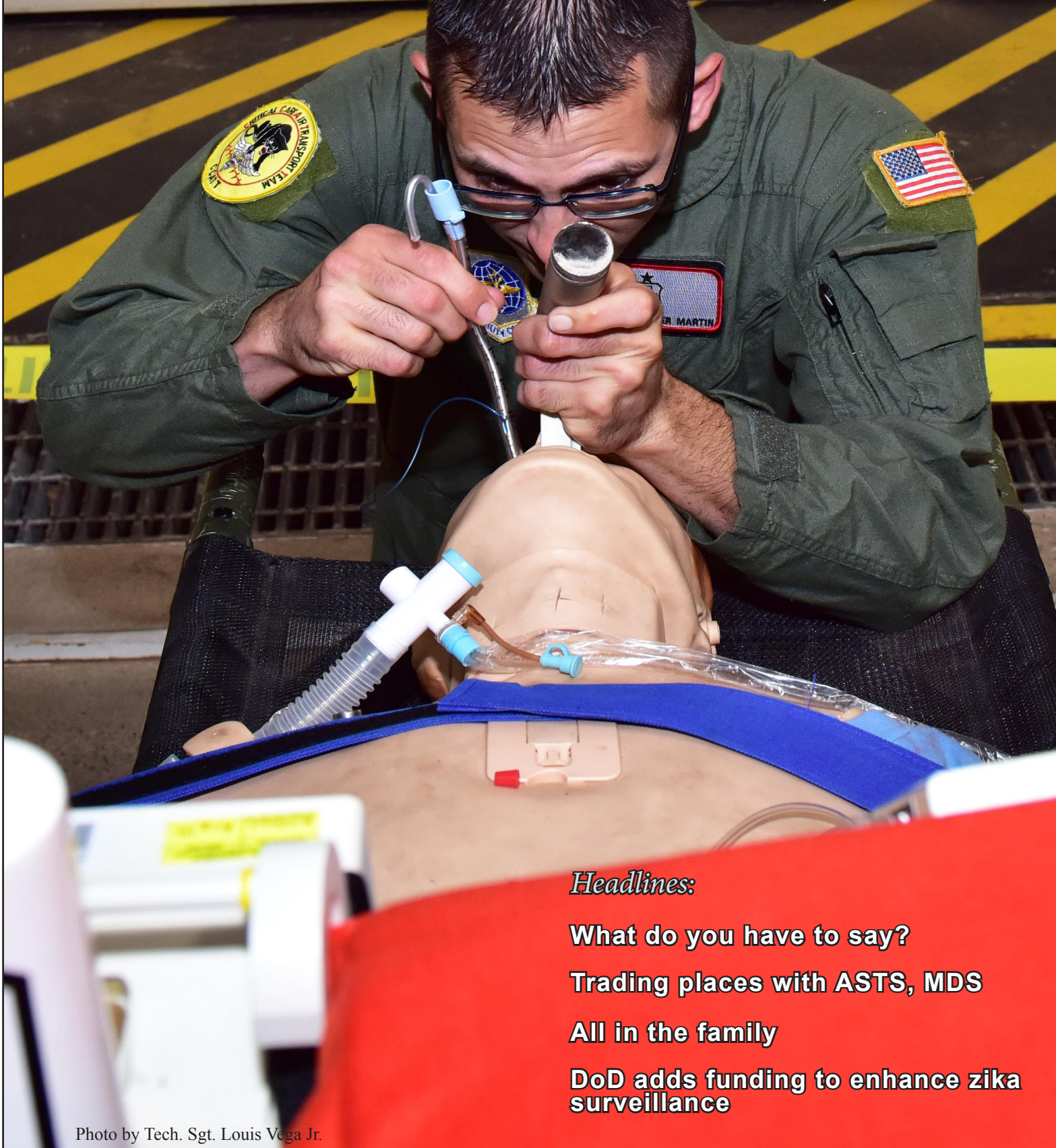


SnapShot

944th Fighter Wing, Luke Air Force Base, Arizona

June 2016 Newsletter



Headlines:

What do you have to say?

Trading places with ASTS, MDS

All in the family

DoD adds funding to enhance zika surveillance

Photo by Tech. Sgt. Louis Vega Jr.



944th Fighter Wing Monthly SnapShot

www.944fw.afrc.af.mil

Bringing the Heat

June 2016

944 FW KEY LEADERS

Commander

Col. Kurt J. Gallegos

Vice Commander

Col. Bryan Cook

Command Chief

CMSgt. Rhonda L. Hutson

944th Fighter Wing Electronic Monthly SnapShot

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Inside:

Command commentary.....3

Trading places with ASTS, MDS.....4

TMO drives MHE training5

EOD lights fuse on effective training....6

Levitow Award winner eager to lead....7



Senior Airman Krystal Broady, 944th Fighter Wing Det 1 commander support staff, performs a fireman carry as part of a team relay race during the 944th Fighter Wing Physical Training Challenge. A total of nine four-person teams competed in this month's challenge. (U.S Air Force photo taken by Staff Sgt. Lausanne Kinder)

944 FW Mission

Train and provide combat
ready Airmen.

Anytime, Anywhere



Command Commentary

Summer is here - enjoy and stay safe

By Col. Kurt Gallegos, 944th Fighter Wing commander

Summer is here and it is HOT out. As we transition to the heat you will be seeing a lot of changes across the street as the 56th Fighter Wing says goodbye to their Wing Commander, Command Chief, Operations Group Commander, Mission Support Group Commander, Medical Group Commander, and several others.

The Reserves will also welcome a new commander this summer, Maj. Gen. Maryanne Miller. Gen. Miller is moving from Deputy to the Chief of Air Force Reserve to Chief of Air Force Reserve, Headquarters United States Air Force, Pentagon, Washington, DC, and Commander, Air Force Reserve Command, Robins AFB, Georgia. I have met Gen. Miller and have always been impressed with her dedication and leadership.

Along with all the changes, summers are a time when we get to spend time with kids out of school or go on summer vacations or

annual tours. Summers in Arizona can be hot, in fact we are supposed to hit 117 degrees this weekend, so remember to drink plenty of water to avoid being a heat casualty. If traveling make sure to take care of any needed maintenance and ensure you have an emergency kit in your car. If you drink alcohol during a summer party, please drink responsibly and never drink and drive. I ask that each of you to make the commitment to stay safe in our Quest for Zero mishaps. If you have any questions concerning safety please contact the 944th FW, Ground Safety at 623-856-5361.

Next month we do not have a UTA here at Luke so remember to take care of everything this month unless it can wait until August. For those who get the break, take advantage and use July to spend time with family and friends. Relax and enjoy, you deserve it.

I look forward to seeing you during the August UTA safe, rested and ready to work. Thank you.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Nason

What do you have to say?

By Chief Master Sgt. Rhonda Hutson, 944th Fighter Wing command chief
944 Warriors!

I normally write on various different topics for your reading pleasure, however, I want to switch it up this month and offer YOU a chance to write in my space.

So here are the guidelines:

- You will have until the Thursday before the August UTA to submit your article to our Public Affairs office.
- I ask that you write about something pertinent to us as Airmen.
- If you cannot get creative, then I want you to write about what being an Airman and a Wingman means to you.
- I'll select from the submissions.

The winner of the contest will be selected and published in the August Snapshot. Also, they will have an option of either breakfast or lunch with me and it's my treat!

Happy writing and I am looking forward to reading your submissions!!!

'Til next time, Chief.

Welcome Home!!

Staff Sgt. Ilija Balach, 924th Maintenance Squadron, returned home from Incirlik AB, Turkey
Senior Airman Carli Terreault, 924th Maintenance Squadron, returned home from Incirlik AB, Turkey





Wing News

Trading Places with ASTS, MDS



Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Nestor Cruz, 944th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Two leaders from the 944th Fighter Wing took command of each other's squadrons in a change of command ceremony April 30 inside the wing's hangar 999.

Col. Alfred Rossum, outgoing 944th Medical Squadron commander, took command of the 944th Aeromedical Staging Squadron during the ceremony. He brings with him an extensive background in the field of aerospace medicine, having served as a Space Medicine fellow and flight surgeon/contractor at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas. Rossum also served with the 303rd Expeditionary Fighter Squadron, Bagram Air Field, Afghanistan, as senior flight surgeon caring for more than 240 maintainers and pilots during Operation Enduring Freedom.

Col. Curtiss Cook, outgoing 944 ASTS commander, assumed command of the 944 MDS. He is a traditional reservist and is Professor of Medicine at the Mayo Clinic College of Medicine and serves as Chair of the Division of Endocrinology, Mayo Clinic Arizona.

Rossum gave a simple message to his new team. "You neither obtain the rank of colonel

or the position of command without the support and endorsement of the enlisted. The enlisted are the backbone of the United States Air Force. I have always held these words close to my heart, and I would like to extend my thanks and appreciation to all of the MDS today. I already have full confidence in your ability to get the job done," he said. "My message to you is simple: 'Let's press.'"

Already familiar with both squadrons, Cook took a moment to highlight the accomplishments of both teams and wish them their continued success.

"To the ASTS ... I have seen many of you grow into senior leaders," said Cook. "I see potential in so many of you. It has been an honor being your commander and I would gladly go with any of you on any contingency, anytime, anywhere."

"MDS, I have worked with many of you and I have seen the amazing things you do in austere environments," he continued. "I know you are going through a lot of changes – new commander, new first sergeant – but we'll navigate these changes. I look forward to moving ahead together."

Cook also gave a common message to both squadrons, citing an appropriate proverb.

"There is a proverb you may be familiar with: 'If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together,'" Cook quoted. "While on the surface it may seem we have different missions, at the end of the day it's the same mission: to see to the health, welfare and safety of the mothers and fathers, the sons and the daughters of the American taxpayer. We will continue on our path toward becoming the best medics in support of the American people and for our nation's defense."



June 2016 promotions:

Congratulations to the following 944th Fighter Wing promotees

From Airman First Class:

Senior Airman Kane M. Butler, 414 MXS

From Senior Airman:

Staff Sgt. Jacobi J. Banks, 944 CES

Staff Sgt. Jenna R. Chacon 924 MXS

Staff Sgt. Renee A. Murray, 944 FW Det 1

From Staff Sergeant:

Tech. Sgt. Juan M. Acevedo, 924 MXS

Tech. Sgt. John R. Hampsey, 944 CES

Tech. Sgt. Scott F. Parish, 414 MXS

Tech. Sgt. Erik D. Wise, 414 MXS



944TH FIGHTER WING



MISSION:

**TRAIN AND PROVIDE COMBAT
READY AIRMEN. ANYTIME,
ANYWHERE.**

VISION:

**DEVELOP ELITE INTEGRATED
AIRMEN TO ANSWER OUR
NATION'S CALL.**



Top Three Meeting!!!

**Sunday,
June 5, 2016
at**

**11:30 to 12:30
in**

Dinning Facility



Air Force/ Wing News

Nominations sought for 2016 Sijan Award

By Kat Bailey, Air Force Personnel Center Public Affairs

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas -- The Air Force Personnel Center is currently accepting nominations through Aug. 31 for the 2016 Lance P. Sijan U.S. Air Force Leadership Award. The award recognizes the accomplishments of total force officers and enlisted leaders who demonstrate the highest qualities of leadership in the performance of their duties and personal conduct.

Nominees will be rated in several areas to include their scope of responsibility, professional leadership and leadership image. The award categories are senior officer, junior officer, senior enlisted and junior enlisted. The award period is July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016, and each major command, forward operating agency or direct reporting unit may submit one nomination in each of

the four categories.

The Sijan Award, established in 1981, is named in honor of the late Capt. Lance P. Sijan, the first U.S. Air Force Academy graduate to receive the Medal of Honor. A combat pilot, Sijan was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for his determination while evading capture by the North Vietnamese and during his subsequent captivity as a prisoner of war after being shot down in 1967.

Search for eligibility and application procedures on myPers with the keyword "Sijan." For more information about Air Force personnel programs go to the myPers website at <https://mypers.af.mil/>. Individuals who do not have a myPers account can request one by following the instructions on the Air Force Retirees Services website at <http://www.retirees.af.mil/mypers/index.asp>.

AF seeks 2016 GEICO Military Service Awards nominations

By Kat Bailey, Air Force Personnel Center Public Affairs

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas -- Air Force officials are accepting nominations through Sept. 12 for the 2016 Government Employees Insurance Company (GEICO) Military Service Awards. The GEICO Military Service Awards annually recognizes enlisted total force members from all branches of service for contributions to military or civilian communities.

The three award categories are drug and alcohol abuse prevention, fire safety and fire prevention, and traffic safety and accident prevention. The accident prevention category applies only to vehicle- or motorcycle-related accomplishments.

The award period is Oct. 1, 2015, to Sept. 30, 2016. Contributions may also span a period of several years, be on-

going, or have been accomplished during the award period. For contributions after Sept. 12 and before Sept. 30, individuals can contact the Air Force Personnel Center at (210) 565-2520.

GEICO will select recipients in each category from all nominees submitted by each service. Those recipients will be honored at a ceremony in Washington, D.C., next spring.

Search for eligibility and application procedures on myPers at <https://mypers.af.mil/> with the keyword "GEICO." For more information about Air Force personnel programs, go to the myPers website. Individuals who do not have a myPers account can request one by following the instructions on the Air Force Retirees Services website at <http://www.retirees.af.mil/mypers/index.asp>.

Warrior of the Month



Photo by Staff Sgt. Lauren Snyder

Tech. Sgt. Shawn Wilkins, 944th Fighter Wing Detachment 1 (Maintenance)

Time in Service: 11.5 years

Time with the 944th Fighter Wing: 1 year

Civilian Job: Air Reserve Technician, Non Destructive Inspections

Hometown: Belleville, Michigan

Hobbies: SCUBA, hiking, video games.

Commander's comments: Tech. Sgt. Wilkins is the first Non Destructive Inspection ART integrated into 56th NDI Section. He was critical to performing 133 non-destructive parts inspections leading to a 97 percent quality assurance pass rate. As a valuable team member he was dispatched five times for on aircraft repairs, enabling 673 F-16 sorties for March 2016. He also processed the first 944 Fighter Wing Detachment 1 maintenance deployers and coordinated two "Operation Freedom's Sentinel" taskings to Southwest Asia. He is currently the only one in shop qualified and knowledgeable on composite NDI inspection process, often looked on to teach sections three and five levels.

Why did you join the Air Force Reserves? I was in the process of separating from active duty Air Force while stationed at Elmendorf AFB and the reserves component was expanding there. I loved the area and the military so it was a good fit.

How does your job support the mission of the 944th Fighter Wing? I provide pilots with safe inspected aircraft. I like to say we break things, but it is a good thing because if we find something wrong it can be corrected. Safety issues can be prevented, such as an aircraft separating from its cockpit.

If you were on a deserted island... I'd kick my feet up at the beach. I like serenity.



Wing News

All in the family

Story and photo by Tech. Sgt. Barbara Plante, 944th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

While all U.S. military branches have family members who serve at the same time, it is rare for three members of the same family to serve in the same wing and at the same time.

With a combined service of over 35 years, three Airmen from the 944th Fighter Wing make serving their country a family affair. Master Sgt. Darin Andsager, and his two sons Senior Airmen Alec Andsager and Nicholas Andsager represent, 944th Medical, 944th Force Support and 944th Logistic Readiness Squadrons in the 944th Fighter Wing.

After spending any amount of time with them, the strong family resemblance which includes similar smiles and gestures becomes evident. There is also a tad bit of sibling rivalry going on but the three of them all agree they love putting on the uniform and serving their country.

Darin's father served in the military but it was a friend who encouraged him to join the Air Force after high school.

"My dad was in the Army and Navy, at the time, I wanted a job and occupation to learn and I thought the Air Force would give me that opportunity," said Darin.

After seeing their dad serve their entire lives, the two sons followed the family tradition and joined the Air Force. Many times dad explained all the benefits of being in the military and after thinking about it, Alec, the baby of the family, joined right after high school and was followed two years later by his older brother Nicholas.

"I think parents are the best role models, I saw what serving did for me and thought it would be good for them," continued Darin.

Starting out his Air Force career as a biomedical equipment repair specialist, Darin has spent the last several years serving as a First Sergeant. He is currently serving with the 944 MDS but will soon move to be the First Sergeant with the 944th Aeromedical Staging Squadron.

"I love what I do, I love being a first sergeant and helping people," Darin said. "As a biomedical engineer at Chandler Regional Hospital and Mercy Gilbert Medical Center, motivation to come to unit training assemblies isn't always easy. However, I enjoy being part of this professional organization and am very proud of it. I know if I am not here, people will fall through the cracks and things won't get done. My plans include moving to the 944 ASTS and making the biggest difference I can. Then I'm looking at retirement and spending more time at home on the weekend to get some house projects done," he

continued.

The advice Darin gave both boys before going to basic training was, "Be a team player, take it seriously but not too serious that it gets you down, remember it is a test, and pay attention to details."

Nicholas and Alec both agreed the wingman concept was strong in basic training, so the advice to be a team players was excellent.

Alec is a massage therapist in his civilian career and a services apprentice with the FSS.

"I enjoy the people I work with and the benefits the Air Force has provided me. I feel like I am a part of something that is doing some good in the world," he said. "Coming to UTA's is a requirement and my duty; I am invested in this and can't not show up. My goals are to attend Airman Leadership School, put on my next stripe and match Nicholas who scored a 100 on his last physical fitness test.

Long term, I want to serve in the military as long as my dad has," he concluded.

Nicholas, spent some time in college on a track and field scholarship before joining the 944 LRS as a material management helper.

He works with children in an after school program in his civilian career.

"My motivation to come to UTA's is so I can be the best I can be. This is my job, it's my duty, I love putting on this uniform, I want to be like my father, live up to his standards and expectations," he said.

His plans are to finish his Career Development Courses and his civilian education.

"I joined the Air Force for the experience, I am looking forward to the opportunity to deploy and learn more," Nicholas added.

Saying that dad is proud of his son's is putting it mildly. His body language clearly spoke volumes about his pride.

"How do I even message this. I am very, very proud of them, it makes me smile to think three Andsager's are serving our country and the 944 FW," Darin said.

It was just as evident that the boys felt the same about their father and his service.

"When we were young it was sad to have dad gone on the weekends but now we are envious of his career and it is our goal to be just like him," said Nicholas.

Except for the occasional e-mail mix up and being mistaken for each other, all agree it is a great experience and opportunity working in the same unit. As for the sibling rivalry, it is real, but it keeps them in a friendly competition and pushes them to become exceptional Airmen like they see in their father.

No matter what motivates them to serve it is extremely clear all three are proud of each other and honored the serve the nation.





DoD adds funding to enhance Zika surveillance

By Cheryl Pellerin, DoD News, Defense Media Activity

WASHINGTON -- The Defense Department is providing \$1.76 million in extra funding to military laboratories to expand Zika virus surveillance worldwide and assess the virus's impact on deployed service members' health and readiness, Navy Cmdr. Franca Jones said in a recent interview.

Jones, who holds a doctorate, is chief of the Global Emerging Infections Surveillance and Response, section of the Armed Forces Health Surveillance Branch in the Defense Health Agency's Public Health Division.

The enhanced Zika virus surveillance will involve 10 projects in 18 countries and territories by four lab partners based in the United States and five located overseas.

Jones said the labs receiving more Zika virus funds are part of the GEIS integrated worldwide emerging infectious disease surveillance network that includes core Army or Navy medical research labs in Egypt, Georgia, Kenya, Peru, Thailand, Cambodia and Singapore, and Army, Navy and Air Force labs in the United States, working in more than 60 countries around the world.

In the current fiscal year, she added, GEIS already has provided its network partners with more than \$51 million to support a range of emerging infectious disease surveillance programs.

Mosquito-Borne Zika

Zika virus disease spread to people through the bites of *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes, usually shows mild symptoms -- fever, rash, joint pain and red eyes -- that last several days or a week, according to the CDC. But Zika virus infection during pregnancy can cause a serious birth defect called microcephaly and other severe fetal brain defects, the CDC says.

In May 2015, the Pan American Health Organization issued an alert about the first confirmed Zika virus infection in Brazil. Three months ago, the WHO declared Zika virus a public health emergency of international concern. Local transmission has been reported in many other countries and territories.

Zika virus likely will continue to spread to new areas, CDC says. Some 4,905 confirmed and 194,633 suspected cases had been reported in 33 countries and territories in the Western Hemisphere, according to an April 6 Armed Forces Health Surveillance Branch summary.

Jones said the DoD labs will use the Zika

money provided by the branch's GEIS section for three kinds of surveillance studies. One will look retrospectively for Zika virus exposure among DoD personnel through serum repository samples. A retrospective study looks backward in time, in this case using serum samples of patients who had been deployed in areas with high rates of Zika virus infection.

The other surveillance studies will leverage existing work in the GEIS lab network in different parts of the world to expand clinic-based surveillance for Zika virus disease among DoD and civilian populations, and expand testing for Zika virus in mosquitoes.

DoD Serum Repository

The Defense Department collects a range of blood serum samples from all service members before, during and after their military service, and maintains the samples in the Armed Forces Health Surveillance Branch's Department of Defense Serum Repository. Serum is a clear fluid that's part of a person's blood. It's used in many medical diagnostic tests and in blood typing. The repository is the world's largest of its kind, with more than 60 million serial serum samples from more than 10 million service members.

For the retrospective Zika virus surveillance study, military virologists -- scientists who study viruses -- and public health officials will check the serum samples of service members stationed in the United States and in high-risk regions in the Caribbean and other places overseas. The scientists will be looking for prior exposure to Zika, dengue and chikungunya viruses, all of which are transmitted by *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes. In recent years, according to CDC, dengue and chikungunya cases have begun to appear in the United States, most of them brought in from tropical urban areas of the world.

Understanding Risk

"For the service members, I can talk from personal experience," Jones said. "Our blood is drawn when we enter active duty, prior to and following all deployments, and occasionally during acute illness for the purpose of storing in the serum repository, allowing for [later] analyses of a service member's serum over his or her time in service. So the serum repository keeps a history of a service member's serum on tap."

She added, "When looking to understand exposure to our service members, the repository provides a unique resource for helping

to determine if, when and where there was any exposure to a variety of pathogens."

This serum surveillance effort will examine 500 samples from service members stationed in Puerto Rico during a time when some of the viruses were transmitted, and 500 from service members deployed to West Africa, Jones said.

Lines of Effort

Other lines of effort for surveillance for the labs include looking for Zika virus in mosquitoes in the Caribbean, East Africa and Southeast Asia, Jones said, and also looking for Zika virus in service members and in military beneficiary and civilian populations who go to medical facilities with a fever, medically known as a febrile illness.

The febrile surveillance will be done in the southwestern United States -- California, Arizona and Texas -- and in the Caribbean, Central and South America, East and West Africa and Southeast Asia, she said.

In mosquito surveillance, scientists capture mosquitoes in traps and take them to the DoD labs to be processed to get their genetic material for testing.

"By testing the genetic material, we can understand where mosquitoes are carrying the virus," Jones explained. "We won't necessarily be able to tell quantitatively the percentage of mosquitoes carrying the virus, but in relative terms we'll learn about the population that's carrying the virus, in what parts of the world, and the risk to DoD populations."

Protecting the Global Force

Jones said officials don't know what they're going to find in the GEIS-funded effort. "It's very possible that the actual [number] of mosquitoes that are carrying the virus or the number of patients that we get is so small that the chance of finding something could be small," she acknowledged. But she said GEIS still wants to do the work, because the lack of Zika virus in the samples is also valuable information and helps to determine the risk to service members.

"For us in GEIS, because [infectious diseases can emerge anywhere], it's very important to us to understand what diseases are currently in what geographic locations in the world, and understand what disease may emerge and spread rapidly," Jones explained. "Our forces are present globally, and we need to make sure that they are able to complete their mission. Infectious diseases are one of the things that can impede their ability to do their mission."



Please visit the 944
FW on Facebook and
LIKE us.

Airmen from the 944th Force Support Squadron pose for a photo during a hike at White Tank Mountain Regional Park, Ariz., April 29, 2016. A total of 48 Airmen, including two medics, participated in the hike to promote fitness and boost morale. (U.S. Air Force photo taken by Staff Sgt. Lausanna Kinder)