

JBSA

LEGACY

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JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO

JANUARY 14, 2022



JASON W. EDWARDS

John Scanlon greets staff members as they arrive at Brooke Army Medical Center at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, Texas, Nov. 18, 2021.

BAMC volunteer spreads kindness through service

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San Antonio native named MTI of the Year

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COVID-19 patient delivers baby while on heart-lung bypass

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With 2022's arrival, U.S. Air Force gears up to commemorate its 75th anniversary

Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

It's never too early to start celebrating a major milestone, which explains why the U.S. Air Force and Department of the Air Force kicked off the year with a bang Jan. 1 by highlighting the start of their 75th year at the Tournament of Roses Parade and the Rose Bowl.

Seventy-five years after the Air Force's birth on Sept. 18, 1947, the spirit of innovation that has driven the service was on display when a B-2 Spirit from the 509th Bomb Wing, located at Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri, roared over the Tournament of Roses Parade and one of the most prestigious college bowl games, the 2022 Rose Bowl, to kick off the yearlong 75th-anniversary celebration.

The B-2 has supported the Tournament of Roses and Rose Bowl for nearly two decades, showcasing one of the Air Force's premier weapon systems over the skies of Pasadena to inspire a future generation of patriotism and aviation.

Joining the B-2 this year to kick off the celebration was an Air Force Total Force Band, comprised of 75 Airmen-Musicians from 14 units. Fittingly, the band marched in the 75th spot in the Tournament of Roses parade lineup.

The Airmen taking part in the start of the year celebration highlighted one of the service's greatest strengths: the nearly 700,000 active duty, Guard, Reserve and civilian Airmen who remain the heart and soul of the service, said Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. CQ Brown Jr., who currently serves as the service's highest-ranking military officer.

"Ever since the Air Force became a separate military service, empowered Airmen have pushed the boundaries of technology and innovation that have allowed the service to excel and keep pace with the rapid changes and the demands placed upon us," Brown said. "Our commemoration of this important anniversary provides a chance to reflect on the amazing accomplishments of our service and those who have served among its ranks since 1947, while also celebrating the boundless future that lies ahead."

Brown added, "As the Air Force approaches its 75th anniversary, we have a responsibility to our nation and our international allies and partners. I am confident that our Airmen will continue



COURTESY GRAPHIC

to innovate, accelerate and thrive so that we can execute our mission to Fly, Fight, and Win...Airpower Anytime, Anywhere."

To honor the past, present and future, the theme for the 75th anniversary is "Innovate, Accelerate, Thrive — The Air Force at 75." That focus captures a range of activities and observations that will take place throughout the year and highlight the anniversary's significance.

"The 75th anniversaries of the U.S. Air Force and the Department of the Air Force provides a unique opportunity to highlight the contributions of our Total Force Airmen, both past and present, who have fought and defended our nation in air and space," Secretary of the Air Force Frank Kendall said. "When you think about what the Air Force has accomplished since its inception in 1947, there's so much to be proud of — it's truly incredible."

"These past 75 years have showcased the service's ability to adapt to any situation and provide unparalleled airpower as well as spacepower right up to the establishment of the U.S. Space Force within the Department of the Air Force in 2019," he said. "As we look ahead to the next 75 years, we must continue to adapt and modernize so that our Airmen and Guardians have the warfighting capabilities they need to stay ahead of our pacing challenges, while also ensuring they and their families have the resources

they need to thrive. One team, one fight!"

Throughout 2022, the Air Force will celebrate its 75th milestone with various events around the U.S. and worldwide to showcase the values, commitment, and expertise of America's Total Force Airmen, past and present. In addition, the service will spotlight its history, accomplishments, and many of the pioneering Airmen whose innovation, dedication to the mission and warfighting spirit helped establish the U.S. Air Force of today.

Innovation fueled by Airmen has always been a part of the Air Force's heritage, even before it became an independent service in 1947.

Maj. Gen. Billy Mitchell, also known as the "Father of the Air Force," was one Airman who paved the way for the service. According to military historians, his commitment to pushing boundaries and working towards a distinct aerial service branch seeded a renaissance for the airpower legacy that would distinguish itself during conflicts across the globe for years to come.

Likewise, Gen. Henry H. "Hap" Arnold, who was designated the first and only five-star General of the Air Force by President Truman, also played a key role in leading, developing and innovating American military airpower during World War II, providing the necessary vision and drive to ultimately create the

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JBSA LEGACY

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Feedback Fridays

Brig. Gen. Caroline M. Miller

502D AIR BASE WING AND JOINT BASE
SAN ANTONIO COMMANDER

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

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

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

Q: I am extremely grateful to be able to use the wonderful indoor pool at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston and I do not want to complain.

However, the talk among all of the pool users in the male locker room tends to center around the temperature in the pool, which seems cooler than necessary and somewhat uncomfortable. A few people have simply stopped using the pool because they feel it is "just too cold."

If possible, please consider raising the pool temperature one or two degrees, especially as we approach the winter season with lower temperatures.

A: We appreciate you sharing your concern.

The 502d Force Support Squadron aquatic staff strives to ensure that your experience at the Jimmy Brought Fitness Center Pool exceeds expectations. Pool temperatures are monitored continuously by the aquatic staff.



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The current temperature averages between 79-81 degrees Fahrenheit; within the acceptable range for high-demand pool training guidelines of 76-82 degrees Fahrenheit. The aquatic staff at the Jimmy Brought Fitness Center Pool will continue to ensure that temperatures remain in the approved zone as we move into the winter.

Thank you for bringing your concern to our attention so we can continue providing a safe and comfortable environment for you to workout.

Q: I went to the gym and I was forced to wear a mask while performing vigorous exercise, due to the current mandate to wear a mask in all Department of Defense buildings, according to directions from Dec. 13, 2021.

With this direction, I will not

be able to prepare myself for the PT test adequately. Are you planning to postpone the physical fitness tests as well? I was out of breath and felt like I would pass out due to my exercise routine.

I am vaccinated. I did everything that was asked of me. How much longer will we have to endure this nonsense? Because of being unable to make everyone take the vaccine, the vaccinated people have to endure hardships and live an isolated life.

Please provide us with clear guidance, instead of making everyone wear masks. When looking around DOD buildings, the masks are just for show and people take them off when they eat or drink in the same room. How is that keeping everyone safe?

A: Thank you for contacting us with your questions.

JBSA COVID-19 Guidance Memorandum #62 issued a return to mask-wear inside all JBSA DOD facilities, to include fitness centers, effective Dec. 13, 2021.

At this time, only test administrators are required to wear their mask during physical fitness assessments and there are no current plans to postpone Air Force Physical Fitness Assessments at JBSA.

Fortunately, there are a variety of outdoor options at all JBSA locations that do not require mask-wear that will prepare individuals for their fitness assessments. Please work with your supervisor if you still have concerns regarding your fitness test.

JBSA transitioned to HPCON Bravo Plus on Jan. 5, 2022, which further limits building occupancy to 40% and limits official and social gatherings. When eating or drinking, individuals are allowed to remove their mask temporarily but must replace their mask immediately after.

The CDC still recommends the following COVID-19 mitigation practices: wear a mask over your nose and mouth, maintain 6 feet of physical distance from others, wash your hands and get vaccinated if you can.

Thank you for taking the time to write to the Feedback Fridays forum. Your input is valued and we hope that as a community we can continue to do our part in stopping the spread of COVID-19. Stay up to date on information about COVID-19 on our website at <https://www.jbsa.mil/coronavirus/>.

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conditions for an independent U.S. Air Force following the war. Today, Gen. Arnold is considered an airpower pioneer whose efforts helped to lay the foundation for modern Air Force logistics, R&D, and operations, according to the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force.

The Air Force's history is also the history of the

nation's advancements in space. Under the Air Force's early space pioneers such as Gen. Bernard Schriever, the Air Force developed and integrated the technologies that put U.S. rockets and satellites into space. By Operation Desert Storm in 1991, often called the nation's first space war, space became central to nearly all military operations. These same technologies that brought victory in Desert Storm, such as GPS and communication satellites, are now essential to modern life in America. The importance of space grew to such an extent that the U.S. Space

Force emerged as an independent service within the Department of the Air Force in 2019.

"This is what is being celebrated as the U.S. Air Force and the Department of the Air Force enter their 75th years and what was on display in the skies over California when the B-2 roared overhead: 75 years of American airpower, spacepower, and innovation that have secured our nation and made us stronger," said Brig. Gen. Patrick Ryder, Department of the Air Force Public Affairs director.

Air Force, Space Force observe National Mentoring Month in January

By John Cochran

377TH AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Air Force and Space Force observe January as National Mentoring Month. It's a time to focus Airmen and Guardians on investing in the mentoring movement — as either mentor or mentee.

Mentorship is a type of professional relationship in which a person with greater experience and wisdom guides another person to develop both personally and professionally. This relationship helps achieve mission success and motivates Airmen to achieve their goals.

The Department of the Air Force mentoring theme for 2022 is "Everyone Wins with Mentoring." To demonstrate victories and share the importance of mentoring, the services will hold multiple virtual events throughout the month, designed to foster and promote a Total Force mentoring culture. Airmen and Guardians are encouraged to participate in these events as well as local mentoring events. Virtual events include:

► Jan. 12 — Diversity Talks: Senior Leader Mentoring Panel



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- Jan. 18 — Mentoring panel for mid-tier ranks and grades
- Jan. 20 — Mentoring panel for junior-tier ranks and grades
- Jan. 25 — Mentor-centric mentoring workshop
- Jan. 27 — Mentee-centric mentoring workshop

More information about the events is available on MilSuite.

Additionally, during National Mentoring Month, the Air Force and Space Force remind Airmen and Guardians about the MyVECTOR mentoring module capabilities.

Everyone is encouraged to create and

or update their profiles in the MyVECTOR mentoring module. A recorded MyVECTOR demonstration is available on the Mentoring Resources page.

According to Air Force Handbook 36-2643 "Air Force Mentoring Program," a mentor is, "a wise, trusted, and experienced individual who shares knowledge, experience, and advice with a less-experienced person."

Mentoring is an essential ingredient in developing well-rounded, professional and competent future leaders. The overall goal of mentoring is to help Airmen — civilian, enlisted and officer — maximize their full potential. Mentors should focus on mentee development, with a goal of giving mentees the ability to manage their own development and learning.

The handbook continues, "Mentoring is an enterprise mission imperative. Leaders at all levels should be committed to building a culture of mentoring and increasing deliberate mentoring for all Airmen and Guardians."

For more information, visit the National Mentoring Month website at <https://www.mentoring.org>.

JBSA implements HPCON BRAVO PLUS

502nd Air Base Wing Public Affairs

Joint Base San Antonio officials announced the implementation of Health Protection Condition BRAVO PLUS measures beginning Jan. 6, 2022.

"The primary intent of transitioning to HPCON BRAVO PLUS is to reemphasize measures that will mitigate the spread of COVID-19 among our JBSA community," said Brig. Gen. Caroline M. Miller, 502d Air Base Wing and Joint Base San Antonio commander. "These public health recommendations include physical distancing, properly wearing face masks, practicing good hand washing, and staying home if you feel sick."

Under Bravo Plus, leaders should maintain less than 40 percent of normal occupancy in the workplace. In-person meetings should be limited to the fewest personnel needed to accomplish the mission. Social gatherings should be limited or



COURTESY GRAPHIC

moved outside, when practical.

As a reminder, masks are required for all personnel inside DOD facilities, regardless of vaccination status, with a few exceptions: when it

is necessary to reasonably accommodate an individual with a disability; when the mask is required to be lowered briefly for identification or security purposes; and for brief periods of time when eating and drinking while maintaining distancing in accordance with CDC guidelines and instructions from commanders and supervisors.

JBSA officials continue to emphasize the need for compliance with public health precautions in accordance with established city, state, and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines and limits.

To read the memo in its entirety, and to stay informed of the latest COVID-19 guidance, go to <https://www.jbsa.mil/coronavirus/>.

Data on levels of community transmission can be found at the CDC COVID-19 Data Tracker website found at <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/>.

Remember, all JBSA installations are no-drone zones

502nd Air Base Wing Public Affairs

Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems, or sUAS, otherwise known as drones, are a popular gift during the holiday season. Flying drones can be a great way to explore your local area, but they can also threaten military operations.

Recreational drone use is strictly prohibited on all Joint Base San Antonio installations, except with documented approval, generally starting at the installation commander level.

“We don’t want drones interfering with Air Education and Training Command’s busy flight operations, causing damage to Air Force property, or injuring personnel during recreational drone use,” said Cory Sivertson, AETC SUAS program manager. “While recreational drone use is prohibited on JBSA installations, there are countless locations within the San Antonio area that recreational drone operations are authorized.”

Along with installation command approval, additional Air Force Special Operations Command, Headquarters



COURTESY PHOTO

Flying small Unmanned Aircraft Systems, or sUAS, otherwise known as drones, can be a threat to military operations.

Air Force, and Federal Aviation Administration approvals are also required to operate drones in

Department of Defense airspace, according to Sivertson.

“Before flying drones in any location,

no matter how big or small the drone, you need to visit the FAA’s DroneZone website at <https://faadronezone.faa.gov/#/>. Once there, you’ll find information on how to register your drone, as well as all FAA-required training,” Sivertson said. “Additionally, drone operators are encouraged to download the ‘B4UFLY’ app at https://www.faa.gov/uas/recreational_fliers/where_can_i_fly/b4ufly/ as a tool to help recognize any airspace restrictions and requirements.”

Whether you’re a novice drone pilot or have many years of aviation experience, rules and safety tips exist to help you fly safely, outside of Department of Defense airspace.

For more information on operating drones legally, the difference between recreational and certified drone pilots, and how to determine where you can fly your drone, go to https://www.faa.gov/uas/getting_started/.

For questions on drone operations on DOD installations, email aetc.a3ox.suas@us.af.mil.

FORT SAM HOUSTON

BAMC volunteer spreads kindness through service

By Lori Newman

BROOKE ARMY MEDICAL CENTER
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Brooke Army Medical Center staff and patients look forward to a friendly greeting from someone wearing a volunteer vest on Tuesday and Thursday mornings at the Garden Entrance to the hospital.

John Scanlon, an Air Force retiree with 50 years of combined military and civilian service under his belt, makes it his mission to brighten the spirits of those he encounters.

"When I retired, my wife told me I couldn't just sit around the house," he said. "She was already retired and was involved in numerous church and homeless charity activities."

When Scanlon started volunteering at BAMC more than four years ago, he asked two things; "I didn't want to be in charge of anything, and I didn't want to use a computer."

He began working at the Medical Mall information desk where many patients come for directions to get to different locations within the hospital. He quickly realized that people often needed a little extra help navigating to their destination.

"I decided early on, that if it took more than two turns to get to where they needed to go, I would just take them there," he said. "Because a lot of people would get lost."

Scanlon soon moved to the Garden Entrance, and he couldn't be happier.

"I get to greet the staff in the morning when they come in and when they leave, so I get to know them a little bit better," he said. "At my age, 77-plus, it's like meeting all my kids and grandkids."

Scanlon says he tries to pick out something specific about each person, so they know he sees them and they are important. It might be the color of their shirt, their rank, or their favorite sports team.

"They look up, and they know that I know a little bit about them," he said. "Particularly with the younger people. I try to see their names but sometimes it's hard."



JASON W. EDWARDS

John Scanlon greets staff members as they arrive at Brooke Army Medical Center at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, Texas, Nov. 18, 2021.

"Mr. Scanlon consistently makes me feel welcomed into the building," said Sabrina Hernandez. "He greets every staff member and is such an uplifting presence at the Garden Entrance. He may not know our names, but he does recognize staff members."

Hernandez said one day Scanlon surprised her when he said, "There you are. I was looking for you! Have a great day." He brings a smile to my face on Tuesday and Thursday. His positivity is contagious and I truly appreciate him."

Scanlon still guides patients to their appointments, many times escorting them through the hospital to get them to where they need to go.

"If you have to come into the hospital for any kind of medical procedure, you're already anxious about it," he said. "If I can make their life just a little easier; start their day off just a little bit better, I'm happy. I have

had people come back and thank me for helping them."

Scanlon said he finds it particularly interesting when a new batch of students come into the hospital and they have to complete their in-processing checklist.

"I see a group of them standing around looking bewildered about where they need to go, so I help them get started," Scanlon said. "It makes me feel like military medicine is in good hands when I see these young people. Most of them are pretty enthusiastic and I just love to see their happiness, and sometimes in the most interesting ways a relationship will form."

"Mr. Scanlon is one of the genuinely nicest people I have ever met," said Army Capt. (Dr.) Crystal Forman. "Hearing him greet everyone with enthusiasm at 0600 (6 a.m.) brings a smile to my face and warms my heart!

"The upbeat spirit and positivity that Mr. Scanlon displays really sets the tone for my day, and I would assume many others. Each day I find myself trying to follow Mr. Scanlon's lead, by trying to be as gracious and welcoming as he is to others as I walk down the hallways here at BAMC."

Erick Lundberg

While I do not know him personally, I've felt his presence throughout the halls of BAMC and truly believe he makes our organization an overall better place to work."

Erick Lundberg agrees. "The upbeat spirit and positivity that Mr. Scanlon displays really sets the tone for my day, and I would assume many others," Lundberg said. "Each day I find myself trying to follow Mr. Scanlon's lead, by trying to be as gracious and welcoming as he is to others as I walk down the hallways here at BAMC."

"I love it; I really do," Scanlon said. "Life is too short not to help people."

"He is the smile that welcomes you to BAMC," said Army Lt. Col. Deanna Settelmeier. "He is a staple in my morning routine. It is a pleasure to be greeted by him each morning. I look for him as I am coming through the sliding doors, quietly checking on him from a distance as he greets the patients and staff in the morning. I'm happy to have him at BAMC."

Admittedly, Scanlon doesn't like to be in the spotlight. "There are so many other volunteers and people who work so hard here. I just try to make each person's life a little better a moment at a time," he said with tears in his eyes.

METC occupational therapy assistant students create, display interactive projects

By Lisa Braun

MEDICAL EDUCATION & TRAINING CAMPUS
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Army and Navy students in the Medical Education and Training Campus Occupational Therapy Assistant program held an open house at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Dec. 10, 2021, to showcase their interactive class projects and explain how they are applicable in military rehabilitation.

Occupational therapy assistants, or OTAs, help individuals who struggle with everyday tasks, either due to injury or illness, by providing treatment to improve motor skills, balance, and coordination. OTAs can help anyone at any stage of life and work in settings such as skilled nursing facilities, school systems, children's clinics, rehab facilities, and orthopedics.

In creating their projects not only do the students come up with an idea and design, but they create most of it by hand using tools and materials found in the OTA program's carpentry workshop. The workshop is a laboratory where students learn therapeutic techniques that patients can use to increase tolerance to specific activities, improve motor control, and increase strength and balance. Woodworking is one such activity that can be used to treat OT patients.

The workshop is introduced to students as part of the Methods and Media section of the course during the fourth week of Phase 1, the instructional phase conducted primarily in the classroom and simulation laboratories. Phase 2 is the clinical, or hands-on, portion of the training that occurs in a medical treatment facility.

"Methods and Media have various therapeutic values that are essential in the lives of clients," said Army Maj. Cheri Ruiz, OTA program director. "The students consider what their clients' interests are, what the therapeutic goals are, and combine the two to enhance the clients' rehab potential. OTA students no longer look at a craft as just a craft, but an



LISA BRAUN

Army and Navy students in the Medical Education and Training Campus Occupational Therapy Assistant program held an open house at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Dec. 10, 2021, to showcase their interactive class projects and explain how they are applicable in military rehabilitation.

actual experience that enhances a client's capabilities."

Ruiz explained that students work on their projects throughout the program and present them to senior METC and service component leadership during the last week of the program right before graduation.

"The students share the relevancy of their intervention for service members in rehabilitation; physical, cognitive and emotional," Ruiz said. "They describe what client factors, performance skills and the occupations in the military their intervention would assist in facilitating independence with function."

Army Sgt. Jazmin Johnson created a project for memory recall and finger dexterity aptly titled "Recall the Lights."

"It's a fun little game," Johnson said, in which small LED lights that change color on demand are attached to a strip hidden inside a plastic container. The container lid contains several rows of small holes through which the light can be seen. When Johnson activates the lights the holes light up a different color in a random sequence.

"We start with a five-light sequence with four colors. It can turn red, green, blue or white," Johnson explained. "Once I show the patient the first five in sequence, I would turn off the color, and they would have to remember those first five colors and put the colored pegs in that same order. If they get the first five right they take out the pegs and we add two more."

Johnson said that Recall the Lights

is designed to help Soldiers with traumatic brain injury. Although her project will remain in the classroom for the next OTA class, she'd like to see the concept used in a clinical setting. "Hopefully when I get to my clinic, I can create a game like this and make it more professional and be able to use it with active Soldiers."

A variety of other rehabilitation projects were also on display. Spc. Ashtin Josey's project, a puzzle that requires the patient to match a sequence of various-sized pegs into boards with corresponding holes, focuses on mental readiness.

"What you need in order to do something as simple as a puzzle, you're going to need that cognitive processing, you're going to use those fine motor skills, and hand-eye coordination," Josey explained. "These are things we use every day in the military."

Sgt. Chantel Brown wanted to incorporate a fun way to get patients to work on building their strength and finger dexterity. She created the Have a Slice of Pizza activity for her project.

"Who doesn't love pizza," Brown said. "We're going to be focusing on applications of dressing, working, meal prep, and clean up. For the client factors, we want to focus on memory, joint mobility and muscle power."

The object is to add "toppings" to the "pizza" by using either snaps or buttons, with buttons being more of a challenge.

"We're going to use this to help the patient button their blouse back up, button their pants in the morning, maybe being able to button their kids' clothes," said Brown, adding that it will help patients build the strength and mobility in their fingers they need to perform a variety of tasks.

The open house helps prepare the students to assist occupational therapists with providing health-related services, Ruiz said. "This is an opportunity to combine theory with practice and demonstrate the students' overall understanding and application of occupational therapy."

Military hospital support to FEMA begins in Arizona, Pennsylvania, expands in Michigan

U.S. Army North (Fifth Army) Public Affairs

At the request of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, approximately 65 military medical personnel deployed in four new teams — three 15-person teams to Arizona, Michigan, and Pennsylvania, and one 20-person team to Pennsylvania — to support civilian healthcare workers treating COVID-19 patients.

“As U.S. Northern Command’s joint force land component command, our assigned joint forces — from the U.S. Army, Navy and Air Force — are prepared and focused on this mission and know what it takes to save lives, alleviate suffering, and defeat this pandemic alongside our federal and community partners,” said Lt. Gen. John R. Evans Jr., U.S. Army North commander.

The military medical personnel includes nurses, respiratory

therapists, and medical doctors.

In Arizona, a 15-person team from the U.S. Air Force is supporting Yuma Regional Medical Center in Yuma.

In Pennsylvania, a 15-person team from the U.S. Air Force is supporting the Regional Hospital of Scranton. In addition, a 20-person team from the U.S. Air Force is supporting the WellSpan Surgery & Rehabilitation Hospital in York.

In Michigan, a 15-person team from the U.S. Air Force is supporting Mercy Health in Muskegon.

The joint Department of Defense effort includes three other teams already in Michigan and seven teams working in five other states — one in Colorado, one in Indiana, two in Minnesota, two in New Mexico and one in Wisconsin.

U.S. Army North, under U.S. Northern Command’s oversight, provides operational command of the teams.



SPC. FROYLAN GRIMALDO

U.S. Army Sgt. Shundrieka Jones, a respiratory therapist assigned to the 433rd Medical Detachment, 115th Field Hospital in Fort Polk, Louisiana, treats a critically-ill COVID patient at Beaumont Hospital in Dearborn, Michigan, Dec. 17, 2021.

MEDCoE launches first class of Army-Baylor University Occupational Therapy Doctorate program

By Tish Williamson

U.S. ARMY MEDICAL CENTER OF EXCELLENCE
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The U.S. Army Medical Center of Excellence at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston is hosting a ribbon-cutting ceremony at 2 p.m. Jan. 28 to launch the first class of the Army-Baylor University Occupational Therapy Doctorate, or OTD, program.

The new graduate degree program was developed as part of a Department of the Army and U.S. Army Training and Doctrine initiative to support the increased operational force manning requirements for Holistic Health and Fitness, or H2F, by 2024.

Col. Enrique Smith-Forbes, who holds a Ph.D. in Rehabilitation Sciences from the University of Kentucky and is a certified hand therapist, was named Program Director of Army-Baylor Occupational Therapy in 2020.

“The program will train occupational therapists, or OTs, with advanced



COURTESY PHOTO

The iconic medical evacuation, or MEDEVAC, helicopter display sits outside of the U.S. Army Medical Center of Excellence, or MEDCoE, headquarters, building 2840 (left) and building 2841 on Stanley Road at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

practice skills, beyond entry-level civilian OT programs,” Smith-Forbes said. “Graduates will have advanced practice training in wellness, cognitive and mental health, and as practitioners with direct access care for upper extremity rehabilitation.”

During the ribbon-cutting ceremony, hosted by Maj. Gen. Dennis LeMaster, MEDCoE commanding general, 11

students will be recognized as MEDCoE’s inaugural OTD class. Participants will also cut a ribbon signifying the opening of the newly renovated OTD Lab in room 2122A, located in building 2841, Willis Hall.

The Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education, or ACOTE, granted the MEDCoE “Candidacy Status” for the OTD

program via an exception to policy. This exemption enabled MEDCoE to avoid the five-year wait for submission and allows the program to have students in seats starting January 2022.

The OTD has the distinction of being on the ACOTE’s list of programs that hold candidacy status and eligible to admit students. The program curriculum requires 18 months of academic coursework and 12 months of fieldwork to prepare students to become U.S. Army Occupational Therapists (65A) ready to serve the Army in a variety of areas. Army OT’s are members of the Army Medical Specialist Corps along with physical therapists (65B), dietitians (65C) and physician assistants (65D).

If granted full accreditation status in 2024, graduates of the OTD program will be eligible to take the national certification examination administered by the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy, or NBCOT, and to apply for state licensure.

BAMC earns The Joint Commission's Gold Seal of Approval

Brooke Army Medical Center Public Affairs

Brooke Army Medical Center, which includes San Antonio Military Medical Center and its outlying clinics, has earned The Joint Commission's Gold Seal of Approval® for accreditation.

The Joint Commission accredited BAMC under two standards, the hospital standard and the behavioral health standard. The three-year accreditation award recognizes BAMC's dedication to continuous compliance with The Joint Commission's standards for health care quality and safety.

"The Department of Defense requires all military treatment facilities to maintain a civilian accreditation," said Air Force Col. Kimberly Pietszak, SAMMC deputy to the commander for quality and safety.

"Not all civilian hospitals are accredited, so it sets a standard for the Department of Defense that we

"The survey team was unanimous and profuse in their compliments on the teamwork, skill, compassion, professionalism and passion to learn exhibited by all of our staff members."

Army Col. Evan Renz, BAMC commander

are transparent and we care about the quality and safety of the care we provide enough that we actually pay for and ask consultants to come into this organization and tell us how we are doing," Pietszak said.

BAMC facilities underwent the rigorous unannounced on-site survey in September 2015. A team of Joint Commission expert surveyors evaluated SAMMC and the outlying clinics for compliance with standards of care specific to the needs of patients, including infection prevention and control, leadership and medication management.

"We did exceptionally well," Pietszak said. "We earned a

three-year accreditation and had very few findings. Most of the findings were not related to patient care, they were more facilities-based."

The Joint Commission's hospital standards address important functions relating to the care of patients and the management of hospitals. The standards are developed in consultation with health care experts, providers, measurement experts and patients.

Pietszak credited the entire staff for their caring and dedication.

"The entire staff worked very hard to put programs into place, to sustain those programs and to ensure that not only did they meet The Joint

Commission standards, they exceeded them," she said.

"The survey team was unanimous and profuse in their compliments on the teamwork, skill, compassion, professionalism and passion to learn exhibited by all of our staff members," said Army Col. Evan Renz, BAMC commander.

"I am very proud of what we as an integrated team have accomplished over the past months to prepare for this survey and the results are outstanding."

Founded in 1951, The Joint Commission seeks to continuously improve health care for the public, in collaboration with other stakeholders, by evaluating health care organizations and inspiring them to excel in providing safe and effective care of the highest quality and value.

The Joint Commission is the nation's oldest and largest standards-setting and accrediting body in health care. For more on The Joint Commission, visit <http://www.jointcommission.org>.

Critically ill COVID-19 patient delivers baby while on heart-lung bypass

By Elaine Sanchez

BROOKE ARMY MEDICAL CENTER
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

A Marine Corps spouse and mother of five was 28 weeks pregnant when she caught a “mild case” of COVID-19 in June 2021.

Ashley Savidge Hernandez felt tired but wasn't too concerned until she began to have trouble catching her breath. Alarmed for their baby, retired U.S. Marine Corps Gunnery Sgt. Carlos Hernandez drove his wife to Brooke Army Medical Center's emergency room just to be safe.

Ashley had no idea she and her baby were about to embark on a month-long battle for their survival.

“It all seems surreal to me now,” she said in a phone interview, her voice still raspy from the ventilator. “I had no idea at the time how dire the situation was for me and my baby.”

Rapid Decline

Ashley had received the positive COVID-19 results on a Friday and by Monday, her condition had grown much worse.

“When I went in the room to check on her, I instantly knew something was wrong,” her husband said. “Her breathing was labored, and she could hardly get a full sentence out because she seemed out of breath with each word.”

Hernandez quickly loaded their five young children into the van and rushed Ashley to BAMC.

“I placed her in the wheelchair and took her into the ER, but I had to go get the kids and move the van, so I told her, ‘I'll be right back,’” he said. “Those were the last words I said to her, and they haunted me for weeks because at several points I thought God might be calling her home.”

Ashley's oxygen levels began to quickly dip. Her health care team tried low-flow, then high-flow oxygen, but to no avail. In the intensive care unit, Ashley was told she needed to be intubated, which is when a tube is placed in the throat to help air move in and out of the lungs.

“I remember asking them what that meant, but things got hazy after that,” she said.



COURTESY PHOTO

Ashley Savidge Hernandez sits next to her son, Kyzon, while on a heart-lung bypass intervention called ECMO in the neonatal intensive care unit at Brooke Army Medical Center, Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, July 17, 2021. Hernandez, a Marine Corps spouse and mother of five, is BAMC's first patient to give birth while on ECMO.

Ashley was in and out of consciousness but vaguely recalls the tubes being removed and the loud hiss of the high-flow oxygen drowning out the concerned voices in the room.

U.S. Air Force Col. Phillip Mason was familiar with Ashley's case but thought she was improving until that point — until he got an urgent call.

“Ashley was deteriorating quickly,” said Mason, medical director, BAMC Adult Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation Program. “For some people, COVID-19 is a very rapidly progressing disease.”

After consulting with her husband, Mason and his team made the difficult call to put Ashley, now 29-weeks pregnant, on ECMO. “Ashley was on the brink of cardiac arrest without intervention,” Mason said. “We needed to stabilize her to allow for a better delivery and the best outcome for both patient and baby.”

“It was really the last-ditch effort to try and save her life,” Hernandez said.

Knowing that felt “like a freight train just smashed into my own chest.”

ECMO Explained

Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation, more commonly known as ECMO, is a heart-lung bypass system used when other lifesaving interventions, such as oxygen therapy or a ventilator, have been exhausted. It removes blood from central vessels, oxygenates it, and delivers it back into the bloodstream. In essence, it replaces the natural functions of the heart and lungs while treatments and natural healing of the affected organs take place.

Established in 2012, BAMC has the only adult ECMO center in the Department of Defense and remains one of the few centers in the world with global air transport capability. In July 2013, the ECMO team completed the military's first trans-Atlantic movement of an adult on external lung support — a 5,000-mile, nonstop flight from Germany to San Antonio.

“We have a tremendous and unique capability to deploy to a combat zone, initiate ECMO and transport the service member back to a medical center,” Mason said.

While it's been used for severe cases of influenza and other pulmonary diseases, in more recent years, ECMO has proven lifesaving for some patients with COVID-19-related respiratory failure. COVID-19 patients on ECMO typically have a 50-60 percent survivability rate, Mason noted, which offers an avenue of hope for patients and their families.

“In Ashley's case, we were running out of options, and were concerned for her baby,” he said. “ECMO was the best course of action for her.”

Ashley's husband vividly remembers the call from BAMC, asking for his consent to place her on ECMO.

“I asked if they could wait for one hour so I could get my kids settled with someone, get to the hospital before the procedure, and at least tell her I loved her before she was sedated, but they said there was just no time, they had to move forward, so I agreed,” he said. “I knew what that acknowledgment could mean for her, the baby, and us as a family. It was in God's hands at that point.”

The Delivery

As a specialized team inserted the ECMO tubes, obstetric and neonatal intensive care unit, or NICU, teams were poised to deliver and care for the baby as soon as the team gave the all-clear. “Once we got Ashley on ECMO, things began to move very quickly,” Mason recalled.

After the cesarean section, the NICU team rushed the baby to the next room for treatment. Aside from needing a ventilator to aid his 29-week-old lungs, Ashley's newborn son was otherwise healthy. At the time, the staff didn't think about the historic nature of the moment, which marked BAMC's first patient to give birth while on ECMO.

Ashley has no memory of her delivery and the days after were “extremely foggy,” she said. It all “snapped back to reality” when her nurses came in with a poster with her son's updated height, weight, and hand and foot prints, and she became intent on getting well enough to hold her son.

BABY continues on 17

LACKLAND

First Spanish-language SNCO course at IAAFA fills partner nation need

By Vanessa R. Adame

37TH TRAINING WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Enlisted Professional Military Education at the Inter-American Air Forces Academy at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland reached a new level this past training cycle with the addition of the Inter-American Senior Non-Commissioned Officer course.

When the course concluded in December, a dozen military students from four partner nations in South and Central America and the United States had successfully completed the course.

The addition of the ISNCO course to the academy's catalog makes IAAFA the only institution in the Air Force to offer all three levels of EPME. This significant accomplishment comes at the request of U.S. Southern Command, U.S. Northern Command and Latin American Partner Nations for a course to develop senior enlisted leaders.

The academy offers professional military education and provides technical training and aircrew courses entirely in Spanish to international military students from 21 Latin American partner nations and to U.S. military members.

Master Sgt. Alfredo Miranda Rosales worked as a curriculum developer at IAAFA from 2014 to 2019. This fall, he returned to the academy as a student in the new ISNCO course.

"It's been an unforgettable experience for me," Miranda Rosales said. "This course has been key for me in what I needed, not only in language, but in the lessons I am taking with me to continue with the mission of the 12th Air Force, working closely with partner nations represented here."

According to Senior Master Sgt. Alejandro Velez, 837th Training Squadron Senior Enlisted Leader, the leadership course was implemented to fill a need for partner nations. More Latin American countries are now recognizing the value of professional development for their enlisted forces.

"Seeing examples like ours they've



Master Sgt. Karina Gonzalez, Inter-American Senior Non-Commissioned Officer course Instructor, gathers with ISNCO students before a group exercise at the Inter-American Air Forces Academy, Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland on Nov. 22, 2021.

VANESSA R. ADAME

learned that maybe if they prepare their enlisted members they can get that trust in them and put them in leadership positions, so the officer can take care of the strategic part, and the enlisted member the operational side, but they need that preparation," Velez said.

The ISNCO course has helped prepare Miranda Rosales, a student whose next assignment will include working with the System of Cooperation Among the American Air Forces, and Sargento Primero Ruben Quezada Martinez, a member of the civilian police Servicio de Vigilancia Aerea of Costa Rica. Martinez described

the course as "one of the most professional courses I've ever been a part of."

It's also helping shape the career of Técnico Primero Gustavo Alberto Fuzga of the Colombian Air Force, who came to IAAFA in 2019 for the Non-Commissioned Officer Course and returned this year as a partner nation guest instructor. Just a few months later, Fuzga participated in the ISNCO course, earned the honor graduate award, and is now set to teach the same course this January.

"From my point of view from a strategic alliance of the U.S., the NCO

course shows you the value of an enlisted member in the institution, whereas the ISNCO course helps to develop members to make more strategic decisions, and grow in their professionalism," Fuzga said.

Growth is clearly evident at IAAFA and in the professional development of the U.S. and partner nation students who come to the academy.

"For being the very first SNCO course, we get a sense of where IAAFA is headed and where the focus is," Miranda Rosales said. "I'm taking with me a lot of lessons learned that will really benefit me in the future."



VANESSA R. ADAME

Master Sgt. Alfredo Miranda Rosales, Senior Non-Commissioned Officer course student, walks to receive his award with fanfare during the Inter-American Air Forces Academy graduation banquet at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas, Dec. 8, 2021.

Partner nation, U.S. students graduate IAAFA's largest training cycle in nearly two years

By Vanessa R. Adame

37TH TRAINING WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Nearly 200 members from partner nations spanning across the Western Hemisphere and the U.S. gathered at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland Dec. 6 at a banquet to celebrate their graduation from the Inter-American Air Forces Academy.

The graduates included students from 15 countries across Central and South America and the U.S., in the largest student cycle the academy has seen in approximately two years since COVID-19.

Lt. Gen. Mary O'Brien, Air Force Deputy Chief of Staff for Intelligence, Reconnaissance and Surveillance and Cyber Effects Operations, was the event's guest speaker.

O'Brien, who is also a Women's Initiatives Team Champion for the Department of the Air Force, working to address barriers in women's careers in policies and programs, met with the female graduates prior to the event. She shook hands and spoke with each one with the help of an IAAFA translator.

"You — all of you — are the key to enacting this vision," O'Brien said, addressing the entire graduating class. "You are the key to lasting partnerships within and across our organizations. You are the key to creating environments that are inclusive for all members of your team."

The students, each with their country's flag emblazoned on their uniform sleeves, listened to the general's remarks interpreted by a translator.

"Even though your class is graduating, my hope is that you've created a cohesive network and some lifelong friendships. I encourage you to continue working together as partners to face and overcome barriers and to help each other grow in advance," O'Brien said.

Col. Jose Jimenez Jr., IAAFA commandant, spoke about the importance of building relationships with allied nations to promote security and human rights interests.

"What you see among yourselves in the successful integration of various backgrounds, levels of experience and perspectives," Jimenez said "In just weeks you and the IAAFA staff built a robust team that moves in one direction and with the same objectives in mind."

Achievement awards included top instructor, partner nation guest instructor, international military student team member and student who made the most significant contribution to the success of their class.

"Take every opportunity to empower and trust each member of your team, understanding that every demographic has untapped potential," Jimenez said. "Different genders, backgrounds, cultures and points of view do not hamper growth, they accelerate it."

San Antonio native named MTI of the Year

By Annette Crawford

37TH TRAINING WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Joining the Air Force in 2007 was an easy decision for Master Sgt. Michael A. Galindo, who grew up in San Antonio, also known as Military City USA.

He found Basic Military Training to be “intense” and loved “every minute of it” — so much so that he couldn’t wait to come back and become a Military Training Instructor. He not only achieved that goal, but he was also named the 2021 MTI of the Year for the 37th Training Wing.

Galindo, who’s the operations superintendent at the 324th Training Squadron, served in Security Forces for 10 years before becoming an MTI in 2017.

“I was excited when I found out,” Galindo said. “I’ve wanted to become an MTI since leaving BMT.”

Galindo said the level of leadership he’s gained from both the trainees and the MTI corps has been amazing.

“Seeing the growth and development of our trainees to



COURTESY PHOTO

Master Sgt. Michael A. Galindo has been named the 2021 Military Training Instructor of the Year for the 37th Training Wing at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland.

Airmen and Guardians is the best part of the job,” he said.

Galindo said he attributes his success to his fellow NCOs.

“They are the backbone of our Air

Force and Basic Military Training. They determine our effectiveness in getting the job done,” he said. “It’s a tough time to be a leader. Keeping our MTIs motivated to stay flexible

with changes is challenging. Supporting our MTIs and providing answers helped.”

Galindo will soon head back to his original career field. He said his experience as an MTI will come in handy when he returns to Security Forces.

“Being an MTI helped with developing leadership skills to connect with different personalities,” he said.

He added that some trainees join the Air Force with little confidence and/or discipline. That’s when he knows he’s able to help change people’s lives for the better.

“The best moments are watching the trainees upon arrival, wanting to quit but sticking it out and transforming into motivated, confident Airmen and Guardians,” he said. “We have a lot of great talent joining our Air Force and keeping them in the fight makes us effective!”

For anyone considering becoming an MTI, Galindo’s advice is simple.

“Do it! It’s a great opportunity to build your leadership skills and you get to work with all AFSCs.”

AFIMSC announces 2022 I-WEPTAC topics, seeks working group volunteers

By Malcolm McClendon

AIR FORCE INSTALLATION AND MISSION SUPPORT CENTER PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Air Force Installation and Mission Support Center has announced topics and chairs for the 2022 Installation and Mission Support Weapons and Tactics Conference.

With a theme of “Adaptive Operations through Expeditionary Combat Support,” I-WEPTAC 2022 topics and Mission Area Working Group chairs are:

- Transition the Agile Combat Support Deployment Model from the Air and Space Expeditionary Force to Air Force Generation, chaired by Capt. Randi Brown, Expeditionary Engineering Branch Chief, Air Combat Command Headquarters, Langley Air Force Base, Virginia.

- Enterprise-as-a-Service and Base Operation Support Broken Glass for Expeditionary and Base Operation Support Communications, chaired by Donald Lewis, Cyberspace Systems Support Branch Chief, AFIMSC, Joint

Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas.

- Operationalize Blue Small Unmanned Aerial Systems for Installation and Mission Support, chaired by Capt. Kristin Ober, Operations Branch Chief, AFIMSC Detachment 4, Ramstein Air Base, Germany.

- Passive Defense for Adaptive Operations, chaired by Maj. Kendall Benton, Policy Branch Action Officer, Headquarters Air Force Security Forces Directorate, Pentagon, Arlington, Virginia.

MAWG chairs were selected from 33 nominations submitted from across the Department of the Air Force and represent the diversity of installation and mission support Airmen and Guardians.

“Selections were based on relevant experience and their commander’s acknowledgment of their exceptional leadership qualities,” said Col. Lance Clark, director of AFIMSC’s Expeditionary Support and Innovation Directorate.

AFIMSC assigned mentors to guide the working groups as they develop

solutions for the topics. Mentors include retired Maj. Gen. Theresa Carter, former AFIMSC commander; retired Gen. Frank Gorenc, former commander of U.S. Air Forces in Europe; and retired Maj. Gen. Timothy M. Zadalis, former U.S. Air Forces in Europe-Air Forces Africa vice commander.

“We are lucky to have such great support from these senior leaders,” Ober said. “The encouragement and expectation to reach out to the highest ranks in the Air Force underscore how vital it is that we get these answers right and it speaks AFIMSC’s commitment to getting the most out of I-WEPTAC.”

With the MAWG leadership now in place, the chairs will be looking for Airmen and Guardians to build out their teams over the next few months. They welcome nominations for Airmen, Guardians and government civilians who want to participate in this year’s I-WEPTAC.

“As we’re selecting our teams, my focus is going to be on people who understand the current system, but are

excited about change, because what we’re going to propose hasn’t been done before by the Air and Space Forces and can affect the entire enterprise,” Brown said. “So we’re looking for people who are ready to get after these solutions.”

The target team members are lieutenants through majors, GS-11 through GS-13, and technical sergeants through senior master sergeants, who are actively working in or have recent experience with the associated topic.

I-WEPTAC is an annual event that examines fundamental installation and mission support challenges to identify deficiencies, shortfalls and developmental gaps that limit the Air Force’s and Space Force’s ability to execute and operate efficiently. MAWGs develop executable courses of action for their topics and recommend solutions to senior leaders during their final out-briefs. MAWGs will present out-briefs virtually April 4-7.

For more information about I-WEPTAC, visit <https://www.afimsc.af.mil/News/I-WEPTAC-2022/>.

New Small Market and Stand Alone MTF Organization marks major milestone

Defense Health Agency

The Defense Health Agency officially established the Small Market and Stand Alone Military Treatment Facility Organization, or SSO, during a ceremony at Joint Base San Antonio-Kelly Field, Texas, Dec. 14, 2021.

With 20 Direct Reporting Military Health System Markets established within the U.S. during the past year, the DHA has now launched an intermediate management organization to serve the smaller markets, and stand-alone hospitals and clinics that are located outside of the larger market regions.

The SSO is responsible for providing care to an eligible population of 240,000 beneficiaries across 32 states and Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. The SSO consists of 17 small markets and 68 stand-alone military medical treatment facilities. A primary goal is to standardize health care delivery processes at these facilities.

Currently, larger markets allow groups of military hospitals and clinics in one geographic area to work together with TRICARE partners, Department of Veterans Affairs hospitals, other federal health care organizations, private sector teaching hospitals and medical universities.

Markets operate as a system to share patients, staff, budgets, and other functions to improve readiness and the delivery and coordination of health services. The new SSO was established to offer these same benefits to more geographically isolated locations.

"I've been fortunate enough to participate in a number of ceremonies across the Military Health System and across the country welcoming new military markets and the hospitals and clinics within them, but this one is different," said DHA Director Army Lt. Gen. (Dr.) Ronald Place, who hosted the ceremony.

"Today, we're welcoming a team that includes MTFs from throughout the United States and one in Cuba. The largest of our large markets has less than 35 MTFs — this one has 140 MTFs."

The facilities the SSO supports account for just over a quarter of all health care encounters within the MHS



BRIAN BOISVERT

Army Lt. Gen. (Dr.) Ronald Place, director of the Defense Health Agency (left), and Air Force Maj. Gen Shanna Woyak, Small Market and Stand Alone Military Treatment Facility Organization director (right), unfurl the organization flags during the SSO establishment ceremony at Joint Base San Antonio-Kelly Field Dec. 14.

direct-care system.

What makes the SSO unique is the varying size, scale and scope of these facilities. The cross-service collaboration that existed within the geographic areas where the larger markets now exist will give facilities under the SSO a foundation to build on, Place said.

"We will leverage the knowledge and experience that we have gained from transitioning those large markets and now put our focus here in the small markets and MTFs, where most of our service members actually get their care," Place said.

"Health care is a local experience, best managed by those of you on the ground, interacting with leaders and our patients directly. But what we aim to achieve is a consistent, standardized approach for our patients and for our health care team."

Key to that standardization is a system and approach that is consistent

from across all facilities, making the transitions that are part of military life easier on both the patients and the personnel.

"That couldn't be more true than it is in the SSO," said Place.

The new SSO Director Air Force Maj. Gen. Shanna Woyak added, "From start to finish, the individuals who stood up the SSO have been nothing short of inspiring — the long hours and the work that it takes to put a new organization together. Their commitment to our mission, often on borrowed time, has been noticed."

It took "a leap of faith" for many people to realize what a new and integrated way forward for military medicine would look like and that the SSO is a nuanced part of that future vision, but it is no less important, Woyak said.

"What the SSO does for the medical readiness of the force, because of the numbers, the locations and the

integration with the larger force, is collectively greater than what we get at the larger sites," she said. "Our promise to support the MTFs — we're going to do that to the best of our ability. We will support you."

Leadership, Woyak said, has never been more important in military medicine than it is today.

"We will learn from you. We will share with you. We will tirelessly advocate for all of our MTFs and, more importantly, we will lead with purpose. We will lead with collaboration; we will lead with innovation; and we will definitely lead with a vision focused on creating highly effective, highly integrated health care delivery systems."

What's comes next for the DHA?

In 2022, the agency will assume management and administration of all overseas MTFs, divided into two regions: DHA Region Indo-Pacific and DHA Region Europe.

AFIMSC's integrated management, combat support meets critical need for OAW mission

By Debbie Aragon

AIR FORCE INSTALLATION AND MISSION SUPPORT CENTER
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

When the Air Force Installation and Mission Support Center was established a few years ago, its focus was delivering globally integrated management, resourcing and combat support programs and services across the Air Force enterprise.

The establishment of AFIMSC was part of 2014's Future Air Force Initiative following Department of Defense reforms to reduce major headquarters across the DOD.

The success and synergy of AFIMSC, its detachments and primary subordinate units are constantly on display but perhaps no more so than its recent support to Operation Allies Welcome at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey.

As part of planning for an OAW traveler camp for Afghan refugees headed to the installation, a force protection assessment was conducted, identifying an urgent need for mobile guard booths, said Master Sgt. Leonard Pritchett, Air Force Security Forces Center strategic resources manager.

"Based on the assessment, recommendations from Brig. Gen. Roy Collins (director of Air Force Security Forces) and the current matrix for guard postings, we determined we needed about 20 mobile guard shacks to maintain a safe perimeter for everyone ... Defenders, Afghan refugees and JB-MDL personnel executing their daily operations," Pritchett said.

Because of the relationship between AFSFC and the Air Force Installation Contracting Center — both primary subordinate units of AFIMSC — the entire



COURTESY PHOTO

A Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey, Defender stands in front of a newly delivered transportable guard booth in support of Operation Allies Welcome operations.

process of identifying a requirement to contract award took days instead of weeks or months.

"It was completed roughly inside of a week just because of our close relationship with AFICC," Pritchett said. "To go from a base requirement to have a contract signed, sealed and delivered that quickly is unheard of."

Jennifer Kessler and Capt. Christopher Hajsman with AFICC's 771st Enterprise Sourcing Squadron coordinated with Pritchett and AFSFC's Michael Courtney to find out the exact requirement and why it was so urgent.

Determining urgency was key to the application and approval of an "unusual and compelling urgency" exception, in accordance with Federal Acquisition Regulation 6.302-2. The exception allowed AFICC to

limit the number of sources to solicit bids or proposals, in essence fast-tracking the process to get the booths in the hands of JB-MDL Defenders faster.

With the necessary information, Kessler and Hajsman conducted market research, and prepared contract documents and approvals for the contract award so the guard booths would begin arriving within four weeks to meet "the urgent, immediate need of security forces at JB-MDL," Kessler said.

The first five booths were delivered within two weeks of contract award with five additional booths delivered each week after that.

For more information on AFIMSC and its installation and mission support across the Air and Space Forces, visit www.afimsc.af.mil.

Uniform shortage affects BMT graduates

Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

Due to a shortage of fabric used to manufacture service dress uniforms, Airmen and Guardians graduating from basic military training will temporarily be issued fewer uniform items.

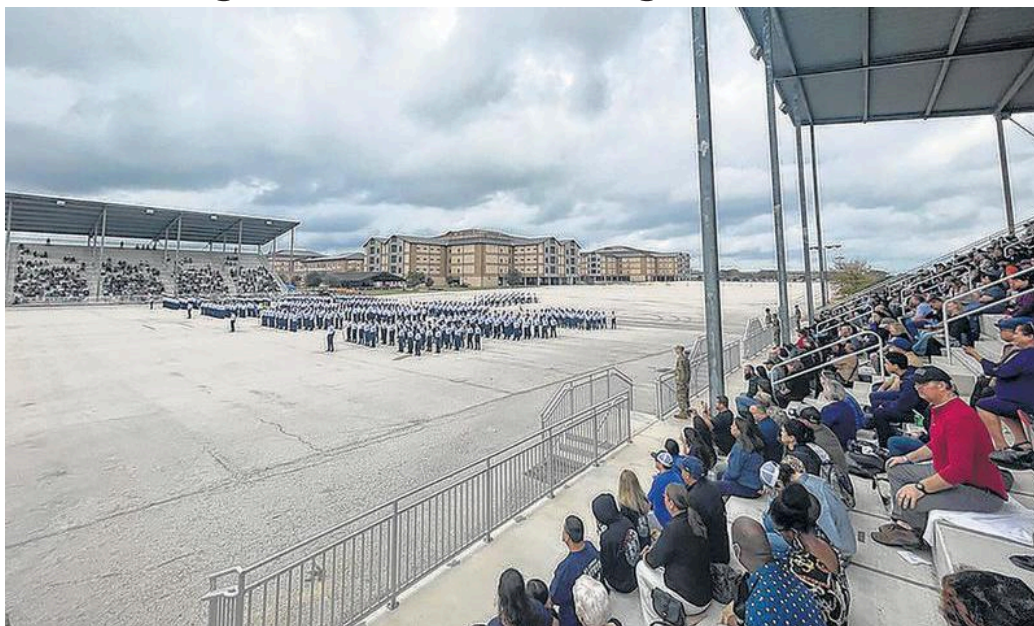
This proactive measure will allow Airmen and Guardians to have, at minimum, one full set of service dress while Defense Logistics Agency Troop Support works with the manufacturer to restore full production.

This fabric shortage will also affect the supply of service dress items across the Department of the Air Force, however, BMT recruits have priority.

Men and women are normally issued two short-sleeve blue shirts and two long sleeve blue shirts at BMT. Additionally, men are normally issued three pairs of trousers and women two pairs of slacks. Starting in November, some service members will only be issued one each of those items.

To make sure service members eventually receive their full uniform complement, the DAF will provide the affected active duty BMT graduates a cash allowance in their paycheck to buy the missing uniform items as available from the Army and Air Force Exchange Service when they arrive at their next duty station or school. Air Reserve Component graduates will be issued missing items after arrival at their home unit, upon availability.

Burlington Industries is the sole U.S.



CHRISTA D'ANDREA

Air Force trainees are shown at their graduation ceremony at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas, Dec. 16, 2021. The Air Force announced Dec. 21, 2021, that due to a shortage of fabric used to manufacture service dress uniforms, Airmen and Guardians graduating from basic military training will temporarily be issued fewer uniform items.

supplier of approved worsted and poly-wool dress fabric used in all military services' dress uniforms. The continued

shortage in the fabric supply as a result of labor challenges and increased material cost is anticipated to have a

greater impact on the production and availability of dress uniforms starting in the third quarter of the fiscal year 2022.

BABY

From page 10

Due to a 30-day isolation, Ashley was able to see her baby via video chat but didn't meet him in person until weeks later. "It was heartbreaking," she said. "I wanted to be with him, to hold him and feed him."

On July 17, Ashley was finally able to visit with her son in the NICU. Still on ECMO and fighting exhaustion, she sat in a room, donned in a gown and mask, and held her baby for the first time. "He felt very heavy and very small," she said. "But I was so relieved to hold him."

Ashley was on ECMO for 30 days, mostly while awake to help build her strength and stamina. But like many ECMO patients, she felt "horrible

anxiety" and leaned heavily on her health care team for comfort. She especially relied on her nurses, Roxann Naud and U.S. Army Capt. E.J. Rauch, she said.

"She felt very overwhelmed," Naud said. "She was very concerned about her baby in the NICU and her other children. We did our best to reassure her and let her know her feelings were very normal and okay; that she will get through this."

Fortified by seeing her baby, Ashley's condition began to improve. She was removed from ECMO on July 26 and cleared to return home a few weeks later. "I couldn't wait to get home to see my husband and children," she said.

Homecoming

Ashley's husband drove her home

from the hospital. As she slowly walked into her house with an oxygen tank, her normally rambunctious children — ages 7, 6, 4, 3 and 1 — were surprisingly calm. "I sat down and they didn't leave my side for several days," she said.

A few weeks later, Ashley and her husband welcomed their new baby, Kyzon, home. Now 5 months old, "he's doing great — eating and sleeping and laughing," she said.

About a month ago, Ashley had a checkup and received a clean bill of health. "I'm very grateful that God saw fit that I needed to still be here for some reason," she said, holding Kyzon tightly on her lap. "I'm also extremely grateful to BAMC for the compassionate care."

"It was an experience unlike we have ever faced, together or apart, but truly a miracle," her husband added. "Only by

God's grace and both the skill and care of the BAMC staff that my family is whole today."

While ECMO was key, Mason also credits Ashley's positive attitude and the hard-working team members who sat by her side, rubbing her temples and feet or brushing her hair when she felt anxious.

"We are absolutely thrilled to see Ashley doing so well," he said. "It's been a tough few years filled with heartbreaking loss and amazing survival stories. Ashley's outcome is energizing for all of us."

With COVID-19 transmission on the rise, Mason continues to encourage people to get the vaccine. "We have not had a fully vaccinated patient on ECMO or close to being on ECMO at BAMC," he said. "It's not too late; please get vaccinated."

RANDOLPH

Register now for 2022 Learning Professionals' Consortium

By Larisa Langley

AIR EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMMAND
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Registration is open for the 2022 Learning Professionals' Consortium, or LPC-22, presented by the Air Force Learning Professionals Program. This virtual event, presented on Zoom gov.com, comes with an update in format for 2022.

"Instead of three continuous days, which can be a challenge for attendees, the LPC-22 will be presented with three single-day events on Feb. 16, April 20, and June 22," said Dr. Angela "Angi" Canada, Air Education and Training Command Credentialing Division chief. "Attendees will have the opportunity to attend one event or all three."

The three single-day events are expected to better accommodate attendees' schedules while providing the opportunity to gain solutions to learning issues, hear successful collaboration stories and learn best



AIR FORCE LEARNING PROFESSIONALS

practices from across the Air Force.

The topics will be directly relevant to Air Force Learning Professionals with both presentations and workshops featured.

The Learning Professionals' Consortium is designed for learning

professionals across the Air Force to meet, interact, and ultimately collaborate on advances in learning environments. Air Education and Training Command Credentialing Division's goal is to build a community of learning professionals who work

together to accelerate the transformation of the DAF learning paradigm.

"I'm excited this year's theme is Explore — Engage — Accelerate," said Dr. Wendy Walsh, Air Education and Training Command Chief Learning Officer. "Before I arrived at AETC, I had the opportunity to attend the LPC-21 and found it extremely valuable. These single-day events offer an opportunity for Learning Professionals to take advantage of professional development presented by peers across the Air Force."

Registration for the Feb. 16, 2022 event is open until Feb. 11.

For more information on the event visit <https://www.learningprofessionals.af.mil/Events/Learning-Professionals-Consortium/>.

For more information on Air Force Learning Professionals visit <https://www.learningprofessionals.af.mil/> or <https://www.facebook.com/AFlearningprofessionals>.

559TH FLYING TRAINING SQUADRON CONTINUES PROUD HERITAGE



The only difference between these two photos is the aircraft and time, 78 years to be exact. The 559th Flying Training Squadron, part of the 12th Flying Training Wing at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, continues the proud heritage of producing the Air Force's best instructor pilots.

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