



Mobility Guardian unites global ...

FORCES

PAGES 16-17

Quality mentorship can make difference

Commentary by
Lt. Col. Katrina Curtis
60TH CONTRACTING SQUADRON

Mentorship is more than just leading others down a career path and checking some boxes. Don't fear the opportunity to show others what a life with passion and purpose can feel like. Over the course of my career, I have had to list out and document personal and professional goals. Growing up, it was the prevailing thought that if you set some goals in your life and then work hard to obtain them, it will bring you joy and success with an increased

feeling of self-worth.

Many times, I sat down with different superiors for mentorship sessions, which were great in helping me formulate a career path and set some goals. Some of these were making time for family, saving for retirement, serving with integrity and honor, continuing training and education, and working hard to be competitive for the next promotion.

I won't lie, it felt a little too easy, like my path was already laid out before me. It didn't feel personal at all. I did enjoy serving my country in uniform and the very specific job I had. I could easily see the impact

Commander's Commentary

contracting personnel had on every aspect of the Air Force mission.

It wasn't until a few years ago when a very special mentor recommended we read a book in our spare time called "Start With Why" by Simon Sinek that it struck me. Exactly how was having a list of goals and a career path going to give me, "a passion and a why," when it didn't feel very personal? I began to examine these goals more closely and ask

very specific questions of myself. Some of these were why do I like spending time with my family and why do I want to be a good role model for my kids? But it didn't stop there. A passion began to grow for just about everything family-related. I couldn't get enough. Soon, I was looking more and more into what choices I made and actions I took and how they had an impact on my passion for serving my country. That specific passion for serving and the mission of the organization for which I was assigned fit nicely together.

So, now I find great joy and am very eager to help others find their passion and whys. I

want to hopefully help them see that no matter what their personal situation is, or the job they're doing, or where they're assigned, there is always a great purpose and a passion that can be found. You just have to look for it. That very special mentor I mentioned is my husband. Some of you may have thought this was a former commander or officer I had worked with, as that is what we tend to think of when we talk about mentors. Be sure to look at every aspect of your life for advice and mentorship. You will be surprised at the knowledge and advice around you each and every day.

Variety of tools available to deal with adversity

Commentary by
Master Sgt. Kimberly La'Pierre
60TH CONTRACTING SQUADRON

No one is immune to the trials and tribulations that life has in store for us. I've experienced an ample share of adversity, barriers and disappointment, but through these hardships, emotional fortitude was gained. There's a wide spectrum of adversity unique to our lives that one may experience. It can range anywhere from failing a test after putting our all into studying, working in an uncomfortable environment or losing a stripe because of a bad decision. What we don't realize at the time is this bad experience is

Chief's Commentary

developing our emotional intelligence. It's teaching us to be stronger and how to appropriately handle future difficulties. At the time of hardship, people react to a bad experience unique to their personality – some are indifferent, others experience a form of anxiety and there are those who let the issue dictate their path to recovery.

So how do we deal with our dilemmas? I don't have the absolute answer to that question, but allow me to share how I've personally dealt with and how I've overcome my impasses. I've learned to understand that the issue is

impermanant and to speak to God and leave it in his hands. I've also realized that adversity is sometimes by life's design; how we grow as a person and better our current situation. However, we don't always realize this necessary life-changing experience when facing it. Only upon successfully overcoming our issues do we sometimes conclude that it may have been a blessing in disguise.

Another way in which I've learned to deal with work-related matters is by not taking issues home unless my intent is to seek advice or clarity from my spouse. This rule keeps me sane and allows me to focus on my loved ones. It's fundamentally important to have a good support system – whether it's your

spouse or a significant other, family member, friend, chaplain or counselor. Having an outlet to express your worries may aid in discovering the solution to your dilemma. Sometimes, the solution may very well mean taking action, or conversely, taking no action at all.

How we use our bad experiences to our advantage is just as important as overcoming a discomforting situation. I believe experience is our best teacher. Therefore, the most rewarding way I use life's lessons is through listening and providing advice to other Airmen experiencing similar problems that I've encountered in the past. Through

See LA'PIERRE Page 21

AFSA encourages, informs Airmen

Senior Airman Amber Carter
60TH AIR MOBILITY WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

RENO, Nev. — Servant leadership was the overarching theme at the 2017 Air Force Sergeants Association International Convention Professional Airmen's Conference held July 22-27 in Reno, Nevada.

Several guests of honor attended the annual event, including Secretary of the Air Force Heather Wilson, former Secretary of the Air Force Deborah James, Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Kaleth O. Wright and retired Army Command Sgt. Maj. Patrick Alston.

"(Being a servant leader) is what is going to allow our loved ones to enjoy the freedoms they enjoy each and every day," said Alston. "The theme of this event is paramount. You must have a servant mentality to get after what we are facing as a nation today."

Alston commented on being the one percent of Americans who serve in the military.

"If you do the equation, at any given time, if there are roughly 300 million Americans, there are 297 million Americans standing on your shoulders, enjoying the freedoms they enjoy today," he said.

The Professional Airmen's Conference is the flagship event for the Air Force Sergeants Association.

Airmen in attendance had the opportunity to not only meet the guests of honor but to learn from and ask questions to past and present Air Force leadership during the



U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Amber Carter

Secretary of the Air Force Heather Wilson speaks at a professional development forum July 25 at the Air Force Sergeants Association International Convention in Reno, Nev. Wilson spoke about her leadership priorities and the importance of education as well as the development of Airmen.

professional development forums. This included panels with former chief master sergeants of the Air Force and current enlisted leadership.

"I would venture to say that this

is the premiere professional development opportunity in our Air Force for any enlisted Airman," said Wright. "Continue to grow, continue to develop yourself, continue to attend events like the (AFSA PAC) and continue to

make yourself a better Airman." Wright spoke about his personal objectives as the newest chief master sergeant of the Air Force.

"I owe you honesty, I owe you See AFSA Page 24

Tailwind

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60th Air Mobility Wing

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Col. John Klein
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2nd Lt. Sarah Johnson
Chief of command information

Daily Republic
Nick DeCicco
Tailwind editor

Todd R. Hansen
Copy editor

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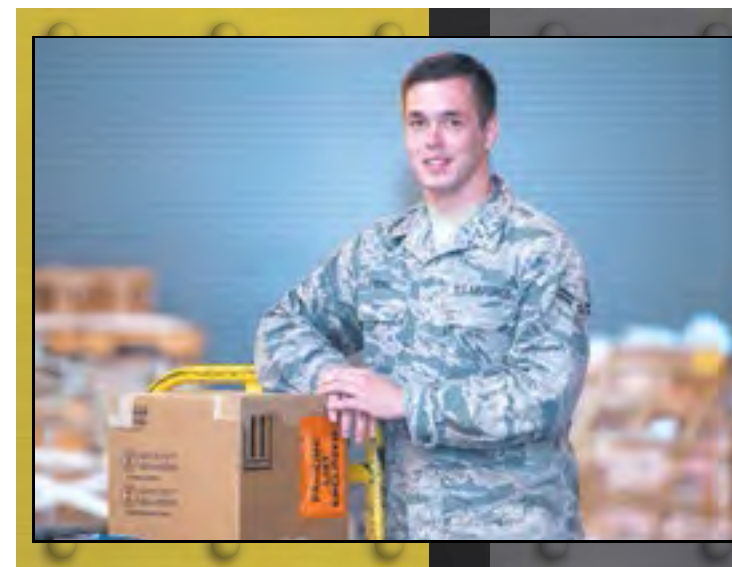
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On the cover

Multiple C-17 Globemaster III's participate in an elephant walk Aug. 2 during Exercise Mobility Guardian at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash.

U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Ericka Engblom



U.S. Air Force photo/Louis Bricease

WARRIOR OF THE WEEK

Name: Airman 1st Class Colton Figura.	Family: Spouse, Kaitlyn.	woodworking and building.
Unit: 60th Aerial Port Squadron.	What are your goals? My Air Force goal is to earn my Community College of the Air Force degree within the next year and a half. My life goal is to own a ranch or farm.	What are your greatest achievements? My greatest Air Force achievement is receiving specialty training in career field, Hazardous Material Inspector and Joint Inspector training since it's normally reserved for senior airmen and staff sergeants. My personal achievement is meeting and marrying my wife.
Duty title: Cargo transportation apprentice.	Hometown: Warrenton, Missouri.	
Time in service: Two years.	What are your hobbies? Hunting, fishing, working on trucks, spending time with family,	



U.S. Air Force photo/Heide Couch

A C-5A Galaxy lands July 26 at Travis Air Force Base, Calif. The C-5, Tail No. 0451, spent nearly 20 years operating at Travis from 1973 to 1992 and is the Air Force's second-to-last operational C-5A.

Heritage Center acquires C-5A

Staff Sgt. Charles Rivezzo
60TH AIR MOBILITY WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Air Force's second-to-last operational C-5A Galaxy embarked on its final flight July 26, landing at Travis Air Force Base, California, where the aircraft is slated to be placed on static display.

The C-5, Tail No. 0451, spent nearly 20 years operating at Travis from 1973 to 1992, a designator that led base officials to choose the aircraft when submitting their request to the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force.

"Other than a brief stay at Charleston (Air Force Base) prior to coming to Travis in the 1970s, this is where it spent its active-duty years,"

said Rick Shea, Travis Heritage Center curator. "This is home. It needed to be here."

For the last two decades, the aircraft was being operationally flown by the Air Force Reserve at Westover Air Reserve Base, Massachusetts.

The end state objective of the static display project is to position the aircraft in an empty site adjacent to a static C-141 Starlifter – two aircraft synonymous with the installation.

"When Travis Air Force Base is mentioned to anyone, people's minds automatically think C-141s and C-5s," said Shea. "Travis is airlift. To have the Air Force's largest airlift platform on display is huge for us. It's huge for

educational reasons, esprit de corps purposes as well as being a significant accomplishment for the Heritage Center.

"This is an opportunity to share with our visitors an airplane that has spent more than 40 years enabling us to defend this country," Shea said.

According to Shea, the proposed site still needs to undergo an environmental evaluation prior to moving forward, but he remains optimistic that the project will be completed within a year.

In addition to the environmental analysis, base officials must also overcome the logistical challenges of towing and placing a 247-foot aircraft with a wingspan of

222-feet. The endeavor will require the efforts and specialties from several units across the base to include maintenance and civil engineering.

Although there is still work to be done, Shea said the end result is a prominent display that is encapsulated in one word: Travis.

"When we drive people down Travis Boulevard and cross the threshold of those two aircraft looking at one another, you'll know you're at Travis Air Force Base," he said. "They say a picture is worth a 1,000 words, but in this case it just says one."

Travis currently employs a fleet of 18 C-5M Super Galaxies, the modernized variant of the original airframe.

Air Force extends loan repay program

Kat Bailey
AIR FORCE PERSONNEL CENTER
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas — Application packages for the Air Force's Health Professions Loan Repayment Program will be accepted until Sept. 1. Active-duty Biomedical Sciences Corps and Nurse Corps officers are eligible to apply.

HPLRP provides an incentive for current active-duty medical personnel to extend their service commitment through the repayment of professional educational loans, provided they are in the selected career fields and otherwise eligible.

"We want our people to be able to balance their commitment to serve their country and support their families," said Maj. Connie Converse, Air Force Personnel Center Biomedical Sciences Corps utilization officer. "This initiative helps alleviate some of the financial burden of student loans, instilling greater confidence about their futures and allowing greater flexibility for families."

The maximum loan repayment is \$40,000 per year for up to two years, minus about 28 percent in federal income taxes, which are taken out prior to lender repayment.

"The loan repayment counts as income," said Converse. "We encourage officers with questions about the tax effects to consult with their tax expert prior to applying for the program."

Repayment may consist of loan amounts for principal, interest and reasonable educational and living expenses and are sent to the lending institution on behalf of the HPLRP participant.

Officers may use HPLRP to repay any qualified loans obtained for their qualifying degree that allows them to hold their Air Force Specialty Code.

Airmen required to take mental health assessment

Tech. Sgt. James Hodgman
60TH AIR MOBILITY WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

All Airmen are required to complete a mental health assessment as part of their annual physical health assessment.

According to the Air Force Surgeon General Public Affairs Office, mental health issues are a serious problem in the U.S. armed forces as these illnesses are often not visible to others, making them difficult to diagnose.

"Mental health is just as important as physical health and can adversely impact physical

health," said Col. Justin Nast, 60th Medical Group chief of aerospace medicine. "Airmen should be afforded every opportunity to get help for their mental health needs. (They) need to be mentally and physically ready for the demands of their jobs both in garrison and deployed and (we at) David Grant USAF Medical Center want to ensure Airmen are readily able to get help for all of their healthcare needs."

Prior to the new requirement, Airmen were only required to complete a mental health assessment prior to

deployment. The addition of the MHA to the annual PHA has several benefits, said Nast.

"The annual MHA is required for all Airmen and will allow a chance (for them) to voice mental health concerns, even if they did not note any concerns in the online questionnaire," he said. "If there are any concerns, then the person-to-person contact will facilitate immediate help."

According to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, more than 42 million American adults, roughly 20 percent of the U.S. population, suffer

from some form of mental illness. In a 2014 study in "JAMA Psychiatry," a medical journal published by the American Medical Association, researchers found that 1 in 4 active-duty service members suffer from a mental health condition of some kind.

Providing Airmen who may be struggling with mental health issues another avenue to seek care is incredibly important, said Col. Steven Pflanz, Air Force director of Psychological Health.

"This assessment gives Airmen an annual opportunity to review their mental health

with a medical provider and discuss any concerns they may have," he said. "Making the process routine for everyone reduces stigma and makes it easier for Airmen suffering from mental health problems to obtain care."

The MHA is expected to increase the workload by about 3,000 assessments for DGM's Public Health Flight, which already conducts approximately 5,300 MHA's annually.

The new requirement will increase the workload for medical staff who make these

See ASSESSMENT Page 25

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Courtesy photo

Capt. David Simon takes a moment to focus Nov. 2, 2016, during tryouts for the U.S. National Bobsled Team in Park City, Utah.

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-LACKLAND, Texas — Capt. David Simon, an elite bobsled athlete, is a stellar example of resiliency and upholding the four pillars of Comprehensive Airman Fitness: mental, physical, social and spiritual.

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See **BOBSLEDDER** Page 25

Researchers develop medical technology

Peter Holstein
AIR FORCE SURGEON GENERAL OFFICE
OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

FALLS CHURCH, Va. — Imagine the chaos and challenge of delivering life-saving care in a battlefield environment. That's what faced a group of Air Force researchers as they developed a new electronic patient monitoring tool for use on the battlefield.

Overcoming this challenge required an integrated development process, where researchers left the lab and embedded on missions with medical Airmen.

The technology they developed, the Battlefield Assisted Trauma Distributed Observation Kit, or BATDOK, is software that can run on a smartphone or other mobile device, and draws patient information from a wide variety of commercially available, U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved sensors. It allows to medics monitor multiple patients in the field, which can often be a chaotic environment.

The integrated development process was critical to making

BATDOK a tool that seamlessly integrates mobile capabilities for Airmen in the field, said Dr. Gregory Burnett, from the 711th Human Performance Wing's Airman Systems Directorate in the Warfighter Interface Division. Dr. Burnett managed the development of BATDOK for the Air Force.

"BATDOK is a multi-patient, point of injury, casualty tool that assists our human operators and improves care," said Burnett. "It can be a real-time health status monitoring for multiple patients, a documentation tool, a user-definable medical library, a portal to integrate patient data into their electronic health records, and finally it is interoperable with battlefield digital situation awareness maps, which helps identify the exact location of casualties."

Burnett's background in computer engineering, with an emphasis in embedded electronics and mobile interfaces, helped the Air Force Research Laboratory development team design the look and feel of BATDOK.

See **TECHNOLOGY** Page 23

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AF offers high year of tenure extensions to retain Airmen

Kat Bailey
AIR FORCE PERSONNEL CENTER
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas — The Air Force is offering high year of tenure extensions to active-duty Airmen in certain shortage Air Force specialty codes and grades effective Aug. 1.

High year of tenure, or HYT, refers to the maximum number of years enlisted Airmen in each grade may remain on active duty.

This voluntary extension opportunity focuses on retaining experienced Airmen in shortage specialties such as intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance, maintenance, nuclear, cyber and special operations to help improve readiness.

"Squadron commanders may approve extensions for qualified Airmen, which reinforces the Air Force Chief of Staff's efforts to revitalize squadrons," said Col. Erik Bovasso, the Air Force Personnel Center Military Sustainment and Transitions Programs division chief. "This purposeful empowerment places the approval authority and responsibility at the right level, with commanders who know their mission and Airmen best."

The HYT program allows eligible senior airmen, staff sergeants, technical sergeants and master sergeants in targeted AFSCs and grades to apply for a high year of tenure extension between 12 and 24 months in order for the Air Force to retain experience and enhance mission effectiveness and readiness.

"Although retention is high

in some career fields and (fiscal year 2016 and 2017) retention programs were successful, the Air Force needs to ensure experienced Airmen are available to complete the mission as well as train new Airmen," Bovasso said. "HYT extensions will help improve mission capability in key areas where readiness is currently strained."

Eligibility for HYT is limited to those AFSCs and grades posted on the matrix on myPers, and is based on the Airman's control AFSC as listed in the Military Personnel Data System on July 21.

"The Air Force will notify Airmen via email of their eligibility to request an extension," Bovasso said. "Airmen must have a HYT date of Oct. 1, 2017, through Sept. 30, 2018, to

See **HYT** Page 25

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U.S. Air Force photos/Staff Sgt. Jensen Stidham

1) Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Knelange, 56th Civil Engineer Squadron Explosive Ordnance training NCO, stands in his hockey uniform July 10 at Luke Air Force Base, Ariz. 2) Knelange stands July 10 in his bomb suit.

EOD Airman finds balance in hockey

Staff Sgt. Jensen Stidham
56TH FIGHTER WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

LUKE AIR FORCE BASE, Ariz. — A jolt of energy rushed through his veins. “Hold still, don’t move,” he screamed. A land mine had been dusted off by the impact of his team leader’s right boot.

Instantly, training kicked in; Knelange and his team started

the procedure to safely get their fellow Airmen away from the land mine and back into the vehicle.

“Those things don’t mess around,” said now-Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Knelange, the 56th Civil Engineer Squadron Explosive Ordnance training NCO, as he recalled his deployment.

“They are anti-personnel for

See HOCKEY Page 22

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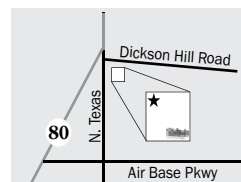
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In harm's way: Chaplains provide spiritual support



U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Benjamin Gonsier

Chaplain (Capt.) John Appiah, a 455th Air Expeditionary Wing chaplain, leads a prayer during a religious service July 23 at Hamid Karzai International Airport, Kabul, Afghanistan.

Staff Sgt. Benjamin Gonsier
455TH AIR EXPEDITIONARY WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan — Thousands of feet above Kabul, the capital of Afghanistan, two Airmen, riding in a helicopter, wearing more than 75 pounds of gear, hover around the city before landing.

These Airmen are not parascuemen or tactical air control party—they're a chaplain and chaplain assistant.

After landing, they travel to the nearby chapel, where they deliver a religious service to coalition forces before packing up and doing it all over again.

The chaplains and assistants of the 455th Air Expeditionary Wing travel to six different locations in Afghanistan, providing spiritual support to service members and civilians of all backgrounds.

"The mission of the Chaplain Corps is the same here as it is at home station,

advocating for the constitutional right of free exercise of religion for Airmen and their families," said Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Greg Jans, a 455th AEW chaplain. "This includes offering worship services, opportunities, trusted counsel and advising leadership on matters of morale and morals, spiritual and religious topics."

Being in a combat environment brings new stressors, which can be hard to manage without family nearby, especially when there are problems at home.

"Airmen are away from their support systems back at home, so there is a heightened awareness and sensitivity—the problems at home don't go away even when we are half a world away," Jans said. "Chaplains become even more important here since there are fewer options available. The numbers of caregivers are smaller at a deployed environment, so we give extra care."

Chaplains and their assistants are embedded within

different units throughout Bagram Airfield. They rotate each weekend to accommodate the spiritual needs of coalition forces in other forward operating bases in Afghanistan that are without a chaplain.

Some of the locations outside of Bagram Airfield include Kandahar Airfield, Headquarters Resolute Support and Hamid Karzai International Airport. To travel to some of these locations, the team needs to wear all of their protective equipment and the chaplain's assistant must carry a rifle and an M9 pistol for self-defense.

"Even though we are not trained bodyguards, we still need to have the awareness to know that we are with a non-combatant and need to be willing and able to accept those responsibilities," said Master Sgt. Erica Neiser, the 455th AEW chapel operations superintendent. "In this type of environment, the chaplain

See CHAPLAINS Page 21

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Air Force expands retraining

Kat Bailey
AIR FORCE PERSONNEL CENTER
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas — The Air Force has announced the Noncommissioned Officer Retraining Program for fiscal year 2018 and will update the number of slots available on the retraining advisory on or about Aug. 2.

Designed to balance and sustain the enlisted force as the Air Force continues to grow, the program allows Airmen on their second or later enlistments in healthier Air Force specialties to retrain into specialties with lower inventories to meet current and future mission needs.

"The enlisted retraining advisory on myPers is updated in real time and assists Airmen with identifying career fields with retraining-in quotas in their grade, or projected grade, if selected, that they might find interesting," said Master Sgt. Kris Reece, the Air

Force Personnel Center Enlisted Skills Management Branch superintendent. "We advise potential applicants to check the retraining advisory and notes closely to avoid delays in the application process, particularly regarding eligibility."

To apply for NCORP, Airmen must be on their second or subsequent enlistment, be a staff sergeant or staff sergeant-select through master sergeant and have a minimum five-skill level in their control AFSC or a three-skill level for those AFSCs where a five-level does not exist. Additionally, staff sergeants must have fewer than 12 years, and technical and master sergeants no more than 16 years of active service as of Sept. 30.

The Air Force Work Interest Navigator, available on the retraining page on myPers, is a tool Airmen may use to identify potential career fields of interest by answering a series of questions about functional communities, job context and work activities.

"The AF-WIN tool creates a customized job-interest report from your responses and compares your interests to all entry-level AFSCs," Reece said. "You'll still want to visit the enlisted retraining advisory because AF-WIN doesn't tell you if a career field is available or if you meet the eligibility qualifications."

AFPC will host two active duty Enlisted Retraining webcasts for second term and career Airmen Aug. 2, 2017, at 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Central Daylight Time. Airmen should use their e-mail Common Access Card certificate to authenticate and log in 10 minutes early to establish a good connection.

Retraining information is available and continuously updated on myPers.

Click "Retraining" from the active-duty enlisted landing page. The online training advisory is listed under the "Tools" section. In addition, a live chat feature is available for Airmen on the First Term Airmen Retraining page.

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U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Lauren Gleason

Reserve Citizen Airmen from the 465th Air Refueling Squadron at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla., prepare to land a KC-135R Stratotanker July 15 at Royal Air Force Mildenhall, England.

Airmen maximize refueling capacity

Maj. Jon Quinlan
 507TH AIR REFUELING WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

ROYAL AIR FORCE MILDENHALL, England — Members of the 507th Air Refueling Wing augmented the 100th Air Refueling Wing to provide KC-135R Stratotanker air refueling support to the European theater of operations, July 1-29 at Royal Air Force Mildenhall, England.

The support was part of a long-standing total force partnership between Air Force Reserve Command and U.S. Air Forces in Europe and Air Forces Africa.

Total force Airmen, along with their KC-135s, rotate monthly from various AFRC units to support the robust

refueling requirements of the 100th ARW. The 507th ARW will operate three monthly rotations during 2017.

"It's important to support USAFE with air refueling of our NATO allies and regional partners, but it's also important to AFRC because our crews get experience in different areas of operation," said Maj. Walt Mettler, AFRC tanker air liaison officer.

The European theater of operations is busy, and keeping up with U.S. and regional partner training requirements can be challenging without the help of the Air Force Reserve, according to 100th Operations Support Squadron planners.

"AFRC augmentation is increasing our refueling capacity

for the entire European theater," said Mettler. "Air refueling here is in high demand."

The Reserve units working here are tasked to support Operation Atlantic Resolve. According to U.S. European Command, OAR is an ongoing operation to demonstrate U.S. commitment to the security and stability of Europe while improving interoperability between our allies and partner nations.

The 507th ARW has flown a sortie almost every day since arriving on station. Most of the local missions are in support of training for F-15 Eagles from RAF Lakenheath, England, F-16 Fighting Falcons from Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany, MC-130J Command IIs from RAF Mildenhall.

The Air Reserve component can also be tasked by the Air Mobility Division in the 603rd Air and Space Operations Center to support any emerging refueling requirements for USAFE. The Air Reserve component supports NATO and USAFE requirements regularly.

Sorting through all those requirements and coordinating with the ASOC, RAF Mildenhall and the Reserve crews is

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Airmen in special duties epitomize core values

Kat Bailey
 AIR FORCE PERSONNEL CENTER
 PUBLIC AFFAIRS

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas — Air Force officials filled 770 positions across nine developmental special duties, or DSDs, for spring 2017.

The DSD nomination process occurs twice each year and is designed to fill specific special duties the Air Force has acknowledged as developmental due to their unique requirements. Commanders are encouraged to nominate any Airman in the rank of staff, technical and master sergeant they feel is the right fit for these critical duties. Nominees must have a demonstrated record of exceptional performance and a high capacity to lead.

"Airmen selected for DSD have high potential and are filling some of the Air Force's most critical positions," said Master Sgt. Danielle Hamilton, special duty and DSD assignments manager at the Air Force's Personnel Center. "They must be an ambassador and role model for the Air Force core values of integrity, service and excellence."

The nine developmental special duties are Career Assistance Advisor, Military Training Instructor, Military Training Leader, Air Force Academy Military Training Instructor, Airman and Family Readiness Center Noncommissioned Officer, First Sergeant, Air Force Honor Guard NCO, Recruiter and Professional Military Education Instructor.

"The more opportunities Airmen have to broaden their skill sets, the more capabilities they bring to the fight," Hamilton said. "We are systematically preparing those Airmen with high potential to assume their place as tomorrow's leaders."

In June, Air Education and Training Command made three substantial changes to the DSD process to improve the ability to fill these positions by adding more flexibility and increasing opportunities for noncommissioned officers.

"The changes included opening military training instructor opportunities to staff sergeants, using the Enlisted Quarterly Assignment Listing-Plus website to advertise Technical Training Instructor positions for three-level awarding

schoolhouses and aligning the physical training score for all DSD and TTI positions to the Air Force standard of 75 points versus the former DSD standard of 80," Hamilton said.

Assignment opportunities for TTI positions shifted to EQUAL-Plus advertisements June 26, 2017. Airmen who were selected for TTI roles received assignment notifications via the normal channels.

The list of Airmen who have

received DSD assignments is available on myPers under Special Duty Assignment Programs on the Active Duty: Enlisted Assignments Home Page or select "Active Duty Enlisted" from the dropdown menu and search "DSD."

For more information about Air Force personnel programs, go to myPers. Individuals who do not have a myPers account can request one by visiting <http://www.afpc.af.mil/myPers>.

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Mobility Guardian brings together global forces

Travis AFB enables large 621st Contingency Response Wing deployment to support

2nd Lt. Sarah Johnson

60TH AIR MOBILITY WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Teams from the 60th Air Mobility Wing and 621st Contingency Response Wing at Travis Air Force Base, California, combined their efforts July 31 to Aug. 3 to support the deployment of more than 130 contingency response Airmen in support of Exercise Mobility Guardian.

Based at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington, Mobility Guardian 2017 is both the inaugural iteration of the exercise and the largest-scale readiness exercise Air Mobility Command has undertaken, according to AMC officials. More than 3,000 joint and coalition personnel are participating in the simulated deployment, which aims to “train like we fight” and enhance the U.S. military’s global response force by integrating complex, realistic mobility training with partner nations.

“This is a big exercise to ensure our joint and coalition partners have the interoperability to perform their mission the way they would in the (area of responsibility),” said 1st Lt. Andrew Sherk, 60th Logistics Readiness Squadron installation deployment officer. “This is their opportunity here, stateside, to literally practice like they operate.”

Though Mobility Guardian officially began July 31, planning and preparation between the two wings at Travis began much earlier - a year and a half ago, when ideas first started coming together.

Travis is supporting the exercise in two ways. Primarily, the 60th AMW is supporting the 621st CRW as 138 Airmen deploy to two of the exercise’s locations where they will establish airfield operations for other exercise participants.

“Typically, your (contingency response group) would be the first Air Force unit to stand up, in some cases, a bare-base environment to make it aircraft-worthy, where aircraft can land and perform operations,” said Todd Barnes, 60th LRS assistant installation deployment officer. “(At Mobility Guardian), they will basically sustain airfield operations at (the training locations) to prepare for incoming aircraft and passengers from international and national partners.”

Secondly, aircrew members from the 60th AMW’s 6th and 9th Air Refueling Squadrons and 21st Airlift Squadron will participate in



4) A U.S. Air Force KC-10 Extender with the 305th Air Mobility Wing, Joint Base Dix-McGuire-Lakehurst N.J., taxis past Mount Rainer after landing July 31 at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash.

U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Jared Becker



U.S. Air Force photo/2nd Lt. Jessica Ward

1) Senior Airman Samantha Bambino, left, 60th Force Support Squadron outbound assignments and career development technician and PDF representative, checks eligibility paperwork for Airmen from the 621st Contingency Response Wing at Travis Air Force Base, Calif., during a personnel deployment function line July 31. Teams from the 60th Air Mobility Wing and 621st CRW combined their efforts to support the deployment of more than 130 621st CRW Airmen in support of Exercise Mobility Guardian. 2) Aerial porters from the 19th Logistics Readiness Squadron load cargo onto a C-17 Globemaster from Joint Base Charleston, S.C., July 23, 2017, at Little Rock Air Force Base, Ark. 3) Capt. Mark Bishop, KC-10 Extender aircraft commander, greets members from the Korean air force following their arrival at Exercise Mobility Guardian.



U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Harry Brevell



U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Lauren Russell

the exercise, operating out of JBLM to fly various air refueling, airlift and aeromedical evacuation sorties. One KC-10 Extender from Travis is also supporting the exercise.

Providing support for such a large-scale exercise simulated as a real-world deployment takes months of combined effort and seamless teamwork between the two wings, said Maj. Jessica Bishop, 60th AMW command post chief and the wing’s lead point of contact for Mobility Guardian.

“(Our goal is) to see the 60th (AMW) be able to accomplish the deployment of the (621st) CRW successfully,” she said. “We’ve done position of the force exercises previously, but this is a big movement for us here at the 60th.”

To process the entire group at once, along

with their corresponding cargo and aircraft needs, exercise representatives from both wings worked together to implement several functions. They are the same functions used for deployment scenarios, allowing personnel to mimic how they would operate in deployed environments.

“(The overall goal is) to check everything with 100 percent accuracy, making sure everyone has everything they need because they can’t leave without it,” said Senior Airman Samantha Bambino, 60th Force Support Squadron outbound assignments and career development technician and a PDF eligibility representative. “You need to have attention to detail to make sure you’re not missing anything... our job is important because we worry about both the members and their families.”

Each deploying Airman processed through a personnel deployment function line, where representatives at each station ensured they and their families had everything they needed prior to leaving.

To address cargo needs, personnel grouped into cargo deployment functions worked together with the 60th Aerial Port Squadron to ensure cargo was loaded where and when it needed to be on each aircraft. To oversee all cargo and personnel going out the door, representatives from both wings formed a deployment control center, which activates to process large groups and acts as a central hub for all deployment-related operations.

“For larger deployments, typically 25 or more people at a single time, we’ll stand up the DCC,” said Sherk. “We’ll have representatives

from supply, transportation, the CDF, the PDF and our partner units... The DCC is our focal point to oversee all passengers and cargo processing, and from there we can ensure on-time departures and quickly mitigate any issues that come up.”

Several other squadrons support the effort by coordinating each detail of the operation, ensuring the process flows smoothly.

“Support agencies have to work together for the small details- where passengers are going to process, who’s going to check the weapons, (and) how passengers are going to get out to the aircraft, for example,” said Bishop. “It’s been awesome to watch all the different organizations on base come together to make this happen.”

“(The DCC representatives) are the ones

looking in the system, looking at all the tasked personnel, all the tasked cargo, and outlining it,” said Sherk. “They’re the ones I think are the unsung heroes, along with the people inspecting the cargo. They do such a good job at it that when aircraft take off you think it’s nothing, but you don’t understand all the work it takes to make sure all the weights are correct or if there’s any missing paperwork. They make that all work on time flawlessly. There are a lot of people that do little things to make the mission happen.”

Aside from contributing hundreds of hours of manpower, Team Travis has overcome several obstacles, including the airflow challenge of C-5M fleet shortages at Dover Air Force Base, Delaware.

“Travis has done an amazing job trying to overcome that obstacle by providing extra airlift and finding ways around it to get the (621st) CRW cargo and passengers to locations later this week,” said Bishop.

Nothing could have been accomplished without the close teamwork between the two wings to make the mission happen, said Barnes.

“The (621st) CRW is part of Team Travis,” he said. “We pull out all the stops to provide the support they need to get off the base, and they in turn provide support to us. We work side-by-side with them to make sure it gets done.”

As a result, 621st CRW Airmen are able to play a pivotal role in Mobility Guardian.

“For the scenarios that all the other exercise players are going to do (at Mobility Guardian), they need those airfields open,” said Bishop. “(621st CRW Airmen) are a main piece of this exercise because they’re going into that airfield, that austere environment, and allowing other exercise players to go in and practice their capabilities.”

Supported by the logistical, planning and operational efforts between the two wings, 138 Airmen are prepared to support the exercise.

“The success of this exercise is due to the sum of all its parts,” said Bishop. “All the (representatives) who have helped plan this over the last year and a half are the reasons why we’re going to succeed. It’s opened up conversations between two wings and allowed us to engage in those relationships and see how the other side operates... we’re training exactly like we fight.”

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Hockey

From Page 8

a reason. I was not going to go home without my team leader."

Like many jobs throughout the Air Force, EOD is demanding both physically and mentally. For Knelange, finding balance between work and home life is critical to his success.

"Our chaplain came around asking everyone if they'd ever played hockey," said the 24-year-old EOD technician. "They pushed out the Luke Thunderbolts hockey page and tryouts were a couple weeks after that. I started skating when I was 4, but it had been a long time since I actually got to play the sport."

Approximately 20 people are a part of the Luke Thunderbolts hockey team where active-duty and civilians meet in the evenings to hit the ice and enjoy the game.

"Hockey is a great way to decompress," said Knelange. "For me, and for what seems like the rest of the team, when we do get out on that ice, work goes away. We have a new job. At that point in time, it's all for

the love of the game. Whether it's a win or a loss, everybody is in such a great mood. We're tired, but you can definitely see everyone's spirits uplifted."

During practices the team can be seen doing almost exactly what they do on game day.

Knelange said practicing is how they are able to work as a team and win but, in EOD, there is no such thing as not walking away with a win and being happy about it.

Though disarming an explosive device can be an extremely difficult task, being on the ice presents similar challenges.

"Communication is key," said Knelange. "Whether you're on the battlefield and you're calling out insurgents or calling out possible threats, if you aren't being vocal and if you aren't letting people know what you see, somebody is going to miss it and somebody is going to end up getting hurt. (On the ice) if you aren't communicating, and the ice is silent, so is that goal siren and that's what we want to hear."

"Everything stops when there is an explosive device around," he said. "The pressures in (the rink) are very

similar. You have a clock ticking down up above you when you're trying to get that goal. You have a clock in your head when you're on scene, 'I need to get this thing out of here and I need to make this thing safe.'"

"As one of our younger players on our summer league team, Knelange brought his gung-ho, EOD motivation and energy every week," said 2nd Lt. Ryan Allen, a 56th Logistic Readiness Squadron installation deployment officer and hockey club president. "He is a guy you knew you could count on being ready to play."

"The hockey club here has been one of my favorite experiences at Luke," Knelange said. "The guys that I work with that are out there on the ice with me as well, I love those guys. We've grown a lot stronger over the past month and a half that we've been playing together."

Knelange helped his team take third place during their past season with a 7-2 record.

Just as he is a leader in his EOD flight, he plans to lace up his skates again this fall to help lead his team to another successful season.

Capacity

From Page 12

the job of the Tanker ALO, who is also a Reservist and a KC-10 Extender pilot.

Mettler, who is also a civilian airline pilot, plans missions for Reserve crews, ensuring gas is delivered to U.S. and allied aircraft while here on orders. He is formally assigned to the 349th Air Mobility Operations Squadron, Travis Air Force Base, California.

Mission planning is critical to getting the Reserve crews out the door to support the mission safely day to day. The AFRC tanker ALO is co-located with the mission planners and schedulers for the 100th Operations Group.

"We work side by side with our Air Reserve component partners here which helps with integration," said Capt. Jonathan O'Neill, 351st Air Refueling Squadron mission planner. "(AFRC) helps us pick up additional air refueling requirements which we may not have been able to support."

Reservists from

maintenance work seamlessly with the 100th Maintenance Group, according to 507th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron leadership. If an aircraft breaks, Reserve maintenance personnel work the issue themselves or partner with the 100th MXG if parts or a specialty is needed, according to Senior Master Sgt. Justin Henry, 507th AMXS superintendent.

"The partnership that exists between the 100th ARW and AFRC is vital to meeting the air refueling requirements for Europe," said Mettler. "We hope to continue this partnership for a long time."

This year, in addition to the 507th ARW, Reserve crews from the 459th ARW, Joint Base Andrews, Maryland; 452nd Air Mobility Wing, March Air Reserve Base, California; 916th ARW, Seymour Johnson AFB, North Carolina; 931st ARW, McConnell AFB, Kansas; 940th ARW, Beale AFB, California and the 434th ARW, Grissom ARB, Indiana, have forward deployed to support aerial refueling requirements.

Technology

From Page 6

However, more intimate knowledge was needed for the tool to be most useful for operators in the field.

"We physically left the lab, got into the field with the operators, and observed firsthand the challenges and deficiencies they face," said Burnett. "And when I say into the field, I mean we literally rode in the helicopters into hot landing zones, and observed medical Airmen stabilize and package up patients for transport and load them back on the helicopter."

"We see, at the point of injury, the challenges and limitations that our medical Airmen face. With those lessons learned, and gaps identified through direct experience, we come back to the lab and devise innovative solutions to address the short falls we

observed firsthand in the field."

The integration didn't stop once the BATDOK development team got back to their lab. They continued to interact with operators from their deployment and got feedback throughout the process.

"From day one, every interface, every button, every menu, was user-validated by pararescue Airmen and combat rescue officers that were involved in the design, integration and testing process," said Burnett. "Nothing is added without the explicit request and review by the operator."

This brings firsthand knowledge to the development process. The development team and operators sit down and walk through the mission step by step. They identify areas where current technology can be improved, or where a gap exists, and then share ideas to innovate new solutions and capabilities.



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U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Amber Carter

The Band of the Golden West from Travis Air Force Base, Calif., entertains July 22-27 during the Air Force Sergeants Association International Convention in Reno, Nev. The band played a variety of patriotic tunes as well as classic and more current songs.

AFSA

From Page 3

commitment and I owe you accountability," said Wright. "I owe it to you to make sure we communicate about the things that are important."

Wright also inspired Airmen to grow as leaders.

"Continue to motivate and encourage your Airmen who follow behind you," he said. "Take on the development of your Airmen as a primary responsibility."

Secretary of the Air Force Heather Wilson spoke about the growth and education of Airmen.

"Focus on the development of young leaders for the next generation of leaders in the Air Force," she said. "Our enlisted corps are the backbone of the

U.S. Air Force. A backbone that is stiff, straight and strong."

Wilson also commented on Wright's recent announcement of the changes to Enlisted Professional Military Education.

"There are so many young Airmen who come into the Air Force because of the training and education," she said. "We need to identify those young Airmen of potential and help develop them into non-commissioned officers and first sergeants that all Airmen will be willing to follow."

As the conference came to a close, Airmen from the Band of the Golden West and the Honor Guard, from Travis Air Force Base, California, entertained and presented the colors, respectively, at the Air Force Honors Banquet, where Jeffrey Ledoux, AFSA international president, and Wright,

presented awards for AFSA's Airman and NCO of the Year, as well as their selection for the William H. Pitsenbarger Award.

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"Your participation in this conference and support of our Air Force is extremely important during these exciting and sometimes challenging times," said Ledoux, in a letter to AFSA members. "We have strength in numbers as we join together to speak with one powerful voice to our government and elected leaders. Collectively, we can have a positive impact on the pay, benefits and quality of life for all who proudly wear the Air Force uniform today, or have done so in the past."

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HYT

From Page 7

be eligible under this program."

Airmen with a previous HYT extension approved for a period of less than 24 months may, if otherwise eligible, request an extension under the fiscal 2017/2018 program. However, the total number of months of HYT extension for their approved AFSC and grade cannot exceed 24 months.

Bobsledder

From Page 6

pressing forward until you go to the next thing," he said.

Physical: Bobsled is a demanding sport. "Everybody on the team can run 60 meters in under 7 seconds. Everybody is squatting 400-plus pounds. You're not just fast, but you have to be pretty strong and explosive. You're an interesting hybrid of an athlete," Simon said.

Social: The support of family, friends and fellow Air Force athletes helps fuel Simon's drive and motivation. "My family have made sacrifices in terms of my time away to train and compete and remained very supportive," Simon said. He also has forged bonds with other elite Air Force athletes and

"For example, an Airman approved for a Hardship HYT extension for a period of 12 months, who meets the eligibility criteria, may request an additional extension of up to 12 months under the FY 17/18 program," Bovasso said.

The window for submitting an HYT extension request via the application on myPers is Aug. 1 through May 31, 2018. Qualified Airmen should check with the career development element at their local force support

squadron for details, as specific timelines depend on the Airman's current HYT date.

Find additional information about eligibility criteria, application process and other specifics on myPers. Select "Active Duty Enlisted" from the dropdown menu and search "HYT."

For more information about Air Force personnel programs, go to myPers. Individuals who do not have a myPers account can request one by visiting <http://www.afpc.af.mil/myPers>.

members of the bobsled team.

Spiritual: Simon encourages all Airmen to always be ready and resilient, and he draws on faith to keep him strong. "Stay positive and have faith that God knows best, even if it doesn't feel like it at that moment. He has you exactly where he wants you, and it might be that's where he can get the very best out of you!"

Simon's path to sliding down an icy track, which he describes as being stuffed in a trash can and being kicked down a hill, was the result of failing to qualify for a U.S. Air Forces in Europe and Air Forces Africa track-and-field event in 2015. He turned that experience into an opportunity to try a new sport.

"I was trying to become a better sprinter at my size. Typically, you're not going to see

a lot of guys 200-plus pounds sprinting. I was trying to find better and smarter ways to train. Bobsled came up, and I looked at the details. They had a combine (a test that includes sprints, broad jumps and tosses with a 16-pound shot), and pretty much everything took off from there," said Simon, now assigned to the 16th Space Control Squadron at Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado, as a crew commander.

As an Air Force World Class Athlete Program member last fall, Simon tried for a spot on the USA Bobsled team. Unfortunately, an injury led to his release from the program.

However, in his typical fashion, he bounced back and with faith and resiliency is fired up to try again, aiming for the 2018 Winter Olympic Games in Pyeongchang, South Korea.

Assessment

From Page 5

appointments and providers who conduct the MHAs, said Lt. Col. Natalie Johns, 60th Aerospace Medical Squadron Public Health Flight commander.

"In the past, Airmen, except for flyers, were not required to have a (MHA) visit as part of their PHA," said Johns. "The MHA requires a visit as part of the PHA that will be accomplished either in person or telephonically."

Nast asks Travis Airmen to be patient as the staff at DGMC works through this new process. He also encourages Airmen to be proactive about seeking their MHAs.

"If they are being seen by their primary care manager, and have already completed the online portion of the MHA, (ask if) the face-to-face visit can be accomplished at that time instead of waiting for a telephone appointment," he said.

The annual MHA fulfills a requirement of the Fiscal Year 2015 National Defense Authorization Act and uses established Department of Defense questions for early detection of mental health issues. The questions included in the MHA are the same that Airmen see on their pre-and-post-deployment health screenings.

Peter Holstein, Air Force Surgeon General Public Affairs, contributed to this story.

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1) The son of Tech. Sgt. Scott Anthony, 60th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, runs through water Aug. 1 during the 60th Security Forces Squadron National Night Out at Travis Air Force Base, Calif. National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie. 2) Family and service members participate in the 60th Security Forces Squadron National Night Out event. The event included a demonstration by K-9 military working dogs, live music and a variety of activities for children. 3) A 60th SFS military working dog demonstrates attack abilities. 4) A military family member crawls through a tunnel during the event.



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