeting others who are like me and making new longtime friends."

According to the American Cancer Society, nearly 250,000 US women will be diagnosed with breast cancer and at least 40,610 with breast cancer will result in death. The purpose of this event was to bring awareness to how to detect, prevent, and treat breast cancer.

The annual non-competitive event, which is open to anyone with base access, raises awareness of breast cancer and the importance of early detection and regular screenings during Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

As the youngest of nine siblings, cancer runs in her



OLIVIA MENDOZA SENCALAR

Blanca Conde (left), breast cancer survivor, and her granddaughter, Carley, cross the finish line while her husband Ramon and grandson Michael follow behind them at the Breast Cancer Awareness 5K Run/Walk at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph's Heritage Park Oct. 30.

family. Her mother died from stomach cancer caused by ulcers, her father died from melanoma cancer in the brain, her brother died from colon cancer and her sister was recently diagnosed with melanoma cancer on a finger.

In May 2020, after additional biopsy tests, she found out the cancer had aggressively progressed to stage 3. She immediately began a 20-week chemotherapy treatment, causing hair and eyebrow loss and weight gain.

The treatment put Conde in a state of depression as she felt her beauty was fading. Conde, who is married to

"This was my first 5K run, I owed it to myself because I'm so grateful to be here. I was happy to be there with my husband, granddaughter and grandson."

Blanca Conde, Cancer survivor

a retired chief master sergeant and has three children and five grandchildren, initially found comfort being in her bedroom alone watching television but slept a lot due to the chemo treatment.

Conde is now in remission and grateful for the treatment, her hair has grown back and she's in better spirits and health despite the COVID-19 pandemic.

She's thankful to have been given a second chance in life and is not looking back. Her experience made her much stronger and resilient and now she's ready to share her story.

Knowing she will now be able to continue making travel plans with her husband makes her especially happy.

"It feels great to be able to dress up, put on make-up and go on dates with my husband," she said.

For Conde, there is a beautiful life ahead; life challenges do not compare to what she endured.

"It's important to make your annual mammogram appointments. I did not think I would be here today after hearing that I had aggressive cancer," Conde said. "I would tell someone who is just now finding out they have breast cancer to have faith and don't give up."

JBSA-Randolph hosts Law Enforcement & Security Info Fair Dec. 7-8

502nd Air Base Wing Public Affairs

The Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Military and Family Readiness Center hosts a Law Enforcement & Security Info Fair from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Dec. 7-8 as part of an employment readiness initiative with Department of Defense law enforcement and security field positions and private sector positions.

The event will assist transitioning service members, spouses, and other DOD ID cardholders in gaining knowledge of the law enforcement and security career field and enable a smooth career transition.

The primary intent of the event is to assist transitioning service members and military spouses in finding

employment. They're going to discuss traditional and unique opportunities in the law enforcement and security fields, within and outside the DOD. For example, the CIA has aviation openings for pilots, mechanics, air control and para-rescue.

The first day includes presentations from various agencies informing patrons about education requirements, experience, and training opportunities. At the moment, confirmed partnerships include Central Intelligence Agency, San Antonio Police Department, Secret Service, and Texas State Troopers.

The second day will allow patrons to ask questions and provide an opportunity to participate in one-on-one conversations with the Law Enforcement and Security Agencies.

LAW ENFORCEMENT & SECURITY INFO FAIR

DEC 7-8 • 9AM - 3PM

M & FRC RANDOLPH
Call: (210) 652-5321



COURTESY GRAPHIC

To register, call 210-652-5321 or email RANDOLPHM&FRC@US.AF.MIL. The

JBSA-Randolph M&FRC is located at 555 F Street West, building 693.