



Travis joins Aviation Day in ...  
**SEATTLE**

PAGES 14-15

# Accept responsibility: JA not 'bad guys'

A couple of days ago, a paralegal told me that a senior noncommissioned officer tells Airmen only to come to the legal office if they need their deployment checklist signed off.

According to this SNCO, nothing good happens at the legal office.

Furthermore, when I meet a new commander, I often hear something like, "It's great to meet you and I'm sure you're cool, but I hope we never have to talk again." I am pretty cool, but I get it. The legal office looks like the hammer when



**Commentary**  
by Col. Julie Rutherford

60TH AIR MOBILITY WING OFFICE OF THE STAFF JUDGE ADVOCATE

someone gets in trouble. We are often looked at as the bad guy.

These comments miss the point of discipline entirely. When the legal office, working on behalf of the commander, is the bad guy, it takes the individual responsibility off of the Airman. It seems as though disciplinary action is something happening to the Airman that they had no part in or control over. In reality, discipline is the result of actions taken by an Airman. We don't make up crimes, we react to misconduct as it occurs and assist the commander

with the proper legal response. Instead of the legal office being the bad guy, we need to push the responsibility back on the Airman and the actions that created the need for disciplinary action. Personal responsibility is critical if the goal is to rehabilitate an Airman. Allowing for an Airman to believe the discipline they faced was because of command or the legal office takes away from the impact of the discipline. It is no longer an opportunity to learn and grow, but an injustice imposed on the Airman. We owe it

## Commander's Commentary

to our Airmen and future leaders to put responsibility squarely in the right place. As President Theodore Roosevelt said, "If you could kick the person in the pants responsible for most of your trouble, you wouldn't sit for a month."

I remember very clearly standing in the courtroom as a young judge advocate conducting the direct examination of a witness in one of my first trials. The problem was, the witness didn't say what I expected and the members of the court heard testimony that was inadmissible. There was no doubt the testimony was against the rules of the court. The judge didn't hesitate to yell at me from the bench about the improper

testimony either. I was horrified. It would have been easy for me to focus on the mean judge and I am sure I would have gotten some sympathy. But I chose to take that moment to learn and become a better trial attorney. That decision made me a better Airman.

Whether the result of the conduct is discipline or something smaller, like getting yelled at by a judge, every time we teach our Airmen to take personal responsibility for their actions we make the Air Force and its future leaders stronger.

The legal office is much more than military justice services. If you need legal assistance, don't hesitate to give us a call.

# Observing impact of decisions shapes sergeant



**Commentary**  
by Master Sgt. Kellie Ford

60TH AIR MOBILITY WING OFFICE OF THE STAFF JUDGE ADVOCATE

Working with commanders and first sergeants as it relates to legal affairs, I found three things to be true: They need avenues to help their people be ready, be out-standing, or be out-processing.

Being ready encompasses being ready for death (wills), preparing for deployments or long absences (powers of attorney), proactivity in fundraising or contracts (legal reviews), and even transitions in life circumstances (notaries).

The last two avenues, however, have to be among the weightiest decisions laid on the shoulders of

## Enlisted Commentary

leadership. They inevitably vouch for the future performance of their unit with a stroke of a pen. Many do not see it that way, but let me explain.

When I first became a paralegal, I didn't think the options we gave to senior leaders were all that important. If a service member needed a will, come during will appointment times. If they did something wrong, punish them. That was the small thinking I had as a young

Airman. I tactically processed decisions, yet didn't give any consideration to what those decisions inevitably could change for the person or the unit.

Having drafted over 3,000 powers of attorney and processed countless Article 15s and courts-martial, I've observed the domino effects of the decisions commanders make. When deciding to give an Airman an Article 15, a commander often remembers the outstanding performer he or she saw last month and may want to give that Airman another chance to bounce back from a mistake. When an

Airman does something reprehensible, their commander may be less forgiving and ensure that Airman is prepared for separation or discharge from the service.

These decisions are not made lightly. Now, as a senior noncommissioned officer in the room when these decisions are made, I see the heaviness of having lives in your hands. I recognize our leadership want our Airmen to be everything the Air Force needs while ensuring their decisions are aligned with protecting our most valued asset –

See FORD Page 23

# Discrimination has no place in Air Force

**Tech. Sgt. James Hodgman**

60TH AIR MOBILITY WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

In middle school her classmates called her a monkey. She was bullied for how her hair looked and for the clothing she wore. Even after she joined the Air Force, she experienced racism in her favorite hometown restaurants.

"I was waiting for my food and I was wearing my Air Force uniform because I went home to support the recruiter's assistance program," said Airman 1st Class Alexandria Brown, 60th Medical Support Squadron personnel and administration services flight technician, from Newport News, Virginia. "An older white man ordered food after me and something was wrong with his order," she said. "He was upset and said, 'You messed up my order, but you got this N-word's order right,' referring to me. I just grabbed my food and left."

Brown, who is of Nigerian and French ancestry, said that experience had quite an impact on her.

"I thought, maybe, since I was there in my military uniform, he would respect that I'm serving our country. Maybe respect me, but he didn't," she said. "He didn't look past the color of my skin. That moment made me feel like, even in my uniform, there will always be people who will never accept me. No matter what I do, there will be people who look at my skin first before they see me as a person."

Discrimination has been an issue in the United States for generations and continues to be a problem today. According to Discrimination in America, a study produced by National Public Radio, 92 percent of black Americans, 90 percent of LGBT Americans and 78 percent of Latino Americans believe discrimination against their ethnic or social group exists in America.

The study found that people have experienced a variety of forms of discrimination when applying for jobs or college, seeking housing, interacting with police or earning equal pay.

Brown said her mother taught her at a young age that she would have to endure some form of



U.S. Air Force graphic/Heide Couch

**The U.S. Air Force has a zero tolerance policy for unlawful discrimination. Military members and civilian employees should foster a climate of acceptance and professionalism at all times in their work centers.**

discrimination her whole life.

"But it shouldn't be that way," she said. "You shouldn't judge people based on the color of their skin. You should judge people based on their character and nobody wants to be judged before they demonstrate who they are as a person."

The Department of Defense has a zero tolerance policy regarding unlawful discrimination, which includes discrimination based on sex (to include sexual orientation), religion, national origin, race and color for military members. Civilian employees are also protected against age, disability and genetic information discrimination.

Despite the zero tolerance policy, there are times when the U.S. military has experienced incidents of discrimination, and if there is a report at the 60th Air Mobility Wing, the Equal Opportunity Office at Travis addresses concerns and processes the complaints.

Grayland Hilt, 60th AMW EO director, said everyone deserves

to be treated with dignity and when that doesn't happen, the Air Force's ability to accomplish the mission is negatively impacted.

"Everybody has something to bring to the table and when we exclude people intentionally or unintentionally because of their age, gender, race, color or sex then we miss out on what they have to bring," he said. "We miss out on what makes us the greatest fighting force in the world."

In an effort to promote a culture of inclusion and prevent discrimination, Hilt said, his EO team engages in a variety of activities.

"We regularly visit squadrons and inform them of the rules and regulations, as well as the negative impact discriminatory behavior has on the mission," he said. "We also interview squadron members so we can gain insight on what the squadron's culture is like in regard to diversity and inclusion. We compile our findings into a report that we share with that unit's commander and we provide him or her

with strategies to prevent and address EO issues."

The EO office also offers specialized training opportunities, a mediation program and conducts briefings stressing the importance of professional behavior for all Airmen shortly after they arrive at Travis.

"We are our brothers' and sisters' keeper," said Chief Master Sgt. Mark Davis, 60th Medical Group superintendent and one of the senior leaders in Brown's organization. "Airmen at all levels have an obligation to ensure that racism and discrimination have no place on our team. Transparency in all we do and how our units function is the best disinfectant for this abhorrent behavior."

Davis said he and other members of the 60th MDG leadership team routinely meet with their Airmen and emphasize the importance of fostering a climate based on respect.

"Our teammates, like Airman Brown, must be shown that mutual dignity and respect between

all members are catalysts to them realizing their full potential," he said. "Ensuring an environment free from the shackles of racism and discrimination is essential and will help assure mission success."

Hilt said, often times, people may not realize they are doing something that could be demeaning to someone else because of unconscious bias.

According to Vanderbilt University's Office for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, unconscious or implicit bias, is prejudice or unsupported judgements in favor of or against one thing, a person or group as compared to another, in a way that is usually considered unfair.

Hilt said, this bias could lead people to engage in potentially discriminatory behavior and it's something he has experienced personally.

"I dress professionally and normally wear suits," he said. "A few years ago, I was the executive director for all the Head Starts in Napa and Solano counties. I was wearing a suit and stopped at a grocery store to get a few things. A white cashier said, 'You look really nice today.' I said, 'Thank you' and then she asked, 'Are you a chauffeur?'"

Hilt, a black man, said he was stunned by the question.

"I asked her why she would assume that I was a chauffeur and not a business man or an executive and she just didn't get it," he said. "I then turned to the man who was bagging my groceries, who was an African American male, and he said, 'Yeah, I'm trying to figure out why you're dressed like that too.'"

"In this situation there were two different races that both made the same assumption about an African-American who was well-dressed," Hilt said. "They automatically thought I must be a chauffeur and couldn't possibly be an executive."

While going through the Equal Opportunity Counselor's Course years ago as a staff sergeant, Hilt said he was shocked to learn he also had an unconscious bias.

"I remember asking my fellow classmates, who were white,

See DISCRIMINATION Page 23

## Tailwind

Travis AFB, Calif. | 60th Air Mobility Wing

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The Tailwind is published by the Daily Republic, Fairfield, California, a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. Air Force.

While most of the editorial content of the Tailwind is prepared by the 60th Air Mobility Wing Public Affairs office for its Web-based product, the content for the Tailwind is edited and prepared for print by the Daily Republic staff.

Content of the Tailwind is not necessarily the official view of, nor is it endorsed by the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense or the Department of the Air Force.

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Deadline for copy is 4:30 p.m. Friday for the following Friday's issue. Swap ads must be brought to Bldg. 51 by noon Monday for possible print in that Friday's issue. Emailed or faxed Swap Ads are not accepted.

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## On the cover

**1st Lt. Jake Bandaruk, 21st Airlift Squadron pilot, speaks with a student May 4 at the Alaska Airlines Aviation Day in Seattle, Wash.**

U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Amber Carter

## KC-46s from McConnell stay safe at Travis



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Jonathon Carnell

A KC-46A Pegasus arrives May 6 at Travis Air Force Base, Calif. Three of the aircraft flew from McConnell Air Force Base, Kansas, as a precaution due to the possibility of severe weather impacting the Wichita area.

## Service simplifies promotion recommendation forms

### Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

ARLINGTON, Va. — The Air Force announced May 8 it will make adjustments to the way the Air Force Form 709, Promotion Recommendation Form, will be filled out and used for Total Force officer promotion boards beginning in September.

The new policy will reduce the promotion recommendation narrative from nine lines to two and provide guidance for stratification and comments.

“Centralized boards have the critical task of selecting the next generation of

leaders,” said Shon Manasco, assistant secretary of the Air Force for manpower and reserve affairs. “To assist in that effort, senior raters need a simple and effective mechanism to communicate their observations about an officer’s potential. These enhancements to the PRF and new stratification guidance allow us to better achieve that goal.”

Endorsements for promotion are based upon an officer’s demonstrated character and competence as detailed in the secretary of the Air Force’s Memorandum of Instruction for promotion boards. Comments or

recommendations for items that are decided through other processes (e.g. developmental education, jobs, assignments, etc.), will no longer be authorized on the PRF.

“This is about building the officer bench we need to fight and win as we accomplish our missions in support of the National Defense Strategy. Over time the PRF has become a summary of an officer’s record with significant focus on style and format,” said Lt. Gen. Brian Kelly, deputy chief of staff for manpower, personnel and services. “This adjustment restores the PRF to its original

intent of providing a way for senior raters to communicate an officer’s potential to serve in the next higher grade directly with promotion boards and is another key step in our officer talent management transformation.”

Additionally, senior raters will follow new guidance regarding stratification on the PRF. The guidance allows the promotion board to receive pertinent information that directly speaks to an officer’s promotion potential.

For more information, log into MyPers or contact the Air Force Personnel Center.



U.S. Air Force photo and illustration/Airman 1st Class Mercedes Porter

A U.S. Army Soldier assigned to the 428th Field Artillery Brigade from Fort Sill, Okla., looks May 1 out the back of a C-130J Super Hercules at Fort Sill.

## Exercise brings services together

### Airman 1st Class Mercedes Porter

7TH BOMB WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The 39th Airlift Squadron and 40th Airlift Squadron assigned to Dyess Air Force Base, Texas, worked alongside the 428th Field Artillery Brigade assigned to Fort Sill, Oklahoma, to complete a joint exercise with three C-130J Super Hercules, May 1, at Fort Sill, Oklahoma.

During the exercise, each aircraft received artillery, a Humvee and approximately 10 troops to simulate deploying into a combat zone overseas.

“It is important to conduct these joint exercises with the Army so that we can better prepare for operations, such as this one, downrange,” said 1st Lt. Jacob Echeverry, 40th AS pilot. “Working with them and understanding their needs and limitations helps us better prepare for follow on operations and gives us feedback for how we can improve the operation.”

These exercises are called Emergency Deployment Readiness Exercises. The purpose is to test the efficiency of mobilizing ground equipment and

troops at a moment’s notice.

The 317th Airlift Wing regularly conducts these exercises to ensure accuracy, precision and excellence in the execution of joint exercise tasks.

This provides the squadrons with more combat exclusive training they often see when deployed overseas. One of the points for the exercises are to have a larger aircraft formation to challenge the crews with handling bigger communication and coordination roles. It also provides C-130J loadmasters the opportunity to load less commonly used cargo.

“These joint exercises help Airmen in my career field learn from new challenges faced when dealing with cargo we aren’t used to,” said Airman 1st Class Brooklynn Grimm, 40th AS loadmaster. “It helps build us and become mentors for future loadmasters entering the field.”

With these regular 317th AW exercises, the aircrews receive tools they need for the day they deploy into the overseas environments while becoming stronger and more versatile Airmen.

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# Airmen test next-generation gas mask



U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Rhett Isbell

U.S. Air Force Maj. Ryan Schenk, 61st Airlift Squadron pilot, assists U.S. Air Force Capt. Mike Morrison, 19th Operations Support Squadron instructor pilot, in removing the M69 Joint Service Aircrew Mask for Strategic Aircraft during operational testing of the new system April 26 at Little Rock Air Force Base, Ark.

**Senior Airman Rhett Isbell**  
19TH AIRLIFT WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

LITTLE ROCK AIR FORCE BASE, Ark. — Airmen from Little Rock Air Force Base, Arkansas, tested the capabilities of the M69 Joint Service Aircrew Mask for Strategic Aircraft for implementation and field use for individual respiratory, ocular and percutaneous protection against chemical biological agents on the C-130J airframe April 25-30.

The M69 is intended to replace the Aircrew Eye and Respiratory Protection system.

A joint team led by Air Combat Command's 52nd Wing and 28th Test and Evaluation Squadron located at Eglin Air Force Base, Florida, provided guidance and supervision to Airmen as they tested the new Aircrew Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear system on C-130J aircraft. A total of 13 Airmen participated in the operational testing

evaluation, consisting of nine aircrew and four aircrew flight equipment technicians.

"Operational tests are one of the last phases of the acquisition and a necessary part of the path towards receiving a full-rate production decision," said U.S. Air Force Kevin O'Neal, ACC AC-BRN AFE combat developer. "The testing involves a realistic look at how the system would be used operationally. We're challenging the AFE technicians to be trained and then apply the maintenance, sizing, and fitting concepts they learned. Additionally, aircrew were asked to review various mission profiles in a static aircraft, with the final evaluation in the C-130J simulator conducting both day and night missions complete with night vision devices."

The tests are part of a joint acquisition program and were designed to show how the M69 is

See MASK Page 26

## Operation underscores adaptive basing

**Airman 1st Class Andrew Kobialka**

366TH FIGHTER WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

MOUNTAIN HOME AIR FORCE BASE, Idaho — Airmen deploy frequently, leaving their work centers behind. But what if Airmen stayed and their work centers deployed?

The Air Force has two deployable Precision Measurement Equipment Laboratories called Rapid Assistance Support for Calibration units. Mountain Home Air Force Base is trusted with one of the RASCAL units.

Early in the first quarter of 2019, the 366th Component Maintenance Squadron's Test, Measurement and Diagnostic Equipment Flight restored, de-complexed, packed and loaded their RASCAL to deploy to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, in support of what they called Operation Restore Paradise.

The TMDE flight and PMEL assigned to this task now belong to the 366th Munitions Squadron.

"A RASCAL has about 16 measurement areas that are confined to a few shipping containers," said Tech. Sgt. Jaime L. Gardiner, 366th MUNS TMDE quality manager. "But our RASCAL's greatest advantage is the ability to deploy anywhere in the world, critically optimizing readiness."

However, this RASCAL had not been deployed in 10 years and was in a degraded state. So the TMDE flight sprang into action when MUNS received the call for the RASCAL to deploy to JB Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

"The process of restoration and preparation was a huge undertaking done with extreme attention to detail in a very small amount of time," Gardiner said. "I walked seven to eight miles a day going back and forth to ensure everything was ready to go."

The team adapted to overcome obstacles by fabricating custom metalwork and aircraft shipping pallets for the containers, identifying and resolving several electrical power generation issues, packing

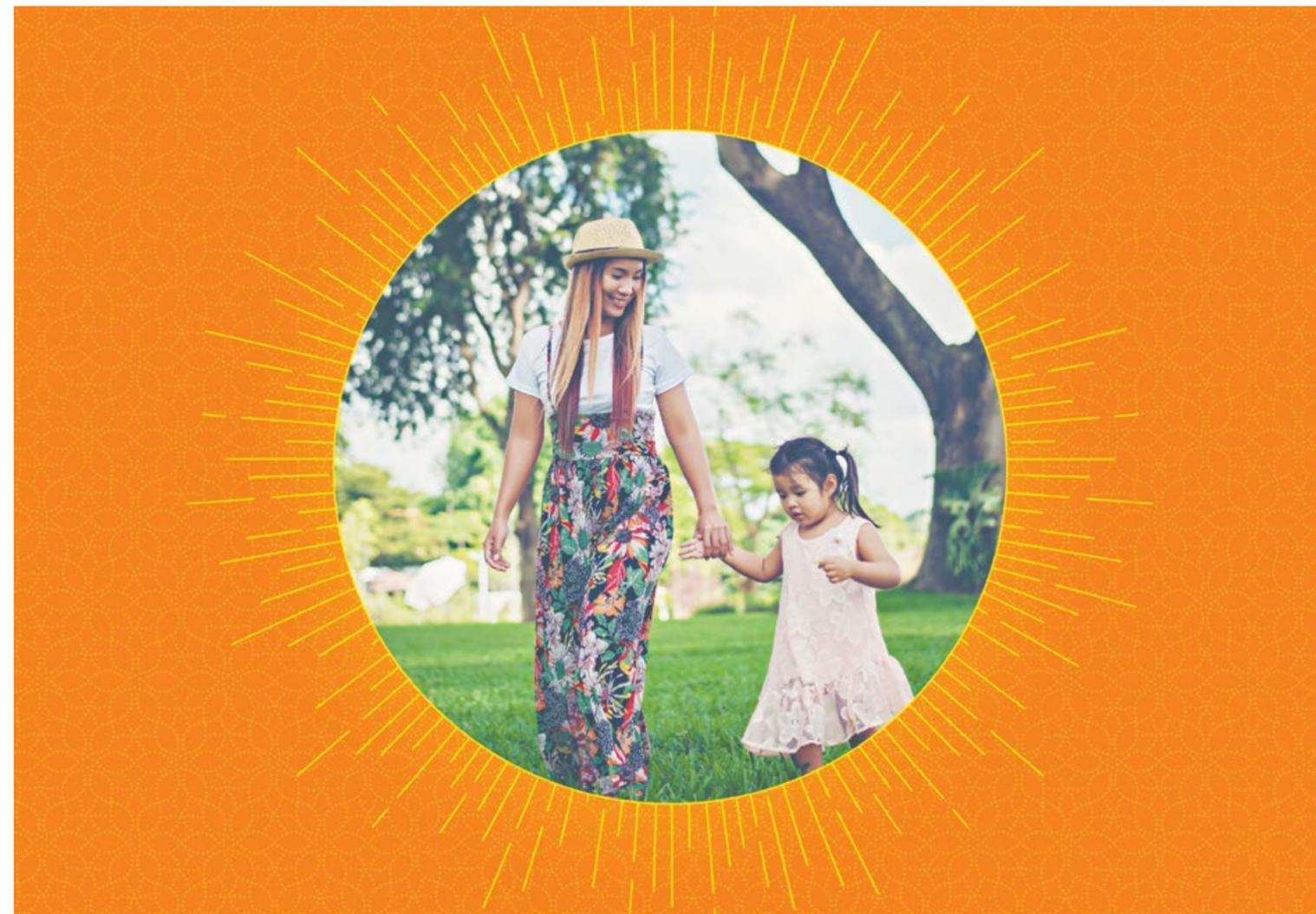
and securing equipment while simultaneously logging inventory of 150 line items.

The RASCAL shipped off on two C-17 Globemaster IIIs with a five-member team to lead the initial set-up to ensure the receiving units were postured for success.

"Turning this decade-old, mothballed concept from a whistlepig graveyard into the Air Force's only fully operational mobile PMEL took these Airmen an entire year of hard work, creativity and dedication," said Maj. Jonathan T. Hoefing, 366th MUNS commander. "In addition, this would absolutely not have been possible without the critical, unwavering support of the 366th Logistics Readiness Squadron and the 366th Maintenance Squadron personnel throughout the entire restoration and deployment effort."

Since January, the RASCAL has been at J-B Pearl Harbor-Hickam, supporting Operation Deep Freeze in Antarctica, Wake Island, Midway Island

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Asas waif, I am the messenger, and the life to all who wish to be saved. As was said, get ready to live, this is it!

Sunday Morning Bible Study ..... 9 AM  
Sunday Morning Worship ..... 10 AM  
Sunday Evening Worship ..... 6 PM  
Wed. Evening Bible Study ..... 7 PM  
Homeless ministry of Mission Solano  
Rescue Mission 1st Friday of month 6-8 PM

**CHURCH OF CHRIST - SOLANO**  
1201 Marshall Road, Vacaville, CA 95687  
707-451-9301 • [www.churchofchrist.solano.com](http://www.churchofchrist.solano.com)

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**Islamic Center of Fairfield**

1945 Kilder Ave., Fairfield, CA. 94533

"THERE IS NO DEITY WORTHY OF WORSHIP EXCEPT ALLAH (GOD)"  
Imam: Faridbeg Mirza  
(707) 688-3999

**Friday - Jum'ah Service**  
English Lecture: 1:00PM  
Khatbah: 1:30PM

**\*Daily Prayer Schedule**  
Fajr-Dhuhr-Asr-Maghrib-Isha

\*Actual prayer times are listed in Website-Download Section.  
<http://www.fairfieldmajid.com>  
Email: [Fairfieldmajid@gmail.com](mailto:Fairfieldmajid@gmail.com)

**Islamic School**  
Mon-Tue-Wed-Thurs: 4:00-5:30PM  
\*\*\*ALL ARE WELCOME\*\*\*

**CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST**

**THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST of LATTER DAY SAINTS**

Fairfield Stake Center  
2700 Camrose Ave.  
Sacrament Services Sunday  
0900 and 1200

Base Sacrament Services  
DGMC Chapel  
(1st Floor North entrance)  
Sunday 1600-1630

Inquires: Call LDS Military Relations Missionaries  
707-535-6979

DIRECTORY OF

# Local worship services

For advertising information about this directory, call Classifieds at 707-427-6973 or email: lvargas@dailyrepublic.net

**LUTHERAN**

**BETHANY LUTHERAN MINISTRIES**  
621 South Orchard Ave.  
Vacaville, CA 95688  
(707) 451-6675

[mychurch@gobethany.com](mailto:mychurch@gobethany.com)

**Worship Services:**  
Sunday: 10:00am with Bible Studies and Snacks School for all ages at 9:00am  
Fellowship: 11:15am  
Communion on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month: 9-621 S. Orchard Ave., VV

**Pastor Dana Utner**  
**Bethany Lutheran Preschool**  
451-6678  
[mypreschool@gobethany.com](mailto:mypreschool@gobethany.com)  
[www.gobethany.com](http://www.gobethany.com)

**Bethany Lutheran School**  
1011 Clatis Drive  
Vacaville, CA 95687  
451-6683 ph • 359-2230 Fax  
[myschool@gobethany.com](mailto:myschool@gobethany.com)  
[www.gobethany.com](http://www.gobethany.com)

**NON-DENOMINATIONAL**

**Church of Christ**

1500 Alamo Drive  
Vacaville, CA 95687  
(707) 448-8838  
[www.vacavillechurchofchristalamodrive.com](http://www.vacavillechurchofchristalamodrive.com)

Sunday Morning  
Bible Classes ..... 9:30 am  
Assembly Worship ..... 10:15 am  
Evening Assembly Worship: 5:00 pm

Wednesday Evening  
Bible Classes ..... 7:00 pm

Classes also by appointment Elders:  
Mark McCallister (707) 446-7177  
Ed Sandersen St. (707) 446-0536

**NON-DENOMINATIONAL**

**FAITH Community Church**  
to God be the Glory

Bible Based Expository Preaching  
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9 AM, 10:45 AM & 6 PM

**Pastor Jim Kile**  
192 Bella Vista Road, Vacaville  
707-451-2026

Nursery & Children's Classes Provided  
Adult & Youth Sunday School -  
9 AM & 10:45 AM

Check our website for more information on other ministries offered.  
[www.vacavillefaith.org](http://www.vacavillefaith.org)

**NON-DENOMINATIONAL**

**VACAVILLE BIBLE CHURCH**

*"To know Him, and to make Him known"*

490 Brown Street  
Vacaville, CA 95688  
707-446-8684

**Sunday Services:**  
Sunday School 9:45am  
Morning Worship 11am  
Evening Worship 5pm

**Thursday Service:**  
Prayer Meeting 7pm  
Bible Studies throughout the week

**Pastor Ben Smith**  
[www.vacavillebiblechurch.com](http://www.vacavillebiblechurch.com)  
[office@vacavillebiblechurch.com](mailto:office@vacavillebiblechurch.com)

**NON-DENOMINATIONAL**

**THE FATHER'S HOUSE**

The Father's House  
4800 Horse Creek Drive  
Vacaville, CA 95688  
(707) 455-7790  
[www.fh.org](http://www.fh.org)

Service Times  
Saturday: 6pm  
Sunday: 9am & 11am

**UNITED METHODIST**

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Phone: 707-426-2944  
Email: [info@cumcfairfieldca.org](mailto:info@cumcfairfieldca.org)  
Website: [cumcfairfieldca.org](http://cumcfairfieldca.org)

**Pastor Ron Swisher**  
Worship Service 10:30 A.M.  
Sunday School for Children during the Worship Service

Communion is held the 1st Sunday of every month

Adult and Bell Choirs  
Adult Bible and Book Studies  
United Methodist Women  
Sunday Morning Bible Studies at 9:00 A.M.

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Adult Bible Study: 8:15 AM  
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707-425-2944  
[www.tlcp.org](http://www.tlcp.org)  
Rev. Dr. Dan Molyneux, Pastor

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Life Offer:

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- Children's Classes
- Youth Ministries
- AWANA Program
- Men's & Women's Bible Studies
- Princ Timers (Seniors Ministry)
- In Home Mid-Week Bible Studies
- Celebrate Recovery

**Bruce Gallaher, Lead Pastor**  
707-446-9838  
[www.cccv.me](http://www.cccv.me)

190 Butcher Head, Vacaville, CA 95687  
off of Alamo, just South of I-507

**Word of Faith Christian Center**

Pastors Melba & Lenon Nears Jr  
650 Parker Road, Fairfield, CA 94535  
(707) 437-2257  
[www.wofccfairfield.com](http://www.wofccfairfield.com)

We are a culturally diverse ministry with a mandate to: Win the lost, Teach Disciples of Christ, Equip, Release and Honor Men and Women for greater ministry.

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Pre Service Prayer - 10:50AM  
Praise & Worship  
Ministry in the Word  
Children's Ministry  
Prayer - 6:00PM

**THURSDAYS**  
Family time in the Word - 7:00PM  
Kingdom Men - Men's Ministry  
TNT - Women's Ministry  
New Beginnings Youth Ministry  
Children's Ministry

**LIVE STREAMING**  
[www.facebook.com/wofccfairfield](http://www.facebook.com/wofccfairfield)  
**FOR LIVE AUDIO CALL**  
(811) 715-3840  
access code=672239#

**Vacaville Church of Christ**

401 Fir St., Vacaville, CA 95688  
(707) 448-5085

Minister: Ryan Brewer

Sunday Morning Bible Study  
9:30 AM

Sunday Morning Worship  
10:30 AM

Sunday Evening Worship  
6:00 PM

Wed. Evening Bible Study  
7:00 PM

[www.vacavillecfc.com](http://www.vacavillecfc.com)

If you would like to take a free Bible correspondence course contact:  
Know Your Bible Program  
401 Fir Street • Vacaville, CA 95688  
(707) 448-5085

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[www.unityvacaville.org](http://www.unityvacaville.org)

**Sunday Morning**  
8:00 am Coffee with God  
10:00 am Contemporary Celebration with Youth Education

**Wednesday Evening**  
6:30 pm Non-Denominational Meditation  
7:00 pm Contemplative Prayer

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U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Kimberly L. Mueller

Children in the Make-A-Wish program and their families line up to watch the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds fly May 3 during a practice session for The Thunder Over the Sound: Keesler and Biloxi Air and Space Show in Biloxi, Miss. After the practice session, the families were able to meet and take photos with Thunderbird team members.

## T'bird show dazzles Make-A-Wish families

**Airman 1st Class Kimberly L. Mueller**

81ST TRAINING WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE, Miss. — As the first F-16 Air Force Thunderbird zoomed past the beach, the children flocked toward the barrier separating the flight path from the seating. Amazement struck across their faces as the

Thunderbirds performed each aerial technique.

The Make-A-Wish Foundation offered children diagnosed with critical illnesses a chance to view U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds in action during their unique over-the-water practice demonstration at The Thunder Over the Sound: Keesler and Biloxi Air and Space Show on

See T'BIRD Page 23

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## Hill helps in F-16 training

**Micah Garbarino**

388TH FIGHTER WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

HILL AIR FORCE BASE, Utah — Brand new F-16 Fighting Falcon pilots received a unique training experience at Hill Air Force Base, with the help of the active duty 388th and Reserve 419th Fighter Wings and the F-35A Lightning II.

For the last two weeks, F-16 basic course students and instructor pilots from the 311th Fighter Squadron at Holloman AFB, New Mexico, have been flying with and against the Air Force's first operational F-35A units.

"The fact that we can show up and get the airspace and red air support from a fifth generation asset, flying against an F-35, that is an 'all-timer' for these young pilots," said Maj. Benjamin Walters, 311th FS instructor pilot. "Today I flew with a kid who has maybe 16 rides in the jet and now three of those are against an F-35. He had the best day of his life. There are guys with thousands of hours in the seat that haven't had that experience yet."

For the first week, the pilots flew basic fighter maneuvers — one-versus-one engagements commonly called "dogfighting." They also flew advanced combat maneuvers, two aircraft versus four or more enemy aircraft. The students fly in a two-seat F-16, with an instructor in the back.

The dogfighting training missions start out scripted, with set passes and distances, and then the students are challenged to improvise against more experienced pilots in a very capable jet.

"These guys are getting really good at flying the F-35 and they can present some aggressive situations that force young pilots into errors," Walters said. "It's not always the guy who should win that does win. At some point it's pilots in cockpits

See F-16 Page 22

## Symposium aims to improve housing

**Zoe Schlott**

AIR FORCE INSTALLATION AND MISSION SUPPORT CENTER PUBLIC AFFAIRS

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-LACKLAND, Texas — "Families First" is the mantra behind the Air Force's Housing Privatization improvement plan which is taking front and center attention at the Air Force's Global Housing Symposium, which kicked off May 7, in downtown San Antonio.

The plan, which includes five major lines of effort, outlines 27 initiatives to correct housing issues identified following a servicewide review of health and safety concerns.

Col. Michael Beach, Air Force Housing Program chief, said ensuring Airmen and their families live in safe, quality homes is not a fire-and-forget mission.

"Our most important resource is our people," he said. "We've listened to residents, reviewed survey feedback and have taken a top-to-bottom look at our processes, policies and procedures to identify what's broken, and



U.S. Air Force courtesy photo

The Air Force is using every tool at its disposal to ensure that the housing program, both stateside and abroad, puts its best foot forward this year and the years to come with the one key phrase in mind, "Families First."

fix it."

Beach is taking that same message to the Global Housing Symposium. There Air Force housing management staff and base civil engineers from across the Air Force are gathering alongside project owners to discuss the current, worldwide status of Air Force housing under one roof.

Commencing with a keynote speech from Hon. John Henderson, assistant

secretary of the Air Force for installations, environment and energy, the symposium is slated to update, train and inform attendees on topics that keep them up to date and able to serve the Airmen of their installations with the highest service level possible.

The agenda boasts experts speaking on "everything you wanted to know about mold," and panel discussions where attendees will have the

opportunity to ask questions of the program leaders concerning policy changes, roles and responsibilities and manpower. Included in the agenda is a daylong project owners' meeting where Air Force leadership and the project owners will discuss the best course of action moving forward for the privatized housing program, with Airmen

See HOUSING Page 21

**Cheers**  
 9:30 - 1:30 Every Evening

Sunday thru Wednesday  
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Thursday  
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Friday  
**Steve Franklin Band**

Saturday  
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**(707) 428-0555 • 2390 North Texas Street, Fairfield**

# 8th CES repairs runway in record time

**Master Sgt. Schelli Jones**

8TH FIGHTER WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

KUNSAN AIR BASE, South Korea — Members of the 8th Civil Engineer Squadron, also known as the Legendary Red Devils, rapidly repaired a rupture on Kunsan Air Base's active runway in record time, May 1-2.

At approximately 9 a.m. May 1, a rupture was discovered on Kunsan AB's runway and Col. John Bosone, 8th Fighter Wing commander, immediately suspended all military and civilian flying operations to ensure the safety and security of people and assets. He also directed an investigation into the cause of the rupture.

"This is a pretty non-standard occurrence," said Maj. Alyson Busch, 8th CES operations flight commander. "We had to take our time and figure out the fastest and safest course of action not only for the U.S. Air Force, but also our Korean partners and civilian airframes and personnel."

An engineering assessment is normally a lengthy process that includes a contract repair. Since this rupture affected an active runway, the 8th CES used Rapid Airfield Damage



U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Joshua Edwards

**Staff Sgt. Christopher Leonard, 8th Civil Engineer Squadron pavement and construction equipment journeyman, adjusts his face mask while pouring cement May 2 at Kunsan Air Base, South Korea. The 8th CES dug out a corroded pipe that caused a rupture and restored the site in less than 24 hours.**

Repair, or RADR, techniques to replace the pavement immediately.

"RADR is a new capability for the Air Force and the 8th CES has been training on it

constantly," Busch said. "After evaluating the cause, we determined this was the best option to repair the runway in a timely manner."

A thorough analysis

determined the rupture was 7 feet by 8 feet on the surface and 4 feet deep and caused by water erosion over the years.

"This was important to fix because it is a safety hazard,"

said Airman 1st Class Curtis Carroll, 8th CES pavement and construction journeyman. "Planes come and land all the time and we wouldn't want an incident where if an aircraft lands, it just caves in completely."

In a matter of hours, a 30-member team comprised of Airmen from the 8th CES and 8th Logistics Readiness Squadron worked through the night to repair the rupture through excavation, compacting and placing rapid-set concrete.

The rapid-set concrete cured in a few hours. It typically takes seven to 28 days for concrete to dry through the traditional repair method; however, RADR techniques expedited the process and enabled the runway to open in record time.

"The quick repair of the runway was the first use of RADR on a primary runway outside an active combat zone, and this capability has now proven incredibly important in both wartime and peacetime," said Lt. Col. John Conner, 8th CES commander. "The Red Devil engineers proved once again why they are legendary for readiness, expertise, and work ethic."

## Wing begins annual mission to Greenland

**Master Sgt. Christine Wood**

109TH AW PUBLIC AFFAIRS

STRATTON AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, N.Y. — Airmen of the 109th Airlift Wing kicked off their annual support for National Science Foundation research in Greenland on April 23 as about 80 Airmen and three LC-130 aircraft left Stratton Air National Guard Base for Kangerlussuaq, Greenland.

This is the first of six rotations of aircraft and personnel from the Scotia air base to Greenland. About 200 Airmen will participate in the missions

that go from April to August.

The Airmen and aircraft of the New York Air National Guard's 109th AW provide support for the National Science Foundation by transporting fuel, cargo and passengers to and from the various camps throughout Greenland.

The wing flies the LC-130 which is a ski-equipped version of the Hercules tactical transport aircraft. The LC-130s are the largest aircraft in the world which can land on ice or snow.

The science foundation supports teams conducting climate research across the Greenland

**See GREENLAND Page 21**

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# Travis takes part in Aviation Day in Seattle



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Jonathon Carnell



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Jonathon Carnell

1) Airmen from the 21st Airlift Squadron at Travis Air Force Base, Calif., speak May 4 with students at the Alaska Airlines Aviation Day in Seattle, Wash. More than 800 Students were able to interact with 21st Airlift Squadron crew members while getting a tour of the C-17 Globemaster III with the overall mission of inspiring youth to pursue potential careers in aviation and aerospace. 2) Students stand in line to enter the Alaska Airlines Aviation Day. 3) A C-17 Globemaster III static sits on the flight line May 4 as part of the Alaska Airlines Aviation Day. 4) Airman 1st Class Taylor Clifton, 21st AS loadmaster, interacts with a young attendee May 4 at the Alaska Airlines Aviation Day.



U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Amber Carter



U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Amber Carter

## Swap Ads

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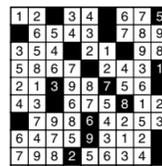
## Puzzles

### STR8TS

No. 437 Easy



Previous solution - Medium

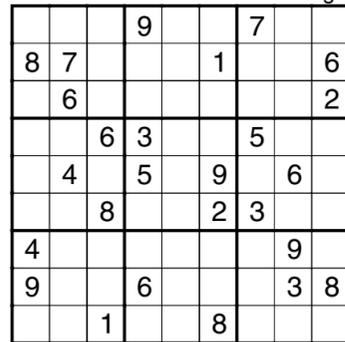


How to beat **Str8ts** – Like Sudoku, no single number can repeat in any row or column. But... rows and columns are divided by black squares into **compartments**. These need to be filled in with numbers that complete a 'straight'. A **straight** is a set of numbers with no gaps but can be in any order, eg [4,2,3,5]. Clues in black cells remove that number as an option in that row and column, and are not part of any straight. Glance at the solution to see how 'straights' are formed.

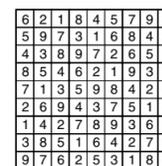
You can find more help, tips and hints at [www.str8ts.com](http://www.str8ts.com)

### SUDOKU

No. 437 Tough



Previous solution - Medium



To complete Sudoku, fill the board by entering numbers 1 to 9 such that each row, column and 3x3 box contains every number uniquely.

For many strategies, hints and tips, visit [www.sudokuwiki.org](http://www.sudokuwiki.org)

If you like Str8ts, Sudoku and other puzzles, check out our books, iPhone/iPad Apps and much more on our store at [www.str8ts.com](http://www.str8ts.com)

The solutions will be published here in the next issue.

## Retiree Corner

Medical examiner system celebrates lab week

DOVER AIR FORCE BASE, Del. — The Armed Forces Medical Examiner System celebrated lab week with a series of laboratory-themed events, April 22-26.

According to the Center for Diseases Control and Prevention, the purpose of this annual event is to

increase public awareness of the importance of laboratory professionals and their roles in clinical diagnostics and medicine.

The exceptional efforts and behind-the-scenes work of laboratories are essential to protecting public health.

The first lab week was organized in 1975.

— Health.mil

## Chapel programs

### Recurring events

#### Catholic

##### Twin Peaks Chapel

- Roman Catholic Mass: 9 a.m. and noon Sunday.
- Children's Church: 10:15 a.m. Sunday.
- Sacrament of Reconciliation/Confession: 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Wednesday or upon appointment.
- Infant Baptism Prep Class: Two classes. Registration required. 6 to 7 p.m., quarterly.
- Youth Choir: 1 p.m. Sunday.
- Children's Choir: 2 p.m. Sunday.
- Adult Choir: 4 p.m. Sunday.
- Women's Bible Study: 10 a.m. (at First Street Chapel).
- Catholic Women of the Chapel: 6 p.m. first Monday of every month, Annex.
- Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults: 6 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Annex.
- RE Classes: 10:15 to 11:30 a.m. Sunday, RE Wing.

##### First Street Chapel

- Mom's Group: 9 to 11:30 a.m. Thursday and Friday.

##### DGMC Chapel

- Roman Catholic Mass: Noon to 12:35 p.m. Monday through Thursday, except for federal holidays.

##### The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

- Sacrament services: 9 and noon Sunday at Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Fairfield Stake Center, 2700 Camrose Ave., Fairfield.

##### DGMC Chapel

- Latter-day Saints Service: 4 to 4:30 p.m. Sunday at DGMC Medical Center Chapel.
- For all other inquiries, call LDS Military relations representatives at 707-535-6979.

##### Protestant

##### First Street Chapel

- Protestant Community Service: 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Sunday.
- Gospel Worship Service: 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Sunday.
- Children's Ministry is provided for 6-month-olds through fifth grade.
- Protestant Men of the Chapel: 8 to 9 a.m., first Saturday of every month.

##### Twin Peaks Chapel

- Protestant Women of the Chapel: 9:30 to 11 a.m. Tuesday.

##### DGMC Chapel

- Protestant Traditional Service: 10 to 11 a.m. Sunday.

##### Airmen's Ministry Center

- The Peak is open from 5:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Friday at Bldg. 1348. Home-cooked meal from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays followed by Bible study.

##### ◆◆◆

For more information about chapel programs, call Twin Peaks Chapel at 707-424-3217.

## In the next week...

### fri

**Dixon May Fair.** Noon to 11 p.m. May 10, 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. May 11, noon to 10 p.m. May 12, Dixon May Fairgrounds, 655 S. First St. <https://dixonmayfair.com>.

**Solano Winds.** 8 p.m. May 10, Downtown Theatre, 1035 Texas St., Fairfield. [www.solanowinds.org](http://www.solanowinds.org).

**"Sweat."** Theater production. 8 p.m. May 10-11, BDES Hall, 140 W. J St., Benicia. [www.beniciaoldtowntheatregroup.com](http://www.beniciaoldtowntheatregroup.com).

**Theatre DeVille.** Comedy Crack-Up, 8 p.m. May 10; 308 Main St., Vacaville. [www.theatredeville.com](http://www.theatredeville.com).

**Empress Theatre.** Funny For Momma comedy show, 8 p.m. May 11; 330 Virginia St., Vallejo. 552-2400.

**Mother's Day Artisan Faire.** 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. May 12, Harbor Plaza, Main and Solano streets, Suisun City. Free admission. [www.brendamoss-aevents.com](http://www.brendamoss-aevents.com).

**sun sat**

## Recurring

### Air Force Office of Special Investigations.

To report a crime, get a foreign travel brief or request information on joining AFOSI, report to Bldg. 380B, second floor. Send correspondence to AFOSI Detachment 303, 510 Airlift CR, Travis AFB, 94535. For more information, call 707-424-3115 or DSN: 837-3115.

**Air Force Recruiting Office.** Now open at the Solano Town Center mall. Learn more about what the Air Force has to offer, such as up to 100-percent tuition assistance, 30 days paid vacation per year, free medical and dental care, tax-free housing and food allowance and much more. Contact Tech. Sgt. George Yardley at 707-889-3088 or stop by the office located at 1350 Travis Blvd., Suite P2, Fairfield, in the Solano mall.

**Air Force Sergeants Association "Walter E. Scott" Chapter 1320.** General membership meetings are at 8 a.m. the second Friday of every month at Wingman's in the Delta Breeze Club and includes a free meal. For more information, contact Master Sgt. Reynoldo Rios or Master Sgt. Rosel Agapay.

**Airmen's Attic.** The Airmen's Attic is open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday and 4 to 6 p.m. Wednesday, 560 Hickam Ave. For more information, call 707-424-8740 or visit the Facebook page "The Attic at Travis AFB."

**Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Group.** Meetings take place from 1 to 2:30 p.m. the third Thursday of the month in the diabetic education classroom on the first floor in Internal Medicine at David Grant USAF Medical Center. For more information, call 707-423-7227.

**Base emergency numbers.** Mobile phone users must dial 707-424-4911 if they have an emergency on base. Those using government or home phones can call 911. For more information, call the Travis Air Force Base Fire Prevention Office at 707-424-3683.

**Base illicit discharge number.** To report sewage/water leaks or illegal dumping, call 707-424-2575. For hazardous chemical/material spills, call the base emergency numbers.

**Civilian Health Promotion Services.** Will perform free wellness screenings from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. every Monday for all DoD federal civilians. Screenings include cholesterol, glucose, blood pressure and body composition analysis. For more information, visit [www.AFMOWellness.com](http://www.AFMOWellness.com) or contact CHPS at 707-424-CHPS or CHPS/Travis@foh.hhs.gov.

**Crisis text line.** Free, confidential, 24/7 counseling for teens and young adults. Text 741-741 anywhere in the United States and a live, trained crisis counselor responds quickly.

**Employee-Vehicle Certification and Reporting System.** Civilian and military personnel must maintain emissions information with the Web-based ECARS system. For more information, call Xuyen Lieu at 707-424-5103.

**Exceptional Family Member Program Sensory Play Group.** This group meets from 2 to 4 p.m. the second and fourth Wednesdays at the Balfour Beatty Community Center. For more information, call 707-424-4342 or visit the Facebook page "EFMP Travis AFB."

**Family Advocacy Parent/Child play groups.** Toddlers to the Max play group for children ages 1 to 3 meets from 9:30 to 11 a.m. Wednesdays at the First Street Chapel Annex. For more information, call 707-424-5168.

**Family and Friends Combat Stress Peer Support Group.** Meets from noon to 1 p.m. the first Tuesday of every month at the Balfour Beatty Community Center and from 1 to 2 p.m. the third Thursday of each month at The Peak. For more information, contact Amber Quirate and Jessica Soto at 501-231-7756 or email [travspocombatpdsd@gmail.com](mailto:travspocombatpdsd@gmail.com).

**Government no-fee passports.** All submissions of applications for government no-fee passports must now include: 1) A photocopy of Military Identification Card front and back; 2) Passport photo taken in the past six months; 3) Supporting document(s), proof of U.S. citizenship certified copy with state or county seal, if it involved a name change submit a court order or marriage certificate. Passport application cannot be handwritten and printed back to back and must be completed online with 2D barcode at website <https://pplform.state.gov> and/or <https://travel.state.gov>. For more information, call 707-424-5324.

**Hometown News Releases.** To submit a Hometown News Release, visit <https://jhns.release.dma.mil/public> and fill out the information.

**Mare Island Museum.** Open 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays. 1100 Railroad Ave. in Vallejo. For more information, call 707-557-4646.

**M-50 Gas Mask Fit Testing.** Takes place from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. every Wednesday at Bldg. 791. All deployers are fit as necessary. For more information, call 707-424-2689.

**Mitchell Memorial Library.** Open 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and closed Sunday.

**MPF self-renewal program.** Did you know that dependents can now renew their ID cards online? To participate in this program, visit <http://bit.ly/2mR1gl2>. This program is limited only for renewing dependents' IDs. For all other services, visit MPF during duty hours or call 707-424-8483.

**On-base child care.** The Air Force requires on-base residents to be licensed by the 60th Mission Support Group if they provide more than 10 hours of care per week in their homes. For more information, call 707-424-8104 or 707-424-4596 or stop by Bldg. 380B.

**Photocopying of military identification.** The prohibition of photocopying of U.S. government identification Common Access Card announced by the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense, dated Oct. 27, 2011, does not apply to medical establishments, applying for government-issued, no-fee passport and other U.S. government agencies in the performance of official government business. This requirement does not apply to minors ages 16 or younger. However, it applies to sponsors. For more information, call 707-424-5324.

**Professional Loadmaster Association.** The Professional Loadmaster Association meets at 7 p.m. the first Tuesday of each month at the Delta Breeze Club. For more information, call Mark Raymond at 707-416-5331.

**Retiree Activities Office.** Openings for volunteers. Customers are retired American service members and their family members. It is the RAO's responsibility to maintain open communication and to ensure retirees receive the service and the respect they deserve. If you would like to apply for a volunteer slot and have three hours or more to give, call 707-424-3905.

**Solano/Napa Habitat for Humanity.** This organization welcomes volunteers and supporters from all backgrounds. There are recurring events Tuesday through Saturday. For more information, email Staff Sgt. Mathew Clayton at [mathew.clayton@us.af.mil](mailto:mathew.clayton@us.af.mil).

**Travis Community Thrift Shop.** 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday. Ongoing need for volunteers to organize, sort and price donations. For more information, contact the Thrift Shop at 707-437-2370.

**Travis Composite Squadron 22 Civil Air Patrol.** Open to youth from 12 to 18, as well as adults ages 18 or older who train and serve as the volunteer component of the total force. UTA is 6:30 to 9 p.m. Monday, Bldg. 241-B-2. Open to all students with a 2.0 or higher grade-point average. For more information, contact CAP 1st Lt. Jo Nash at 707-424-3996 or recruiting@squadron22-cap.us, visit during a UTA or check out <http://squadron22-cap.us>.

**Travis Air Force Base Heritage Center.** Open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, Building 80, 461 Burgan Blvd., Travis Air Force Base. Escorts required for general public, call to arrange. Free. 424-5598, [www.travisheritagecenter.org](http://www.travisheritagecenter.org).

**Travis Air Force Base Heritage Center.** Open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, Building 80, 461 Burgan Blvd., Travis Air Force Base. Escorts required for general public, call center to arrange. Free. 424-5598, [www.travisheritagecenter.org](http://www.travisheritagecenter.org).

**Travis Legal Office.** Power of attorney and notaries are walk-ins 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday. Legal assistance for active duty members and dependents are walk-ins from 2 to 3 p.m. Tuesday. For all wills and retiree legal assistance, call 707-424-3251 to make an appointment.

**Tuskegee Airman Lee A. Archer Chapter.** Meets at 3 p.m. the third Saturday of the month at the Airman and Family Readiness Center.

**Voluntary Leave Transfer Program.** The VLT allows an employee who has a medical emergency or is affected by a medical emergency of a family member and is without availability of paid leave to receive transferred annual leave directly from other employees. For more information, call 707-424-1720.

**What's Cookin' Wednesday.** Free lunch at the Travis AFB USO Bldg. 1348. Served from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. every Wednesday. For active duty, Guard, reservist and their families.

**Local events**

**Events**

**Benicia Farmers Market.** 4 to 8 p.m. Thursdays through August, 4 to 7 p.m.

**Today**

• 6:30 p.m. "Little" (PG-13)  
• 9 p.m. "The Mustang" (R)

**Saturday**

• 6:30 p.m. "Avengers: Endgame" (PG-13)

**Sunday**

• 2 p.m. "Shazam!" (PG-13)



**September and October, First Street between B and D streets.** [www.beniciamainstreet.org](http://www.beniciamainstreet.org)

**Fairfield Farmers Market and Thursday on the Green.** 3 p.m. Thursdays through Oct. 4, Jefferson and Texas Streets. [www.fairfieldmainstreet.com](http://www.fairfieldmainstreet.com).

**"Sounds of Suspense."** Radio broadcast, noon fourth Friday of each month, Vacaville Public Library-Town Square, 1 Town Square Place. Free. [www.solanolibrary.com](http://www.solanolibrary.com).

**Vacaville Farmers Market.** 8 a.m. to noon Saturday, through October, Creekwalk Plaza at Andrews Park. [www.vacavillefarmers-market.com](http://www.vacavillefarmers-market.com).

**Vallejo Art Walk.** 5 to 10 p.m. second Friday of each month, downtown Vallejo. Free admission. [www.vallejoartwalk.com](http://www.vallejoartwalk.com).

**Vallejo Farmers Market.** 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays, year-round, Georgia and Marin streets. [www.pcfma.com](http://www.pcfma.com).

**Vintage Market.** 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. every third Saturday, St. Paul's United Methodist Church, 101 West St., Vacaville. 925-978-6989.

**Music and dance**

**City Sports Bar and Grill.** Music begins at 9 p.m.: Crossman Connection, May 10-11; Strange Brew, May 17; Dueling DJs with DJ Aaron, 9 p.m. May 18; 7155 Browns Valley Parkway, Vacaville. 455-7827, [www.starsrecreation.com](http://www.starsrecreation.com).

**Empress Theatre.** Yngwie Malmsteen, 8 p.m. May 10; West Coast Songwriters Competition, 7:30 p.m. May 13; Groovality, 7:30 p.m. May 15; Film Club: "No Small Matter," 7:30 p.m. May 16; Robben Ford, 8 p.m. May 18; 330 Virginia St., Vallejo. 552-2400, [www.empresstheatre.org](http://www.empresstheatre.org).

**First Street Cafe.** Ken Cooper, 7 p.m. May 10; Nagual, 7 p.m. May 11; Bryan Girard, 2 p.m. May 12; Eric Eckstein, 7 p.m. May 17; Open mic, 7 p.m. May 18; Thomas Molina & the Yuppie Liberation Front, 2 p.m. May 19; 440 First St., Benicia. 745-1400, [www.firststreetcafe.com](http://www.firststreetcafe.com).

**Sardine Can.** Jazz, 5 to 8 p.m.: Frankye Kelley, May 19; O Harbor Way, Vallejo. [www.vallejosardinecan.com](http://www.vallejosardinecan.com).

**SCC Dance, "Elements Through Dance."** 7:30 p.m. May 10-11, Solano Community College Performing Arts Center, 4000 Suisun Valley Road, Fairfield. <http://blogs.solano.edu/theater/index.php/tickets>.

**Solano Choral Society.** "Heaven and Hell," 8 p.m. May 17, 4 p.m. May 19, Solano Community College Performing Arts Center, 4000 Suisun Valley Road, Fairfield. [www.solanochoralsociety.org](http://www.solanochoralsociety.org).

**Theatre DeVille.** Illegals, 8 p.m. May 11; Derek Abel Band, 7 p.m. May 16; McKenna Faith & The Crossman Connection, 8 p.m. May 17; 308 Main St., Vacaville. [www.theatredeville.com](http://www.theatredeville.com).

**Town Square Friday Night.** Music begins at 6 p.m.: Emile Vinet and Papa Joe & the New Deal, May 10; The Sapphire Sisters and Total Recall, May 17; downtown Vacaville. Free. [www.downtownvacaville.com](http://www.downtownvacaville.com).

**Vacaville Performing Arts Theatre.** "The Wizard of Oz," 7 p.m. May 10; Vacaville Christian Schools, Radio Conservatory of Music, 6:30 and 7:30 p.m. May 14; Orpheus West, 7:30 p.m. May 18; 1010 Ulatis Drive. 469-4013, [www.vpat.net](http://www.vpat.net).

**Vallejo Jazz Society.** Noel Jewkes Septet featuring Kay Kostopoulos, 5 p.m. June 9, Empress Theatre, 330 Virginia St., Vallejo. 552-2400, [www.vallejojazzsociety.net](http://www.vallejojazzsociety.net).

**Western Railway Museum.** Open 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, 5848 Highway 12, Suisun City. 374-2978, [www.wrm.org](http://www.wrm.org).

**Comedy**

**Missouri Street Theatre.** #Woke and Broke Comedy Tour, 8 p.m. June 1; 1125 Missouri St., Suite 1000, Fairfield. [www.downtowntheatre.com](http://www.downtowntheatre.com).

**Art exhibits**

**Arts Benicia.** Open noon to 5 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday during exhibitions, 991 Taylor St., Suite 114, Benicia. Free. 747-0130, [www.artsbenicia.org](http://www.artsbenicia.org).

**Benicia Plein Air Gallery.** Stephen Berry, Wednesday through June 2, reception 4 to 6 p.m. Saturday; open 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday through Sunday, 307 First St., Benicia. 495-2940, [www.beniciapleinair.com](http://www.beniciapleinair.com).

**Fairfield-Suisun Visual Arts Association Gallery.** "All About Texture," through May 19; Cheryl Ocrossa is the featured artist; open 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday, Solano Town Center, 1350 Travis Blvd., Suite D8, Fairfield. 688-8889, [www.fvaav-arts.org](http://www.fvaav-arts.org).

**Gallery 621.** Open noon to 6 p.m. Thursday through Sunday, 309 First St., Benicia. 297-6960, [www.gallery621.com](http://www.gallery621.com).

**Georgia Galleria.** Open 3 to 8 p.m. weekdays, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturdays, 419 Georgia St., Suite 15, Vallejo. [www.facebook.com/womenandminorityartistart](http://www.facebook.com/womenandminorityartistart).

**Benicia Plein Air Gallery.** "Oscillate," with work from Jenny Phillips and Melissa Mohammadi, through May 30; open 1 to 6 p.m. Friday, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday, 942 Tyler St., Benicia. [www.jentough.gallery](http://www.jentough.gallery).

# THE FLIP SIDE



U.S. Air Force photo/Ethan D. Wagner

**A Beechcraft AT-6B Wolverine experimental aircraft flies July 31, 2017 over White Sands Missile Range, N.M. Aircraft like the AT-6B and Embraer A-29 Super Tucano provide close-air support to U.S. allies and partners and can also be outfitted with commercial off-the-shelf command and control units like the Airborne Extensible Relay Over-Horizon Network, or AERONet, increasing their combat effectiveness.**

## Prototype would link allies

**66th Air Base Group  
Public Affairs**

HANSCOM AIR FORCE BASE, Mass. — A tiny team at Hanscom Air Force Base is developing a prototype combat system capable of providing video, voice, chat and command and control to partner nations for under a half-million dollars.

The Airborne Extensible Relay Over-Horizon Network, or AERONet, digitally links friendly forces, providing them with their own location, the location of other friendly forces and real-time enemy movement updates. It will be showcased to partner nations at the Bold Quest exercise in Finland this month. AERONet is a version of systems already used by law enforcement to patrol borders and track and combat smugglers. First responders use similar systems while fighting wildfires in the mountain states.

The system was conceived by Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David L. Goldfein, refined by Air Force Research Lab and is being brought to market by

the Command, Control, Communications, Intelligence and Networks Program, or C3I&N, executive office at Hanscom AFB. The Tactical Data Links Lab at Hanscom AFB helped prototype a system, funded and built with the goal of providing turnkey combat networks to partner nations that do not have arms export agreements for this type of data link information.

“Bold Quest is the first time we will be able to show our target partner nation audience what AERONet can do for them,” said Maj. Scott Frye, the AERONet program manager with the C3I&N Quick Reaction

Capability Branch. He is helping to transition AERONet from an AFRL concept to reality. “We already have interest from several countries, so we think there’s a large demand out there for a system that creates a combat network and makes intelligence gathering and close-air support more effective.”

Goldfein wanted a system that would provide off-the-shelf technology to countries that struggle with violent extremists but don’t have access to the most expensive and classified command and control suites.

See **PROTOTYPE** Page 19

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# AFRL 3-D prints foam that reacts to shock waves

**Holly Jordan**  
AIR FORCE RESEARCH LABORATORY  
MATERIALS AND MANUFACTURING  
DIRECTORATE

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio — The Air Force Research Laboratory, along with research partners at Los Alamos National Laboratory, Washington, are working to change the shape of materials technology with a breakthrough development that could open up a new range of possibilities for the military and beyond.

Through an Air Force Office of Scientific Research-funded basic research effort, the collaborative team developed a 3-D printed polymer-based foam structure that responds to the force of a shock wave to act as a one-way switch, a long sought-after goal in shock research.

According to Dr. Jonathan Spowart, AFRL senior materials research engineer, this novel material configuration,

although in the early stages of development, has the potential to be scaled up in order to be used in different ways for a variety of applications, including for the protection of structures.

Spowart describes the material as a foam-like structure that contains a series of specifically-engineered tiny holes that determine the overall behavioral characteristics. Over a period of months, AFRL experts used computer modeling to run trials to determine the most effective hole geometries to achieve the desired material response. When they would arrive at a promising configuration, Spowart says the team would print a small test article, a flat plate not much bigger than a pencil eraser. With the help of Los Alamos National Laboratory, working on-site at the Dynamic Compression Sector user facility at Argonne

See **FOAM** Page 19

**Family Eye Doctors near Travis AFB**

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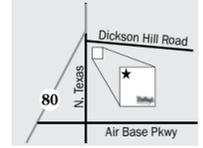
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# DHA manning assist enhances mission

Senior Airman Suzie Plotnikov  
81ST TRAINING WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE, Miss. — Every month Keesler Medical Center's Labor and Delivery Clinic averages approximately 35 births.

However, last year the clinic experienced a manning shortage that began to impact its ability to take care of families.

"The solution that was suggested was to refer the patients downtown to lessen our load here," said Maj. Alexis Johnson, 81st Inpatient Operation Squadron family birthing center flight commander. "The women's health clinic was sending about 10 referrals downtown so that was knocking our numbers down here about 10 a month."

With family readiness being one of the clinic's main priorities, sending military members and their spouses to a different facility was not ideal. KMC quickly reached out to the Defense Health Agency and requested more personnel.

According to Johnson, the process was quick. Within one month, DHA sent four personnel from different branches of the military, which allowed them to achieve their family

readiness goals.

"We keep the families together, we keep them happy," Johnson said. "When you deploy, yes it's the military member who deploys but the entire family is affected. The family has to be prepared and ready."

Not only did this help the clinic provided the best care they can to as many Keesler Air Force Base families as possible, it gave the military members a chance to learn from one another.

"All of them have brought things from their base into our facility here," Johnson said. "We've learned some things from them and they've learned some things from us as well, but as far as working together it has been a very good partnership."

The labor and delivery clinic at Keesler Air Force Base is inclusive, which means they do labor and delivery, recovery and postpartum care. This was something new for Army Capt. Andrea Swansiger, 81st IPTS Family Birthing Center registered nurse, who came to Keesler AFB from Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

"I'm learning a lot," said Swansiger. "It's a different hospital than I'm used to; it's smaller and I don't normally do



U.S. Air Force photo/Kemberly Groue

**Col. Michelle Aastrom, 81st Inpatient Operation Squadron commander, discusses the intensive care unit capabilities with Army Maj. Gen. Ronald Place, Defense Health Agency, director for the National Capital Region Medical Directorate and Transition Intermediate Management Organization, during an immersion tour Feb. 13 inside the Keesler Medical Center at Keesler Air Force Base, Miss.**

postpartum care, so I'm learning how to do that. We [Fort Bragg] do labor, delivery, recovery, and then they are transferred over to the postpartum

floor where they finish their stay there."

Swansiger said she is learning how to help with breastfeeding, passing medications,

checking vital signs and teaching new families what to do to prepare for their discharge. The staff assist provided her an experience she wouldn't have otherwise.

Swansiger said she was selected to come to Keesler AFB due to her being the most senior military leader at her facility.

"I think the cool thing about DHA is I'm here at an Air Force facility," Swansiger said. "You wouldn't normally have an Army RN at an Air Force hospital and we also have someone from the Navy helping out. That is the cool thing about DHA, we can see how other branches operate."

With DHA sending manning assists to the clinic, Johnson recognized in more ways than one the benefits the transition has provided the KMC and especially the labor and delivery clinic.

"Our transition to DHA has been a good thing," said Johnson. "We still have more changes to come, but I see DHA and this partnership, especially here at Keesler as nothing but positive."

## Foam

From Page 17

National Laboratory, Washington, they would then conduct tests and image the specimen using X-rays to determine performance.

From there, the AFRL team would review results and fine-tune the material configuration to further refine the product through additional modeling and testing. Spowart described the end product as containing a series of hollow cones.

When these cones encounter a shock wave, they collapse inward, forming jet protrusions that project from the opposite side. These jets localize the shock wave energy, which is the

origin of the material's unique directional behavior.

Spowart says this effort represents a significant breakthrough in materials engineering. He attributes this success to the collaboration, communication and expertise of the teams at AFRL, Los Alamos, and Argonne National Laboratory, as well as the basic research funding from AFOSR.

"The materials technology came from AFRL," he said, crediting the modeling and materials expertise of the project team. "The testing facilities and test methodology came from Los Alamos. So when you put the two things together, you get a really good team."

He adds that the remarkable test imaging provided by

Argonne National Laboratory was crucial in proving out the concept. He explained that the laboratory's Advanced Photon Source synchrotron is a unique piece of equipment that fires a very powerful and concentrated X-ray beam at the test article, allowing frame-by-frame imaging of a shock wave penetrating the specimen, all of which occurs within a few nanoseconds.

"This new imaging capability, together with the new manufacturing technology and computer simulations, allowed the team to obtain images and evaluate concepts in ways that were well beyond reach just a few years ago," said Dr. Christopher Neel, AFRL Senior Mechanical Engineer.

## Prototype

From Page 17

AERONet provides commercial-level security and is not subject to stringent export controls placed on advanced U.S. military technology. Airmen designed the airborne node to be versatile, integrating into fixed wing, rotary and unmanned aircraft platforms from multiple partner nations.

The system has three nodes, each with distinct combat capabilities: The airborne node is a radio and computer hybrid that users can attach to nearly any aircraft. It receives and relays voice and chat and pipes full motion video to and from any other node in the system. Dismounted troops such as joint tactical attack controllers and tactical air control parties use the ground node, which looks like a tablet and satellite-radio hybrid. It can run on Android technology and provides operators with airborne command and control capability from smartphones or tablets.

The final node, a reach-back command and control tactical operations center, provides decision makers with access to all the information flowing through AERONet from their troops at the tactical edge. C3I&N's Aerial Networks Division will demonstrate the entire system during exercise Bold Quest in Finland, which is tailored to experiment with

interoperability among NATO and non-NATO nations.

"Imagine you're a country, or a military, with a problem combating violent extremists who hide in remote regions," said Lt. Col. Jung Ha, the C3I&N's Quick Reaction Capability Branch director. "The advantage you have is your training and your technology. AERONet implementation can provide non-Link 16-enabled U.S. and partner nations' warfighters the requisite data to enhance battlespace intelligence superiority by providing near-real-time situational awareness, thereby increasing their own force's combat lethality while reducing the probability of fratricide incidents."

Frye and Ha also predict humanitarian relief uses for the system, making it attractive to nations frequently struck by manmade and natural disasters.

To date, C3I&N has spent less than \$1 million developing AERONet and estimates

partner nations can access and learn to use the combat network for less than \$300,000. More complex systems with more nodes and capabilities increase the cost, though many nations may have an existing network that AERONet can be used to soup-up. Ranges can vary, depending on the system setup, from dozens of miles to scores of miles. The team is working toward an over-the-horizon version, but say it's not ready for distribution yet.

The AERONet team demonstrated the system to Goldfein and Secretary of the Air Force Heather Wilson, and learned valuable lessons during light-attack demonstrations held one year ago. Hanscom AFB's AERONet team hopes to see the system proliferate to countries who will take the opportunity to partner and train with the U.S., and at the same time gain access to valuable combat capability at an affordable price in line with CSAF and National Defense Strategy priorities.

## Basing

From Page 6

and sister services. Collectively, the RASCAL enabled J-B Pearl Harbor-Hickam, PMEL to support the calibration of 5,000 assets during construction of their PMEL facility.

Operation Restore Paradise has been an important step into the future of exploring the adaptive basing concept, said Master Sgt. Jason A. Degrasse, 366th MUNS TMDE laboratory noncommissioned officer in charge.

"Imagine having mobile maintenance complexes from every squadron so that we can pick up and set down an Air Force base anywhere we want," Gardiner said. "That is the power of adaptive basing."

Hoefing expressed his thoughts on the team and their achievements, "I honestly couldn't be more proud of them! This is what happens when you empower squadrons and unleash our Airmen on a problem. It's a shining example of the gunfighter spirit that is right now having a positive, tangible impact across the Air Force."



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# Sergeant emerges from darkness of depression

**Airman 1st Class  
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FAIRCHILD AIR FORCE BASE, Wash. — Dim lights shined on a dark path as a young man followed his guide toward a wooden elevator, which rested on the edge of a deep, seemingly endless cavern. Nerves begin to take over as the young explorer thought of what was to come. The cart begins its descent into the darkness, becoming immersed in the shadows, eliminating all sight and heightening the rest of his senses in a pointless attempt to gather any bearing.

Being completely engulfed by darkness, the feeling of a heavy discomfort overtakes the young man who then, out of curiosity, reaches his hand out to find that he is completely surrounded by nothing.

Through his experiences in that dark cave, this is how Tech. Sgt. Garry McLean describes his battle with depression.

"The lowest point of my depression was similar to being in a dark tunnel surrounded by immense darkness, and it stayed that way for a while," McLean said. "It was nearly impossible to get out of bed in the morning. I couldn't sleep, I was stressed out, staying up all night cleaning, doing laundry and fixing things. I just couldn't sit still."

McLean is a Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape specialist with the 336th Training Group, and is no stranger to stress or difficult situations. However, when the weight of the world piled on him, McLean reached a place that he couldn't come back from alone.

His troubles began at home, which included the end of a marriage that resulted in turmoil with his family, including five children.

"Due to the nature of the



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Lawrence Sena

**Tech. Sgt. Garry McLean, 336th Training Group Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape specialist, dons his beret April 19 at Fairchild Air Force Base, Wash. McLean overcame his battle with depression after experiencing life changing events that led to the dismantling of his family.**

troubles at home, I filed for divorce. The stress of having to manage five kids on my own, trying to get work done, feed the kids, take them to sporting events became overwhelming," McLean said. "With everything going on, I began to become isolated from friends; not having them around anymore was difficult to understand and face."

With the stresses of having to balance life at home, the divorce and work, McLean decided it was time to seek help while making his daily commute to the office.

"I remember I was on my way into work and I texted my boss letting him know that before I came into work, I was going to stop in the [mental health] clinic," McLean said. "He responded by asking me if everything was OK, and I told him, 'No, everything is not OK and that I need to talk to somebody.'"

McLean's supervision received his message and quickly took action in coordinating a meeting with the

doctors at the base Mental Health Clinic.

"We talked about help being available before," said Chris Lum, 336th Training Squadron director of training. "He texted me letting me know he was going to mental health and I thought, 'Thank God,' because we were all worried about him."

Lum would continue showing his support for McLean during his battle against depression by visiting him in his home, and bringing his commander with him.

"During that time, Chris brought the commander over to my house after I had just taken the kids to school and dropped off my youngest at a friend's house," McLean said. "I started explaining the troubles I was experiencing at home and after describing everything that was happening, I lost it and started crying. Chris then stood up, gave me a hug and I cried on his shoulder. He then told me, 'We're here for you, we care about you and you matter.'"

Even with the support he

Mark Berstler, 336th TRG training coordinator and McLean's supervisor, joined Lum in supporting McLean and his family by organizing meals, cooked by fellow squadron members, to be given to the McLean family.

"Nobody in the office other than Mark and Chris knew what was going on with me but once everyone in the office was told that I had a need, everyone stepped up without asking questions," McLean said. "For a couple of months, I had dinners delivered to my house, which relieved a lot of stress and gave me time in the evenings to sit down and spend quality time with my kids."

"When your friend, family member or even coworker is going through a significant life-change like McLean did, it is important to be there for them," Lum said. "We're invested in each other like a family, and if we don't take care of each other, no one else will."

Even with the support he

was receiving from his fellow squadron members, McLean still faced an ongoing battle with his depression and situations at home.

"This wasn't what I envisioned my life to be," McLean said. "I didn't want to get a divorce or have my kids grow up in a broken home. I love my kids and want to be with them every day, but I can't have that so it's easy to start falling back into that dark tunnel of depression."

McLean would continue his visits with the Mental Health clinic staff, where they were able to provide the support necessary to assist McLean in overcoming his depression.

"What got me back to myself again was the steady love, compassion and continuous 'following up' with everyone," McLean said. "These little things combined with the amount of people who cared and supported me, helped get me back into a positive mental attitude."

"I waited too long to speak up," McLean added. "The signs were there, I just refused to admit it. My advice to anyone out there experiencing depression or going through hard times, don't be afraid to speak up. If you think someone may be going through something, ask how they are doing. Simply asking could make a difference."

Through the help of his fellow wingmen, the services offered at the mental health clinic and his ability to remain resilient through challenging times, McLean is able to continue his success as a father, friend and SERE specialist supporting the Air Force mission.

"It was a huge team effort with everyone in the squadron and the Mental Health clinic to support him, but in the end it was up to him to take the step of saying something and going into mental health," said Lum. "That takes a lot of courage."

## Housing

From Page 11

and their families' health and safety at the center of the conversation.

The symposium is a biennial event organized by the Air Force Civil Engineer Center to bring Air Force housing professionals together to improve housing services for Airmen and their families. This year's event is an opportunity for program leaders to discuss "Families First" and address some of the health and safety concerns they're working to overcome.

"The Air Force is committed to restoring trust in the privatized housing program and providing military families safe, quality and well-maintained base housing," Beach said.

The Air Force began to utilize housing privatization in 1996 as a quick and effective vehicle for transforming the base housing inventory and improving the quality of life for Airmen and their families.

Over the past two decades, the housing privatization program aimed to eliminate inadequate housing and expand services for residents, such as community centers and updated shared facilities.

While the program has successfully improved the inventory of homes and community amenities overall, the Air Force is aware that new challenges will continue to surface and is working closely with the project owners to shift the focus to address resident concerns and improve the customer experience.

In response to Airmen families' concerns and to ensure the long-term success of the privatized housing portfolio, the Air Force Privatized Housing program developed five major lines of effort to provide safe and healthy housing for Airmen and their families: employing and revamping resident empowerment, oversight improvement, leadership engagement, improved oversight and policy standardization.

The five major lines of effort are in response to the 100 percent "boots on the ground" health and safety resident survey conducted by wing leadership in February to fully gauge resident concerns and housing conditions.

## Greenland

From Page 12

ice cap.

Kangerlussuaq is used as a base because it is home to Greenland's largest airport.

During the 2018 season, the 109th completed 92 missions, transporting 780 passengers and delivering 1.6 million pounds of cargo and nearly 68,000 gallons of fuel to various camps throughout Greenland. The wing also flew 146 training flights during last season.

"We are leading the way in the Arctic with exercises and airlift missions," said Col. Michelle Kilgore, 109th Airlift Wing commander.

Military leaders say they expect missions in the Arctic to increase and the 109th expects to be part of that, Kilgore said.

"Our Airmen are consistently challenged with a high ops tempo with year-round missions taking us to the north and south poles. I am so proud of the work they do both at home and around the globe. As this Greenland season kicks off I am confident they will exceed all expectations," Kilgore said.

From October to March, the 109th supports Operation Deep Freeze (ODF) in Antarctica, and in the summer months, the unit flies to Greenland to not only continue its support for the National Science Foundation but to also train for ODF.

Training includes flight operations and arctic survival training known as "Barren Land Arctic Survival Training," held at Raven Camp at the end of May.

Approximately 30 students will be attending the weeklong



U.S. Air National Guard photo/Senior Master Sgt. William Gzara

**Airmen prepare a ski-equipped LC-130 Hercules to take off from the New York Air National Guard's 109th Airlift Wing for Greenland on April 23 in support of National Science Foundation research. In addition to carrying cargo for science, the 109th aircrews will conduct important ski-landing training and off-loading operations.**

course. This training consists of survival conditions, personal protection, sustenance/nutrition, medical, equipment laboratory, signaling and recovery.

"Working in or potentially surviving in the harsh Arctic elements encountered during our Greenland and Antarctica missions make the Barren Land Arctic Survival Training essential to our 109th Airlift Wing members," said Staff Sgt. Shannon Schiller, non-commissioned officer in charge of the wing's Airfield Flight Equipment continuation training program.

"This year the 109th Airmen are also collecting children's shoes, books, bikes, jackets and other gear to

donate to the villagers of Kangerlussuaq, who host the mission each year," said 1st Lt. Mathew Begin, 109th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron officer in charge.

"This effort is just another small way to help out our extended family in Greenland. Any time there's a chance to give back and make a difference in someone else's life, take it, no matter how large or small ... I'm proud to be surrounded by a unit dedicated to investing in people and the community, equally to accomplishing the mission," Begin said.

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# F-16

From Page 11

that win fights.”

The F-35A is a platform built on stealth, with advanced sensors and the ability to target and eliminate threats long before they are within visual range.

“That’s the assumption, and we are very good at that. But in the fog and friction of war and chaos, fighting within visual range will probably always happen,” said Maj. Jondavid Hertz, 421st FS weapons officer. “And that’s why we

train to it. Prepare for the unexpected in wartime.”

Every aircraft has a different set of strengths and weaknesses, which combined with a pilot’s skill and experience level can dictate the outcome of a fight. As the first combat-capable F-35A units in the Air Force, pilots in the 388th and 419th FWs have been developing tactics that can give them an edge in any fight.

“There’s been a lot said about the F-35’s dogfighting capability,” said Maj. Thomas Meyer, 34th FS weapons officer. “We’ve had a lot of time to develop our tactics, which take advantage of our

strengths and exploit the weaknesses of other platforms. The F-35 has become very capable in that arena.”

During the second week the pilots also integrated on missions in a large force exercise with friendly and enemy air made up of both F-16s and F-35s. Much of the learning takes place in the briefing room after the mission. Pilots can review their actions and also see what the enemy was seeing.

“You don’t get the distance between fourth generation and fifth generation fighters until we get back to tape review. It’s overwhelming to look at those

screens and see all the data that is provided to these guys,” Walters said. “That’s a lifetime experience these young pilots will take forward when they integrate with the F-35A in the future.”

The 388th and 419th FWs are the Air Force’s first operational combat-capable F-35 units, having received the first jets in October 2015. The active duty 388th FW and Air Force Reserve 419th FW fly and maintain the jet in a Total Force partnership, which capitalizes on the strength of both components. By the end of this year, Hill AFB will be home to 78 F-35s.

# T'bird

From Page 10

the beach in Biloxi, Mississippi, May 3.

Make-A-Wish is a nonprofit organization that allows children to achieve some of their dreams and wishes. The organization has been running for 39 years granting different wishes like the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds performance.

“An online application to become a Make-A-Wish child is filled out and submitted by the medical team of a child or a family friend,” said Cindy Kenny, Make-A-Wish volunteer. “After the child’s wish is approved the volunteers meet them.”

Equipped with beach mats, sunscreen and excitement, Make-A-Wish children and their families set up along the

beach for the show to get a great view, choosing seats just inside the shade of a tent or setting chairs and mats along the sand.

Each time the aircraft would go out of view, the children enjoyed the sand and played on the beach until one would point out the Thunderbirds coming back around. Truly seizing the day, the children found fun in every part of the show.

“It’s a unique opportunity for them and their families to come on base or to a show site without the general public there, so it takes out the stress of the crowds and waiting in line,” said Capt. Michelle Curran, U.S. Air Force Thunderbird No. 6 opposing solo.

When the show was over and the Thunderbirds arrived to meet the children, the children spoke enthusiastically about the show.

# Ford

From Page 2

our people.

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15 for underage drinking, or gets a discharge for drug abuse, rest assured your legal office will equip the commander to ensure that Airman can be one of three things: be ready, be outstanding or be out-processing.

# Discrimination

From Page 3

“How can you not know you are excluding someone and making them feel like they are invisible?” Hilt said. “One of the four women in our group, a U.S. Army sergeant said, ‘Sergeant Hilt, you do the same thing to women. You exclude us and you don’t even realize it.’”

“She had the courage to tell me about my unknown bias and gave me examples,” Hilt said. “That was the biggest eye-opener for me.”

The Army sergeant shared with Hilt how upsetting it was when he didn’t give women the same attention he gave his male colleagues.

“We could be having a conversation and if a woman was talking to me, and a man started

to speak to me, I would immediately divert my attention from the woman to the man,” Hilt said. “That is a subtle bias. I was stunned to learn that I tended to give more attention to males over females.”

Hilt said he has a come a long way since that realization and became the EO director for the 60th AMW at Travis in November 2018. He has now served in the EO career field for two decades.

Fostering an environment of dignity and respect where all people feel included and valued is a must for any organization, he said.

“It’s important to have inclusion, if you understand someone’s background and where they are coming from, it doesn’t necessarily mean you agree with them, but it means you have a deeper understanding; you’ve broadened your

perspective and that makes us a stronger force,” Hilt said.

“When people don’t feel like they are treated the way they should be it impacts their life, it impacts their jobs and it certainly impacts our mission,” he said. “This is not a white thing or a black thing; it’s a human thing and as military members, we need to carry ourselves at all times as the ultimate professionals. If we do that and we truly value diversity and foster an environment of inclusiveness with an open mind, our force will thrive.”

Brown may be a good example of what Hilt describes.

“You never know what someone else has gone through, so it’s important to treat everyone with dignity and respect,” she said. “Even after all I’ve been through, I accept everyone for who they are.”

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## Mask

From Page 6

the next generation in aircrew CBRN safety after years of rigorous testing and studies.

"The Home of Combat Airlift is the perfect venue for testing the next-generation aircrew CBRN system," said U.S. Air Force Col. Shane Haughian, 19th Operations Group commander. "Our Airmen have gotten after readiness training aggressively from the wing level on down, and we are excited to be a part of this process as it will directly impact how we fight. This equipment will ultimately make it logistically easier for our aircrews to perform their mission in austere conditions."

The M69's introduction to the military has a number of positive effects compared to the USAF's legacy AERP, including: reduced thermal burden, decreased bulk, increased field of view, increased field of regard, ease of use, and ease of maintenance.

"It allows for a safer, longer-lasting operating environment," said U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Benjamin Leis, 19th Operations Support Squadron noncommissioned officer in charge of AFE quality assurance. "As far as aviation in any type of contamination, I think we're in a far better situation for aircrew protection and the ability to maintain operations in contested environments with this piece of equipment. It's also a lot easier to train young Airmen on this piece of equipment as well."

After testing the compatibility and effectiveness of the M69, as well as identifying any hurdles the development team may need to be aware of for the C-130J airframe, Little Rock team members removed their gear and returned to their normal duties while awaiting the release of the new equipment for the U.S. Air Force and the other services.

"I would feel better being able to use the M69 because we're going after a better technology," O'Neal said. "The U.S. Air Force is targeting full capability in fiscal year 2023, and looking at starting our first fielding location around October 2019. There's been a lot of hard work leading up to this, and I think it will be a much better solution for our aircrew if required to operate in a CBRN environment."

1) Tech. Sgt. Igor Dufrene, 60th Medical Group Clinical Investigation Facility flight chief, wears a gas mask during a readiness exercise May 3 at Travis Air Force Base, Calif. Travis Airmen participated in a weeklong exercise that evaluated the base's ability to execute and sustain rapid global mobility operations. 2) Airmen assigned to the 60th Air Mobility Wing proceed through a pre-deployment function line May 3 at Travis. 3) Senior Airman Kodjo Bane, 60th Air Refueling Squadron material management, grabs a helmet during a readiness exercise May 3 at Travis.



# Exercise looks to improve Travis'... READINESS

U.S. Air Force photos/Airman 1st Class Cameron Otte





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