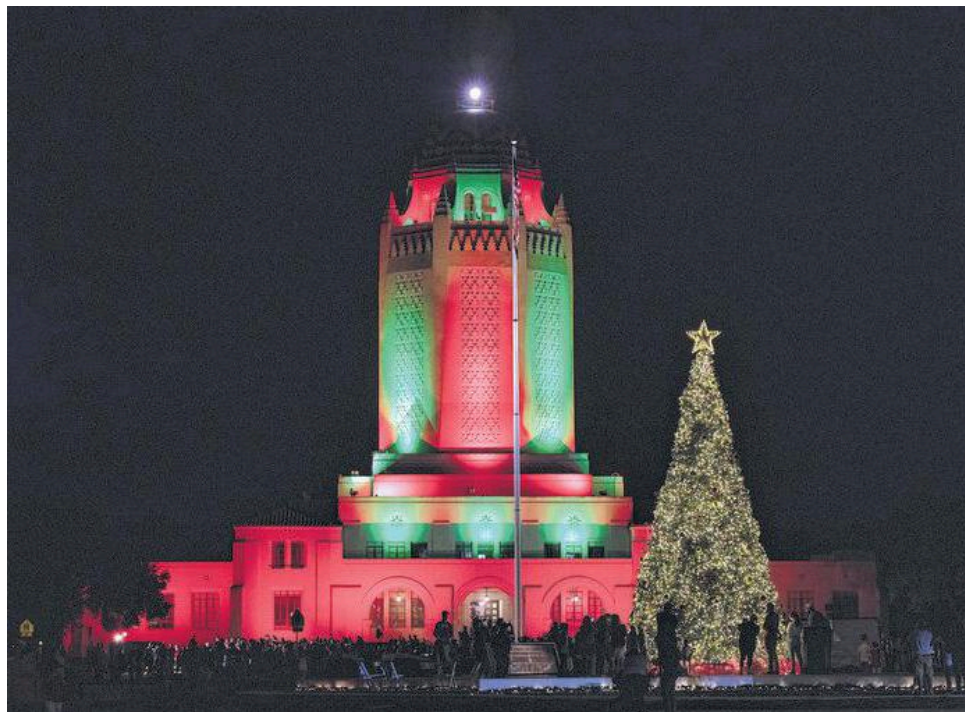


# JBSA LEGACY

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JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO

DECEMBER 17, 2021



STAFF SGT. PRESTON CHERRY

*The Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph holiday tree sparkles in the night just after it was lit Dec. 2, with the Taj Mahal glowing behind it in complementary colors. A long-standing tradition, active duty members and their families, retirees and Department of Defense civilians got into the Christmas spirit with tree-lighting ceremonies and activities held at Joint Base San Antonio locations recently, which marks the beginning of the holiday season at JBSA installations. See Page 4 for more photos.*

## Joint Base San Antonio lights up for the holidays

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### Military Exercise Southern Vanguard 22 begins in Brazil

Page 6



### 149th FW Airman, civilian pilot earns military wings

Page 16

# Airman Leadership Qualities will be integrated into feedback

## Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

On Feb. 2, 2021, the Air Force announced 10 Airman Leadership Qualities, or ALQs, focused on key performance characteristics Airmen need to succeed in future conflicts.

The 10 ALQs, emphasizing both character and competence, were released as an addendum to the Airman Comprehensive Assessment and were optional for feedback to all senior non-commissioned officers and officers in all grades. The release allowed parts of the force to become familiar with the 10 ALQs and begin transitioning toward evaluating and incentivizing Airmen on what we value in their performance.

Effective March 31, 2022, the ALQs will be integrated into feedback for all Airmen, enlisted and officer, across all ranks. The ALQs will also form the basis for the new officer and enlisted evaluation systems projected for release later in 2022.

"The ALQs represent the performance characteristics we want to define, develop, incentivize, and measure in our Airmen. Increasing the everyday usage of the ALQs is crucial to developing the Airmen of tomorrow and fully integrating them into formal feedback accelerates us towards that goal," said Lt. Gen. Brian Kelly, Air Force deputy chief of staff for manpower, personnel and services.

Over the past three years, the Air Force made several large-scale modifications to its talent management system. This initiative is part of that larger reform and shifting the Air Force toward ALQ-based performance feedback is the next step in releasing a more comprehensive quality-based evaluation system.

The four major performance areas that

categorize the ALQs stem from AFI 1-2, Commander Responsibilities, and AFI 90-201, The Air Force Inspection System:

### Executing the Mission

- » Job Proficiency: Demonstrates knowledge and professional skill in assigned duties, achieving positive results and impact in support of the mission.
- » Initiative: Assesses and takes independent or directed action to complete a task or mission that influences the mission or organization.
- » Adaptability: Adjusts to changing conditions, to include plans, information, processes, requirements and obstacles in accomplishing the mission.

### Leading People

- » Inclusion and Teamwork: Collaborates effectively with others to achieve an inclusive climate in pursuit of a common goal or to complete a task or mission.
- » Emotional Intelligence: Exercises self-awareness, manages their own emotions effectively; demonstrates an understanding of others' emotions, and appropriately manages relationships.
- » Communication: Articulates information in a clear and timely manner, both verbally and non-verbally, through active listening and messaging tailored to the appropriate audience.

### Managing Resources

- » Stewardship: Demonstrates responsible management of assigned resources, which may include time, equipment, people, funds and/or facilities.
- » Accountability: Takes responsibility for the actions and behaviors of self and/or

team; demonstrates reliability and transparency.

### Improving the Unit

- » Decision Making: Makes well-informed, effective and timely decisions under one's control that weigh constraints, risks, and benefits.
- » Innovation: Thinks creatively about different ways to solve problems, implements improvements and demonstrates calculated risk-taking.

Additionally, the ALQs align with and are a subset of the Air Force's 24 Foundational Competencies, which focus on competency-based development and lay the foundation for "Developing the Airmen We Need" for both officers and enlisted.

"We want our Airmen to strive for continual, meaningful growth," said Chief Master Sgt. Derek Crowder, senior enlisted leader, deputy chief of staff for manpower, personnel and services. "Implementing these qualities for all Airmen encourages deliberate feedback in areas to align with what we value and develop the qualities we know our Airmen will need to be successful in future conflicts."

All Airmen are encouraged to download the Airman Comprehensive Assessment Addendum - AF Form 724-A, familiarize themselves with the ALQs and have ongoing discussions with their rater and rates. The ALQs will be embedded as part of the feedback process in the new evaluation platform, myEval, projected for release in early 2022. The ALQs will also be incorporated into the new officer and enlisted evaluation system released in myEval later in 2022.

For more information, go to MyPers.

## JBSA LEGACY

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# Admiral describes DOD's response to global threats, challenges

By David Vergun

DOD NEWS

In testimony before the Senate Armed Services Committee in consideration of his nomination to become vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Adm. Christopher Grady emphasized the challenges facing the United States and its allies.

Adm. Grady said that competition in today's extraordinarily complex and dynamic environment means that the United States and its allies face mounting challenges to the international rules-based order and national security in every domain, from the seabed to space to cyberspace, to the air and land domains.

Strategic competition, he said, does not just involve conventional or nuclear threats,

but also attacks below the threshold of armed conflict that have changed the character of that competition.

"And so now more than ever, global integration is essential. And integrated deterrence in those multi-domains, leveraging all elements of national power across the whole of government and with our allies and partners is absolutely critical," he said.

Grady noted four strengths of the Defense Department, which give it a competitive advantage:

- » America's unrivaled industrial base, resulting from an innovative and open society;
- » Many allies and partners with whom all are stronger together;
- » Service members who are always

resolute, lethal and ready at a moment's notice;

- » Families who support the force.

"I firmly believe that family readiness directly contributes to operational readiness," he said.

The admiral answered questions that focused on several different topics, one of which was about the Joint Requirements Oversight Council, which is chaired by the vice chairman which reviews and validates all warfighting capabilities needed to win on the battlefield.

The JROC is one of the most important organizations in the Pentagon, he said.

Decisions made at the JROC are threat- and risk-based, informed by disciplined and analytical data, he said, noting that he will continue that rigorous process if confirmed.

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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.

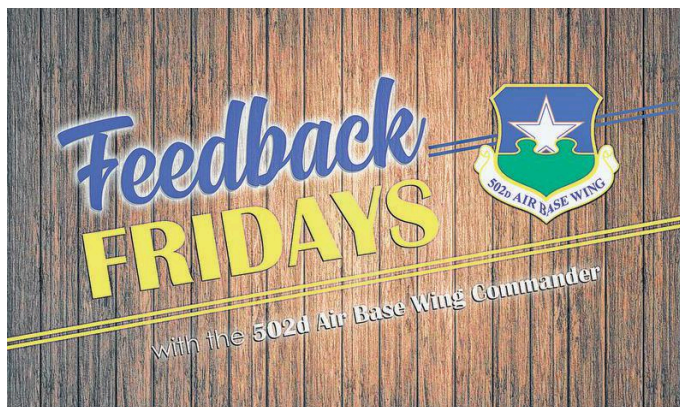
If you have a question or concern, please send an email to [jbsapublicaffairs@gmail.com](mailto:jbsapublicaffairs@gmail.com) using the subject line "Feedback Fridays."

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

**Q: With the release of MHS Genesis on the horizon, I believe this is the best time to inquire about this new program.**

**What is the purpose of MHS Genesis and why is this going to be more beneficial than the previous records management system used?**

**A:** Acquisition officials determined



that adopting MHS Genesis was the best choice after performing a thorough analysis of requirements and an alternative to paper health records. MHS Genesis will offer more comprehensive and accurate records necessary to support the delivery of high-quality, integrated health care and the benefits that our service

members and families deserve.

The system will support service members as they transition from military service, drive better clinical outcomes by giving health care providers a full picture of patient medical history and enhance collaboration with the Department of Defense, Department of Veterans

Affairs and civilian health partners.

To make things easy to navigate the MHS Genesis Patient Portal will be available to connect patients with their healthcare team and empower them to become the drive or your health care. With the MHS Genesis Patient Portal, a patient can:

- ▶▶ Manage primary care medical and dental appointments.
- ▶▶ Review clinical notes, lab, and test results.
- ▶▶ Exchange secure messages with their healthcare team.
- ▶▶ Monitor health information and view their portal profile.
- ▶▶ Complete a pre-visit, dental health history questionnaire online.
- ▶▶ Look up high-quality, provider-approved health information related to health issues, lab results and medications.

As our team at the 59th Medical Wing currently trains their personnel preparing the infrastructure to deploy MHS Genesis, beneficiaries at JBSA and local communication will be able to enjoy this new and approved health records system in January 2022.

## Department of the Air Force releases COVID-19 policy

**Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs**

The Department of the Air Force released its policy Dec. 8 outlining the way forward for Total Force military members serving in the Air Force and Space Force who have requested separation or retirement prior to Nov. 2, 2021, or whose COVID-19 medical exemption or religious accommodation was denied.

For those who refused to obey a lawful order to receive the COVID-19 vaccine, commanders will continue to take appropriate administrative and disciplinary actions consistent with law and Department of the Air Force policy. Additionally, this will result in the member being subject to initiation of administrative discharge proceedings and service characterization will be governed by the applicable Department of the Air Force Instructions.

Service members separated due to refusal of the COVID-19 vaccine will not be eligible for involuntary separation pay and will be subject to recoupment of any unearned special or incentive pays, according to Department of the Air Force officials.

Supplemental Coronavirus Disease 2019 Vaccination Policy is located at [https://www.af.mil/Portals/1/documents/2021SAF/12\\_Dec/Supplemental\\_Coronavirus\\_Disease\\_2019\\_Vaccination\\_Policy.pdf](https://www.af.mil/Portals/1/documents/2021SAF/12_Dec/Supplemental_Coronavirus_Disease_2019_Vaccination_Policy.pdf).

Unvaccinated Airmen and Guardians who submitted a request to retire or separate prior to Nov. 2, 2021, with a retirement or separation date on or before April 1, 2022, may be granted an administrative exemption from the COVID-19 vaccination requirement until their separation date.

Unvaccinated Airmen or Guardians with a request for medical exemption or religious accommodation are

temporarily exempt from the COVID-19 vaccination requirement while their request is under review.

Members who receive a denial of their medical exemption or religious accommodation have five calendar days from the denial of their request to do one of the following:

- ▶▶ Begin a COVID-19 vaccination regimen. If the service member indicates their intent is to begin the vaccination regimen, commanders may use their discretion to adjust the five-day timeline based on local COVID-19 vaccination supplies;
- ▶▶ Submit an appeal to the final appeal authority for a religious accommodation request or request a second opinion for medical exemptions. If a final appeal is denied, the service member will have five calendar days from notice of denial to begin the COVID-19 vaccination regimen;
- ▶▶ If able, based upon the absence of or

a limited Military Service Obligation, and consistent with opportunities afforded service members prior to Nov. 2, 2021, request to separate or retire on or before April 1, 2022, or no later than the first day of the fifth month following initial or final appeal denial.

Service members who continue to refuse to obey a lawful order to receive the COVID-19 vaccine after their exemption request/final appeal has been denied or retirement/separation has not been approved will be subject to administrative discharge. Discharge characterization will be governed by the applicable Department of the Air Force Instructions.

Commanders will ensure all unvaccinated service members comply with COVID-19 screening and testing requirements and applicable safety standards. Leaders should continue to counsel all unvaccinated individuals on the health benefits of receiving the COVID-19 vaccine.



STAFF SGT. PRESTON CHERRY

Active duty members and their families, retirees and Department of Defense civilians got into the Christmas spirit at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph after the holiday tree was lit up Dec. 2.



STAFF SGT. PRESTON CHERRY

The Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph holiday tree sparkles in the night just after it was lit Dec. 2, with the Taj Mahal behind in complementary colors.



CÉSAR RODRÍGUEZ

Active duty members and their families, retirees and Department of Defense civilians get into the Christmas spirit at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

## JBSA lights up for the holidays

### 502nd Air Base Wing Public Affairs

Active duty members and their families, retirees and Department of Defense civilians got into the Christmas spirit with tree-lighting ceremonies and activities held at Joint Base San Antonio locations recently.

Air Force Brig. Gen. Caroline M. Miller, 502nd Air Base Wing and Joint Base San Antonio commander, and U.S. Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Casey D. Boomershine 502nd ABW and JBSA command chief, participated in the first tree-lighting ceremony at JBSA-Lackland Dec. 2.

A long-standing tradition, active duty members and their families, retirees and Department of Defense civilians got into the Christmas spirit with tree-lighting ceremonies and activities held at Joint Base San Antonio locations recently, which marks the beginning of the holiday season at JBSA installations.



U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. Caroline M. Miller (right), 502nd Air Base Wing and Joint Base San Antonio commander, U.S. Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Casey D. Boomershine (left) 502nd ABW and JBSA command chief, along with Magnus Boomershine, flip the master switch in the tree-lighting ceremony, Dec. 1 at JBSA-Lackland.

BRIAN BOISVERT



U.S. Army Lt. Gen. John. R Evans Jr. (left), U.S. Army North (Fifth Army) commanding general, and U.S. Army Col. Bryan L. Logan (right), Joint Base San Antonio and 502nd Air Base Wing vice commander, light up the holiday tree at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Dec. 3.

CÉSAR RODRÍGUEZ



# NORAD ready to track Santa's flight for 66th year

**North American Aerospace Defense Command  
Public Affairs**

The North American Aerospace Defense Command is celebrating the 66th anniversary of tracking Santa's yuletide journey around the globe.

The NORAD Tracks Santa website at [www.noradsanta.org](http://www.noradsanta.org) launched Dec. 1 and features Santa's North Pole Village, which includes a holiday countdown, games, movie theater, holiday music, webstore and more. The website is available in eight languages: English, French, Spanish, German, Italian, Japanese, Portuguese, and Chinese.

The official NORAD Tracks Santa app is also in the Apple App and Google Play stores, so parents and children can count down the days until Santa's launch on their smartphones and tablets. Tracking opportunities are also offered through social media on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and Instagram, as well as on partner platforms Bing, Amazon Alexa and OnStar.

Starting at 4 a.m. Eastern Standard Time Dec. 24, website visitors can see updates as Santa makes preparations for his flight. Then, at 6 a.m. EST, trackers worldwide can call to inquire as to Santa's whereabouts by dialing the toll-free number 1-877-Hi-NORAD (1-877-446-6723) where they will either speak with a live phone operator or hear a recorded update.

Due to COVID-19 concerns, the NORAD Tracks Santa Operations Center will have fewer phone



THOMAS PAUL

*The NORAD  
Tracks  
Santa  
Operations  
Center at  
Peterson  
Air Force  
Base,  
Colorado.*

operators, so callers who do not reach a volunteer will hear a regularly updated recording as to Santa's current location.

Anytime on Dec. 24, Amazon Alexa users can ask for Santa's location through the NORAD Tracks Santa skill for Amazon Alexa, and OnStar subscribers can press the OnStar button in their vehicles to locate Santa. Santa Trackers can also use the Bing search engine to learn of Santa's location.

Tracking Santa has been a tradition since 1955 when a local newspaper advertisement informed children they could call Santa directly — only the contact number was misprinted. Instead of reaching Santa, the phone rang through to the crew commander on duty,

U.S. Air Force Col. Harry Shoup, at the Continental Air Defense Command Operations Center, the predecessor to NORAD.

Shoup was quick to realize a mistake had been made and assured the child he was Santa. Shoup then assigned a duty officer to continue answering calls. Thus, a holiday tradition was born, which NORAD has carried on since it was created in 1958. Each year since, NORAD has reported Santa's location on Dec. 24 to millions of children and families around the world.

NORAD Tracks Santa is truly a global experience, delighting generations of families everywhere. This is due, in large part, to the efforts and services of numerous program contributors.

# FORT SAM HOUSTON

## Bilateral military exercise Southern Vanguard 22 begins in Brazil

By Pfc. Joshua Tackens  
U.S. ARMY SOUTH PUBLIC AFFAIRS

U.S. and Brazilian Army soldiers kicked off Southern Vanguard 22 during opening ceremonies in Lorena, Brazil Dec. 6.

Southern Vanguard is a U.S. Southern Command-sponsored, U.S. Army South-conducted exercise at the operational and tactical levels designed to increase interoperability between U.S. and Western Hemisphere forces.

“Southern Vanguard 22 builds upon a partnership between Brazil and the U.S., and we aim to continue this exercise until at least 2028,” said Maj. Gen. William L. Thigpen, Army South commanding general. “It is important that we execute this mission because in the event of a humanitarian crisis or natural disaster, we’ll already have the experience working alongside the Brazilian forces, and we have that established trust and respect.”

More than 1,000 soldiers participated in the 10-day exercise, including forces from Brazil’s 5th Battalion, 12th Infantry Brigade; U.S. Army South; and 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) to conduct joint tactical training.

Southern Vanguard is a rotating exercise that Army South conducts with partner nations in Central and South

America, and the ultimate goal is to establish a multinational exercise that will improve readiness, security and interoperability in the Western Hemisphere. The first iteration of Southern Vanguard took place in Chile in August 2021 with participating units from the U.S. Army’s 10th Mountain Division and Chilean Army’s 3rd Mountain Division.

The U.S. Army’s history of cooperation with Brazil dates back to World War II, where the Brazilian army sent a division-sized element to fight beside the U.S. Fifth Army and was the only Latin American force to participate in the Allied campaign. While the partnership between the U.S. and Brazilian armies is strong, Southern Vanguard 22 is the largest U.S. element to conduct combined training with Brazil since WWII.

“This exercise has been in the making since October of 2020, and it could only happen with the combined staff planning of Army South and our Brazilian counterparts,” said Maj. Milton Maddox, Army South’s lead planning officer of Exercise Southern Vanguard 22. “Both of our nations understand the complexities of an operation of this scale and nature, and in our planning, we worked to understand how each other operate to ensure mission success.”



PHOTOS BY PFC. JOSHUA TACKENS

*U.S. Army Soldiers assigned to Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team (Rakkasan), 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), salute during the opening ceremony of Southern Vanguard 22 at the 5th Light Infantry Battalion in Lorena, Brazil, Dec. 6.*

Both U.S. and Brazilian armed forces view the exercise as an opportunity to enhance tactical capabilities and operational readiness to be able to respond rapidly in support of regional partners — but most importantly, strengthening the relationship between the two armies.

“Our armies have a rich history together, and Southern Vanguard 22 is just one more way to strengthen the partnership that was sampled in World War II,” said Sgt. Victor Rodrigues, a Brazilian army soldier, combat training center observer, controller and trainer. “Exercises like this fortify regional security because our forces learn how to operate as one.”



*Maj. Gen. William L. Thigpen (left), U.S. Army South commanding general, greets a Brazilian army soldier during the opening ceremony of Southern Vanguard 22 at the 5th Light Infantry in Lorena, Brazil, Dec. 6.*

# Army Reserve Medical Command's 3rd Medical Training Brigade welcomes new commander

By Lt. Col. William Geddes

ARMY RESERVE MEDICAL COMMAND  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Col. Carlos Tamez relinquished duties as the commander of the Army Reserve Medical Command's 3rd Medical Training Brigade to Col. Sarolyn Morgan during a ceremony Oct. 16 at the MacArthur Pavilion at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

Morgan, an Arlington, Texas resident, has more than three decades of service, and most recently served as commander of the 368th Medical Detachment Combat Operational Stress Control.

Brig. Gen. Jeffrey McCarter, AR-MEDCOM deputy commanding general, presided over the ceremony, accepting the colors from Tamez as he relinquished command and handing them to Morgan, symbolizing the transferring of authority.

"I am so excited to come into this position!" said Morgan, an Arlington, Texas resident. "It's a chance to prepare, on a global scale, those who are going to serve."

Headquartered in San Antonio, Texas, the 3rd MTB serves as the doctrinal experts on Army Health Systems for the Army Reserve Combat Support Training Program. In performing this mission, the unit designs, plans, and executes world-class medical collective training for Army Reserve, National Guard, Active Component, and Joint Medical Forces in collective and unit readiness exercises including Regional Medic, Global Medic, and Emergency Deployment Readiness Exercises.

It's that focus on people that Tamez will miss, as he retires after more than three decades of service including deployments to South America, Bosnia-Herzegovina and multiple deployments to Iraq.

The highlights of Tamez's service were his deployments to Iraq, where he led a medical evacuation company that distinguished itself by successfully accomplishing 1,662



LT. COL. WILLIAM GEDDES

*Col. Sarolyn Morgan, incoming commander of the 3rd Medical Training Brigade, addresses the troops during the 3rd MTB change of command ceremony Oct. 16 at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.*

combat missions, evacuating 1,946 patients and flying more than 2,222 combat hours.

"I'm very grateful to have had the opportunity to go in and MEDEVAC wounded sons and daughters from the battlefield," Tamez added, calling it the memory of a lifetime. "It's a huge responsibility, I don't think I'll ever be able to top that."

The hosting officer for the event, McCarter also recognized Tamez's legacy. "When I think about Carlos Tamez and the legacy he's built here at the 3rd MTB, it's mostly about Soldiers," he said. "It's about training too, that's our mission, I got it, but it's mostly about building Soldiers."

McCarter doesn't see the Soldier focus changing for the Mustang brigade anytime soon.

"What's interesting is the incoming commander is going to be the same way," he said. "I'm very excited about Morgan coming in and being the leader over Mustang medics and focusing on Soldiers, and the people, and families."



## ARNORTH support to FEMA expands in three states, continues in two



COURTESY PHOTO

*U.S. Air Force Capt. Aimee Clonts, assigned to the 633rd Medical Group based out of Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Virginia, mixes a medication for a patient in the emergency department while working the night shift at Hennepin Healthcare during the COVID-19 response operations in Minneapolis, Minnesota Dec. 5.*

### U.S. Army North Public Affairs

At the request of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, approximately 55 military medical personnel deployed in three new teams — one 15-person team to Colorado, one 20-person team to Michigan, and one 20-person team to New Mexico — to support civilian healthcare workers treating COVID-19 patients.

“We continually work with our local, state, and federal partners to assess COVID-19 response needs to ensure we are providing the right type of support, in the right place, at the right time,” said Lt. Gen. John R. Evans Jr., U.S. Army North commander. “At the request of FEMA, the Department of Defense is providing a monoclonal antibody infusion team to support outpatient care in Colorado, as well as two additional military medical teams to work alongside civilian healthcare workers in Michigan and New Mexico.”

The military medical personnel

include nurses, respiratory therapists, and medical doctors.

In Colorado, a 15-person monoclonal antibody infusion team from the U.S. Air Force will support Denver Health — Federico F. Peña Southwest Family Health Center and Urgent Care in Denver.

In Michigan, a 20-person team from the U.S. Army will support Covenant Medical Center Harrison in Saginaw.

In New Mexico, a 20-person team from the U.S. Navy will support San Juan Regional Medical Center in Farmington, joining the U.S. Navy team currently providing support to the hospital.

The joint DOD effort includes nine other teams currently working in five states — one in Colorado, two in Michigan, two in Minnesota, three in Montana, and one in New Mexico. U.S. Army North, under U.S. Northern Command’s oversight, provides operational command of the teams.

ARNORTH is the joint force land component command of USNORTHCOM.



# MEDCoE hosts virtual medical career showcase for Texas high school students

By Tish Williamson

U.S. ARMY MEDICAL CENTER OF EXCELLENCE  
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

More than 200 high school students from more than 40 schools across Texas connected with the U.S. Army Medical Center of Excellence, or MEDCoE, over Zoom for a virtual career showcase Dec. 6.

The recruiting event, titled “Endless Possibilities,” was the first of its kind. The showcase was hosted by Maj. Gen. Dennis LeMaster, MEDCoE commanding general; Joseph Bray, Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army-Texas (South); and Col. LaTonya Jordan, commander, 5th Recruiting Brigade.

Before COVID-19, MEDCoE collaborated with Bray or recruiters to host several school tours and in-person information events. Transitioning to a virtual event was part of the MEDCoE's COVID-19 response and intended to be a safe way to connect interested students with the many ways they can find fulfilling full or part-time careers in the Army or Army Reserves.

During the event, attendees learned that Army Medicine has career opportunities for all types of health care providers: physicians, dentists, veterinarians, combat medics, respiratory specialists, nurses and many more, within 90 different specialties.

For college or postgraduate students, Army Medicine offers incentive programs, from monthly stipends for medical residents and medical and dental students to educational loan repayment, special pay and recruiting bonuses. The Army also has more than 130 full-time enlisted career options straight out of high school.

“We are made up of a diverse group of people who have found purpose and passion through a career in the military,” LeMaster said, wanting to highlight Soldiers, the Army's most precious resource, during the showcase. “We are excited to tell you all about it.”

Presenters included six Soldiers assigned to the MEDCoE in varying specialties: Maj. Eric Doe, 67J Medical Evacuation Pilot; Staff Sgt. Kashina Cavender, 68W Combat Medic; Sgt. 1st Class Dylan Browning, 68T Animal Care



*Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Coleman, 68E Dental Specialist, describes his reasons for serving and the benefits of his career choice via Zoom to an audience of high school students from more than 40 schools across Texas during the U.S. Army Medical Center of Excellence Virtual Career Showcase Dec. 6.*

TISH WILLIAMSON

Specialist; Sgt. 1st Class Sean Skaggs, 68C Nursing Specialist; Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Coleman, 68E Dental Specialist; and Staff Sgt. Andrew Ferguson, 68D Operating Room Specialist.

Most presenters took advantage of the Zoom environment by sharing their stories of service with the audience of more than 100 virtual attendees from remote locations, such as dental, veterinary and operating room training areas and an outdoor helicopter display.

“I am honored to have been part of an event with such a wide reach of potential Future Soldiers,” Skaggs said after his two-minute presentation on how his career as a licensed practical nurse in the Army has benefited him and his family. “Even if my short speech helped one person in their desire to join Army Medicine, it would be worth it.”

Retired Command Sgt. Maj. Leon Johnson, the senior Army Instructor at Emmett J. Conrad High School, hosted a watch party for 35 of his Junior Reserve Officer Training Course, or JROTC, students.

One of the first people to sign up for

the event, he said his students especially enjoyed the first-hand perspectives from each of the Soldiers who shared their personal experiences in the Army.

“They also really loved the fact that the Army will help pay for their college,” he said. Soldiers earn degrees for free while serving, with up to \$4,000 in tuition assistance each year for college courses or certifications.

While Johnson's favorite part of the event was also the live Soldier testimonials, he thought the entire event was very informative for his students. “It provided a real and genuine side to Army Medicine,” Johnson said. “The briefers showed strength, leadership, cultural diversity, and gender equity.”

He said that one of his cadets, a female high school senior who was considering a career in the Army really benefitted from hearing Cavender's story of service and how she and her sister, who is also a combat medic, have enjoyed their careers in Army Medicine's largest specialty.

“She said this event helped confirm her decision to join the Army and become a Combat Medic and eventually a nurse,” Johnson explained.

Skaggs doesn't expect everyone who attended the event to become a nurse, or even one of the other five specialties highlighted during the showcase. While he said he would love to see many of them select Army Medicine, he also thinks new recruits can't go wrong with any of the other hundreds of job specialties the Army has to offer.

He says he will consider the event a success if students understand how broad their job options are in the Army. “Overall, I hope the students realize that the Army is a great opportunity to get working in the career field of their choice with experiences unlike anything else in the civilian sector,” Skaggs concluded.

Bray thanked him, his staff, the presenters and the recruiters for conducting the worthwhile event.

“I think this was very valuable and I think we are going to take this to higher levels in the future,” Bray said.

To learn more about careers in Army Medicine, visit [goarmy.com/amedd](http://goarmy.com/amedd). To learn more about the U.S. Army Medical Center of Excellence or schedule a tour, visit [medcoe.army.mil](http://medcoe.army.mil).

# BAMC COVID-19 Vaccine Site closes after nearly year of operations

By Lori Newman

BROOKE ARMY MEDICAL CENTER  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Brooke Army Medical Center COVID-19 Vaccination Site on Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston closed Dec. 3 after nearly a year of operations.

The site, which opened in February, was a joint effort to vaccinate up to 2,000 personnel and military beneficiaries per day in a safe environment. During the height of operations, more than 100 personnel worked at the vaccine site.

“Standing up and providing mass vaccinations has been a monumental team effort, supported not only by BAMC personnel across the organization but by many tenant units across the installation,” said Army Col. (Dr.) Duncan Gillies, BAMC deputy chief of Preventive Medicine and officer

in charge of the vaccination site.

Currently, approximately 30 personnel work at the site and vaccinate an average of 150 to 250 patients per day, he said.

Gillies said many lessons were learned and shared as similar vaccine efforts were set up both stateside and overseas.

“This led to the success of not only the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston COVID-19 Vaccination Site, but numerous other sites across the force,” he said. “We were able to decrease the risk for our service members and beneficiaries from being infected with COVID-19 by increasing protection, helping to maintain the readiness of the force.”

There are a number of reasons why the vaccination site is closing, including the wide availability of the vaccine within the community and subsequent

decline in demand at the site. Another factor is a consolidation of resources in preparation for the launch of the new electronic health record, MHS GENESIS, in January 2022.

While the site is closing, BAMC will continue to monitor COVID-19 infection rates within the community and adjust operations as needed.

“This site demonstrated our ability to adapt to current conditions quickly and safely,” said BAMC Commanding General Brig. Gen. Clinton Murray. “We are extremely proud of the hard work and tremendous efforts of the vaccination site personnel and leadership, and are grateful to our JBSA partners for their outstanding support. Our community benefited greatly from their efforts.”

Moving forward, COVID-19 vaccines will be available to all TRICARE beneficiaries ages 5 and older and

booster doses to those 18 and older by appointment only in the Troop Medical Clinic and BAMC Primary, Pediatrics and Obstetrics/Gynecology clinics. Beneficiaries can make an online appointment using the TRICARE Online Patient Portal or by calling the appointment line at 210-916-9900.

Federal employees who are NOT beneficiaries can obtain their COVID-19 vaccine from a community resource or at BAMC by appointment only; call 210-916-6551. All beneficiaries should continue to use the appointment line at 210-916-9900 or TRICARE Online as noted above.

People can search for their closest pharmacy by visiting <https://military.rx.express-scripts.com/find-pharmacy> or by calling 1-877-363-1303. For information on community resources, visit <https://www.vaccines.gov/covid-provider-resources/>.





JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO

# FORCE SUPPORT SQUADRON

## Monthly Events

January

### 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

#### Bowlers celebrate the holiday weekend

Come out to the JBSA-Randolph Bowling Center Jan. 15-16 during normal operating hours to celebrate the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday weekend. The special bowling rate is \$2.75 (excluding Galactic Bowling) per game, per person with \$3 shoe rental. For more information please call 210-652-6271.

#### Bowlers enjoy special rates

The JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Bowling Center offers patrons three games of bowling for \$5 every Tuesday and Wednesday from opening to closing. For more information, please call 210-221-4740.

The JBSA-Lackland Skylark Bowling Center invites everyone to come by during regular business hours every Tuesday for \$5 bowling. Bowl three games for \$5. Patrons can also come by every Friday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and get a full hour of bowling for only \$7.50. For more information please 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 at cosmic bowling 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

#### 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.

Bingo Extravaganza is held Jan. 10 and 24, 6:30 p.m. Join us for a chance to win a larger jackpot. Birthday Bingo

is held Jan. 11. Club members with a birthday in January receive a complimentary bingo machine. Randolph Club members only along with ID and proof of membership required. For more information, call 210-652-3056.

#### Customers are appreciated

The JBSA-Lackland Gateway Club hosts Customer Appreciation Night Jan. 25, 5-7 p.m. in the Fiesta Ballroom with entertainment provided by DJ Tony Style. The price is \$12.50 for members and \$15.50 for non-members. The menu features spring blend spinach salad with strawberries/mandarin oranges/chopped walnuts/feta cheese with raspberry vinaigrette, champagne brie soup, beef tenderloin with port wine sauce, chicken Bordeaux topped with sautéed mushrooms/red grapes/white wine sauce, rosemary roasted potatoes, mixed wild rice, asparagus spears with red peppers, branded baby carrots & snow peas, freshly baked yeast rolls, fresh fruit salad and double chocolate cake with fanned strawberries. No coupons accepted for this event. For more information, call 210-645-7034.

#### Diners take advantage of the monthly food specials

Dine in at Gil's Pub located inside the JBSA-Randolph Kendrick Club, Bldg. 1039 from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The monthly special for January is a chicken fried steak sandwich, breaded chicken fried steak patty with garlic aioli, lettuce, tomato and onion on a toasted brioche bun with chips for \$8.95. For more information please call 210-658-3557.

#### Family meals are made to-go

Busy week? Let the JBSA-Randolph Parr Club do the cooking. The Parr Club is offering family meals of fried or baked chicken, fried or smothered pork chops, chicken fried steak, meatloaf and savory sides. Orders must be placed at least one day before the pickup date. To place an order, call 210-569-2510. Orders can also be placed at jbsarandolphclubs@gmail.com or at memberplanet.com.

#### Patrons unwind after a long week

The JBSA-Lackland Gateway Club hosts Variety Night every Friday, 5-10 p.m. Come by and start the weekend off right as DJ Tony Style plays a wide variety of music in the Lone Star Lounge. Relax in the lounge or enjoy the weather out on the patio with pool tables and big screen TVs. For more information, please call 210-645-7034.

### 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 Jan. 8 and 22 from 3:30-5 p.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.

#### Customers learn to stay safe on the water

Learn how to drive a boat safely at the JBSA Recreation Park @ Canyon Lake Hancock Cove Marina, Jan. 15 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. This two-hour boat driving course covers boat operation, rules of the water and safety guidelines. The cost for the class is \$40 per person and there are limited spots. To reserve a spot, call 830-964-3576 or email jbsalodgingres@gmail.com. Participants must be 21 years or older and have completed the Boater Safety course through the State of Texas to be able to rent a boat. For more information, call 830-964-3576.

#### Customers learn a new skill at the lake

Enjoy the cooler weather while learning a new skill. Come by the JBSA Recreation Park @ Canyon Lake Jan. 22 from 1-2 p.m. Learn how to make some scrumptious treats for family and friends. The cost for this class is \$20 per person and all supplies are included. To reserve a spot, please call 830-964-3576 or email jbsalodgingres@gmail.com.

#### Patrons save money while having fun on the water

Come out to the JBSA Recreation Park @ Canyon Lake any time in Jan. or Feb. and get 25% off a boat rental and enjoy a free ski package. The price includes all required safety equipment such as life vests but does not include fuel. Now is a great time to take advantage of a less crowded lake and save money. Email jbsamarinasuper@gmail.com for reservations. Patrons must have taken the Boater's Safety Course through the State of Texas to be able to rent a boat.

All month long Jan. and Feb. patrons can rent a kayak, paddle board or canoe for one hour and get a second hour free. For more information please call 830-964-3576.

### Community Services

#### Snow comes to Texas

Bring the family out to slip and slide through the icy slopes of the JBSA-Lackland Amphitheater Jan. 21 from 4:30-8:30 p.m. This free event includes four snow slides, music, games and food trucks. This event is sponsored by GEICO and USAA. No federal indorsement of sponsors intended. For more information please call JBSA Community Programs at 210-652-5763.

#### The theater puts on a show

Head out to the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, Fort Sam Houston Theater Jan. 21 till Feb. 19, for a presentation of "Elvis has Left the Building". It's December 20th, 1970, and Elvis Presley has disappeared. No one, not even his wily manager, "The Colonel", knows of his whereabouts. But the Colonel



# JBSA FSS

is all shook up because he has racked up a secret debt -- and with the King himself missing, the only way to pay it off is to find an Elvis impersonator within 24 hours. Hi-jinks ensue as the Colonel takes desperate measures to replace a man who is irreplaceable, all while keeping the prying eyes of a nosy reporter at bay and figuring out what happened to the real Elvis.

Doors for these shows open at 7 p.m. and the show starts at 8 p.m. Ticket prices are \$22 for adults, \$10 for children 12 and younger and \$18 for military students. This show is sponsored by THE GUNN AUTOMOTIVE GROUP and GEICO. No federal endorsement of sponsor intended. Please note all civilian reservations must be made by Tuesday at noon to gain gate access for the weekend shows. For more information or to make a reservation, call 210-222-9694.

## 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. Weekday trail rides, group rides and team-building rides are available by appointment for \$40 per person. To make reservations, call 210-224-7207.

For the smaller riders that aren't quite ready for trail

rides the equestrian center also offers parent-led pony rides for \$10 for children age 6 and younger. Pony rides are offered every Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Adults must accompany their children and availability is on a first come, first served basis. Pony rides can also be coordinated for weekdays on an appointment basis as well as for parties or other special events held on site. A covered deck is available for small parties for half-day use for \$50. For more information, call 210-224-7207.

**DOWNLOAD THE APP NOW!**

**THE GREENS at JBSA**

**YOUR ONE STOP SHOP FOR EVERYTHING JBSA GOLF!**

Download our app from the iOS App store for iPhone users and from the Google Play Store for Android users! This is our best form of communication to you! News, weather, employment opportunities, event registration, calendars, etc. are all available within our app.

You'll also need this tool to play in our events as most of our golf tournaments are now being scored within this app which provides GPS and a live leader board so you know where you stand!

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## 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

### The new year brings opportunities for self-improvement

The JBSA-Randolph Rambler Fitness Center kicks off the annual New Year New You Program Jan. 1 during normal business hours. This is the perfect new fitness program to help anyone kickstart a healthier "new you" for the New Year. Patrons have an entire year to complete this self-monitored program during normal operating hours. Pick up a "New Year, New Program" card from the staff and start running/walking the 70

miles, attending the 24 group aerobic classes and biking the 36 miles. Participants will receive a T-shirt once they complete the required activities and distances. For more information, please call 210-652-7263.

Start the New Year on the right track with the JBSA-Lackland Warhawk Fitness Center. Come out Jan. 3 during normal operation hours and work off all the wonderful food enjoyed during the holiday season. Interested participants must sign in with the staff to track their results. For more information, call 210-671-2016.

Come out to the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Central Post Fitness Center for the New Year Right, Equipment/Orientation and Strengthening Class. Patrons are encouraged to call for an appointment to participate in the free Equipment orientation and strengthening class by any Monday, Wednesday, or Friday from 7-11 a.m. This is open to all DOD ID cardholders. For more information, please call 210-221-3598.

The JBSA-Lackland Chaparral Fitness Center invites everyone to jump start the new year with the New Year Full Body Fitness Challenge. Focus on a different full body exercise each day. The daily workout will be posted at the front desk. For more information, call 210-671-2401.

**Joint Base San Antonio**

**SNOWFEST**

**Jan. 21 • 4:30-8:30 P.M.**

**JBSA-LACKLAND Amphitheater**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, Visit jbsatoday.com**

**JBSA502FSS**

## Runners participate in a 5K

Kickoff the first day of the New Year and come celebrate New Year's Day with the JBSA-Randolph Rambler Fitness Center Jan. 1 at 8 a.m. at Heritage Park. This is a 5K run/walk fun event to get any New Year's resolutions started. For more information, please call 210-652-7263.

The JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Jimmy Brought Fitness Center holds the Fit For Duty 5K Run/Walk Jan. 29 at 8 a.m. Registration starts the morning of the event



at 7:30 a.m. The event is free and open to all DOD ID cardholders. Families/Strollers and pets are welcome. For more information, please call 210-221-1234.

#### Competition heats up at the fitness centers

Come out to the JBSA-Lackland Chaparral Fitness Center Jan. 13 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. for the 1 Minute Push-Up Challenge. Patrons have one minute to complete as many push-ups as they can. Fitness Center Staff will keep track of time and repetitions. Prize will be awarded to the person that completes the most push-ups in one minute. For more information, call 210-671-2401.

The JBSA-Lackland Gillum Fitness Center holds a Push Up Contest Jan. 14 from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Patrons have one minute to complete as many push-ups as they can. This event is open to all DOD ID cardholders. For more information, please call 210-977-2353.

#### Patrons take fitness classes on demand

The JBSA-Lackland Kelly Fitness Center encourages everyone to stop by Jan. 20 from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. to take part in the Virtual Fitness Marathon. A variety of fitness workouts are conducted throughout the day using the premier on demand fitness provider (Wellbeats). Classes include kickboxing, circuit training, step aerobics, cycling and dance aerobics. For more information, please call 210-925-4848.

## Golf

#### Golfers participate in a scramble

Come out to the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Golf Course Jan. 7, 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-Randolph Oaks Golf Course Jan. 17, 8 a.m. on Martin Luther King Day for a two-person shamble. This is a fun format where players choose the best tee shot then play their own ball from that point and record the lower of the two scores. The cost is \$20 per person plus cart and greens fee. Net and Gross will be paid to teams that place. The team handicap is the lower of the two handicaps. Register through The Greens @ JBSA App. Golfers will be sent their tee times and all the necessary information. Call or stop by the Pro Shop and sign up. For more information, call 210-652-4653.

#### Golfers participate in a tournament

Join the JBSA-Lackland Gateway Hills Golf Course Jan. 17, 8 a.m. for the Gateway Hills Par 3 Challenge. This tournament is an individual stroke play event. All holes will be played as par 3's. Entry fee for the event is \$20 per person plus greens fee and cart rental, due before Jan. 13 and \$30 after Jan. 13. The entry fee covers a tee gift, lunch and prizes following the round. This is the first event for the 2022 Gateway Cup Series. Register by using The Greens @ JBSA App. Golfers

will be sent their start times and all the necessary information. For more information, call 210-671-3466.

**HARLEQUIN**  
Presents...

**ELVIS HAS LEFT THE BUILDING**

**JAN 21  
FEB 19  
8PM**

Fort Sam Houston Theater  
2417 Stanley Road

Doors open at 7 p.m. \$22 for adults,  
\$10 for children 12 and younger and  
\$18 for military students.

For more information or to make a  
reservation, call (210) 222-9694.

#### Golf is played with a twist

Come out to the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Golf Course Jan. 22, 8:30 a.m. for the "3's Challenge". This special game is a two-player mixed format and takes place on the La Loma Course. The first 9 holes will be played as a Scramble and the second 9 holes as a Best Ball. All players will play the tournament tees. The entry fee is \$20 per person plus greens fee and cart fee. Twilight greens fee will be charged for all players. All registration and scoring will be done through The Greens @ JBSA App. For more information, call 210-222-9386.

#### Patrons try a new dining experience

Join the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Golf Course Jan. 22, 6:30-9:30 p.m. for a bi-monthly themed dinner, Dining @ the Greens. This event's theme is a Harry Potter Trivia night with assorted appetizers and "build your own" pizza and drinks available from the bar. Reservations are required. Please call 210-222-9386 for more information or to reserve a spot.

## Information, Tickets and Tours

#### Patrons stay updated on travel deals

Tune into "Monthly Travel Talk" Jan. 11, 11:30 a.m. via Facebook Live on the Joint Base San Antonio Information Tickets and Travel Facebook Page, facebook.com/JBSAINFOTICKETSANDTRAVEL. Get updates for attractions, pricing, travel deals, ask questions and talk about everything travel related. For more information please call the JBSA-Fort Sam

Houston office at 210-808-1378, JBSA-Lackland at 210-671-3059, or JBSA-Randolph at 830-266-9333.

#### Rodeo tickets are here

Tickets for the 2022 San Antonio Stock Show and Rodeo are on sale now. DOD ID cardholders can purchase tickets for \$50 each at any of the three JBSA ITT locations during normal operating hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday.

Each ID cardholder may purchase a maximum of four tickets per event. Purchasers must be able and willing to sign a contract acknowledging that these tickets are not eligible for refund or resale. Subject to availability. For more information please call JBSA-Fort Sam Houston at 210-808-1378, JBSA-Lackland at 210-671-3059, or JBSA-Randolph at 830-266-9333.

## Military & Family Readiness

#### Workshop helps nominate volunteers for awards

The JBSA-Military & Family Readiness Centers are accepting nomination packets for the 2022 JBSA Volunteer Awards Ceremony from Jan. 3 through March 14. Virtual nomination writing workshops are scheduled for Jan. 20, 9-11 a.m. by JBSA-Randolph; Jan. 26, 9-10 a.m. by JBSA-Fort Sam Houston; and Jan. 25, 1-2 p.m. by JBSA-Lackland to review forms and submission process to identify a volunteer for recognition. To register, call JBSA-Randolph at 210-652-5321, JBSA-Lackland at 210-671-3722, or JBSA-Fort Sam Houston at 210-221-2705.

#### 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 more during the virtual Credit & Debt Management workshop, Jan. 4, from 9-11 a.m. To register, call 210-221-2705.

#### Spouse input needed for forum

Military spouses are encouraged to attend a virtual New Year, New You Spouse Forum on Jan. 6 from 9-11 a.m. to brainstorm and identify self-improvement and professional development topics for 2022. To register, call 210-652-5321.

#### Single parents connect

Long- and short-term single parents learn about resources, network with other parents, and participate in open discussions during a virtual support group, Jan. 12 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. To register, call 210-671-3722.

#### Workshop offers fresh take on resumes

Participants learn practical tips to help modernize and prepare a non-federal resume during the virtual Renovating Your Resume workshop, Jan. 12 from 1-2 p.m. To register, call 210-221-2705.

#### New spouses acclimate to military lifestyles

Spouses new to the military learn about the mission, lifestyle, protocol, and available programs during Heart Link, a virtual military spouse orientation on Jan. 19 from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. To register, call 210-671-3722.

#### New initiative provides legal assistance

Exceptional Family Members receive information about a new Department of Defense initiative allowing



military attorneys to provide legal assistance during the virtual Lunch & Learn, Jan. 19, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. To register, call 210-221-2705.

## Outdoor Recreation

### Concealed carry classes offered

The Camp Bullis Rod-N-Gun Recreation Center (RNGRC), bldg. 6215, is providing Concealed Handgun License (CHL) classes Jan. 8 and 22 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.

### Archery takes on another dimension

The 3-D Archery Range at Camp Bullis consists of a course with 30 life-like animal targets such as bears, black panthers, deer, alligators, etc. The targets are set up between 5 & 55 yards at unknown distances. Traditional (Long Bows and Recurve Bows) and Compound Bows are allowed but no Crossbows. The RNGRC has Recurve Bows available to rent for \$15 each.

Come out Jan. 22-23 for the 3-D Archery Competition. Registration for the Competition is between 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. The cost is \$10 for E-1 through E-4, active duty or medically retired, and \$20 for participants 13 years of age and older. The Fun Shoot Registration is between 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. The cost is \$5 for E1 through E4, active duty or medically retired, \$15 for 13 years of age and older and \$5 for youth 12 and younger. For more information, call 210-295-7577 or 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 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

### Trivia night is held at the youth center

Youth test their trivia knowledge Jan. 7, 5:30-7:30 p.m. with the JBSA-Lackland Youth Programs. A spaghetti dinner will be served to all trivia participants. There are limited spots. To reserve your spot, call 210-671-2388.

### Youth celebrate the new year

Bring in a new year with the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston W. Ed Parker Youth Programs Jan. 7, 6-8 p.m. Celebrate with new games, activities, and leadership clubs. Learn the benefits of membership and participation. Light refreshments will be served. For more information, call 210-221-3502.

### Youth skate the night away

Come skate until the wheels fall off with the JBSA-Randolph Youth Programs Jan. 7, 6-8 p.m. Calling all youth ages 9 and older for an evening of skating, music and fun. Refreshments will be available for purchase. The fee is \$5 for members or \$7 for non-members. Registration is required due to limited space. To sign-up, call Youth Programs at 210-652-3298.

Make reservations for Family Skate Night at the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Patch Chaffee Youth Center Jan. 21, 5-7 p.m. to participate in our monthly family skate night. Participants should plan on bringing their own skates as the inventory is limited for popular or hard to find sizes. Everyone participating is encouraged to dress in the designated colors for each night to receive one door prize ticket. January colors are blue/white. To register, call the Patch Chaffee Youth Center at 210-221-3630.

### First steps sport registration is open

Children ages of 3-4 years old can learn the fundamentals of soccer in a non-game/team format with the JBSA-Lackland Youth Programs First Steps Program. First Steps teaches the basic fundamentals of soccer in harmony with the gross motor movement of pre-school and early school age children. Registration is open Jan. 10 to Feb. 4. Parents are required to participate as an extension of the instructor. The cost is \$40 per child. Sessions run for one hour per week from Feb. 28 to April 25. For more information and to sign up, call 210-671-2388.

### Families have dinner together

January brings about a new menu for new tastes for the New Year at the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston W. Ed Parker Youth Programs. Come out for Family Bistro Night Jan. 12 from 4:30-6 p.m. for chili and cornbread. Arrive early as

quantities are limited and we may run out. Plates served will be determined by family count in our membership database. For more details, call 210-221-3502.

### Youth gain the confidence to stay home alone

Youth ages 10-18 can now register for the JBSA-Randolph Youth Programs' Home Alone Class, held Jan. 12 from 5-6 p.m. This class is designed to provide children the basic tools and knowledge to be able to confidently stay home alone and is free of charge. For more information and to sign up, call 210-652-3298.

### Parents are given a much needed break

Child and Youth Programs can give parents that much needed break through the GPAB or PNO Programs. These programs are for children 6 weeks to 12 years old. Cost is \$25 per child with a sibling discount or free with a Give Parents a Break referral. The last day to register is the Wednesday prior to the event.

JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Youth Programs hosts Parents Night Out Jan. 21, 6-10 p.m. JBSA-Lackland Youth Programs Jan. 22, 1-5 p.m. and JBSA-Randolph on Jan. 22 6-10 p.m. For more information or to register, call JBSA-Fort Sam Houston at 210-221-3835 or 210-221-5151. JBSA-Lackland at 210-671-2388. And finally, to reach JBSA-Randolph please call 210-652-4946.

### Dodgeball is played in the dark

Come to the JBSA-Randolph Youth Programs Jan. 21, 7-10 p.m. for a free evening of Glow in the Dark Dodgeball. All teens ages 13-18 are invited out for an epic evening of dodge-ball under the black light. To sign up or for more information, please call 210-652-3298.

### Youth party all night long

Youth, ages 9-12 are invited to join the JBSA-Lackland Youth Programs for the #Futurestrong Lock In Jan. 28-29, 9 p.m. to 7 a.m. for a night of games, food, and fun at Lackland Youth Programs. The cost is \$10 per youth. Membership is free and requires registration and a copy of current immunizations. For more information and to sign up, call 210-671-2388, as spots are limited.

## STAY CONNECTED

Stay current on Joint Base San Antonio 502d Force Support Squadron events, specials and daily activities.

<https://jbsatoday.com>





# 149th Fighter Wing maintenance Airman, civilian pilot earns military wings

By Staff Sgt. Ryan Mancuso

149TH FIGHTER WING  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

An Airman assigned to the Air National Guard's 149th Fighter Wing received word recently that she had been accepted into the Army's Aviation Rotary Wing program as a warrant officer, making her dream of flying military aircraft an actuality.

"I look at those airplanes and I think 'wow, I'm really here,'" said Senior Airman Amanda Alderete, 149th Fighter Wing maintenance management production analyst, referring to the F-16 Fighting Falcons she maintains daily. "This is my life. This is amazing."

The San Antonio native will never forget her first time walking through the F-16 hangar. It was 2020, and Alderete had just transferred from the Air Force Reserve to the Air National Guard.

"There's nothing like seeing the fleet out there and the jets take off," Alderete said. "You realize how big of a mission this is, and you're this small little piece serving something bigger than yourself."

This newfound daily reality inspired her to get her private pilot's license with hopes of eventually becoming a military pilot.

The seeds of Alderete's pilot dreams began when she was given a rare opportunity to attend the Air Force's Squadron Officer School as part of a civilian internship program before she enlisted into the Air Force.

"I never had thoughts of joining the military until I got into this program and got to work hand-in-hand with active duty military and going to Squadron Officer School," Alderete said. "I was in a room with pilots and (physician assistants) and intel, and it was

just an amazing experience."

After enlisting in 2018 and eventually transferring to the 149th FW to work among fighter jets, Alderete began to dream of taking to the skies herself. With her mentor's advice of, "if you're going to fail, fail quickly," in mind, she walked into a civilian flight school and asked how much lessons cost. Since that day in March of 2020, she has been dedicating every possible resource to her goal of flying for an airline and traveling the world.

"I'm terrified that I'm going to get into a situation where I wait too long," Alderete said. She explained that flying requires a lot of muscle memory and is something that you must continuously practice in order to remain proficient. It is also costly. Alderete confessed that many pilots are "weeded out" during this challenging process, but can't imagine doing anything else.

Through persistence and networking, she was able to get a scholarship with Women in Aviation, an organization dedicated to helping women realize their aviation dreams.

She attended a conference about women in the aviation industry and the associated career opportunities available to them. The conference was a glimpse of what her reality could be and a chance to meet with several commercial airlines and the Air Force.

Alderete credits her success to her team. When she received the opportunity to fill a last-minute Airman Leadership School seat at Eglin Air Force Base, Florida, several people across the wing pulled together all the necessary paperwork and funding to get her there.

"To have a team that supports you and cares about you enough to go above and beyond, you can't put a price tag on



STAFF SGT. RYAN MANCUSO

*Senior Airman Amanda Alderete, an Airman assigned to the Air National Guard's 149th Fighter Wing, received word recently that she has been accepted into the Army's Aviation Rotary Wing program as a warrant officer, making her dream of flying military aircraft an actuality.*

that," she said. "I have been given a chance to make a better future for my family and self."

Alderete made the most of the opportunity and earned several awards during her time in Florida. Through connections made from various aviation organizations, she found a flight instructor in Panama City and drove an hour each way after work to fly. Her class unanimously voted to award her the John L. Levitow Award, and the First Sergeant Council awarded her the Commandant Leadership Award based on peer and

commandant recommendations. She also received the First Wings Award scholarship from the Amelia Earhart Memorial Scholarship Fund, affording her the opportunity to continue pursuing pilot certifications.

"Airmen like (Alderete) have the drive to succeed that only needs encouragement and gas to throw on their fire," said Master Sgt. Adam Storer, Alderete's maintenance management analysis section supervisor. "I love that. Every time we can lift our people up, it makes us better equipped to lift

**"I never had thoughts of joining the military until I got into this program and got to work hand-in-hand with active duty military and going to Squadron Officer School. I was in a room with pilots and (physician assistants) and intel, and it was just an amazing experience."**

**Senior Airman Amanda Alderete, 149th Fighter Wing maintenance management production analyst**

the next Airman. It's very exciting to be a part of those moments," he added.

Alderete will now enlist into the Army as a warrant officer to become a Blackhawk helicopter pilot.

"I'm actually going to leave the nice, cushy, Air Force job with wonderful benefits to follow my path, my passion, which is flying," she said.

Alderete's experience illustrates the importance of following through on one's goals, and this steadfast determination is not lost on her supervision.

"She acquires a target and pursues it to mission success," said Storer. "Hands down, it is that passion that will continue to benefit her, the state of Texas, and the USAF."



SENIOR AIRMAN BRITTANY WICH

*Nakia Evans discusses her role as an accredited personal financial counselor at the 433rd Airlift Wing Airman and Family Readiness Center at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland Dec. 4.*

## Joint Base San Antonio welcomes new personal financial counselor

**By Senior Airman Brittany Wich**  
433RD AIRLIFT WING

The Joint Base San Antonio family gained a new accredited personal financial counselor, or PFC, Oct. 18, 2021.

Nakia Evans has nine years of experience as an accredited PFC and serves the JBSA-Lackland and JBSA-Fort Sam Houston communities.

As a PFC, Evans offers a wide range of training and workshops on topics such as money management, budgeting and developing spending plans. Her expertise covers debt, credit card management, consumer rights and obligations. She can also advise on home buying, retirement, estate planning and taxes.

Financial advising is available as well but does not implement investments or taxes. PFCs are available at most bases and Airmen can meet with any counselor at no cost. The meetings are confidential and can be in-person, over the phone or virtual.

To set up an appointment, contact Evans through email at [PFC2.JBSA.USAF@Zeiders.com](mailto:PFC2.JBSA.USAF@Zeiders.com); or by cellphone at 210-243-3752.

She is located at the 433rd Airlift Wing Airman and Family Readiness Center, Monday, Wednesday and Friday during the week and on unit training assembly weekends. On Tuesday and Thursday, she is located at the 502nd Air Base Wing Vogel Resiliency Center at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston.

# Getting back to good: Resiliency, grappling and dogs

By Jason Wilkinson

502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Stopping someone from choking you in a grappling match and teaching a large working dog to follow directions may not seem to have a connection, but James Turner says there are some similarities.

Turner, a Military Working Dog Trainer for the 341st Training Squadron at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, credits the sport of Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu, and his career training MWDs, with helping him find a sense of purpose and happiness. It was not always a smooth journey.

## The Warm-Up

Early on, Turner decided he wanted to join the Navy and become a SEAL. He worked for two years getting himself in shape in preparation for the program, training consistently to get his numbers to what he considered good. He would need more than good, however.

"The military had just assassinated Osama Bin Laden and everybody wanted to be a SEAL," Turner said. "So now I had to get my numbers really great."

Turner took this in stride, however, and worked to improve his numbers further. Eventually, Turner got his physical performance where he felt it needed to be and enlisted in the U.S. Navy. Shortly after, he injured his knee and was removed from the SEAL pipeline.

It was a difficult turn of events. He remained in the Navy, but not in the capacity he had always imagined. The bright side was he discovered dog training as a career and his own passion for it.

"I saw a dog get a bite, and I knew that I wanted to do that," Turner said.

He was able to attend the dog training program at JBSA-Lackland and discovered how challenging the job can be. Dog training presents problems where there is not always a clear-cut solution to a dog's behavior.

"It was a unique opportunity for me, and it forced me to do a lot of compulsory training," Turner said.

"There's a lot of experimentation with training and trying to perfect what we can do."

After four years, Turner had a wife, a son, and the experience of being a new dad. He enjoyed his job, but the pressures of having a family, his physical injuries, and some struggles with mental



James Turner (left), a Military Working Dog Trainer for the 341st Training Squadron, rewards one of the dogs currently in training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland Sept. 13.

JASON WILKINSON

health would ultimately cause him to separate from the Navy.

## The Choke Hold

"It was a really, really bad time for me," Turner said. "I got this really sour painting of myself."

Financial struggles followed, which exacerbated the mental issues. Turner worried about providing for his family.

A friend contacted him, and he began working for a construction company. The work was hard, and the hours long, but he was doing something, and was relieved to be able to help his family.

## The Escape

It was at this time that one of the other construction workers talked him into trying a Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu class. Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu is a sport that focuses on grappling and submissions. He loved the class but was not in a position financially to pay. The instructor worked out a situation where Turner would help with repairs, and in turn, he could train.

"I fell in love with jiu-jitsu," Turner said. "It was like playing chess with another person physically, but you

instantly know when you made a bad move."

Turner credits it with helping him calm down and encouraging him to think more deliberately about what he was doing.

Though his training would ebb and flow, jiu-jitsu would become a key part of his life. It was an outlet for his competitive nature, and it helped him deal with the stresses of taking care of family and work. It also helped him lose weight and promoted a healthy lifestyle. It was not the sole solution for him, though.

## The Dog Days

At this point, Turner was working construction and practicing jiu-jitsu, and he was finally able to make ends meet. But it was a close thing.

"I remember thinking I had to do something else," Turner said. "And then I realized that I hadn't touched any of my education benefits."

So, he went back to school. The money from his GI Bill helped him provide for his family while he attended classes. He began to see hope. After finishing school,

he contacted his old boss at the 341st Training Squadron and started watching for job openings.

## Return to the Kong

For several years he had assumed that he would not have the chance to work with dogs again. However, he applied when a job opening was announced and was called in for an interview. Six months later, he was working with the U.S. Air Force and the 341st TRS working dog program.

It was fortunate. Turner underestimated what working with the dogs had meant to him.

"I had forgotten how passionate I am about this," Turner said. "I remember going, 'yeah, I'm having fun again.'"

As for the connections between jiu-jitsu and dog training, Turner says they both present a puzzle. Both present a problem for which there may be multiple solutions. Turner says they both consistently provide new challenges and push him to think creatively.

"Puzzles are interesting, and they can keep us from getting bored," Turner said. "And boredom is not my friend."



# DLIELC holds Democratic Republic of Congo promotion ceremony

## Defense Language Institute English Language Center

In a unique and unprecedented ceremony, five military members from the Democratic Republic of Congo were promoted Nov. 2 at the Defense Language Institute English Language Center at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland.

The five officers are currently enrolled in DLIELC's Advanced English courses. Some are former students who have returned to further their training.

Col. Rockie K Wilson, 37th Training Wing commander, presided over the ceremony.

The following officers were promoted:

- Colonel Kani Wa Bahizi: Commandant of the Congolese Defense Language School and Senior Translator for the Minister of Defense and the Congolese Armed Forces' General Chief of Staff;
- Colonel Mutombo Basaya: Senior Chief Military Prosecutor, Congolese Military Justice;
- Lieutenant Colonel Kodiango Gangama: Training Officer/Instructor at the Congolese Defense Language School;
- Lieutenant Kabanda Kasongo: Instructor, Congolese Defense Language School; and
- Lieutenant Muhemedi Numbi: Instructor, Congolese Defense Language School and translator for the Congolese Bureau of Military Cooperation

"It's an honor for us to be able to hold this ceremony for our Congolese students, who have really gone above and beyond in their careers," said Col. Joseph Schaefer, DLIELC Commandant. "This event exemplifies our growing relationship. We look forward to seeing how this partnership grows in the future."

Initially established in 1960, the diplomatic relations between the DRC and the United States support the DRC government in its efforts to combat corruption, uphold democratic processes, effectively



Col. Joseph Schaefer (third from left), DLIELC commandant, joins promotees from the Democratic Republic of Congo on stage after their ceremony at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland Nov. 2. From left are: Lt. Col. Kodiango Gangama, Col. Mutombo Basaya, Schaefer, Col. Kany Wa Bahizi, Lt. Kabanda Kasongo, and Lt. Muhemedi Numbi.

govern, promote stability, and secure peace within the country and with its neighbors.

The current U.S.-DRC bilateral relations were ushered in following the country's December 2018 elections and peaceful transfer of power to President Felix Tshisekedi. This partnership was solidified in 2019 with the "Privileged Partnership for Peace and Prosperity," a joint commitment to work together on areas of mutual concern. That same year the DRC joined the U.S. as part

**"It's an honor for us to be able to hold this ceremony for our Congolese students, who have really gone above and beyond in their careers. This event exemplifies our growing relationship. We look forward to seeing how this partnership grows in the future."**

Col. Joseph Schaefer, DLIELC Commandant

of the global coalition to defeat ISIS.

The DLIELC is aligned under the 37 TRW and is a world-renowned institution in the field of English

Language Training and, on average, has approximately 80 partner nations in residence at its JBSA-Lackland campus daily.

SPENCER BERRY

# RANDOLPH

## AETC announces Spark Tank Challenge winners

Air Education & Training Command  
Public Affairs

Three total force Airmen were selected to represent Air Education and Training Command for advancing to the quarterfinals for the 2022 AFWERX Spark Tank Challenge.

Spark Tank is an annual event where Airmen pitch innovative ideas to top Air Force leaders and a panel of industry experts.

The ideas that were selected winners are Developing Airmen With Games (DAWG) and PME OutLOUD!. DAWG was created by Matthew Correia, Eaker Center for Leadership Development — Civilian Leadership Development School chief of research integration, and PME OutLOUD!, which is a tag-team effort by Maj. Melissa Holt, 59th Dental Squadron clinical flight commander, and Capt. Heather Brown, 59th Medical Logistics and Readiness Squadron medical readiness flight commander.

“Innovation programs like Spark Tank provide an avenue to bring ideas to the attention of our leaders,” said Holt. “There are innovators in all of us, and the ideas and creativity of our force are true strengths. As Gen. Brown, chief of staff of the Air Force, has said, ‘We must move with purpose - we must Accelerate



COURTESY GRAPHIC

### Change or Lose ...”

DAWG is the application sound and proven educational practices with game-based learning. It addresses the Chief of Staff of the Air Force Action Order A: Airmen, transforming the way we deliberately professionally grow our Airmen and Guardians, by building better Airmen and Guardians on Air Force foundational

competencies and core values.

“By using DAWG, Airmen will be able to identify and develop foundational competencies that are instrumental to personal and professional development, in a fun way,” said Correia. “DAWG will develop Airmen we need for the 21st century and prepare Airmen for future employment opportunities after Air

Force service.”

PME OutLOUD! are audio-enabled professional military education lessons and chapters narrated and recorded onto a streaming platform, such as a podcast or audiobook. This will enable anyone to listen to them from their device, for free, with no common access card required.

“Professional military education does not need to just be a box that we check to move forward in our careers,” said Holt. “It can have a design that inspires all of us. It can be what we look back on and say ‘that changed me.’ Our vision is a living documentary of our force where human narration provides connection, enjoyment and investment in the material. We truly believe that PME OutLOUD! is the future of military education.”

The two teams will compete at the quarterfinals, in front of a judging panel comprised of AFWERX and Secretary of the Air Force Management members, who will select the best ideas, to compile a final slate of semifinalists for presentations to the semifinals challenge judges.

Winners at the semifinals move on to the final round of competition, which is scheduled during the Air Force Association's Air Warfare Symposium in Orlando, Florida, in March 2022.

## Air Force selects Airmen, Guardians for promotion in 21E9, 21S9, 22S8 cycles

By Staff Sgt. Kiana Pearson  
AIR FORCE PERSONNEL CENTER PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Department of the Air Force officials selected 505 Air Force senior master sergeants for promotion to chief master sergeant out of 2,775 eligible for a selection rate of 18.19% in the 21E9 promotion cycle, which includes supplemental promotion opportunities.

In addition, the Space Force also selected 10 senior master sergeants and 37 master sergeants for promotion in the 21S9 and 22S8 promotion cycles, respectively.

The statistics for each cycle are as follows:

- » 21S9: 45 eligible, 22.22% selected
  - » 22S8: 259 eligible, 11.20% selected
- The promotion lists are available on the Air Force's Personnel Center website Enlisted Promotions page, the Air Force Portal and myPers. Airmen can access their score notices on the virtual Military Personnel Flight via the AFPC secure applications page. Guardians will receive their score notices via email.

For more information about Air Force personnel programs, visit the AFPC public website.



COURTESY GRAPHIC



# AETC's Detachment 62 leading Agility Prime's training effort

By Dan Hawkins

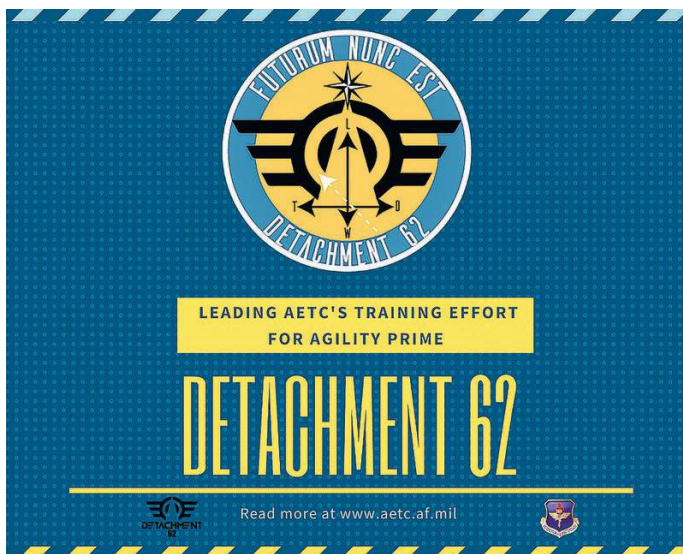
AIR EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMMAND  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Charles Q. Brown Jr., has empowered Airmen across the Air Force to make decisions at the speed needed in a dynamic global environment, urging them to remove bureaucratic processes and eliminate redundancies to help the service increase effectiveness, drive innovation, and achieve success.

In collaboration with the AFWERX Agility Prime program, Air Education and Training Command recently stood up Detachment 62 to establish Agility Prime training and certification standards for emerging electric Vertical Takeoff and Landing aircraft, or eVTOL, vehicles.

"Our aim is to pioneer new training by collaborating with partners in government, industry and the military," said Col. Don Haley, Det. 62 commander. "This initiative directly addresses Gen. Brown's focus on removing bureaucracy to work more effectively with industry and improve the U.S. position in strategic competition with China."

The detachment's mission is to develop curriculum, drive operator certification standards, and train multi-capable Airmen-operators of advanced air mobility, or AAM, vehicles. The vision is that, by 2023, the detachment will enable routine initial skills training for multi-capable



Airmen-operators of AAM vehicles.

Through the Agility Prime effort, the Air Force is uniquely postured to drive innovation and build interest and confidence in eVTOL technology.

"We are applying lessons learned from the Pilot Training Next team in order to develop agile courseware through an iterative process," Haley said. "Designing and developing a

versatile training syllabus that emphasizes safety and practicality is a top priority. We are part of the command's overall commitment to adopting new learning and training methodologies to develop and empower Airmen."

The detachment will pioneer new training methods and standards by collaborating with partners such as the

Federal Aviation Administration, NASA, AAM industry leaders, AFRL, AFWERX, and the Air Force's major commands, Haley said.

"Perhaps one of the program's biggest challenges will be aligning federal agencies, the Department of Defense, and industry with a practical certification standard for a new class of aero vehicle operator," Haley said. "The team will overcome this challenge by driving collaboration among all of our partners through early adoption and operational use."

In the near term, the detachment's first objective is to develop training to support contractor-owned government-operated, or COGO, and test activities for leading AFWERX Air Race contenders, Haley said.

"We must develop these capabilities if we want to maintain a competitive edge over our adversaries," Haley said. "Linear learning and single capability Airmen no longer make sense in today's fight. Future graduates of Det. 62's training program will be ready to adapt, decide, and act at the speed necessary for future combat."

Agility Prime is the first program in AFWERX's Prime Program that works to rapidly drive affordable capabilities and technology to the field. The Agility Prime program reached a milestone in May with its first operational exercise, flying a simulated medevac mission with industry partner Kitty Hawk.

For more information about Agility Prime, visit <https://agilityprime.com/#/>.

## AFW2 expands social connections

By Cheryl Barbeau

AIR FORCE WOUNDED WARRIOR PROGRAM

The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the need to feel more connected, as people tend to feel isolated with various restrictions in place. Along with restrictions, warriors within the AFW2 program can sometimes already feel alone due to their trauma and recovery journey. With this challenge in mind, the Community Programs team felt the need to have wounded warriors, spouses and caregivers connect to others with similar backgrounds.

Community Programs developed a plan using the mobile application Signal to give wounded warriors,

spouses and caregivers a chance to connect in their local community. There are currently 19 groups with 126 active members that are formed by state or large metropolitan areas. The app allows for them to chat individually or as a group; connecting using video and photographs to further enhance the experience.

"The groups are fun and judgment-free, welcoming each other," said Thomas Hooten, lead of the AFW2 group for South Carolina and Shaw Air Force Base. "We may not have a routine set, but we have a place where there is always someone who will respond and listen when needed."

It has been found that social connection can lower anxiety and

depression and help regulate emotions, leading to higher self-esteem and empathy, and actually improving immune systems. By neglecting the need to connect, people put their health at risk. This app also allows members to maintain connections at their own comfort level.

"When I first heard of it I was very hesitant since I'm not very sociable, but since it was other AFW2 individuals that have been through situations like I have, I decided to give it a try," said Carla Dunham, co-lead of AFW2 Nebraska group. "I love the group. We share ideas, events, even recommendations of businesses in the area. I would describe it as a safe place to meet individuals that have been

through tough situations and are overcoming the situations with the help of like-minded individuals."

"We are always looking for wounded warriors, spouses and caregivers to volunteer to be a lead or co-lead of a group," said Bobby Puckett, manager for the AFW2 Community Programs. "These leads help keep the connections going to suggest or plan events for the group to attend."

AFW2 stays in contact with the groups through the lead, or directly with members, as appropriate. Anyone interested in joining an existing group, or starting one in their area, can reach out to Community Programs at [AFPC.DPFW.AFW2CommunityPrgm@us.af.mil](mailto:AFPC.DPFW.AFW2CommunityPrgm@us.af.mil).