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## **Sheppard AFB Seabees lend a hand to honor fallen veterans**

Story by Chief Utilitiesman (SCW) Scott A. Kristek – Center for Seabees and Facilities Engineering Detachment Sheppard Public Affairs

BURKBURNETT, Texas -- Seabee staff members and students from the Center for Seabees and Facilities Engineering Detachment Sheppard Air Force Base (CSFE DET Sheppard) helped to honor deceased veterans and their families by preparing the Journey's End Cemetery in Burkburnett, Texas May 24 and 31.

Sheppard students and staff assisted with mowing grass, clearing brush, trimming around graves, pulling weeds, setting headstones, and placing flags at the site, ensuring the cemetery was presentable for family honors on Memorial Day. The Seabees also returned on May 31 to set 14 additional headstones. An additional 70 headstones are scheduled to be delivered for placement this summer.

The cemetery was established in 1933 by the Colored Citizens' League of Burkburnett due to segregation laws of that era prohibiting African-American veterans from utilizing the main Burkburnett Memorial Cemetery. There are currently seven Burkburnett veterans from World War II and the Korean War buried at the Journey's End site.

"It was a privilege and an honor to be able to come out for a couple of hours on Memorial Day weekend and provide such a simple service to the community, but to also make an impact for the families coming to visit," said

Constructionman Apprentice Christopher Harris, Utilitiesman "A" School student.

According to Senior Chief Construction Electrician Joseph Johnson, assistant officer in charge of the learning site, helping with the cemetery clean-up has become an annual event.

"This was our second year of helping out at Journey's End," said Johnson. "It's a good event because we get to show our respect towards the fallen veterans buried here."

For more information on the Center for Seabees and Facilities Engineering Learning Site Detachment Sheppard Air Force Base, visit the detachment website: <https://www.netc.navy.mil/centers/csfe/sheppard/>.

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