



**Military Transformation Task Force
Meeting Minutes**

A Regular Meeting of the Military Transformation Task Force was held in the Municipal Plaza, Room B, 103 South Main, San Antonio, TX 78205 on Wednesday May 1, 2013 from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.

MEMBERS:	Gen. Carter	Jesse Hereford	Michael Rowland
Michael Novak	Carroll Schubert	Mac McCarthy	Robert Murdock
Elisa Chan	George DeCoux	Mark Frye	
Kevin Wolff	Frank Sherman		

STAFF:	Jesus Garza	Sandra Bagwell
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GUESTS:	Ron Rogers	Joe Ramos	Darnell McLaurin
William Leeman	Will Garrett	Ryan Garcia	
Ian Maurer	Brent Boller	Carolyn King	

Citizens: None

Call to Order

Mr. Novak called the meeting to order at 11:05 am.

Citizens to be heard

No one signed up to speak.

Review and Approval of Minutes from February 6, 2013

The February 6, 2013 minutes were unanimously approved.

Mr. Novak commented that he would like to congratulate Gen. Carter on her promotion and new assignment to the Pentagon. He stated that it has been a pleasure working with her and said that if she needed help from anyone in this group, not to hesitate to call.

He also announced that it would be Frank Sherman's last meeting as well as he will be retiring. He also stated that he appreciated all the hard work that he has done for the MTTF. Mr. Novak commented that he was Mr. Murdock's right hand man and would be sorely missed.

Administrative Business

MTTF/Office of Military Affairs Completed Actions (Mr. Robert Murdock, City of San Antonio)

Mr. Murdock stated that next two meetings would be held on August 7, 2013 and November 6, 2013.

Information Items

Update on the Office of Military Affairs – Robert Murdock, Office of Military Affairs

Mr. Murdock gave a brief update on what the Office of Military Affairs has been working on since the prior MTTF meeting in February. Please see Attachment 1, slide 7.

Update on the Community - Military Partnership Study, Bob Murdock, Office of Military Affairs

Mr. Murdock outlined the status of the CMP and gave the anticipated timeline of the project. Please see Attachment 1, slide 9.

Jayci's Wreaths for Heroes, Miss Jayci Derby

Miss Derby presented a PowerPoint presentation of what prompted her to start her organization. She stated that she started Jayci's Wreaths for Heroes in December 2011 after visiting her grandfather's grave at the Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery. She stated that her family always brought a small token of love and affection to place on her grandfather's grave to celebrate the holiday season. She noticed that many of the graves did

not have any wreaths and thought that all servicemen deserved to be honored. During 2012 she was able to raise about \$20,000 by speaking to civic groups, school groups and PTA's, writing letters and other fundraising efforts. In the summer of 2012 she was the Silver and Black Give Back Team up Challenge award winner and rewarded a \$10,000 grant. This year she has applied for other grants and will know in August if they have been awarded. Miss Derby also stated that she has started a scholarship program with Northside Education Foundation (NEF) that will award dependents of Wounded Warrior's money to go to college.

Mr. Murdock stated that Mr. Novak wanted to present Miss Derby a sash and fiesta medals from the MTTF in appreciation of her efforts. Mr. Novak stated that her efforts have really touched the community. Councilwoman Chan presented Miss Derby a small crystal box and a fiesta medal that she had made as a token of appreciation. General Carter gave Miss Derby two fiesta medals and stated that Miss Derby's presentation and what she has accomplished at age 12 was really impressive. Commissioner Wolff also presented Miss Derby with a fiesta medal. Mrs. Derby stated that she has left a memento from Miss Derby for the MTTF members around the table.

Greater Chamber Veterans Initiative, Ms. Kara Hill

Ms. Hill gave a brief presentation regarding the Veterans Initiative that the Greater Chamber of Commerce is working on. For additional information, please see Attachment 1, slides 11 through 18. She also spoke about a weeklong event called "San Antonio Got Your 6 Week". Please see Attachment 2 for more details.

Mr. Novak asked how many people are on this committee. Ms. Hill stated that there were about 30-40 people on the board, both civilian and military members. Mr. Novak stated that if Ms. Hill needed any help from the MTTF, to please contact OMA.

Mr. Schubert asked what the format of Leadership Summit would be. Ms. Hill stated that there would be a breakfast with a briefing session that would outline the steering committees going forward. Then after hearing what the process and goals would be, the attendees would be able to decide which one of the steering committees would work best for their organization.

Update from MTTF Committee Chairs, Joint Base San Antonio, and Other MTTF Organizational Representatives

Infrastructure and Transportation Committee (Chair: Carroll Schubert)

Mr. Schubert asked Mr. Wolters about ongoing projects that the City's Capital Improvement Management (CIMS) Department is working on. Mr. Wolters stated that the work along Harry Wurzbach between Rittiman, Winans and Burr has been finished as of yesterday. The Walters street project was running behind schedule but is progressing and he anticipates the finish at the end of May – beginning of June time frame. Mr. Schubert also commented that work is continuing along Broadway. He also stated that he is concerned about the State Legislature and their 'rainy day fund' as it relates to transportation and roadways.

Real Property and Neighborhoods (Co-Chairs: Howard Peak and Leo Gomez)

Mr. Novak mentioned that Mr. Gomez had been appointed as the President and CEO of the Brooks Development Authority.

Communication and Legislative Affairs (Co-Chairs: Mark Frye and Jesse Hereford)

Mr. Frye commented about the San Antonio to Washington D.C. (SA to DC) activities and sequestration with its possible affects to JBSA. For additional information, please see Attachment 1, Slides 23 through 29, and attachment 3.

Mr. Frye asked Gen. Carter if they would be getting any MILCON (Military Construction) money. Gen. Carter replied that she hasn't received an update regarding MILCON funding. She stated that most of the discussion regarding sequestration has been about the furlough of the civilian workforce.

Mission Readiness & Sustainability Committee (Co-Chairs: Eric Stephens and John Williams)

Mr. Jabeir gave the update on the Lackland JLUS, Randolph JLUS, and Light Study. Please see Attachment 1, slides 30-32.

Joint Base San Antonio (502nd ABW)

Gen. Carter thanked the MTTF for the support she has received while she has been in San Antonio. She stated that she has accomplished a great deal and there is a lot more to do. She stated that she was going to put someone from her office in touch with Kara Hill and her Got Your 6 initiative.

Mr. Murdock stated that on the behalf of the City of San Antonio, he thanked her for her support and stated that they had a great working relationship.

Mr. Murdock also commented that Frank Sherman has been his right hand man and will be missed. He also stated that when the MTTF needed something done, it most likely was handled by Mr. Sherman.

Adjourn

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Bagwell, Office of Military Affairs

Please visit the Military Transformation Task Force website: www.sanantonio.gov/oma

Audio recording is available at the Office of Military Affairs by request to: sandra.bagwell@sanantonio.gov

Attachments:

1. Military Transformation Task Force PowerPoint Presentation.
2. San Antonio Got Your 6 Week events.
3. Article from defensenews.com titled "Sequester is an Afterthought in '14 Negotiations".



Military Transformation Task Force

May 1, 2013



City of
San Antonio



Bexar County



Greater San Antonio
Chamber of Commerce

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Agenda

1. Citizens to be Heard
2. Review and Approval of Minutes of February 6, 2013
3. Administrative Business
 - a) MTTF/Office of Military Affairs (Bob Murdock)
4. Information Items
 - a) Update on the Community - Military Partnership Project (Bob Murdock)
 - b) Jayci's Wreaths for Heroes (Jayci Derby)
 - c) Greater Chamber of Commerce Veterans Initiative (Kara Hill)
5. Update from MTTF Committee Chairs, Joint Base San Antonio, and Other MTTF Organizational Representatives
6. Adjourn.

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Citizens to be Heard

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Review and Approval of Minutes from February 6, 2013

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Administrative Business

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Future Meetings

Upcoming MTTF Meetings

- **August 7, 2013**
- **November 6, 2013**

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Information Items

1. **Greater Chamber SA-DC Trip**
2. **Ft. Eustis Relocation Visit**
3. **Meeting with Congressman Doggett and Congressman Castro's Staff**
4. **24 AF Ribbon Cutting**
5. **ADC Defense Communities Summit, 12-14 June**
6. **Community – Military Partnership Project**

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Update on the Community-Military Partnership Project

**Bob Murdock, Director
Office of Military Affairs**

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Community - Military Partnership Project Update

Apr -- Temporary Stop Work Order

Request for Project Extension

**Aug -- Coordinate Results with JBSA and CoSA
Leadership**

**Sep -- Final Approvals on Project
Recommendations**

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Jayci's Wreaths for Heroes

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Greater Chamber Veterans Initiative

MTTF Presentation
May 1, 2013

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Background

- 1M+ service members transitioning to civilian life over next 5 years
 - Texas has 2nd largest veteran population (1.6M) and the largest population of Gulf War Era veterans (508K)
 - 2,000 -3,000 active duty personnel are separating from military in next 12 months in San Antonio
 - At least 40% stay, with others relocating here for medical treatment
- Transition is a critical time that presents a unique set of issues
- Growing need for communities to actively engage and support the veteran and transitioning military population

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Potential outcomes

- Successful transition
 - Add strength to civilian workforce
 - Avg. income \$10,000 more than non-veterans
 - Civic assets and leaders
- Unsuccessful transition
 - Higher unemployment
 - Increased risk for suicide, domestic violence, long term homelessness

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Transition-related issues

- Jobs
- Education
- Family Support
- Housing
- Health
- Continuation of Service/ Leadership

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San Antonio Efforts

- **Employment**
 - Greater Chamber Committee
 - Major employer participation
 - Government agencies
- **Health and Human Services**
 - Government agencies
 - San Antonio Area Foundation (through Veteran Svc Orgs)
- **Grassroots Veteran Community**
 - San Antonio Coalition for Veterans
 - Alliance for Veterans and Families
- **Education**
 - Local University participation
- **Coordination with National Organizations**
 - Community Blueprint Network
 - Got Your 6

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Got Your 6 Week



- June 1-7, 2013
- **Goal: to raise awareness and foster connections**
- **Each day features events related to one of the 6 pillars**
 - Family, Housing, Health, Jobs, Education, Leadership

Marketing through Chamber website and communications team, partner orgs and GY6 national

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Community Action Team

- Evidence-based solution for coordinated community approach
- Formed by San Antonio Area Foundation, Greater Chamber, SACV and AACOG
- Goals:
 - Inclusive, community driven mechanism for community-wide coordination and collaboration
 - Local conduit for national resources/ participation
 - Vetting for Certified Military-Friendly Organizations
- Steering Committees for key transition topics

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What is Needed

- Spread the Word!
- Support Got Your 6 Week
- Participate in Leadership Summit for Community Action Team

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MTTF Committee Updates

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Infrastructure and Transportation Committee

Chair: Carroll Schubert

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**Neighborhoods and Real
Property Committee**

**Co-Chairs: Howard Peak and
Leo Gomez**

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**Communication and
Legislative Affairs
Committee**

**Co-Chairs: Mark Frye and
Jesse Hereford**

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Legislative

Description: Coordinate and integrate military-related State and Federal legislative efforts with City, County and Greater Chamber efforts; facilitate communication of actions

Ongoing activities include:

1. Participate in SA to DC activities; contribute to relevant issue papers
2. Meet with State and Federal delegation and staffers to promote MTTF agenda
3. Meet with City and County legislative staffers / lobbyists
4. Interact with Texas Military Preparedness Commission

Completed Items:

- Attended iVIVA! San Antonio on February 21 in Austin
- Prepared for (meetings with Gen Rice, Gen Carter and LTG Caldwell) and went on the SA to DC trip March 5-8, 2013; wrote trip report; ongoing follow up with Reps. Castro and Gallego staffers familiar with HASC issues
- Continuing to follow military issues of importance to the MTTF, specifically the Budget Control Act of 2011 and sequestration

Pending Items:

- Attending Texas Military Preparedness Commission meeting on May 30 in Austin

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iVIVA SAN ANTONIO!!!

State Military Issues:

- **Land use regulations to protect military missions (any legislation)**
 - HB 1377 (Kolkhorst) would have a negative impact on San Antonio's Tree Ordinance and, if enacted, would potentially create development near Camp Bullis
- **Funding the Texas Military Preparedness Commission's Defense Economic Adjustment Assistance Grant (DEAAG) program for \$20M and strengthening their Military Value Revolving Loan Program**
 - SB 1200 (Van de Putte), if enacted, would provide \$20M of DEAAG funding
 - According to the Texas Comptroller's Office, Defense is a \$147-billion a year industry in Texas and supports over 350,000 jobs
 - Federal Budget cuts have impacted the Department of Defense by cutting half a trillion dollars with the Budget Reduction Act of 2011, plus forcing Defense to operate under a Continuing Resolution, and now Sequestration
 - The Department of Defense has begun implementing force structure (manpower) reductions, which will result in needing fewer bases/facilities
 - Texas has more Defense bases and Defense contractors than other states, therefore, we have more at risk
 - Other states have eyed Texas Defense facilities and missions and have funded efforts to protect their own bases, plus provide incentives for recruiting new missions
 - Florida, Alabama and Virginia have hired consultants as part of a series of steps aimed at protecting their states from military downsizing
 - State of Florida funded \$5-million to help local communities acquire land near bases to protect from encroachment
 - According to the Texas Commanders Council, representing all 15 military bases in Texas, the state has not been pro-active with Defense
 - It's time for the Legislature to quit talking and start taking action about protecting our \$147-billion industry by approving \$20-million in DEAAG funding so defense-dependent communities can begin work strengthening their position if BRAC 2015 is authorized by Congress
 - The clock is ticking. Texas can't wait another two years to begin being "pro-active" with Defense

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VIVA SAN ANTONIO!!!

- 8-10 Military and Aerospace Delegates Met With:**
- **Dan Madru, Shakira Pumphrey and Zeke Reyna**
Office of Speaker Joe Strauss
 - **Margaret Wallace**
Office of Representative Roland Gutierrez
 - **Amanda Gonzalez**
Office of Representative Mike Villarreal
 - **Matt Creel and Kristin Cade**
Office of Senator Donna Campbell, M.D.
 - **Bill Wilson**
Office of Senator Leticia Van de Putte
 - **Julianna Gonzaba**
Office of Representative Joe Farias
 - **Veronica Gonzalez**
Office of Representative Philip Cortez
 - **Christopher Cox**
Office of Representative Justin Rodriguez
 - **Travis Miller**
Office of Representative Jose Menendez
 - **Jerry Needham (one-on-one w/Frye)**
Office of Senator Carlos Uresti

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SA to DC
Issues (I)



Priority 1 Issues:

- **Joint Base San Antonio (JBSA)-Lackland: Air Force Basic Military Training (BMT) Campus Replacement Program MILCON funding (\$359M) to provide training facilities for all newly-enlisted Airmen, including dormitories and four dining facilities.**
- **JBSA-Lackland: Wilford Hall Ambulatory Care Center Phases III (\$161.3M) and IV (\$80.6M) MILCON to complete this important project providing healthcare delivery to our military and their families.**
- **JBSA-Fort Sam Houston: Army North Homeland Defense Operations Center (HDOC) MILCON (\$50M in FY15) to provide critical infrastructure needed for ARNORTH's homeland defense mission.**
- **JBSA-Lackland: Three-Phase Interfaith Religious Center MILCON (\$29.9M) to provide for the spiritual needs of the BMT Airmen.**
- **JBSA-Fort Sam Houston: Army Advanced Individual Training Complex MILCON (\$67M) to complete the Army's portion of the Medical Education and Training Campus.**

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Priority 2 Issues:

- **JBSA-Randolph: Air Force Personnel Center (AFPC) B Wing MILCON (\$34M)** to provide new administrative office space for AFPC.
- **JBSA-Camp Bullis: Dining Facility MILCON (\$18.6M)** to replace a greatly outdated facility.
- **JBSA-Lackland: Air Traffic Control Tower MILCON (\$8.4M)**, to replace a structurally deficient tower.
- **JBSA-Lackland: Ensure Lackland is selected for the beddown of the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter** during the next round of basing decisions and the 149th is selected for an F-35 operational or training mission.

Sequestration and its potential impacts on military readiness, military healthcare delivery and on the DoD civilian workforce were topics of discussion on both Capitol Hill and in the Pentagon. Additionally, the Military Issues Team provided copies of the San Antonio Military Economic Impact Study and a Cyber City USA fact sheet to both Pentagon and Hill representatives. The group also discussed the DoD's request for another round of BRAC in 2015 and veterans' issues.

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16 SA to DC Delegates Met With:

- **Ben Jackson and Megan Swearingen**
Office of Congressman Henry Cuellar
- **Andrew Okuyiga**
Office of Congressman Lloyd Doggett
- **Claudia Urrabazo**
Office of Congressman Pete Gallego
- **Matthew Jones**
Office of Congressman Joaquin Castro
- **Dave Hanke**
Office of Senator John Cornyn
- **Kenny Stein**
Office of Senator Ted Cruz
- **Note: Congressmen Doggett, Gallego and Castro also met with the Military Issues Team**

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SA to DC
Pentagon Visit



16 SA to DC Delegates Met With:

- **Maj Gen Mark A. Ediger, USAF**
Deputy Surgeon General of the Air Force
- **RADM Michael H. Mittelman, USN**
Deputy Surgeon General of the Navy
- **MG Richard A Stone, USA**
Deputy Surgeon General of the Army
- **Col. Robert Cole, USAF**
Office of Information Dominance and Chief Information Officer, Office of the Secretary of the Air Force
- **LTG William Troy, USA**
Director of the Army Staff
- **General Larry O. Spencer, USAF**
Vice Chief of Staff of the Air Force
- **Ms. Kathleen Ferguson, USAF**
Acting Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Installations, Environment and Logistics
- **Mr. Timothy Bridges, USAF**
Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Installations
- **Mr. Mark A. Correll, USAF**
Deputy Civil Engineer of the Air Force

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Mission Readiness and Sustainability Committee

**Co-Chairs: Eric Stephens and
John Williams**

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JBSA Lackland JLUS

Description: Conduct Joint Land-Use Study for JBSA Lackland

Completed Actions:

- OEA funding approval received to conduct Light Study

Next Steps:

- Issue RFP for Light Study

Staff Support: Bexar County

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JBSA Randolph JLUS

Description: Conduct Joint Land-Use Study for JBSA Randolph

Completed Actions:

- Commissioners Court executed Agreement with Matrix Design Group

Next Steps:

- Work Plan Development and Project Kickoff

Staff Support: Bexar County

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**Updates from
Joint Base San Antonio and
Other MTTF Organizational
Representatives**

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Adjourn

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San Antonio Got Your 6 Week

June 1- 7 2013



Mission

Promote San Antonio as a safe haven for every aspect of veterans' and their families lives by fostering connections between the military and veteran community, businesses, veteran service agencies and government agencies.

Concept

The committee has proposed a series of events called "Got Your 6 Week" that will:

- Highlight the impact of veterans and raise awareness of their issues in San Antonio;
- Show the veteran community what resources are available to them;
- Add value to the Chamber membership by
 - Raising the business community's awareness of benefits of hiring veterans when searching for a skilled and talented workforce;
 - Improve the process of industry's access to veterans for hire;
- Leverage national branding of Got Your 6 and Community Blueprint Network;
- Support SA2020 Vision Areas of Economic Competitiveness, Family Well-Being, Educations and Civic Engagement;
- Continue San Antonio's legacy as Military City, USA.

Each day of "Got Your 6 Week" will focus on a different pillar of the "Got Your 6" model. The Chamber is partnering with local organizations already leading the effort in specific areas of focus to create the calendar of events. All events listed below are confirmed as of 30 April 2013.

Schedule

SATURDAY, JUNE 1ST

FAMILY

After 10 years of war, military families are facing many challenges. Through deployments and reintegration at home, our troops and families must remain strong, and they need the tools and resources to do so.

Objectives: To connect military and veteran families to community-based family support services. To provide an introduction for new/ transitioning veterans to the San Antonio community

Events:

- *VIP Mega Benefits Information Fair*
Sponsored by: San Antonio Coalition for Veterans and Families (SACVF)
9 am- 1 pm @ Tri-Point (Grantham Gathering Center), 3233 N. St. Mary's St.

Got Your 6 National Partner Involvement:

- Operation Homefront
- USO

SA2020 Vision Areas: Family Well-Being

Community Blueprint Impact Areas: Family Strength; Reintegration; Financial and Legal



San Antonio Got Your 6 Week June 1- 7 2013



MONDAY, JUNE 3RD

LEADERSHIP

After their military service, many veterans struggle to find purpose without the structure, mission and camaraderie of a military unit. Veterans can rebuild purpose at home not only by finding the strength within themselves, but by helping others — through community service and volunteering. It is through service to others that their own purpose again comes into focus, giving them the direction to pursue a job, or an education, or to build a community.

Objectives: To connect veterans and military family members with community service organizations and volunteering opportunities. To establish an inclusive forum community leadership for community-wide coordination and collaboration after Got Your 6 Week ends.

Events:

- *Community Leadership Breakfast/ Community Action Team Rollout*
Hosted by: San Antonio Area Foundation/ SACVF
8:30-10:00 am @ San Antonio Area Foundation Offices, 303 Pearl Pkwy #114
- *SA2020 Civic Engagement Event*
Details TBD

Got Your 6 National Partner Involvement:

- The Mission Continues
- Team Rubicon

SA2020 Vision Areas: Civic engagement

Community Blueprint Impact Areas: Volunteerism

TUESDAY, JUNE 4TH

HEALTH

Behavioral health struggles, such as with post-traumatic stress (PTS) post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), major depressive disorder (MDD), or traumatic brain injuries (TBI) can lead to malaise, unemployment, problematic family relations, and – in an increasing number of cases – suicide. In order to serve our service members and veterans in a manner commensurate with their needs, we must understand and provide for the unique stressors they face on a day-to-day basis.

Objectives: To increase service provider and employer knowledge of special issues on PTSD/ TBI and other veteran issues and resources. To make it easy for veterans, service members and their families to access mental health care.

Events:

- *Table Talk: Color Me Camo (Peer to Peer program for woman veterans)*
Hosted by: Grace After Fire
Details TBD

Got Your 6 National Partner Involvement:

- Give An Hour



San Antonio Got Your 6 Week June 1- 7 2013



SA2020 Vision Areas: Family Well Being

Community Blueprint Impact Areas: Behavioral Health

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5TH

JOBS

Between 2,000 -3,000 active duty personnel stationed in San Antonio will be separating from military in next 12 months and will be looking for jobs. Due to the nature of the military missions located in San Antonio, many of these transitioning veterans have skills that align with our targeted industries of Manufacturing, Healthcare/ Bioscience, Information Technology/ Assurance.

Objective: To raise awareness in the business community of San Antonio's veteran and separating population's statistics, capabilities and needs.

Events:

- *Employer Luncheon: Why Hiring Veterans Makes \$en\$e*
Sponsored by: Greater San Antonio Chamber of Commerce
Details TBD
- *Monthly Meeting*
Sponsored by: San Antonio Coalition for Veterans (SACV)
Details TBD
- *Job Fair (June 4th)*
Sponsored by: Military.com/ NCOA
10:00 am- 2:00 pm, Norris Conference Center

Got Your 6 National Partner Involvement:

- Greater San Antonio Chamber of Commerce

SA2020 Vision Areas: Economic Competitiveness

Community Blueprint Impact Areas: Employment

THURSDAY, JUNE 6TH

EDUCATION

As nontraditional students, veterans face numerous challenges as they transition to life on campus, from administrative to reintegration to academic issues. However, recent research shows that a peer-support network and the support of the institution can lead to higher academic outcomes for student veterans.

Objective: To raise awareness to veterans of the educational opportunities provided by San Antonio area schools.

Events:

- *All- College Event*
Sponsored by: Alamo Colleges
Details TBD

Got Your 6 National Partner Involvement:

- Student Veterans of America



San Antonio Got Your 6 Week June 1- 7 2013



SA2020 Vision Areas: Education

Community Blueprint Impact Areas :Education

FRIDAY, JUNE 7TH

HOUSING

On a given night, there are nearly 70,000 homeless veterans in America. Nearly 20% are identified as chronically homeless and are the most vulnerable. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs has set a bold goal to end veteran homelessness. There are federal, state, and local resources that can help homeless veterans find homes, but these resources are not always well known or coordinated, leaving gaps in the system.

Objectives: To raise awareness about the unique risk factors facing the veteran population. To increase synergy among existing non-profits providing housing services to prevent and end veteran homelessness in San Antonio.

Potential Event Partners:

- Housing Authority of Bexar County/ 100,000 Homes
- American GI Forum
- Veterans Land Board

Got Your 6 National Partner Involvement:

- 100,000 Homes

SA2020 Vision Areas: Family Well Being

Community Blueprint Impact Areas: Housing

Follow Up Activities

Any organization desiring to host or sponsor an event, please contact Lisa O'Briant (210-229-2190) or Kara Hill (210-366-5015). *Print deadline for event information is May 15, 2013.*

A forum for ongoing community-wide collaboration will be created after the event that includes:

- Community Action Team for each pillar
- Military section on Chamber website
- Speakers bureau- consolidated presentations and talking points for various community audiences

Sequester is an Afterthought in '14 Negotiations

Attachment 3
defensenews.com

Apr. 21, 2013 - 02:34PM | By JOHN T. BENNETT |

WASHINGTON — After months of dire warnings and political theater, the first sequestration-era Pentagon budget plan has landed on Capitol Hill like a feather floating onto a soft mattress.

America's top defense officials — echoed by their hawkish allies in Congress — warned the first \$41 billion blow of the decade-spanning sequester would leave the military unable to perform key missions.

Pentagon leaders said they will cancel training for units in each armed service. They already have changed high-profile aircraft carrier deployment plans and plan to furlough hundreds of thousands of civilians. The officials are warning of delayed maintenance on aging combat platforms and that the military will be less ready to act when called upon.

But during hours of hearings about the Obama administration's fiscal 2014 military spending request last week, sequestration largely was an afterthought.

Lawmakers from both parties asked Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel and Joint Chiefs Chairman Gen. Martin Dempsey about Egypt, China, Syria and Afghanistan. A few House lawmakers put in plugs for weapon programs important to their districts, and several mentioned the elusive goal of defense acquisition reform.

Pro-military Senate Armed Services Committee (SASC) Republicans were most concerned about how Hagel intended to trim the Pentagon's budget plan by the \$52 billion needed to jam it under budget caps set in 2011. After warning about sequestration since August 2011, these hawkish members said almost nothing about turning off the remaining nine years of cuts, set to slash planned Pentagon spending by around \$450 billion. In fact, during over six hours of testimony last week before SASC and the House Appropriations defense subcommittee, only one lawmaker poked at length about the sequester and offered a plan to avoid it.

And even then, retiring SASC Chairman Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich., talked only about replacing the 2014 batch of cuts with other deficit-reducing measures.

"I remain hopeful that we can develop such a bipartisan [grand bargain] plan," Levin said April 17. "But absent a so-called grand bargain, surely we can devise a balanced deficit-reduction package for one year that avoids sequestration in ... 2014. We simply cannot continue to ignore the effects of sequestration."

The politically operative word in Levin's statement is "balanced."

Every sequestration-avoiding and "grand bargain" plan offered by congressional Democrats and the Obama administration has used that approach. And each has called for at least \$120 billion in cuts to planned Pentagon budgets, which would be enacted over the next decade.

While a \$120 billion cut is far less than the \$450 billion that the law requires be cut over the next nine years, hawkish and interventionist Republican lawmakers oppose one more penny in defense cuts.

"We are on a path where an insatiable appetite to protect domestic spending and mandatory programs is consuming our defense budget and will soon result in a hollow military," SASC ranking member Sen. James Inhofe, R-Okla., said shortly after Levin floated his one-year plan.

"These short-sighted cuts to defense capabilities will not protect our national interests," Inhofe said. "Rather, a weakened U.S. military will only embolden our adversaries and threaten the safety of our citizens both at home and abroad."

What's more, conservative Republicans in both chambers oppose the Democrats' "balanced" approach as reflected

in the president's \$3.8 trillion 2014 budget plan. The proposal calls for a mix of additional spending cuts, new revenues and entitlement program reforms.

Those GOP lawmakers want to achieve \$1 trillion to \$2 trillion in additional deficit reduction simply by slashing more federal spending. And that, some analysts and lawmakers say, could force larger Pentagon cuts that Obama is proposing if the two sides are to strike even a "mini-grand bargain."

IASC Ranking Member Rep. Adam Smith, D-Wash., said he is concerned there is a lack of urgency among House members to replace the sequester cuts with other deficit-paring measures.

IASC member Sen. Tim Kaine, D-Va., told Defense News on April 17 that the number of bipartisan discussions in the Senate to do just that is "positive" and that the grand bargain likely will have to originate in the Senate.

One Democratic House member who spoke on condition of anonymity pinpointed what he sees as the key for any grand bargain mostly negotiated by President Barack Obama and Senate Republicans to also pass in the lower chamber: House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, would have to violate the so-called "Hastert Rule," the lawmaker said.

Under that unofficial GOP tactic, named after former GOP House Speaker Dennis Hastert of Illinois, leaders typically cancel or opt against scheduling votes on bills in the House that do not have a majority support from Republicans. If Boehner waived the "Hastert Rule," most lawmakers and analysts say it would pass the House with mostly Democratic support.

But even in the Senate, any grand bargain that is "balanced" by Democrats' definition — containing more tax hikes on the wealthiest Americans — faces an uphill climb.

IASC member and Budget Committee Ranking Member Sen. Jeff Sessions, R-Ala., panned the Obama administration's 2014 federal budget plan for proposing new tax hikes.

The 2011 Budget Control Act "did not mandate a tax increase," Sessions said April 17.

Levin's subtle bow to — and Sessions' blunt comment about — the complexities that are sequestration and fiscal politics underscores that the Pentagon and industry are bystanders watching an ideological fight over non-defense components: taxes, entitlement programs and other federal cuts.

Mackenzie Eaglen, a former Senate GOP defense aide now with the American Enterprise Institute, explained some Republican lawmakers' frustrations with Obama's opening grand bargain pitch.

"They see the president publicly coming to the table with proposals that have already been rejected," Eaglen said. "Republicans, especially in leadership, know this budget offers a lot less than the president has proposed behind closed doors. They see the president taking things off the table."

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