

Air Force Community Partnership Program Newsletter

Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Air Force, Installations (SAF/IEI)

SPECIAL EDITION

IN THIS ISSUE

Message from the Director1
Virus Response Efforts2
Spotlight on Established Partnerships.3
Little Rock AFB Disease Vector Testing 3
MacDill AFB Advance Lifesaving Service IGSA
Moody AFB Backup EOC3
Additional Resources3
COVID-19 Military Support Initiative3

Message from the Director

Welcome to a Special Edition of the AFCP Newsletter

This special edition of our newsletter provides an overview of some of the resources available to installations and their community partners, as well as profile previously-established partnerships in timely areas such as healthcare and emergency response. Responding to COVID-19 requires time, attention, manpower, and creativity – and we understand that routine partnership activities may become disrupted during this time.

That said, addressing a challenge of this magnitude will require all of our collective efforts. Our Air Force senior leadership is actively encouraging us to lean on our established relationships, because we are *stronger together*. We continue to be inspired by stories of installations and their communities working together to address this shared threat. If you have a story about an Air Force installation working with a community partner to address COVID-19, please let us know by contacting my staff at <u>Hillary.B.Dickinson@leidos.com</u>.

As you and your respective teams formulate a path forward, please know that there are a variety of resources available to you. My staff stands ready to assist with any partnership-related needs that may arise during this difficult time. Another available resource is the COVID-19 Military Support Initiative, sponsored by the Association of Defense Communities and Blue Star Families. The Initiative features timely news, as well as virtual town halls – all to ensure you have access to relevant and accurate information. You can read more about the Initiative later in this issue.

I would like to thank our installations, community leaders, and other partners for their resilience in such challenging times. As our Chief of Staff, General Goldfein, recently stated, "Commanding your wings when things are going well is a pleasure...but rarely remembered. Commanding during a crisis is an opportunity..." We are fortunate to have each and every one of you as leaders during this time.

If my office can assist in any way, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Teran Judd Director, Community Partnership & Mission Sustainment

Public Facing Site: https://community.apan.org/wg/airforcepartnerships SharePoint Site: https://wss.apan.org/s/airforcepartnerships CONTACT

AFCP Program Management Office, SAF/IEI usaf.pentagon.saf-ie.mbx.saf-ieim-workflow@mail.mil



Virus Response Efforts Goodfellow AFB Builds on Partnership Foundation to Combat Crisis

Goodfellow AFB established a partnership with their local school district, the San Angelo Independent School District, which allows the Air Force to utilize the school's EMist system, an electrostatic cleaning device. The school district allows the installation to utilize their EMist system, in an effort to combat the spread of COVID-19. The system places an electrostatic charge to liquid disinfectants as they leave the spray nozzle, which causes the charged disinfectant to cling to virtually any surface and help with stopping the unnecessary spread of infections. This collaboration empowers Goodfellow AFB to efficiently and cost-effectively disinfect large academic and administrative areas.



Personnel from the 17th Medical Group stand outside of the decontamination center during their medical in-place decontamination training at the Ross Clinic on Goodfellow Air Force Base U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Robyn Hunsinger/Released

Furthermore, the installation participates in regular private and public meetings - which have increased in frequency due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Hosted by the Mayor, these meetings include representatives from the city, the county, and local businesses/organizations, and consist of regular press briefings, public emergency city council meetings, and daily communication between different base and community healthcare organizations. This close communication helps the participants coordinate responses and potential resources for their respective organizations. The base acts as an equal, active partner in these discussions. As a result of this concerted effort, the region's various stakeholders have developed mutual understanding and awareness, and present to the public a united, transparent community response.

During this period of stress and uncertainty, Goodfellow AFB and various on-base and off-base community partners are utilizing a Mental Health Resiliency partnership to

provide much needed mutual help and support across the San Angelo and Goodfellow AFB community. Established in October 2019, this collaboration involves base entities like the Chaplain; Mental Health, Drug, Demand and Reduction; and the Violence Prevention teams working with community organizations like MHMR Services, West Texas Counseling and Guidance, and the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Council for the Concho Valley. Together, they provide telecounseling; face-to-face but socially distanced care; and a 24-hour hotline. The partners actively publicize these resources via social media, fliers, emails, and TV ads. They also share practical tips for managing stress, anxiety, depression, isolation, and inactivity.

In response to rising local unemployment, Goodfellow AFB's Military Workforce Employment Program has increased its breadth. Workforce Solutions, Airmen and Family Readiness Center, and the Education Center are working hand-in-hand to assist anyone encountering employment and financial difficulties during this time. This partnership allows all involved to respond in a united, transparent fashion to this crisis.

In preparation for times like these, Goodfellow AFB and the San Angelo Community Medical Center have an established disaster-response relationship. The partners conduct shared medical emergency and disaster response trainings, including multiple decontamination exercises and a pandemic flu exercise. These exercises reduce response times for emergency events and enhance collaboration efforts between emergency service providers.



Spotlight on Established Healthcare, Emergency Services Partnerships

Little Rock AFB Disease Vector Testing

Little Rock AFB tests local disease vectors to enhance preventative medicine for the community. Little Rock AFB assists the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) with the testing of disease vectors to fill a regional geographical data gap that ADH did not have the capability to perform. This partnership is especially beneficial for the community because of the connectivity the base has to other resources such as the Youngstown Ohio Air Force Reserve unit that performs the aerial spray mission for mosquito eradication.

MacDill AFB Advance Lifesaving Service IGSA

MacDill AFB partnered with the City of Tampa, using an Intergovernmental Support Agreement (IGSA), where the City provides Florida State licensed paramedics and a fully equipped advanced lifesaving ambulance for emergency medical response and patient transport. MacDill AFB receives these services consistent with the City's operating costs and reimburses the City each month. By executing the continuous services from a government-provided facility, the City estimates it will avoid more than \$5M in construction costs for a new fire station that would have been built adjacent to MacDill AFB.



Moody AFB Backup Emergency Operations Centers



Through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) finalized in July 2019, Lowndes County provides Emergency Operations Center (EOC) space to Moody AFB when requested as a tertiary backup. The collaboration provides the installation with an alternate EOC location, ensuring continued operations should primary and secondary EOCs become inoperable. Furthermore, this arrangement enhances the partners' ability to coordinate during actual emergencies. Even before the MOU, Moody AFB began sending a representative to the county's EOC for communication purposes whenever the parties' EOCs were activated – like during Hurricane Michael in 2018. The collaboration under the 2019 MOU complements this previously-established practice.

Additional Resources

COVID-19 Military Support Initiative

The Association of Defense Communities (ADC) and Blue Star Families have established the COVID-19 Military Support Initiative. This initiative seeks to be a hub for aggregating and disseminating timely and accurate information relevant to a defense audience, including service members and their families.

In addition to posting resources like Public Affairs Guidance and other advisements from the Department of Defense (DOD), the initiative hosts virtual town halls to provide information and answer questions. The AFCP Program participated in the first two town halls: the first covered topics such as the virus' impact on military readiness, DOD's role in the response, and where to find reliable information about COVID-19, while the second town hall covered the impact the virus has had on military dependents. In such a rapidly-developing context, having access to timely and accurate information is vital – and information that specifically addresses the unique needs of the defense community is especially valuable. We are very grateful to ADC and Blue Star Families for standing up this initiative.

To learn more, please visit https://knowledge-online-defense-communities.knowledgeowl.com/help/covid-19.