

# HawkTALK

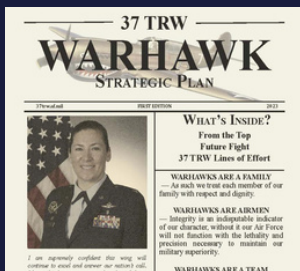
FEBRUARY 2023

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by Daniel Cruz

More than 600 Airmen assigned to the 433rd Training Squadron graduated from Basic Military Training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas, February 1-2, 2023. Lt. Gen. Richard G. Moore, Jr., Deputy Chief of Staff for Plans and Programs, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, the Pentagon, Arlington, Va., reviewed the ceremony.

## 433rd Training Squadron: End of an Era

By Joe Gangemi

37th Training Wing Public Affairs

**JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-LACKLAND, Texas** – The 433rd Training Squadron is Total Force in action. The squadron, which falls under the 340th Flying Training Group at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, is comprised of Total Force Airmen who accomplish the basic military training mission — motivate, train, and inspire the next generation of Airmen and Guardians with the foundation to deliver 21st Century Airpower.

In May 2020, the squadron, stood up as a line squadron alongside the active duty, inviting Reserve Military Training Instructors to return to the squadron to lead its trainees through 7.5 weeks of training.

Prior to COVID, the 433 TRS Reserve MTIs were embedded in with the other seven Regular Air Force (active duty) squadrons to support the Basic Military Training mission.

When COVID-19 threatened to stop the basic military training pipeline in 2020, it was the 433 TRS that came to the rescue. The 737th Training Group needed an additional line squadron to make their plan of “one squadron, same week of training” concept work.

[Read the entire story here](#)





### **Commander**

Col. Lauren A. Courchaine

### **Vice Commander**

Col. John P. O'Dell III

### **Command Chief**

CMSgt. Michael R. Morgan

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This Department of Defense newsletter is an authorized publication for members and families of the 37th Training Wing. Contents of the HAWK Talk are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government or the DoD. Content for this monthly newsletter should be submitted no later than the 21st of the month prior to publication. Content, including articles and photos, should be submitted to

[37trw.pa.inbox@us.af.mil](mailto:37trw.pa.inbox@us.af.mil)

## **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

**March:** Women's History Month

**10 March:** Annual Awards Banquet

**11 March:** 37 TRW Invitational Drilldown

**15 March:** IAAFA 80th Birthday

## **BREAKING NEWS**

### **Women's History Month**

**How has your role as a woman (Airman, civilian or family member) serving the Air Force impacted you, or others?**

**Tell us in 300 words or less.**

**Email your story to**

**[37trw.pa.inbox@us.af.mil](mailto:37trw.pa.inbox@us.af.mil)**

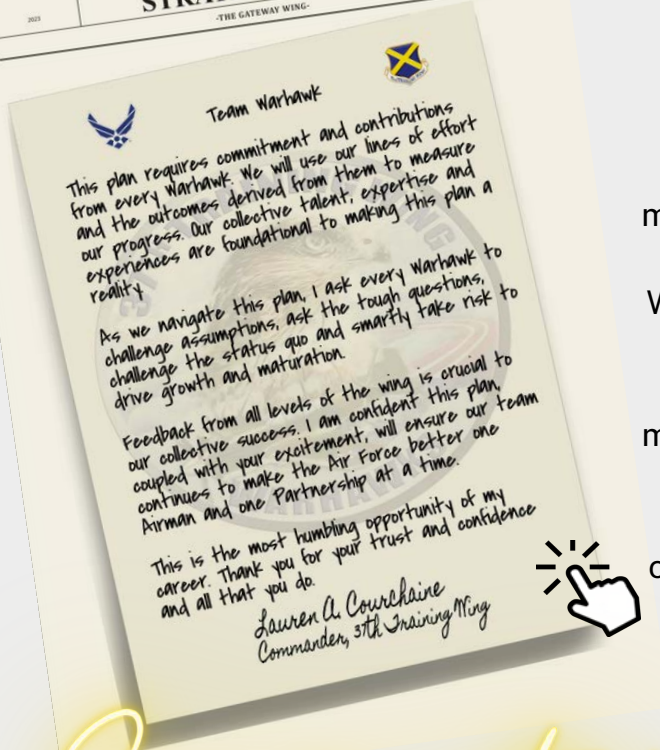
**NLT March 10 and we'll showcase it in the next Hawk Talk.**

# FEATURED EVENTS ACROSS JBSA

**CLICK HERE**







## 37 TRW STRATEGIC PLAN UNVEILED

Col. Lauren Courchaine, 37th Training Wing commander, recently announced the wing's new mission, vision and lines of effort that serves as a guide for operations, activities, and investments across the Wing training and security cooperation portfolios. With the Wing's top priorities identified as **CULTURE**, **MISSION**, and **PEOPLE**, the plan promotes modernizing infrastructure, technology, and operations and employing Airmen competencies for Great Power Competition. This plan requires commitments and contributions from every Warhawk," Courchaine states in the strategic plan.

*Congrats!*

## 37TH TRW EARNs TOP UNIT AWARD

The 37th Training Wing was recently awarded the Air and Space Outstanding Unit Award for meritorious service from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022.

## WARHAWK

**Rockstar!**  
MAKING A DIFFERENCE EVERYDAY

Airman Basic Juan Magra is being recognized as a WARHAWK Rockstar! Upon returning to JBSA-Lackland to complete his technical training after December's exodus, Magra was caught in three flight delays and one cancelation. He took matters into his own hands, safely, and drove the more than 1,300 miles and 19 hours to return to JBSA-Lackland, Texas, to ensure he arrived on time. His commitment to serve motivated him to make the drive back to his duty location.

*"The Air Force is honestly everything I hoped for and more. Ever since I was a kid, this is what I wanted to do." -- Airman Basic Juan Magra  
343 TRS student*

Want to recognize someone? Submit your Warhawk Rockstar to [37trw.pa.inbox@us.af.mil](mailto:37trw.pa.inbox@us.af.mil)







Clockwise from top left: Javier Nagore, 318th Training Squadron, motions the forklift operator during the delivery of the A-29 cockpit simulator, Nov. 29, 2023 at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas. (Right:) Intendente Alexander Pacheco, Partner Nation Guest Instructor from Colombia National Police, places a bracket under a door as Tech. Sgt. Edwin Nieves, 837th Training Squadron, tilts the door panel while assembling a modular shoothouse at IAAFA's Security Forces Complex. (Bottom left:) Tech. Sgt. Edwin Acevedo, 837th Training Squadron, scrolls through the program of the newly-acquired SV-R simulator, Jan. 23, 2023.

## IAAFA infuses agility into training with modern technology, sims

 and story by Vanessa R. Adame

**JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-LACKLAND, Texas** – Virtual reality goggles and body worn sensors are helping to take technical training to the next level at the Inter-American Air Forces Academy. The gear is part of a virtual reality simulator, and among the newest equipment being used to train international military students from partner nations.

The SV-R simulator, an estimated \$250,000 purchase, will be used to train military and law enforcement students from Latin America, focusing on counter narcotic efforts and combatting transnational criminal organizations. "It's going to enhance training greatly for our students," said Master Sgt. Ricardo Alonso, of IAAFA, who helped bring the technology to the academy. "Many of them have never been exposed to this kind of training environment."

The SV-R simulator allows instructors to create an infinite number of scenarios in a realistic training environment; as Alonso explained "even change the factors within it as to how lethal we have to respond as military police or law enforcement officer."

The simulator features the user as virtual avatar and allows users to realistically interact with one another, creating a true to life environment. The cutting-edge technology is being implemented into the Special Reactions Team and Ground Defense Leadership courses curriculum, where both new and more advanced students can train in a controlled environment.

"We're trying to bring students into something that's more realistic, but safe as well," Alonso said. "So, we evaluate their tactics in a virtual space first, and then we take them out to the range with live-fire weapons."

IAAFA is accelerating change by implementing this cutting-edge technology for its security forces flight. According to Alonso, it's also serving as a model for technical training across Air Force's Security Forces, who is considering implementing a similar technology. Accelerating change has been a common theme for the academy as it continues to modernize to help meet the needs of a strategic competition environment. The academy also recently acquired a modular training shoot house, an estimated \$30,000 purchase, to use as part of a final training exercise for students in Ground Defense Leadership and Special Reactions Team courses. The shoot house consists of modular wood panels that can be easily moved and reconfigured into different layouts, ensuring students remain challenged.

[Read the entire story here](#) 





## New Military Training Instructors graduate during ceremony

by Joseph Gangemi

The 737th Training Group welcomed new military training instructors at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas January 27, 2023, after completing a rigorous 8-week course. The new MTIs received their dark blue campaign hat and coveted MTI coin during the ceremony -- which symbolizes the beginning of their career as MTIs where they will "Motivate, Train, and Inspire" the next generation of warrior Airmen and Guardians.

The new MTIs are as follows: (from left to right) Tech. Sgt. Dangerard Ando, 331st Training Squadron; Staff Sgt. Philip Bearss, 324 TRS; Tech. Sgt. Chase Kendrick, 321 TRS; Tech. Sgt. Albert Lockhart, 322 TRS; Tech. Sgt. Rebecca Martin, 319 TRS; Tech. Sgt. Michael Miller, 323 TRS; Tech. Sgt. Ramsey Otero, 320 TRS; Tech. Sgt. Jonathan Speer, 326 TRS; Tech. Sgt. Christopher Roser, 433 TRS; and Tech. Sgt. Jose Hernandez, 433 TRS.

## New text service offers military healthcare updates and information

By Elaine Sanchez  
59th Medical Wing

### JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas

– The San Antonio Market has launched a text messaging service to keep TRICARE beneficiaries informed about their local military healthcare system.

Once they opt in on their phone or tablet, beneficiaries will receive up to 10 text messages per month on topics such as clinic hours of operation, health fairs, vaccine opportunities, pharmacy/lab services, access to care tips and more.

"This new program is part of our continued commitment to transparency and access," said Air Force Brig. Gen. Jeannine Ryder, director, San Antonio Market, and commander, 59th Medical Wing. "Our aim is to offer our patients timely, relevant information about their healthcare system in a user-friendly, convenient way."

As statistics indicate, texting is a highly effective form of communication. According to a study by Singlepoint, texts have a 99% open rate, and Forbes has reported that 95% of texts are read within three minutes. Conversely, if it's not caught in a spam filter, the average open rate of an email is 20%.

"We are continually looking for ways to improve communication, especially to our beneficiaries," said Army Brig. Gen. Deydre Teyhen, deputy director, San Antonio Market, and commander, Brooke Army Medical Center. "We are excited to share this new information resource with our valued patients."


### SIGN UP TODAY

To opt in for the service, patients can simply text the word "MilCare" to 1-877-345-7262 to start receiving helpful information and updates directly on their smart phone. Please be advised that message and data rates may apply. Subscribers can opt out anytime by texting "STOP" to the same number.



# IAAFA supports 12th Air Force in subject matter expert exchange in Honduras



 Courtesy photo

The Inter-American Air Forces Academy recently supported a subject matter expert exchange with the Honduras Air Force.

Master Sgt. Karina Gonzalez of IAAFA, accompanied members from 12th Air Force on a Non-commissioned Professional Development and Women, Peace and Security exchange. Gonzalez visited the NCO Academy and discussed professional development with the members from the Honduran Air Force. She provided in-depth knowledge about IAAFA's Professional Military Education program, giving the Central American country insight into USAF NCO management and development.

The NCO corps gives the U.S. and advantage over pacing threats and demonstrating the success of that philosophy is a key strategic objective with the Western Hemisphere partners.



## BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Check out this video! As the Defense Language Institute English Language celebrates Black History Month, Kelon Evans shares what it means to him. He reflects on the achievements that helped pave the way for equality, justice, and a better life. Evans hopes that future generations continue to receive education about black history.



## JOIN US!

3 Mar, 0800  
737th Training  
Group  
Conference Room

# Senior Enlisted Leader bids farewell to 322 TRS

Chief Master Sgt. Larenza Smartt, Senior Enlisted Leader of the 322nd Training Squadron, retired in a ceremony at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas, Feb. 3, 2023.



by Daniel Cruz

## NEWS FROM AROUND THE 37TH TRAINING WING



by Christa D'Andrea

## Workshop aims to optimize personal well-being

**SAN ANTONIO, Texas** -- The Well-Being Ultimatum kicked off Feb. 6-7, providing individuals and teams with the tools to serve as a compassionate leader. The two-day event was hosted by Dr. Suzie Carmack. The goal of the event aimed to enhance mission effectiveness as part of the 37th Training Wing's commitment to mission, people, and culture. Carmack trained volunteer Trainers to bring the program's 7-workshop curriculum to the Airmen, civilians and family Members of the 37 TRW.

The 10-month training program is designed to create a culture of compassionate leadership to optimize worker well-being; team engagement and leadership; and organization performance outcomes. Starting in March, each month of the program will be delivered by a trainer at the unit level to focus on a different dimension of well-being: comprehensive, physical, financial, social, mental, purpose and emotional well-being.

The program is based on Carmack's book *Well-Being Ultimatum*, and developed over the past 7 years through her global well-being research and partnerships with multiple organizations and government agencies.





## 4th Quarter Awards Ceremony meant food, fun and fur

341st Training Squadron Honorary Commander, Michael Guerra, speaks to guests at the 37th Training Wing's Fourth Quarter award's ceremony at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas, Feb. 10. This quarter's ceremony hosted a food drive for the San Antonio Food Bank. Additionally, one of the newest military working dog puppies was named after Guerra and was introduced to him at the event.

by Vanessa R. Adame

**See Page 10 for the list of award winners. Click [here](#) for more photos.**

## NEWS FROM AROUND THE 37TH TRAINING WING



by Vanessa R. Adame

Mateo Gonzalez, Aircraft Maintenance Officer Course instructor, celebrated 30 years at the Inter-American Air Forces Academy, Feb. 16. When asked what he was most proud of, Gonzalez didn't hesitate:

*"The impact that we make, not just my class, but the whole academy .... the impact that we make in South America."*

"It's always a great day to be a U.S. Airman....especially when we welcome 608 Airmen to our Air Force family!!! They are coming to an installation near you...are you ready for them?" Chief Master Sgt. JoAnne S. Bass, Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force, was a guest speaker at the Feb. 2, Basic Military Training Graduation. She also visited Airmen at PACER FORGE.







Security Forces trainees in the 343rd Training Squadron train on the M18 pistol at Joint Base San Antonio - Chapman Training Annex, Dec. 12, 2022. Combat arms units across the Air Force have replaced the M9 pistols which had been in use since the mid-1980s. The M18 is lighter with a more consistent trigger pull and adjustable grips for large and small hands. (U.S. Air Force video by: Tenelle Marshall, 502nd ABW Public Affairs)



Defense Language Institute English Language Center Echo Company trainees enjoyed a day reliving history and delving into Texas roots! ☺ From the limestone walls of the Alamo to historical re-enactments, trainees learned of past events plus the rich culture of San Antonio.

by SFC Harrison Scurry

## NEWS FROM AROUND THE 37TH TRAINING WING



by Daniel Cruz

The 37th Training Wing hosted Rachel Cohen, Air Force Times reporter, Feb. 9-10, for an in-depth look into the wing's missions. She was treated to a living mission brief, sat down with Airmen to talk about their roles and quality of life initiatives, and visited the 737th Training Group, the 344th Training Squadron and the Defense Language Institute English Language Center.



# AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

**AND THE WINNERS ARE ...**

## **4TH QUARTER AWARDS**

Civilian of the Quarter, Non-Supervisory Cat 1: Sonia Abridello, 37 TRG  
Civilian of the Quarter, Non-Supervisory Cat 2: Francisco Hernandez, IAAFA  
Civilian of the Quarter, Non-Supervisory Cat 3: Andrea Nowlin, 37 TRG  
Civilian of the Quarter, Supervisory Cat 1: Bradley Donoghue, 37 TRG  
Civilian of the Quarter, Supervisory Cat 2: Laura Duque, 37 TRG  
Civilian of the Quarter, Supervisory Cat 3: Ricky Mathias, 37 TRG  
Junior Enlisted: Senior Airman Rommel Soriano, 737 TRG  
Non-Commissioned Officer: Tech. Sgt. Andre Williams, 737 TRG  
Senior Non-Commissioned: Master Sgt. Ricardo Alonso, IAAFA  
Company Grade Officer: Capt. Evan Walters, 37 TRG  
Field Grade Officer: Lt. Col. Kyle Myers, 737 TRG  
Additional Duty First Sergeant: Tech. Sgt. Adam Dye, 37 TRG

## 37<sup>TH</sup> TRW ANNUAL AWARDS



**RSVP NOW!** 

**FRI. MARCH 10TH  
1800**

JOIN US  
**JBSA-LACKLAND GATEWAY CLUB**

1650 KENLY AVE, LACKLAND AFB, TX 78236

## 37th Training Wing Drill Down

Saturday 11 March 2023

0900-1300

Pfingston Reception Center  
Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland



**Presentations from:** University of Texas-San Antonio (UTSA)  
Color Guard, 17 TRW, 37 TRW, 59 MDW, 81 TRW, 82 TRW

**Drill Competition:** Standard and Exhibition

**Entertainment:** Military Working Dogs, Knockout Competition

**Food Trucks Available on Site**



# FREE ADMISSION