Cougar Tales – 13 APR 2021



Cougar Tales are available on the Wing App under Helpful Resources → Cougar Tales

The Wing App also contains a complete calendar of events and more.

Want to be in Cougar Tales? Contact Staff Sgt. Austin Harvill at austin.harvill.1@us.af.mil
Only events 2 weeks from registration deadline/event start will be advertised.

COVID:

Vaccines Free for ALL!
Vaccine Hotline

Events:

Mental Health First Aid Course – April 13/May 7
Leadership Summit – 22-23 April
Military Child Celebration – April 24
Strong Bonds Couple Luncheon – 25 April
Love and Logic Parenting class – 27 April

Announcements:

Joining Community Forces Newsletter
5 Ways to be All In to end child abuse
Wing Survey Reminder
Fight Oar Survive Scholarship
Mindfulness with Ch. Campbell
CBD/Marijuana Information
ANG FY21 Bonus AFSCs
TSgt Christina Gomez Shout-Out



Colorado National Guard COVID Vaccine Information

SERVICEMEMBERS/CIVILIANS
TITLE 5/CONTRACTORS CAN
SCHEDULE APPOINTMENTS FOR
THEMSELVES AND THEIR
MILITARY DEPENDENT
FAMILY MEMBERS THROUGH
THEIR RESPECTIVE SERVICE
(ARMY OR AIR) BELOW:

Army: Sign up through Sharepoint; alternate is unit reps, or Army Scheduler:

Air Guard: Sign up through your servicing Unit's Health Monitor.

THE COLORADO NATIONAL GUARD IS CURRENTLY OFFERING THE COVID-19 VACCINE FREE OF CHARGE TO ALL

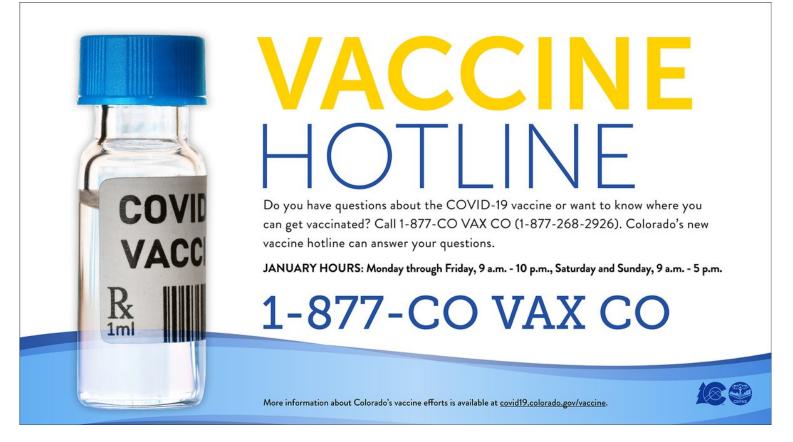
Service members, Title 5 civilians, contractors, and Military dependents (18+).

- By appointment only (Moderna, requires 1st and 2nd dose); NO WALK-INS! MUST BE 18+, NO EXCEPTIONS!
- All personnel must bring a valid DoD ID card and fill out a DHA 207 form at the vaccination site
- Dependents do not need to be enrolled in TRICARE to receive the vaccine, but do need to be in DEERS (i.e. have a military dependent ID card).

For other Vaccination events in Colorado: https://covid19.colorado.gov/ for-coloradans/vaccine/vaccine-for-coloradans

Full pdf:

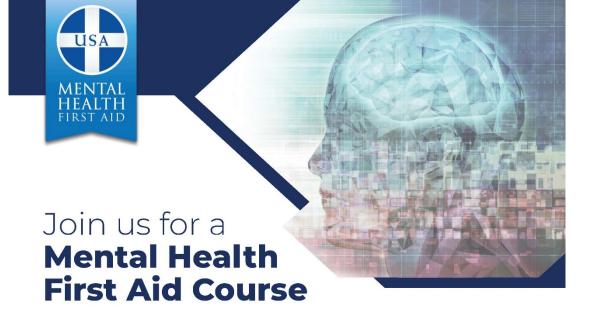
https://control.m3 60mobile.com/upl oads/1021/images/ thumb/references/ pdf/PublicReleaseS ocialMediaFlyerfor CONGVaccinations 25MAR21 161677 5588.pdf



The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment launched a new call center for the public to ask questions specifically about the COVID-19 vaccine. Beginning Feb. 1, hours will extend to 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The new toll-free number is 1-877-CO VAX CO (1-877-268-2926).

Vaccine call center staff are trained to answer COVID-19 vaccine-related questions, provide information about vaccine providers across the state, and give general information about COVID-19. Fifty operators are available to answer calls and can provide information in multiple languages. Staffing will expand as call volume requires.

The 1-877-CO VAX CO number is the go-to for vaccine-related questions for the general public, but they should continue using the Colorado Health Emergency Line for the Public (COHELP) and 2-1-1 Colorado for general information about COVID-19, such as the number of cases in Colorado, the list of symptoms, or how you can protect yourself.



Just as CPR helps you assist an individual having a heart attack, Mental Health First Aid helps you assist someone experiencing a mental health or substance use-related crisis. In the Mental Health First Aid course, you learn risk factors and warning signs for mental health and addiction concerns, strategies for how to help someone in both crisis and non-crisis situations, and where to turn for help.

APRIL 13TH, 2021: 9AM - 3 PM (VIRTUAL)

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER

MAY 7TH, 2021: 9AM - 3 PM (VIRTUAL)

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER

Full pdf:

https://control.m3 60mobile.com/upl oads/1021/images/ thumb/event/pdf/ MHFAxBuckley.pdf

REGISTRATION FEE:

\$23.95 WAIVED

Presented by the Cohen Military Family Clinic at University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus.

Questions? Contact us at *info.cohenclinic@cuanschutz.edu*





Building a People First Culture LEADERSHIP SUMMIT 22-23 APRIL ONLINE ONLY

Register now for the TAG's annual Leadership Summit

When: 22-23 April 2021
Where: Virtually on Zoom

Why: This annual event is designed to align the Colorado National Guard leaders, nurture leadership skills, and allow opportunity for leaders to network and exchange views/ and information. The leadership symposium's overall focus is to continue to cultivate the culture of the Colorado National Guard so the next generation of leaders thrive.

Required Participants include:

- <u>COANG</u> company grade command teams (CC, First Sergeant, SEL, Superintendent), and field grade command teams (encouraged), A-Staff Directorates/Special Staff (Primaries and CCMs)
- <u>COARNG</u> company grade command teams (CDR, 1SG, XO, Readiness NCO), field grade command teams (encouraged),
 G-Staff Directorates/Special Staff (Primaries and CSMs)
- <u>DMVA and CAP</u> (at Leader's discretion)

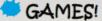
Registration and Information: https://co.ng.mil/Resources/Leadership-Summit/

(After registering, Zoom will send you the link and passcode to the Zoom meeting)

Registration only takes a minute. Cannot be done on a Government computer. Registration deadline is 02APR2021, Registration cutoff is 17APR2021.

Registration: https://co.ng.mil/Resources/Leadership-Summit/









*all included and paid for on your behalf by the COARNG Youth Program!

Space is limited and on a first come, first served basis! Registration is open until April 22nd or until full-whichever comes first.

RSVP to Lance at Lance.k.ellisz.ctr@mail.mil Parents and youth (ages 6-18) of the Army & Air Guard are invited to attend. ChildCare for o-5yrs will not be provided.

RSVP to: Lance.k.ellis2.ctr@ mail.mil





Important!!

This event will be held outdoors. However, parents should review state Covid precautions. Masks, hand sanitizing & medical statement are required at event check-in.

Tentative Schedule

22 April 2021

0700-0800	Zoom Host opens room up for members to enter/troubleshoot
0800-0940	Welcome and Introduction by Master of Ceremonies of the following:
	Governor Polis
	TAG – BG Clellan (Discuss intent for Summit)
	For the following Leaders: (10 minutes each – discuss: Wave top view of the organization's
	structure and how it fits into the overall DMVA structure; organization's mission; focus within
	the TAG's LOEs, and upcoming deployments)
	DMVA – Mr Callahan
	JSTAFF – BG Sherman
	COARNG – BG Paul
	COANG – BG Dunstan
	DVA – Ms Iglesias
	CAP – Col Rhodes
0940-1000	Break
	Keynote Speakers – State of the Guard, Celebrating our Diversity:
1000-1200 -	Gen Hokanson (1000-1030, 20 minutes speech, 10 minutes for questions)
	CMSgt Tony Whitehead (1030-1100, 20 minutes speech, 10 minutes for questions)
	LTG Loh (1100-1130, 20 minutes speech, 10 minutes for questions)
1200-1230	Lunch Break
1230-1315	TAG Strategic Campaign Plan
	Small Group Workshop – Culture Conversation (group facilitators)
1330-1600	Groups 1 and 2 – Prevention of Sexual Harassment/Sexual Assault (TBD)
	Groups 3 and 4 – Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (TBD)
_	Group 5 – Accountability (TBD)
-	Group 6 – Suicide Prevention (LTC Nagel and LtCol Murphy)
1600-1615	Break
1615-1700	Small Group results to Big Group

23 April 2021

0700-0800	Host opens Zoom room up for participants to enter/troubleshoot
0800-0830	Key Note Motivational Speaker – LTG Jensen: Speech with Q&A session
0845-0945	Key Note Speaker – Dr. Miriam Matthews: Speech with Q&A session
1000-1200	COARNG, COANG, DVA Breakouts
1210-1300	Closing comments from COANG, COARNG, DMVA, TAG
1210-1300 1300-UTC	Closing comments from COANG, COARNG, DMVA, TAG Release for Commanders time



Date: Sun 25 April

Time: 11:30a - 3:00p



Strong Bonds Couples Lunch Training

We are excited to announce a **COANG** Strong Bonds Lunch Date! This event will be held at **Maggiano's in Englewood** from 11:30am-3:00pm and will involve activities and training based on the **Speed of Trust** curriculum. Take some time to enjoy a delicious meal, connect with your partner, and learn ways to strengthen your relationship.

To register: Open your mobile device's camera and hold it to the QR code. Your device will show a notification leading you to the registration page.







POC: MSgt Kristin Johnson Email: kristin.johnson.2@us.af.mli

Registration Link:
https://www.angst
rongbonds.org/em
s/url/lkSfcpCQtEgD
HRHrg2FKjg

Love and Logic Parenting class

For Child Abuse Awareness Month, Family Advocacy will be offering a virtual introduction to the Love and Logic Parenting class on 27 April 2021 from 1200-1400. Love and Logic is a model dedicated to making parenting fun and rewarding, instead of stressful and chaotic. The model helps to provide practical tools and techniques that help adults achieve respectful, healthy relationships with their children.

In the 2-hour mini class, we are offering an introduction into the core principles and skills in Love and Logic, where we will explore the benefits and advantages to using these parenting techniques as well as to allow participants to ask questions they may have. The information provided will be a mini snip-it of the full class that Family Advocacy will offer in May. For more information, please call Family Advocacy at 720-847-6453.

Click on this link (or paste in your browser) to sign up: https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_Y2ZmNGJhOGItMDZhZC00YjM2LTlmOGUtN2NkYWJhOTljZjc5%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%222dd8d52ed-ae2b-4444-ad92-e541b7b4c236%22%7d

Sandy

SANDRA D. WHITAKER, DAFC Buckley Garrison Violence Prevention Integrator 510 S Aspen Street, Bldg 1030 Buckley AFB CO 80011 DSN 847-6046 Comm 720-847-6046

JOINING COMMUNITY FORCES

Joining Community
Forces Newsletter is a
weekly publication
advertising activities
and opportunities in
the local area.
Full PDF:

https://control.m360 mobile.com/uploads/ 1021/images/thumb/r eferences/pdf/JCFNew sletter421reduced 16 18336392.pdf



HIGHLIGHTED RESOURCES

If you would like to be a highlighted resource, please email us your information!

EVENTS

If you would like us to feature your event, please email it to us. Preferably 1-2 weeks before the event date.

CONNECT WITH US



Join our Facebook Group! https://www.facebook.com/groups/ICFcolorado



Check out our Website www.coloradoicf.org



Colorado National Guard Family Program www.co.ne.mil/family

Suzanne Buemi Eastern Slope Liaison 12200 E. Briarwood Ave #160 Centennial, CO 80112 Office: 720-250-1186 Cell-303-921-6099 Dánielle Hindson Western Slope Liaison 2820 Riverside Parkway Grand Junction, CO 81501 Office: 720-250-5571 Cell: 970-640-7846



5 Ways to Be All In to End Child Abuse

Every adult in the community can play a role in supporting and protecting military children. You don't need to be 100% sure that a child is being abused or neglected to talk with someone. Go all in to end child abuse. Share your concerns with Family Advocacy Program staff, and they can help you determine what to do next.

1. Know the signs

- Sudden changes in behavior or school performance.
- · Always preparing for something bad to happen
- · Frequently lacking adult supervision
- · Fading bruises or other marks after an absence from school
- · Unexplained burns, bites, bruises, broken bones or black eyes
- · Being frightened of a parent or caregiver
- · Abusing animals or pets

2. Be a trusted adult

concern and that you will:

- · Believe them
- . Help and support them

4. Identify trusted adults

- · Talk with your child about specific people they can trust
- · Discuss when your child should talk to a trusted adult.
- . Let them know they can go to another trusted adult if the first one doesn't help.

Let children know they can come to you with any

- . Listen without judgment

5. Empower your child's voice

- Teach children early about healthy body boundaries.
- · Tell them to trust their feelings.
- . Encourage them to say forcefully, "I don't like that," or "Stop touching me."
- · Remind them to leave a situation that makes them uncomfortable.
- · Ask them to tell a trusted adult right away if something makes them uncomfortable.
- · Talk with them about how to listen to and help their peers.

3. Make the call

If you witness or suspect child abuse or neglect, do the right thing:

- · Call your installation's Family Advocacy Program.
- . Call your local Child Protective Services office.
- . Call the Childhelp National Child Abuse Hotline at 800-422-4453.
- . Call 9th or military law enforcement if a child is in. immediate danger.

Start Prevention Tips Early

While all adults can make a positive impact in a

child's life by following these tips, parents and

guardians play an important role in protecting

children. Parents and guardians, talk with your

children about tips 4 and 5 early and often.

Resources and information

Teach your kids healthy body boundaries

https://www.militaryonesource.mil/family-relationships/ family life/preventing abuse neglect/teach-your kidshealthy boundaries/

Find your installation's Family Advocacy Program Pttps://installations.militaryonesource.mil/?looking-for-

a=program/program-service=32/focus=program

Review information on child abuse and neglect https://www.childhelp.org/hotline/

Support military kids

https://militarykidsconnect.health.mil/ Caring-for-Dur-Youth

https://militarykidsconnect.health.ml/ Feelings/How-to-Talk-to-am-Adult

Full pdf:

https://downlo ad.militaryone source.mil/120 38/FAP/MCFP-CAPM2021-Flyer.pdf

MILITARY

The Family Advocacy Program supports service members and their families impacted ONESOURCE by child abuse and/or neglect through parent education and crisis intervention.



LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD

Participate in the Wing Climate Survey

LOOK FOR AN EMAIL FROM YOUR COMMANDER WITH INSTRUCTIONS AVAILABLE 8 APRIL - 4 MAY

Its quick, anonymous, and can be done on any computer or mobile device

Climate Surveys were e-mailed to all relevant members

Fight Oar Survive Scholarship

Point of contact is Laurie Knight (admin@usvetrow.com)

Link: https://www.usvetrow.org/scholarships.html

Who Is Eligible?

1. Military or Veteran, OR immediate family member of such (spouse/partner, child, parent, grandparent, etc.) who is in a program studying to work in mental health for Veterans/military and is at least pursuing the Masters level of education and has been touched by suicide.

The student must be enrolled in CACREP or APA accredited university or college.

- In order to qualify for scholarship candidacy, please provide the following:
- •DD214 or military/dependent identification (no social security numbers please).
- •500 word essay explaining why Veteran mental health and suicide prevention is important. Please include how YOU were touched by suicide.
- Endorsement OR letter of recommendation with verified enrollment and good standing from university/college officials.
- If awarded, a report on how the funds were spent will be required.
- 2. Psy.D. student of the University of Denver who plans to work with Veterans post-graduation. In order to qualify for this scholarship, students must provide the following:
- •500 word essay explaining why Veteran mental health and suicide prevention is important. Please include why you went into this field.
- Endorsement OR letter of recommendation with verified enrollment and good standing from university/college officials.
- •Letter of explanation detailing intended plans for working with Veterans post-graduation. If selected for this scholarship, you will be asked to provide detailed documentation on how the money was spent.
- 3. Student enrolled in a CACREP or APA accredited university or college who is involved in research in the Veteran mental health field as it pertains to Suicide Prevention. In order to qualify for scholarship candidacy, please provide the following:
- •500 word essay explaining why Veteran mental health and suicide prevention is important.
- Endorsement OR letter of recommendation verifying enrollment and good standing from university/college officials.
- •Letter of explanation or abstract detailing the research the institution is doing and the student's involvement in said research. If awarded, a report on how the funds were spent will be required.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Buemi Colorado National Guard

Interim State Family Program Director

12200 E. Briarwood Avenue, Ste. 160

Centennial, Colorado 80112

P: (720) 250-1186 C: (303) 921-6099

Email: Suzanne.m.buemi.civ@mail.mil

Training Your Mind to Thrive with Chaplain Brett Campbell

Our thoughts have great power over how we live our lives. Whether we are aware of our thoughts or not, they are continuously telling us what to do, say and think. This can lead us to doing and saying things that make our lives and the lives of those around us harder than they need to be. While we can't stop our thoughts, we can gain control over how we respond to them by exercising our minds. Mind Training is a set of exercises that can give us that control by teaching us to become more focused and aware of our thoughts and then shifting our thought patterns to align more with our values. Join Chaplain Campbell every Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 11 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. on Zoom as he teaches Mind Training exercises and how they can benefit you in your daily life.

Join Zoom Meeting

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9039126066?pwd=YW84ZVJiZmdReTlJMTA3Q21rS1NMdz09

Meeting ID: 903 912 6066

Passcode: v4gP42

Benefits of Mindfulness:

- Improved Immune system
- >Increased positive mood

Mindfulness Coach App



MINDFULNESS COACH Learn to practice mindfulness meditation to live in the present

- Increased learning, memory, emotion regulation
- ➤Increased concentration and focus
- **▶** Positive relationships



140 WG WDDRPM: Braxton Olson

Ph: 605-480-3168

233 SG WDDRPM: Rey Ramos

Ph: 719-985-0993



Some useful and potential career saving information regarding marijuana and/or marijuana extracts:

Per AFMAN 44-197, para 1.2.2. "Although some state and local laws have legalized the recreational use of marijuana or marijuana extracts, the drugs remain Schedule I substances under 21 USC § 801 et seq., Controlled Substances Act, and their use by military members is prohibited. Exception: Service members are permitted to use prescription cannabinoid formulations, such as dronabinol (brand names Marinol® and Syndros®) and Epidiolex®, when the medication has been approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration and the Service member has a valid prescription for the medication. Failure by military members to obey the mandatory provisions of this paragraph is a violation of Article 92, UCMJ. Violations of this paragraph may result in disciplinary action under the punitive articles of the UCMJ (e.g., Article 112a, UCMJ). Violations may also result in adverse administration action; criminal prosecution under federal or state laws; or, for ANG members, adverse action under the state military code."

Know what you're putting into your body:

The Controlled Substances Act places drugs regulated under federal law in one of five schedules based upon an eight-factor analysis. Marijuana and its extracts, including CBD, are Schedule I controlled substances. Although it is true that section 12619 of the Farm Bill removes hemp-derived products from its Schedule I status under the Controlled Substance Act, legislation does not legalize CBD generally and CBD derived from marijuana therefore remains a Schedule I substance under federal law. The Farm Bill creates exceptions to the Schedule I status in certain situations. The Farm Bill ensures that any cannabinoid that is derived from hemp will be legal, if and only if that hemp is produced in a manner consistent with the Farm Bill, associated federal regulations, associated state regulations, and by a licensed grower. All other cannabinoids, produced in any other setting, remain a Schedule I substance under federal law and are thus illegal.

BOTTOM LINE: Marijuana and marijuana extracts are NOT ALLOWED!

CBD AND HEMP

BEFORE YOU USE A PRODUCT THAT CONTAINS CBD OR HEMP, HERE'S WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW:



- The 2018 Farm Bill defines hemp as...
 "the plant Cannabis sativa L. and
 any part of that plant, including the
 seeds therof and all derivatives...
 with a delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol
 concentration of not more than 0.3%
- Delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol, or THC, is the psychoactive substance in marijuana.
- Hemp plants naturally contain THC, but the amount in a plant can vary widely.
- Use of a product with THC could result in a positive drug test.
- All products containing hemp are prohibited for use by Military Service Members, regardless of THC concentration. (This does not apply to durable goods such as rope or clothing.)



CBD

on a dry weight basis."

- Cannabidiol (CBD) is a chemical compound in the class of plant chemicals called "cannabinoids."
- CBD occurs naturally in the plant Cannabis sativa L. (marijuana and hemp).
- All products with CBD are prohibited for use by Military Service Members. This includes topical, inhaled (vaping), and oral products.
- Without laboratory testing, there is no way to know for certain whether a CBD product contains a significant amount of THC.

DoD POLICY

Hemp products, including those with CBD, are prohibited for use by Military Service Members. For more information, please read the articles about CBD and hemp on **opss.org**.

MARIJUANA MYTHS

Think you know about marijuana use in the Military?

Find out what's MYTH and what's FACT!

MYTH: Recreational marijuana is legal in my state so I can use it without any consequences.

FACT: Military personnel are not allowed to use marijuana regardless of state, district or territorial laws, including for medical use. Military Service members caught using, possessing, growing or distributing marijuana can be punished under Article 112a of the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) or applicable state code.

MYTH: There is no problem with Military Service members eating energy bars and yogurt that contain hemp seeds.

FACT: Any product with hemp in it may put your career in jeopardy.

Hemp is a plant that naturally contains tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), which is the psychoactive ingredient in marijuana. There is no standard regulation for hemp seed products. Read the ingredients on food you eat and check your Service policy to avoid being punished under the UCMJ.

MYTH: It's fine to use cannabidiol (CBD) oil because I can buy it legally at the store or online.

FACT: Military Service members can be punished under the UCMJ for using any type of CBD.

Although you can buy CBD in many forms such as oils, sprays and gummies, it is illegal for Military Service members to use.

MYTH: E-cigarette liquid infused with CBD is safe to use if it doesn't contain other ingredients.

FACT: Currently, there is no way to know for sure what you are putting in your body when you use e-cigarettes and/or e-liquids. E-liquids may contain harmful or illegal chemicals that could hurt your health and career.

Vape oils that contain synthetic CBD have caused seizures, unconsciousness, vomiting, racing heart and other negative side effects in Military Service members.



Air National Guard FY21 Bonus AFSCs

National Enlisted Bonus AFSCs

Highly Critical

- > 1A8X2-Airborne ISR Operator
- > 1Z4X1-Special Reconnaissance
- 1A9X1-Special Missions Aviator
- 2A5X1-Airlift Special A/C Maintenance
- > 1B4X1-Cyber Warfare Operations
- 2A6X4-Aircraft Fuel System
- 1C5X1-Command & Control
- 2A6X5-Aircraft Hydraulic Systems
- > 1N2X1-Signal Intelligence Analyst
- 2A9X2-Bomber/Special Integrated Instrument
- 1N4X1-Fusion Analyst
- > 2A9X3-Bomber/Special Electronic Warfare
- 1N8X1-Target Analyst
- > 2W0X1-Munitions Systems

Critical

- > 1A0X1-In Flight Refueling Specialist
- > 2A3X8-Remote Pilot A/C Maintenance
- > 1A1X1-Flight Engineer
- 2A7X5-Low Observable A/C Structural
- 1A3X1-Airborne Mission System Specialist
- 3D1X3-RF Transmission Systems
- > 1A6X1-Flight Attendant
- > 3D1X7-Cable and Antenna Systems
- 1C8X3-Radar, Airfield, Weather System
- 3E0X2-Electrical Power Production
- 1N1X1-Geospatial Intelligence
- 3E2X1-Pavements and Construction
- > 1T0X1-Survival, Evasion, Resistance, Escape
- > **3E4X1**-Water & Fuels System Maintenance
- > 2A2X2-SOF/PR Integrated Instrument
- 4A1X1-Medical Material
- > 2A3X5-Adv. Fighter A/C Integrated Avionics
- > 6F0X1-Finance

National Officer Bonus AFSCs

- > 11B-Bomber Pilot
- > 12M-Mobility Combat System
- > 11F-Fighter Pilot
- > 12S-Special Ops Combat System
- > 11H-Rescue Pilot
- > 13B-Air Battle Manager
- 11M-Mobility Pilot
- > 13S-Space Operations
- > 11S-Special Operations Pilot
- > 14N-Intelligence
- > 11U-Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPA)
- > 15W-Weather
- 12B-Bomber Combat Systems
- > 17S-Cyberwarfare Operations
- > 12F-Fighter Combat Systems
- > 18A-Attack Remotely Piloted Aircraft
- > 12G-Generalist Combat Systems
- > 19Z-Special Warfare
- > 12H-Rescue Combat Systems
- > 21A-Aircraft Maintenance

Health Professionals

- 42B-Physical Therapist
- > 45B-Orthopedic Surgeon
- > 44E-Emergency Medicine Physician
- > 45G-OB/GYN
- > 44M-Internal Medicine Physician
- 45S-General Surgeon
- > 44Y-Critical Care Medicine
- > 46F-Flight Nurse
- 45A-Anesthesiologist

Local Bonus AFSCs (Designated Units)

140FW

- 2A3X3-Tactical Aircraft Maintenance
- > 2F0X1- Fuels
- 32EX- Civil Engineer
- 2W1X1- Aircraft Armament Systems

233 SG

2T3X1- Mission Generation Veh. Equip. Maint.

138 SCS

3D0X2- Cyber Systems Operations

Bonus Amounts vary based on type, AFSC, and job qualification status; please contact your Wing Retention Office Manager for full details and any questions

> 1Z3X1-Tactical Air Control Party

Retention Office Manager: MSgt Edward Rohde; Edward.Rohde.1@us.af.mil; 720-765-7901

Shout out to TSgt Christina Gomez for her RCP work in Niger!



The 724th Expeditionary Air Base Squadron acquisition team poses for a photo at Nigerien Air Base 201, Agadez, Niger, April 6, 2021. The acquisition flight supports the AB 201 mission by providing full-range financial management assistance and being the acquisitions focal point for commodities, services and construction requirements. (Courtesy Photo)

AIR BASE 201, AGADEZ, Niger --

Whether defending the base, caring for Airmen or airlift, deployed Airmen have the same job objective - support the enduring mission.

The 724th Expeditionary Air Base Squadron acquisition team at Nigerien Air Base 201, Agadez, Niger, supports the mission by providing full-range financial management assistance and being the acquisitions focal point for commodities, services and construction requirements.

This diverse team consists of four members from contracting and one member as a financial management and disbursing agent. They are responsible for procuring required goods and services for the entire base.

Contracting works with the customer to determine their needs and with vendors who can help fulfill those needs. The disbursing agent provides the funds that procure those items and services needed by the customer so they can continue and complete their mission.

"I am the sole financial manager at AB 201, servicing [all base personnel]. I am the disbursing agent, paying agent, budget analysis, and cashier for the base," said Tech. Sgt. Christina D. Gomez, 724th EABS financial management flight chief and disbursing agent. "I also determine propriety of funding for purchases being made to support the mission."

Though Gomez solely provides customer service to service members at AB 201 for their pay and entitlement needs, she also works hand in hand with contracting.

"I join the contracting team whenever there is a local purchase that needs to be made to a local vendor for goods and services within my fiscal responsibility," Gomez said. "At the end of the day, I account down to the penny for every transaction made to ensure that I stay balanced and ensure we are spending the tax payer's dollar appropriately."

Without the knowledgeable contracting team and the funding managed by the financial manager, the goods and services requirements needed to complete the mission at the base stops.

"We are the sole business advisors for the base and the acquisition focal point for commodities, services and construction," explains Staff Sgt. William R. Washington, 724th EABS contracting officer. "In addition to our U.S. market buys, I work alongside Tech. Sgt. Gomez to provide opportunities to the local Agadez population, with the long term goal of building a thriving and sustainable economy."

Being in an austere location, members of the acquisition team get the opportunity to expand their duties within their jobs in ways they normally wouldn't at home station.

"We are much closer to the mission being downrange," Washington said. "There are several degrees of separation that occur stateside where you will have different roles within your squadron that perform specific functions that contribute to a whole. When downrange, several of those roles and functions are often rolled up into only one or two deployers, and that is a big part of what brings contracting and finance much closer together operationally."

Although the work is challenging, it doesn't go without reward.

"The team has leveraged relationships with local nationals, secured funds for village cleanup enhancing mission capabilities, and promptly delivered \$153,000 in base purchased assets averting a supply backlog," Gomez stated.

In addition, the team worked with the communications flight on a \$25,000 wireless access point purchase extending the existing wireless internet service to four additional base compounds supporting [all] personnel.

Being a part of this diverse team gives the members a feeling of accomplishment providing support that they can be proud of.

"I love it here! I feel like I am truly contributing to an amazing mission here," Gomez said. "I am honored to be the sole financial manger because I know that my job here contributes to the bigger picture in making the mission succeed every day."

"Being part of a small team and having the ability to affect a larger scope of operations has been a great and meaningful opportunity," Washington said. "This is something that you don't experience with performing similar work at other locations. It'll be rewarding to be able to pass on the knowledge and experience I've gained to the broader career field."

The 724 EABS is one of many bases in Africa that fall under the 435th Air Expeditionary Wing's area of responsibility. The 435 AEW strongly values a team with a variety of different specialties that allow a wider scope where Airmen are not confined to one particular group and are inherently multi-capable. These Airmen are enablers of Airpower and a critical asset in posturing major component commands for countering the activities of near-peer threats.