

# HawkTALK

JANUARY 2023



# 2022

in







### **Commander**

Col. Lauren A. Courchaine

### **Vice Commander**

Col. John P. O'Dell III

### **Command Chief**

CMSgt. Michael R. Morgan

### **Chief, Public Affairs**

Christa L. D'Andrea

### **Editor**

Vanessa R. Adame

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)



37th Training Wing website

# NOW ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS

Has someone else's actions had an impact on you or others?

Has an individual or team gone above and beyond to show support?

Then nominate them as a Warhawk Rockstar and we will feature your note of appreciation and thanks in the next Hawk Talk.

Send your nomination to  
[37trw.pa.inbox@us.af.mil](mailto:37trw.pa.inbox@us.af.mil).

Include a short description/explanation on why you are submitting the nomination.

WARHAWK  
**Rockstar!**  
MAKING A DIFFERENCE EVERYDAY

# FEATURED EVENTS ACROSS JBSA

[CLICK HERE](#)



# 2022 MILESTONES

**13 JAN 22**

The first group of 'enhanced integrated' BMT flight graduate. This group represents the culmination of work began in 2015 to integrate all aspects of BMT.

Read the story [here](#).

**25 FEB 22**

The Inter-American Air Force's Academy begins the process of expanding the presence of Women, Peace and Security themes into the Academy's education and training operations.

Read more [here](#).

**14 MAY 22**

Instructors at the 344 TRS conducted their first sessions training students in the altitude chamber. The Aerospace Physiology personnel completed 16 chamber flights consisting of 67 future aviation students. Read more [here](#).

**9 JUNE 22**

Basic Military Training graduations return to the JBSA-Lackland Parade Field -- the first since March 13, 2020 when COVID-19 pandemic measures stopped the publicly attended sessions. Maj. Gen. Michele Edmonson, 2 AF/CC, reviewed the ceremony. Read the story [here](#).

**23 JUNE 22**

The first flights of Space Force Guardians graduated basic training having trained under a specific curriculum geared for the new service. Watch the news coverage [here](#).

# 2022 MILESTONES

**1 AUG 22**

Detachment 2, 344th Training Squadron activated at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, and assumed responsibility for the Aerospace Physiology Schoolhouse. Read the story [here](#).

**17 AUG 22**

The Mask Confidence training facility reopens after a two-year hiatus for upgrades. See the photos [here](#).

**31 AUG 22**

The first group of five U.S. Coast Guard recruits from Cape May, N.J., arrive at JBSA-Lackland to attend the Defense Language Institute English Language Center. Read the story [here](#).

**13 SEP 22**

Basic Military Training completed the transition to a digital campus by issuing over 500 tablets to Airmen in the first week of training. Read the story [here](#).

**16 NOV 22**

The Basic Expeditionary Airman Skills Training, or BEAST, ends after 16 years. PACER FORGE begins. Read the story [here](#).

**18 NOV 22**


The 341st Training Squadron holds its first Military Working Dog Expo. Read the story [here](#).





Clockwise from Left: Members from the 341st Training Squadron cut the ribbon for the third new training lab at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas, Jan. 5, 2022. The 341st TRS is home to the Military Working Dog program, training all handlers and dogs for the Department of Defense. The new lab focuses on explosive detection training. (Right:) Maj. Gen. Michele Edmondson, 2nd Air Force commander, tours the new Military Working Dog training lab at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas, Dec. 9, 2021. Edmondson toured the lab ahead of the ribbon-cutting Jan. 5, 2022. The new lab, which falls under the 341st Training Squadron, allows canines and their handlers to train longer and reduce risk of injury due to environmental conditions.

## 341 TRS opens third specialized MWD training lab


Story and  by Agnes Koterba  
37th Training Wing Public Affairs

**Published 1/11/22**

**JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-LACKLAND, Texas** – The 341st Training Squadron, home of the Military Working Dog program for the Department of Defense, opened its third specialized training lab here Jan. 5, 2022.

The new lab focuses on explosives detection, and allows canines and their handlers to train longer and reduce risk of injury due to environmental conditions.

"This year is huge for our program. I've been here since 2009. We've been begging for training labs. And let me tell you, if it were not for the folks that are here, we wouldn't be where we're at today," said John McKinney, 341 TRS MWD course chief, at the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

[Read more here.](#) 



Trainees march to their graduation ceremony at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas, Sept. 30, 2021. The 737th Training Group successfully managed Basic Military Training operations during COVID, resulting in more than 36,000 Total Force graduates in 2021. This accomplishment, along with several others, was instrumental in the 37th Training Wing being named the 2021 recipient of the Verne Orr Award for Air Education and Training Command.

 by Christa D'Andrea

## 37th TRW recognized with Verne Orr Award

**Published 2/2/22**

By Annette Crawford  
37th Training Wing Public Affairs

**JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-LACKLAND, Texas** – The 37th Training Wing has been named as Air Education and Training Command's 2022 recipient of the Verne Orr Award. The award, established by the Air Force Association in honor of former Secretary of the Air Force Verne Orr, recognizes an Air Force unit that makes the most effective use of its human resources.

"This is a huge honor for the Gateway Wing," said Col. Rockie K Wilson, 37th TRW commander. "This is among the most coveted unit-level awards in the Air Force and we're beyond pleased with this recognition. A huge thanks to all Warhawks and those who support our mission. This award once again validates the work our Airmen, Guardians, Soldiers, Sailors and Marines do each and every day. Commanding this wing is rewarding, mainly due to the amazing people we have on our team."

[Read full story here](#) 



Inter-American Air Forces Academy members listen to Jennifer Typrowicz, U.S. Southern Command's Gender Advisor, as she visits with them during a tour Feb. 10, 2022, at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas. Typrowicz met with IAAFA leaders to discuss SOUTHCOM's priorities and help grow the WPS program into the academy's curriculum.

## IAAFA moves to implement Women, Peace, and Security initiatives across academy

Published 2/25/22

Story and 📷 by Vanessa R. Adame  
37th Training Wing Public Affairs

**JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-LACKLAND, Texas** – A global effort that aims to empower women and examine the needs of women and children in conflict is gaining momentum here at the Inter-American Air Forces Academy as the schoolhouse begins the process to expand the presence of Women, Peace, and Security themes into the academy's education and training operations.

The Women, Peace, and Security Act, signed into law in 2017, identifies women as critical to conflict resolution and maintaining peace. The legislation also promotes women's participation in all aspects of overseas conflict prevention, management and resolution.

[Read full story here](#)



Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland's Company Grade Officer Council gathers for a photo while visiting the 341st Training Squadron Feb. 22, 2022. They got an in-depth look at military working dog detection training and bite work. The CGOC provides opportunities every month for members to network, grow and experience unique encounters with the mission.



📷 by Capt. Eric Mouyal

## Six things you should know about the CGO Council

Published 3/22/22

Story by Miriam Thurber  
37th Training Wing Public Affairs

**JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-LACKLAND, Texas** -- JBSA-Lackland's Company Grade Officer Council invites every lieutenant and captain (O1-O3) to become an active member. The CGOC, a private organization operating outside the chain of command, provides opportunities for networking, growth and unique encounters with the mission.

"Come out and try it," said 1st Lt. Braden Evers, vice president of the CGOC. "Initially, I wasn't eager to join, especially since I'm so busy, but I'm so thankful that I did. The events have been great for growing as a leader and even just relaxing among peers."

Whether you're already a member or have never heard of them, here are six things you should know about the council.

1. Attendance opens doors. "These are the people we're going to grow with," 1st Lt. Himanshu Chopra, CGOC president. "It's no secret that networking now pays off in the future."

2. Members get backstage passes. Every month, JBSA-Lackland's CGOC sponsors a behind-the-scenes tour of a unit. In February, the 341st Training Squadron hosted an up-close look at the military working dog program's only training squadron in the Department of Defense, giving the 30 CGOs in attendance front row seats to detection training and bite work practice. The CGOs also spoke directly to experts about the squadron's breeding, whelping and fostering programs while walking through the kennels. In April, members will take an in-depth tour of the Special Warfare Training Wing.

[Read full story here](#)





# BMT expands graduation events, returns to parade grounds



Published 4/20/22

**JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-LACKLAND, Texas** – Beginning June 8-9, Basic Military Training graduation events will expand to two days and include the return of the traditional military parade at the Gateway Wing parade grounds.

Following the recent announcement that proof of COVID vaccination was no longer required to enter BMT ceremonies, today's news release reflects the improved current health protection conditions within the local San Antonio area that have contributed to making changes.

The 433rd Training Squadron will be the first to execute the two-day graduation events on Wednesday, June 8, and Thursday, June 9. (The Airmen who graduate on those dates will begin their BMT on Tuesday, April 19.)

Airmen march at their graduation ceremony at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, April 14, 2022. Beginning June 8-9, Basic Military Training graduation events will expand to two days and include the return of the traditional military parade at the Gateway Wing parade grounds.

Photo by Annette Crawford

[Read the entire story here.](#)



Published 5/13/22

Professional military education instructors from the Inter-American Air Forces Academy earned the Air Force's Enlisted Professional Military Center of the Year Award for 2021. The academy, located at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas, offers PME to international military students from partner nations and to U.S. Air Force students in Spanish.

by Vanessa R. Adame

## IAAFA professional military education center garners top Air Force award

**JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-LACKLAND, Texas** -- Consistency, hard work and dedication. That's what Capt. Yaira Saroli, flight commander of the 837th Training Squadron, points to as the reason for the Inter-American Air Forces Academy winning the Air Force's Enlisted Professional Military Center of the Year Award.

This is the second time in three years that IAAFA's EPME mission has earned the award recognizing the outstanding performance and exceptional contributions made by the community of civilian, military and partner nation instructors serving the Air and Space Force in 2021.

Saroli also credits the Academy's "all in" effort from its members and leadership team in continuing an excellence of tradition that resonates beyond borders.

[Read the entire story here.](#)



# 37th Training Wing receives new leader

Published 6/13/22

Col. Lauren Courchaine takes command of the 37th Training Wing at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas, June 10, 2022. As the new 37 TRW commander, Courchaine oversees Basic Military Training, the Inter-American Air Forces Academy, the Defense Language Institute English Language Center and the 37th Training Group, which trains Airmen in 23 career fields.



by Gregory Walker

**JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-LACKLAND, Texas --** Col. Lauren Courchaine took the reins of the 37th Training Wing from Col. Rockie Wilson June 10, during a change of command ceremony here.

Maj. Gen. Michele Edmondson, 2nd Air Force commander, presided over the ceremony and highlighted the importance of the wing's mission to train, educate, develop and inspire Airmen, and to strengthen U.S. and international partnerships.

The pace of this wing is constant, and, on some days, perhaps best described as relentless," Edmondson said. "You only need to watch one graduation parade, one coin ceremony, one dog handler, one altitude chamber ride, one English class at DLI [Defense Language Institute English Language Center], listen to one IAAFA [Inter-American Air Forces Academy] class in Spanish, hold one puppy or have one parent say to you 'thank you for what you did for my son or daughter,' to convince you there is something magical about the 37th Training Wing."

[Read the entire story here.](#)



The 37th Training Wing cuts the ribbon on the Career Enlisted Aviator Center of Excellence's new altitude chamber at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas, on June 15, 2022. After career enlisted aviators in training can explain the physiological responses to altitude and what to do in the midst of an altitude threat, such as hypoxia, they strap into an altitude chamber and experience it themselves.

## Altitude chamber takes the breath away

Published 6/16/22

Story and  by Miriam Thurber  
37th Training Wing Public Affairs

**JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-LACKLAND, Texas --** Enlisted aviator students in the 37th Training Wing will now experience physiological responses to flying, right from the comfort of their training base. The Wing's Career Enlisted Aviator Center of Excellence at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland cut the ribbon on its new altitude chamber on June 15, officially opening it for regular student use.

"We're always pushing the envelope when it comes to bringing our students the best training and education, and the opening of this altitude chamber is just one piece in the puzzle of preparing the next generation of Airmen for careers as enlisted aviators," said Lt. Col. Patrick King, Commander of the 344th Training Squadron that oversees the CEA COE.

When enlisted aviators—that's any Airman with an aircraft job other than piloting or navigating the plane—graduate from Basic Military Training, they head up the street to begin tech school in the CEA COE. The CEA COE teaches a base level of aviation knowledge in Aircrew Fundamentals on aerodynamics, aircraft systems, safety procedures, publications, physiological responses to altitude and more to Air Force and international students in aviation career fields.

[Read the entire story here.](#)





# Goodson takes over 37th Training Group

Published 7/26/22



Col. John Goodson III took the reins of the 37th Training Group from Col. Joyce Storm July 22 at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas. Col. Lauren Courchaine, 37th Training Wing commander, presided over the ceremony.

Story and  by C Arce  
37th Training Wing Public Affairs

**JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-LACKLAND, Texas** — Col. John Goodson III took the reins of the 37th Training Group from Col. Joyce Storm July 22, during a change of command ceremony here.

Col. Lauren Courchaine, 37th Training Wing commander, presided over the ceremony and highlighted the diverse missions that the 37th TRG has, including the largest career field in the Air Force – security forces, and how training Airmen is vital to building multi-capable Airmen.

[Read the entire story here.](#) 

# Paraguayan General, former IAAFA graduate serves as example of security cooperation

Published 8/31/22


Gen. Arturo González Ocampo, Commander of the Paraguayan Air Force, speaks to students during an immersion at the Inter-American Air Forces Academy. González, a two-time graduate of IAAFA, returned to the academy Aug. 10, 2022, as a guest of honor for B-Cycle graduation ceremony and banquet at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland.



Story and  by Vanessa Adame  
37th Training Wing Public Affairs

**JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-LACKLAND, Texas** – He first attended the Inter-American Air Forces Academy as a student in 1990, then returned here as a partner nation guest instructor in 2004. Fifteen years later, Gen. Arturo González Ocampo, Commander of the Paraguayan Air Force, returned to IAAFA as a guest of honor for B-Cycle graduation ceremony and banquet Aug. 10, 2022.

"It's a great honor to return to this great Air Force academy and address the graduates of class of 2022 B," González said.

[Read the entire story here.](#) 



A student motions as she speaks with partner nation students during a Women, Peace, and Security small group discussion July 13, 2022, at Joint Base San Antonio, Texas. The training is part of a larger strategic framework by the Department of Defense to implement WPS into relevant training curriculum and professional military education for the Armed Forces.

## IAAFA implements Women, Peace, and Security into Curriculum

Published 8/31/22

Story and 📷 by Vanessa Adame  
37th Training Wing Public Affairs

**JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-LACKLAND, Texas** – The Inter-American Air Forces Academy is leading efforts to integrate a national framework into its curriculum that promotes the safety, equality and meaningful contributions of women.

In July, IAAFA cadre held the first training session on Women, Peace, and Security for approximately 160 students from the U.S. Air Force and seven partner nations across Latin America. The module consisted of a foundational lecture, small group discussions, and a question-and-answer panel with participation from academy instructors and U.S. Southern Command's Gender Advisor Jennifer Typrowicz.

"Students walked away with an increased awareness of the WPS initiative, as well as a better understanding of the benefits of applying gender perspectives in defense and security institutions," said Capt. Briana Winslow, 318th Training Squadron, who serves as the academy's WPS representative.

**[Read the entire story here.](#)** 🖱️

## Gentle leaders for gentle giants

Ariel Guerrero, lead caretaker with the 341st Training Squadron Animal Caretakers, walks Kkeating, a military working dog, during his morning exercise on Aug. 17, 2022. Caretakers now have the option of using a new device, called a gentle leader, while exercising MWDs who pull during their walks. A gentle leader is a head collar that goes around a dog's snout to prevent them from pulling when being walked. Using the collar benefits the dogs and caretakers by preventing excessive pulling that can exhaust them, as well as preventing tripping or falling.

**[Read the entire story here.](#)**

Published 8/31/22

Story and 📷 by C Arce  
37th Training Wing Public Affairs








Basic Military Training trainees from the 433rd Training Squadron use their iPads as a hands-on learning tool during a block of instruction that covers the fundamental facts of Law of War at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas, July 21, 2022. BMT partnered with Memrei.ai Cerego, which creates an adaptive learning experience that replaces the workbook approach to learning.

## Basic Military Training digitizes curriculum

Published 9/14/22

Story and  by Joe Gangemi  
37th Training Wing Public Affairs


**JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-LACKLAND, Texas** –The days of carrying around your black portfolio with bulky study materials are over. On Sept. 13, 2022, Basic Military Training completed the transition to a digital campus by issuing over 500 tablets to Airmen in their first week of training. With that final distribution, all eight BMT line squadrons are now delivering curriculum to Airmen and Guardians using an adaptive learning application and background software, which enables a small information technology team to manage thousands of devices with the MaaS 360 program. BMT completed a two-year, \$4 million initiative to connect the campus and enable digital delivery of the curriculum. This expansion of communications infrastructure lays the foundation for a BMT Smart Campus and supports the 750 mobile devices currently used by military training instructors and staff, as well as the 7,000 tablets for trainee use.

[Read the entire story here.](#) 

## 37th TRW announces third quarter award winners

Published 11/1/22



 by Daniel Cruz

The 37th Training Wing 2022 Third Quarter Awards was held at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas, on Oct. 28, 2022. A group of 37th Training Group Airmen pose at Mitchell Hall after the event.



Secretary of the Air Force Frank Kendall, reads the oath of enlistment to U.S. Air Force Basic Military Training graduates at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas, Nov. 3, 2022. Kendall served as the presiding official during this BMT graduation, where he welcomed 570 of the newest Airmen to the U.S. Air Force.

by Brian Boisvert

by Brian Boisvert

Published 11/8/22

## SECAF Kendall takes a closer look at JBSA missions

By Capt. Scarlett Trujillo

**JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-LACKLAND, Texas** – Secretary of the Air Force Frank Kendall visited Joint Base San Antonio to meet with leaders across Air Education and Training Command, Air Force Personnel Center, Air Force Installation Management Support Center and Sixteenth Air Force across the Nov. 4-5, 2022.

Joint Base San Antonio is not only the largest joint base, but is also the “Gateway to the Air Force” and home to the Air Force’s Basic Military Training, which hosts graduations every week, generating the force the Air Force requires.

Kendall, as presiding official, celebrated the graduation of 570 of the Air Force’s newest Airmen and provided the oath of enlistment.

[Read the entire story here.](#)

## DLIELC graduates first Coast Guard recruits

Published 11/29/22

[Read the entire story here.](#)

Captain Warren Judge, Commanding Officer, United States Coast Guard Training Center, on the Defense Language Institute English Language Center graduation stage with USCG recruits, Omar Perez Torres (left) and Madelin Germosen Santos (right). Torres and Santos are the first USCG recruits to graduate from the DLIELC Echo Company English as a Second Language program.


by Spencer Berry





## More than 150 U.S. and Partner Nation Students graduate during IAAFA training cycle

Published 12/21/22

Story and  by Vanessa Adame  
37th Training Wing Public Affairs




Left to right: Col. José Jiménez, Jr., commandant of the Inter-American Air Forces Academy, pins an international military student with the IAAFA wings during the Academy's graduation ceremony at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas, Dec. 7, 2022. Right: International military students smile before approaching the stage during the Inter-American Air Forces Academy's graduation ceremony at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas, Dec. 7, 2022. More than 150 international military students from 12 partner nations across Latin America and the USAF graduated during the last training cycle of 2022.

[Read the entire story here.](#) 

## A Day in Dad's Life: Gold Star family member spends day with MWD trainers



 by C Arce

Airman 1st Class Zachary Rodriguez, an F-35 Mechanical Apprentice Crew Chief for the 61st Aircraft Maintenance Unit at Luke Air Force Base, Arizona, trains a military working dog during obedience training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas, on Dec. 21, 2022. His father, Army Sgt. 1st Class Gregory Rodriguez, was killed in Ana Kalay, Afghanistan, on Sept. 2, 2008. Zachary spent the day with military working dog trainers from the 341st Training Squadron here to learn what his father did to serve the nation.

 [Watch the video here.](#)

[Read the entire story here.](#) 





# 2023 STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

## CULTURE

The foundation of any winning team.

## MISSION

Setting the standard for force generation and executing global defense security cooperation objectives in direct support of the NDAA.

## PEOPLE

A wing powered by people and people are our greatest strength.