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Brooke Army Medical Center moves driven by BRAC

by Susan Merkner, San Antonio Medical BRAC Integration Office - Moving inpatients within Brooke Army Medical Center in conjunction with Base Realignment and Closure renovations is similar to a game of chess.

Much time is spent on strategy, since each piece of the move has a ripple effect through the healthcare system. Advance preparations, meetings, training and communications are worked out before the first move occurs.

The internal moves at BAMC are part of the BRAC transition of inpatient services from Wilford Hall Medical Center.

By Sept. 15, BAMC officials expect the inpatient census will double as the hospital takes on the workload from WHMC. Numerous inpatients were transported safely to new locations inside BAMC in June as the facility internally realigned and opened additional wards for strategic posturing of BRAC end-state inpatient services.

Beds are closing at Wilford Hall through attrition. Throughout the process, "the most important rule is patient safety," said Col. Lawrence Crozier, BRAC nursing integrator.

Teams of four to six people, including movers and hospital staff members, accomplish the moves physically. Clinical staff are assigned to patients, and stay

with them and any visiting family members throughout the move, Crozier said.

"Staffers are educated to tell patients the day before the move that they will be moving, and the process is explained to them," he said.

On June 6, some 24 patients, many of whom were attached to cardiac monitors, were moved from the 6 East cardiac telemetry unit to 3 West. "It was well planned and coordinated," Crozier said.

"Our primary concern is the safety and comfort of the patients during these moves."

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Teams of movers assist staff from the 6 East cardiac telemetry unit during the June 2 move to 3 West at Brooke Army Medical Center. (photo courtesy SAMBIO)



A current aerial view of San Antonio's Brooke Army Medical Center (BAMC) at Fort Sam Houston with the new consolidated Tower nearly complete (middle). Of the approximately 200 BRAC recommendations enacted into law, San Antonio bases were impacted by 19. This is more than any city in the United States with every military installation in the City feeling the impact of BRAC 2005. (photo/JPMO)

Brooke Army Medical Center moves driven by BRAC

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"When patients are moving into empty, renovated rooms, everything in their hospital room is picked up and transported to the new space.

On move day, patients may have the experience of being in their bed, watching TV in the morning, when their team arrives, Crozier said.

Each person on the team is responsible for handling specific items, such as furniture or equipment. A security guard holds an elevator for those in transition, and everything that was in the room is moved at the same time, onto an elevator and then into a new hospital room on a different ward.

"Fifteen or 20 minutes later, patients are settled in their new room, watching TV again," Crozier said.

Family members often offer to assist in the process, carrying personal items belonging to the patient and accompanying the team through the hospital.

Whenever feasible, a unit or ward begins the transition phase to new space by having new admissions reduced to limit the number of patients who must be moved, Crozier said.

As patients are discharged from a unit that is scheduled to relocate, the empty beds are closed. On June 10, staff and patients moved from the 2 West surgical ward to 7 East, where the number of beds was increased to accommodate additional patients.

Since the patients formerly on 2 West were moving into rooms that already were outfit-

ted with equipment and furniture, their beds and personal belongings were transferred to the new rooms.

The move completed 7 East's transition to 29 medical-surgical beds. Patients in 28 beds in the 2 East surgical telemetry ward moved to 2 West on June 13.

Following renovations, including the installation of new monitors, 2 East will reopen at a later date.

The moves consolidated all monitored patients on the hospital's second and third floors.

Additional ward movements are expected later this year when the new Consolidated Tower is completed.

The legacy of military graduate medical education lives on

by Linda Frost, 59th Medical Wing Public Affairs - The face of Air Force graduate medical education in south Texas is changing.

Top leadership of this unique military medical training program here shifted roles as Dr. Kenneth Torrington retired from his position as dean of the San Antonio Uniformed Services Health Education Consortium, or SAUSHEC on June 10. Col. Woodson Scott Jones, who previously served as the director of graduate medical education for the 59th Medical Wing, retires June 24, and will step into the dean's position.

Selected to replace Colonel Jones is Col. Randall Zernzach, the former associate director of medical education for Wright-Patterson Medical Center in Dayton, Ohio. He will also serve as SAUSHEC's Air Force associate dean.

SAUSHEC is a joint Army and Air Force residency training program that oversees all military graduate medical edu-

cation in the Alamo city with two major training sites at Wilford Hall and Brooke Army Medical Centers, and a close partnership with University of Texas Health Sciences Center of San Antonio and the Audie Murphy Veterans Administration Hospital.

Graduate medical education is the cornerstone and the lifeblood of military medicine. It provides the foundation for excellence in patient care, education and training, and research in more traditional medical and surgical specialties and in unique military specialties such as flight surgery.

As the first civilian dean of SAUSHEC, Dr. Torrington's four-year tenure at Wilford Hall Medical Center took graduate medical education programs to another level during a critical time as the Air Force and Army medical services in San Antonio joined forces as mandated by the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Law.

Under Dr. Torrington's leadership, integration of Air

Force and Army medical graduate programs was completed 15 months before the deadline.

"He leaves the legacy of fully integrating SAUSHEC while simultaneously ensuring our average program accreditation lengths and board pass rates exceeded the national average," commented Colonel Jones.

The consortium is one of the largest GME institutions in the Department of Defense with 575 Air Force and Army residents training in 34 programs, accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education.

"Besides integrating training programs, we supported transition of a significant number of graduate medical education programs to the BAMC campus," Dr. Torrington said.

He added that "SAUSHEC represents a great example of how to merge Air Force and Army physicians, patients and equipment seamlessly."

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(Left to right) Col. (Dr.) Woodson Jones and Col. (Dr.) Randall Zernzach from the Graduate Medical Education program at Wilford Hall greet new interns during their in-processing briefing June 9. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech Sgt. Andy Bellamy)

The legacy of military graduate medical education lives on

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"As I take over the helm as dean, I realize I stand on the shoulders of a giant," added Colonel Jones. "My goals will be to maintain the outstanding accomplishments of my predecessors in SAUSHEC while expanding the consortium to include graduate allied health training."

Colonel Jones said he intends to work closely with the San Antonio Military Health System leadership using "our tradition of collaboration within SAUSHEC as one model" in developing the world-class medical system envisioned by BRAC.

Meantime, Colonel Zernzach, the newest member of the team, brings a wealth of experience working in a com-

munity with successfully integrated residency training programs between the Air Force, a number of community hospitals, and a medical school.

"My challenge is to continue the fine work that has been done by Dr. Torrington and Colonel Jones, essentially standing on their shoulders and doing what I can do to contribute to the achievement of excellence by SAUSHEC," stated Colonel Zernzach, who also served as associate residency program director in the Wright State University/Boonshoft School of Medicine-Wright-Patterson Integrated Residency Program.

The medical system of the Armed Services has a one-of-a-kind mission. Not only do the health professionals care

for military members and their dependents and retired military personnel, but they also must be ready to deploy and practice medicine in austere conditions or support humanitarian missions. Specialized curriculum such as combat and trauma care, critical care air transport and disaster preparedness makes it a unique program. Some doctors also compete for prestigious positions while others apply for additional fellowship training which begins an entirely new chapter of learning in their lives. These individuals endure years of hard work, intense training and in-depth study to become the warrior medics who save lives both here and down range.

Air Force drug testing laboratory opens on Lackland

by Maj. Travis Herbelin, HQ, Air Force Drug Testing Laboratory - Officials with the Headquarters Air Force Drug Testing Laboratory, or HQ AFDTL, opened the doors of their new facility here June 30.

HQ AFDTL is the only forensic toxicology drug testing laboratory in the Air Force and one of only six such laboratories in the Department of Defense Drug Demand Reduction Program.

Previously, the laboratory was located on the southeast side of San Antonio at Brooks City-Base. But the impending closure of Brooks, mandated by the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission, required a new home to be found for this one-of-a-kind, highly-specialized Air Force capability.

In surveying candidate sites, facility size was a critical factor since the laboratory's workload has increased 250 percent in the last three years, from just under 400,000 specimens per year prior to 2008 to 950,000 specimens starting in fiscal 2011.

In March 2008, then Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. T. Michael Moseley directed that an existing building near Wilford Hall Medical Center become HQ AFDTL's new home. A joint venture between the Army and Air Force was undertaken in 2010, resulting in a \$6.5 million renovation and outfitting of the facility, which also houses the 59th Medical Wing's Robotic Pharmacy.

"This facility is a technical state-of-the-art analytic lab providing a fitting home for the men and women of this remarkable squadron, whom I refer to as the 'quiet professionals'," said Brig. Gen. (Dr.) Mark Ediger, Air Force Medical Operations Agency commander. "We hear little about this lab day-to-day because they do their exacting work so well. They are among many unsung heroes in our Air Force whose performance is critical to the readiness and surety of the world's greatest Air Force."

The new laboratory was designed, built and outfitted on schedule, \$3.5 million under budget, and was moved and

brought back online one month ahead of schedule, increasing its footprint from 15,000 square feet in its old location to 22,000 square feet in the new building. HQ AFDTL is set to convey its old space at Brooks City-Base two months ahead of the Sept. 15, 2011, deadline mandated by 2005 BRAC legislation.

The laboratory tests specimens collected from all Air Force, National Guard and selected U.S. Army members stationed worldwide. The mission of the laboratory staff is to detect and deter illicit drug use through drug testing and to support associated administrative and judicial proceedings by preparing drug testing reports and providing expert witness testimony.

"This project has been the closest thing I have ever experienced to building an airplane in the air with passengers on board while flight attendants serve coffee," said Lt. Col. Kabrena Rodda, HQ AFDTL commander.

New contingency aeromedical staging facility opens

by Linda Frost, 59th Medical Wing Public Affairs - Wilford Hall Medical Center continues its long tradition of healing as it takes on a new mission to provide a temporary staging facility here for ill or injured servicemembers returning from overseas.

In support of the war on terrorism, the 59th Contingency Aeromedical Staging Facility, or CASF opened June 13, to support the patients in the military air evacuation system.

A team of trained experts will provide medical care and keep patients comfortable for 12-72 hours while awaiting transportation to their final destination.

The 59th CASF is referred to as a contingency facility since it is not part of the 59th Medical Wing's permanent mission. It will remain as long as patient flow mandates the need.

The operation came together quickly after a tasking from the Air Mobility Command, Scott Air Force Base, Ill., to provide a central location within the United States with enhanced medical care and the ability to move patients safely and expeditiously to various locations stateside.

"Texas, being centrally

located, along with state-of-the-art medical facilities at Ft. Sam Houston, specialty care at Wilford Hall, and our proximity to the Kelly flight line, made locating the CASF here operationally sound," said General Hepburn. "It is a collaborative effort with our Army colleagues at Ft. Sam Houston."

The 59th CASF is one of many strategically placed units across the United States. Other primary staging facilities are located at Andrews Air Force Base, Md.; Scott Air Force Base, Ill.; Travis Air Force Base, Calif.; and Hickham Air Force Base, Hawaii.

"We pray that this facility will be empty, but we anticipate a continued need for air evacuation patient support. I know we will provide great clinical and compassionate care to the patients that transit Military City USA, commented Maj. Gen. Byron Hepburn, commander, 59th Medical Wing.

Military officials say they anticipate one flight per week direct from Ramstein, Germany to Kelly Air Field here, a short 10-minute drive from Wilford Hall. The number of patients will vary and range from Marines, Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen. The critically injured will be transported immediately from Kelly to Brooke Army

Medical Center.

General Hepburn said "the ultimate goal is to get them to treatment facilities nearest their home, family or military installation."

Currently, the contingency aeromedical staging facility is staffed by Air Force Reservists deployed from 14 states for a six-month period. In the future, it is expected active duty members will be assigned.

"This is an awesome opportunity for the Air Force Reservists and active duty to make this one mission, one fight," said Col. Debora Esque, commander of the 59th CASF.

The team consists of 43 medical personnel, including a doctor, physician's assistant, nurses, medical technicians and administrative staff. Two active duty Airmen from the 59th MDW serve as liaisons with the reservists and provide operational oversight.

"I want to especially thank the reservists, our Citizen Airmen, who have left their families and children to do our nation's work here in San Antonio. I know they will excel in their important mission in the months ahead," General Hepburn added.



Air Force senior leaders opened the 59th Contingency Aeromedical Staging Facility with a ribbon cutting ceremony June 13, 2011, at Wilford Hall Medical Center, Lackland Air Force Base, Texas. The CASF mission will provide medical care and a comfortable holding area for wounded warriors while awaiting transportation to their final destination. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Kevin IInuma)

Col. Mary Garr reflects on Ft. Sam Houston transition

by Lori Newman, FSH News Leader - Col. Mary Garr may be small in stature, but her legacy as the first 502nd Mission Support Group commander will leave a huge and indelible imprint on Fort Sam Houston.

"I knew coming into command in 2008 that Fort Sam Houston was undergoing the largest amount of military construction in its history and was in the beginning phases of planning for the transition into an Air Force-lead joint base," Garr said.

"I wanted to ensure that, in spite of all that, we would maintain our mission to provide a safe, quality living and working environment for everyone we support on Fort Sam Houston," the colonel said. "Walking in the door, I teasingly said, 'I work for everybody,' but in reality, I do," Garr added.

The colonel spent the first six months of her command assessing the environment, trying to move Fort Sam Houston in a forward direction.

A big part of that was de-

veloping an effective strategic communication plan to convey the scope of all the changes and how they would impact the units and people the group supports, as well as all the employees, the colonel explained.

"We focused very hard to ensure that our garrison staff planned for and understood what they needed to do to transition into whichever role they fell into within the joint base transition, whether it was the Mission Support Group, (continued next page)



Col. Mary Garr reflects on Ft. Sam Houston transition



"It's been an honor to be the commander at this point in Fort Sam Houston's history. I care deeply about Fort Sam Houston. In some ways, it's almost like ending an era."

Col. Garr will be staying on Fort Sam Houston; her new position will be as the Chief of Staff for the new San Antonio Military Health System.

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Wing-level or within an Army unit," Garr said.

Fort Sam Houston has been joint in many ways for years, the commander said.

"We have had Navy anchors on Stanley Road for a number of years with the Navy Recruiting District. Sailors, Airmen, and Coast Guard students also train here. We have a Marine unit that lives, works and trains here," Garr said.

"We have partnerships with Mexico and Canada through U.S. Army North and partnerships with much of the rest of Latin America through U.S. Army South. Now we are formalizing that relationship through the joint base," she added.

The 502nd MSG commander said a great benefit of joint basing is that young service members coming here for training have the opportunity to interact with service members from other military branches and cultures.

"Sustained over time, when they are in more senior-level positions, it will be much easier for them to work together rather than divert back to their individual service culture, especially when each service uses similar words or acronyms that mean different things," Garr said.

The colonel's commitment

to service members, their families and civilians who live and work on Fort Sam Houston led to a number of new programs being implemented on post such as outdoor movie nights, doggie dashes and dips, and the New Year's Eve midnight madness fun run.

"We recruit service members, but we retain their families and I needed to make sure we were doing that," the commander said.

During her tenure, massive construction projects were underway, with more than 50 new buildings being constructed on post and numerous other historic buildings adapted for reuse.

"At the same time, we were negotiating with our Air Force counterparts, Headquarters Air Force, Headquarters Department of the Army and the Office of the Secretary of Defense on what Joint Base San Antonio should look like and the role of Fort Sam Houston," Garr explained.

What the commander constantly tells her staff is, "No. 1, failure is not an option. Congress said we would do this, so there is no turning back. No. 2, we need to be the drivers of change, because change is going to happen whether we are ready or not."

One of the points Garr started socializing very early

on in her command was that Fort Sam Houston needed to be one community transitioning into joint base, not 100 tenant units.

"We cannot succeed in a joint base environment, as a community, if we are not a team," the colonel said. "We are still evolving in our transition."

"Fort Sam Houston went to full operational capability in October 2010, but we are still growing and maturing and trying to figure out what right looks like," Garr said. "It will take another year, if not two, before the dust will start settling and we figure out the future direction of Joint Base San Antonio."

The Defense Department is trying to determine how they need to manage their budget within the context of larger government's economic challenges, the commander explained. The Army and Air Force are doing the same and that will very much affect Fort Sam Houston as an installation.

"We have gone from 64 to about 100 units now on Fort Sam Houston," Garr said. "I think everybody should be very proud of having a piece in this truly historic transformation, because Fort Sam Houston is a very, very, viable player in the support of our nation's defense and a key member of the greater San Antonio community."

Garr also credited the many community leaders who helped shape JBSA including the city council and mayor of San Antonio, the Military Transformation Task Force, members of the Joint Land Use Study committees and Bexar County commissioners.

"There has been a tremendous show of support from the city and the county to help make sure we move forward in a positive direction and it shows," Garr said.

Star-studded grand opening for new FSH fitness center

by **Deyanira Romo Rossell, 502nd FSS Marketing** -

Fitness is foremost at Fort Sam Houston.

To stay on track, the 502nd Mission Support Group inaugurated the newest addition to the post's athletic facilities, the Fort Sam Houston Fitness Center at the Medical Education and Training Campus, June 20.

Members of the San Antonio Silver Stars WNBA basketball team and the U.S. Army Medical Command Band joined 502nd Mission Support Group commander Col. Mary Garr and a number of Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, And Airmen to celebrate the opening of the state-of-the-art gymnasium.

"When you finish your training here, we need to make sure you are well-rounded and trained mentally, spiritually and physically," Garr said. "We want to make sure you are prepared to face combat and other adverse situations."

The gym is located at 3569 Williams Way, Bldg. 1369. It features 150 pieces of the newest in fitness equipment, including treadmills, ellipticals, stair climbers, stationary bikes and four lines of weights.

The cardio equipment, with cable television, and a gymnasium with three full-size basketball courts each, have their own areas on the first level with a view to an elevated running track on the second level.

"If you don't like running in 104 degree heat outside, you will really enjoy this indoor running track," Garr said.

An exercise room with 20 spinning bikes and an extra room for aerobics or other classes rounds out the bottom floor. The exercise room also has a projection screen and DVDs, giving spinners virtual roads to travel on their journey to stay in shape.

Silver Stars forward Danielle Adams shot some hoops with Service members on the brand new courts.

"It's amazing to be here, surrounded by these people who serve our country," said Adams, a member of the 2011 national champion Texas A&M women's basketball team who was drafted by San Antonio.

"This is a great gym for them." Other service members gave the weights their first work out.

"This is very much appreciated," said Pfc. Greg Bauer, with Company B, 187th Medi-

cal Battalion, who benched the brand-new free weights. "I want to be here every day. It is really nice that Fort Sam Houston is building facilities for us and keeping us fit,"

The ROSS Group constructed the \$14 million dollar facility with the supervision of the Army Corps of Engineers and the METC Transformation and Integration Office.

"The beauty of this is that we were able to take the best of all three services and tailor this gymnasium to the needs of our joint base here," said Scott Griffin, the METC TIO facilities lead on the project, who worked with the Corps to assure an on-time, high-quality product for Fort Sam Houston.

The facility also features natural lighting and a air conditioned climate to keep service members motivated as they pursue their fitness goals.

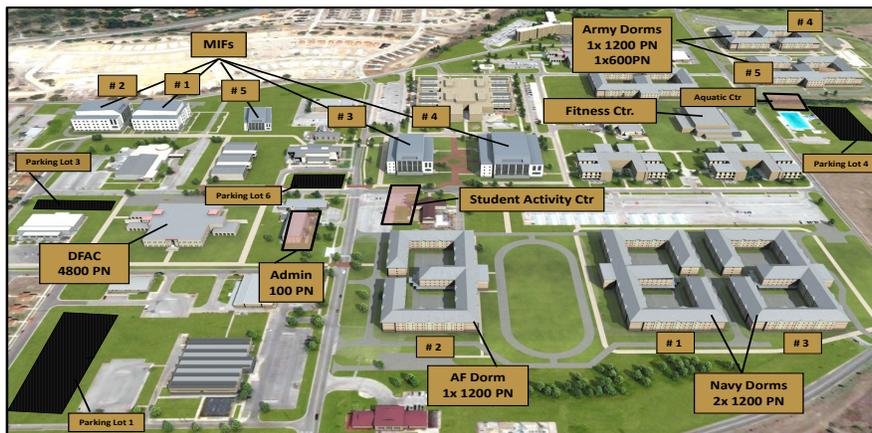
"They come in here as Soldiers, Sailors, Marines and Airmen, but they leave here as teammates," Garr said.

The fitness center is open Monday through Friday from 5 a.m. to 2 p.m. for all Fort Sam Houston service members, their families and DOD cardholders.



Private Ashley Weygant, Company B, 187th Medical Battalion, tries the leg press. (photo/Deyanira Romo Rossell)

**METC - FSH
Site View**



Bldg. 171: controlled access started July 1

by Mike Joseph, 502nd Air Base Wing Public Affairs -

The Bldg. 171 compound on Port San Antonio will become a secured entry area on July 1.

Installation security officials from the 802nd Security Forces Squadron said personnel will need proper base access credentials to enter the Bldg. 171 compound.

"I anticipate there may be delays entering the compound," said Lisa Frantz, 802nd SFS installation security chief. "We expect some personnel arriving without proper credentials.

"Personnel having their proper credentials readily available upon arrival at the gate in the mornings will help traffic flow through the gates. Even though Security Forces won't have exclusive jurisdiction at Bldg. 171 like we do on

Lackland, if there's an emergency situation we can take action."

To enter the compound will require a Common Access Card, Department of Defense identification card or an installation access pass issued by the 802nd SFS.

The McMullen Gate, accessible by General McMullen Drive off U.S. Highway 90, will be open for entry and exit 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The other gate, at Tinker Drive, accessible by General Hudnell Road off Highway 90, will be open to pedestrian and non-commercial vehicles only from 6-8 a.m. Monday through Friday. Exit hours at the Tinker gate will be 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., also Monday through Friday.

A temporary visitor control center, near the Tinker Gate, will be open Monday through

Friday, 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. All commercial vehicles will use the Tinker Gate from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Visitors can be vouched into the compound via a digitally-signed email, an in-person sponsorship, or a hard copy memorandum with a verified signature on file, DOD Form 577.

Emails must be sent to Lackland.vrc@us.af.mil and will not be processed without a digital signature. Phone calls will not be honored.

The Joint Base San Antonio trusted traveler exception has also been reinstated.

In addition to controlling compound entry, no parking is allowed inside of the knee walls with the exception of loading/unloading at the loading dock.

Vanpool community continues to rise at Bldg. 171



Participants of "Van 13" at Port San Antonio. (photo/ AFCEE Public Affairs)

by Sarah Bane, AFCEE Public Affairs - With the rise in gas prices, Port San Antonio's Bldg. 171 is seeing a continuous increase in the number of VIA metropolitan transit vanpools.

Last year when the Air Force Center for Engineering and the Environment and the Air Force Services Agency moved into Bldg. 171, there were only 14 vanpools serving the building, said Barbara Smith-Townsend, AFCEE's vanpool coordinator.

"We currently have 38 vanpools and are also adding one to two new vanpools each week," she said.

Parking to accommodate the growth in the van pool program is already in place, Ms. Smith-Townsend said, with the number of vanpool reserved spots set to increase to a total of 50.

Vanpooling not only is a great way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; it also

saves money and the wear and tear on people's cars.

At least four people, ideally six, are needed to start a new vanpool with vehicles available in 7, 12 and 15 passenger models.

One member of the group is designated as the coordinator of the van and is responsible for driving and maintaining the van. Another member of the group is designated as the backup driver. All members of the group are encouraged to be approved to drive for times when both drivers are unavailable, Ms. Smith-Townsend said.

Vanpool members set the route, schedule and tardiness policy for their van.

While there are set pickup and departure times for each vanpool, emergencies do occasionally arise. If a rider needs to go home early or work late, there is a Guaranteed Ride Home option through the Certified Auto

Ride in an Emergency, or CARE, program.

Vanpools aren't agency specific. Denise Etherton, a member of AFCEE, rides in a van with members from Air Force Services Agency.

"We have the best van. There are 13 of us and we call our van "Van 13", Ms. Etherton said. "Not only has the vanpool saved me on gas money but I've made friends in the building I would have never met otherwise. We have all become very close! We hosted a potluck lunch in the building and even go to lunch together in the van."

Civil law advisor named for work with Camp Bullis

by Steve Elliott, FSH News Leader - James A. Cannizzo, an administrative and civil law advisor for the U.S. Army at Fort Sam Houston and Camp Bullis, was recognized as a Hidalgo, for his years of work to protect the vital training mission at Camp Bullis.

The honorable title of "El Hidalgo de San Antonio de Bejar" is the highest award the Bexar County Commissioners Court in Texas bestows to an individual for outstanding service. It was once a title King Philip V of Spain, who ruled from 1700 to 1724, would confer upon those who were made knights.

A longtime defender of Camp Bullis and Camp Stanley, Cannizzo received the award during a ceremony at the Bexar County Courthouse June 21 by the members of the court.

Over the years, Cannizzo has reversed or stabilized several key urban encroachment issues that threatened the viability of Camp Bullis and Camp Stanley.

These installations had been established over a hundred years ago on the outskirts of San Antonio, but with San Antonio now the third fastest growing major city in the United States, the installations are rapidly becoming surrounded by development.

According to a similar military award Cannizzo received, he has testified on many occasions in the Texas State Legislature on bills that would adversely affect the thousands of acres utilized by service members for a variety of training missions at Camp Bullis and Camp Stanley.

"Thanks for all your great work on behalf of our air qual-

ity, water quality, urban forest, natural areas and endangered species," said Richard Alles, a member of the Citizens Tree Coalition, in congratulating Cannizzo. "You have been a surprising and effective advocate for the environment. I especially appreciate the many hours you spent fighting off bills in the Legislature.

"I know that involved many late hours analyzing bills, writing letters, making phone calls and traveling to Austin to testify before committees," Alles said. "We very much appreciate you as a partner in making San Antonio a greater, healthier place to live."

Cannizzo is credited in arranging several high-profile, complex land transactions which secured endangered species mitigation credits that will resolve Camp Bullis' Golden-cheeked Warbler restrictions.

In April 2011, his initiatives were ranked number one nationwide among all Department of Defense installations in cost effectiveness/partner cost share and has briefed his efforts to a wide variety of attorneys and law courses throughout the United States.

Cannizzo has also done extensive work in regards to small arms ranges and aviation noise corridors around Camp Bullis, allowing the site to remain a viable training area.

"His effective liaison between the Fort Sam Houston community and city, county and state governments is responsible for initiatives such as light orders and ordinances by Kendall, Bexar and Comal counties and the cities of San Antonio, Shavano Park and Fair Oaks Ranch to protect

realistic night training at Camp Bullis," said Phil Reidinger, Army Medical Department Center & School public affairs director. While public affairs officers for the U.S. Army Garrison at Fort Sam Houston, Reidinger worked extensively with Carrizo.

Carrizo also obtained an enlargement of a Military Lighting Overlay District around Camp Bullis' from 3 miles out to 5 miles in November 2009 from the City of San Antonio and Bexar County. This overlay helps protect night training at Camp Bullis by requiring all new light fixtures incorporate downward lighting or "dark sky" technology.

"Jim Cannizzo has led the Army effort to protect the military operations at Camp Bullis and Camp Stanley managing every environmental initiative associated with the Camp Bullis Joint Land Use Study with Federal, state and local government," Reidinger added.

"His professional expertise enabled the command to secure conservation easements opening thousands of acres for training at Camp Bullis encumbered by endangered species habitat management," Reidinger said. "During the current and previous sessions of the state legislature he served as the Army advocate preventing development encroachment that would have significantly reduced training operations at Camp Bullis"



James A. Cannizzo (third from left), an administrative and civil law advisor for the U.S. Army at Fort Sam Houston and Camp Bullis, receives the Hidalgo Award, presented by the Bexar County Commissioners Court in Texas for years of work to protect the vital training mission at Camp Bullis. Presenting the award are (from left) Precinct 3 Commissioner Kevin Wolff, Bexar County Judge Nelson W. Wolff, Precinct 4 Commissioner Tommy Adkisson, Precinct 2 Commissioner Paul Elizondo and Precinct 1 Commissioner Sergio "Chico" Rodriguez. (courtesy photo)

Last Month in BRAC News

BRAC NEWS STORIES POSTED ON THE SAJPO PORTAL

6/28/2011 Points for parking perpetrators
6/28/2011 Joint Base San Antonio to review energy projects
6/27/2011 NICE to enhance security at Brooke Army Medical Center
6/25/2011 Fort Sam facility is named for hero's hero
6/24/2011 San Antonio region's population expected to top 2.2 million
6/23/2011 Contentions from afield
6/23/2011 BLDG. 171: Controlled access begins July 1
6/21/2011 Ortho clinic opens doors at Brooks City-Base
6/20/2011 Texas military installations slated for \$726 million in projects
6/20/2011 Medical Monday: Taking care of our Patriots
6/20/2011 Space contractor Wyle inks new lease at Brooks
6/19/2011 Is seven enough?
6/19/2011 Air Force cargo plane arrives at Fort Lee from Texas
6/19/2011 Foundation eyes bigger digs for Lackland museum
6/18/2011 Services split over unified medical plan
6/17/2011 Road still bumpy for construction industry
6/17/2011 Ft. Meade completes BRAC buildings early
6/17/2011 San Antonio's unemployment rate rises
6/16/2011 House smiles on Texas bases
6/16/2011 Kendall residents sound off on habitat plan
6/16/2011 BRAC update: Transition on schedule
6/15/2011 Army again probing Fort Sam payments
6/14/2011 Wilford Hall has a new mission
6/14/2011 Workforce Solutions Alamo names new executive director
6/14/2011 House bill cuts military construction funds
6/12/2011 Conservation plan runs into trouble
6/9/2011 BRAC construction nearing completion deadline
6/9/2011 BRAC: On time, on target
6/9/2011 Regional habitat plan moving forward
6/7/2011 BRAC work force website offers job tips
6/5/2011 Higher-than-expected number of civilians moving to Wright-Pat
6/3/2011 BAMC command change marks start of a new era
6/2/2011 Wilford Hall to become urgent care clinic
6/2/2011 End of an era: Wilford Hall soon to close its emergency room
6/2/2011 Parking availability changing at Wilford Hall
6/1/2011 Wright-Patterson marks opening of new Human Performance Wing

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