



Travis tests capabilities to stay ... **PREPARED**

PAGES 16-17

First-line leaders set example for career

I arrived at Charleston Air Force Base, South Carolina, in May 1991. I was fresh out of technical school and ready to live in the “real” Air Force. I remember feeling anxious and excited. I didn’t know what to expect. I was anxious because for my entire nine-month “career” I had been told what to do and when to do it. I was excited because I was following in my dad’s footsteps of aircraft maintenance. When I arrived at the squadron I met my sponsor who took me to my work center. It was then that I was introduced to Senior Master Sgt. Brian Harriman.



Commentary by Lt. Col. Robert Corsi
60TH MAINTENANCE SQUADRON

To me, he was the face of the real Air Force. He wasn’t overbearing or intimidating; everywhere we went, he took care of me and had my best interests in mind. For the next year, he taught me the job, took a personal interest in my family and me, and most importantly, he showed me what being an Airman was about. He laid the foundation for me to be a supervisor one day. His leadership also allowed me to have the career I have had. Twenty-eight years later, I carry Harriman’s lessons with me. My first supervisor had the greatest impact on my

Commander’s Commentary

Air Force career and I think that’s true for many Airmen. Our first-line supervisors are the most important leaders in our Air Force. You have a tremendous impact on your Airmen, and whether that impact is good or bad is up to you. You have daily contact with your Airmen and are the example they see on a consistent basis. If you take shortcuts or fall outside acceptable standards, you are jeopardizing the mission and setting a poor example for your Airmen. We must hold each other accountable to the same expectations. What is acceptable for your

Airmen must also be acceptable for you. Is an out-of-standards haircut jeopardizing the mission? Yes, because it’s not about the haircut. It’s about standards and the discipline we expect from each other. First-line supervisors must reinforce the standards to their Airmen – even the small stuff can make a big impact. First-line supervisors are the reason many Airmen decide whether or not to reenlist. Fair and equitable expectations make a big difference. You coach, mentor, teach and guide every single day. Your Airmen should be following you and asking you for advice, knowledge and guidance. They must be able to trust you to set clear expectations, give honest feedback, and be a part of their professional and

personal life. For the Airman, you should also hold your supervisor accountable – accountable to give you the feedback you need, to teach you what right looks like and accountable to ensure you have the tools you need to do your job. You deserve it, you need it and you should expect it. I can relate firsthand to those of you who have both good and bad supervisors. We can learn from them equally. My first supervisor made the lasting impression I have today, and he is the reason I’m still here leading. I honestly couldn’t tell you the name of my first wing commander, squadron commander, first sergeant or chief, but I will always remember Sergeant Harriman.

Sympathize to show Airmen who cares about them

Commentary by Chief Master Sgt. Aaron Scofield
60TH MAINTENANCE SQUADRON

In 2015, while assigned to a munitions squadron as a brand new first sergeant, I was diligently working in my office on a tasker when a young female Airman knocked at the door and asked, “Shirt, do you have a minute?” “Absolutely,” I replied and invited her in. She stood before my desk upset and crying. She explained to me how someone stole her undergarments from the dormitory dryer earlier that morning. I

Chief’s Commentary

immediately thought to myself; ‘Why is this Airman bringing this minor problem to me? Who really cares about her undergarments?’ Fortunately, I kept my mouth shut and did not speak. Instead, I allowed her to express her concerns and share her story. I began to fall back to what I had recently been taught at the First Sergeant Academy: a first sergeant must be visible, approachable and available – a lesson all noncommissioned officers can apply

to their daily professional lives. “How can I help?” I asked. She gave me a blank stare and said, “I don’t know.” You see, I am not a female and I have never lived in the dormitories, so some people would believe that I could never relate to this Airman’s situation. However, I could do one thing; sympathize. I told her I would call the Airman dorm leader and discuss the theft. We planned to come up with a way forward and agreed to meet later that day. I met with the Airman and her supervisor and we went to the dorms to have her walk us through the morning’s events.

I explained to her that the ADL and I would review the film from inside the dormitory to further investigate the theft. She was appreciative and thanked me for helping her through this difficult situation. We never solved the “case of the stolen undergarments,” but I did show my Airman I cared. Had I laughed, spoke my mind or even turned her away, she would have never come back to me again with a problem, issue or emergency. Remember, it takes a lot of courage

See SCOFIELD Page 25

Hospital readies electronic health record system

Merrie Schilter-Lowe
60TH AIR MOBILITY WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

David Grant USAF Medical Center at Travis will go live with the Department of Defense’s new electronic health record, Military Healthcare System GENESIS, in September. The system will eventually allow providers at any military medical facility in the world to access a patient’s medical records and allow patients to securely exchange messages with their provider. Since the system includes a patient portal, beneficiaries can view their health information, including notes from their provider, test and laboratory results and request prescription refills, said Lt. Col. John DaLomba 60th Medical Group director of operations. “With MHS GENESIS, all inpatient and outpatient records will be in one system so there is less opportunity for information to be lost in transition,” he said. Providers and other medical staff will schedule patient appointments, annotate patient records, order laboratory tests and X-rays as well as prescription medications all on one system without closing one program to open another. Representatives from the Defense Health Agency visited Travis April 23 to talk about MHS GENESIS and to speak with end users. Navy Vice Adm. Raquel Bono, DHA director, and Maj. Gen. Lee Payne, MHS GENESIS functional champion – also a former 60th Medical Group commander – briefly toured the medical center and later, answered questions during a town hall meeting with DGMC staff members. “MHS GENESIS is important for what we are doing in the military health care system,” said Bono.



U.S. Air Force photo/Heide Couch

U.S. Navy Vice Adm. Raquel Bono, Defense Health Agency, Defense Health Headquarters director, delivers remarks to members of David Grant USAF Medical Center April 23 at Travis Air Force Base, Calif. Bono's briefing focused on the rollout of the Military Health System GENESIS, the Department of Defense's new electronic health record, which the 60th Medical Group will use beginning in September.

The fiscal 2017 National Defense Authorization Act directed the transfer of administrative and managerial responsibilities for all medical treatment facilities to DHA beginning in October 2018. Under the plan, the services retain responsibility for organizing, training and equipping personnel for operational readiness while DHA assumes

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Tailwind

Travis AFB, Calif. | 60th Air Mobility Wing

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On the cover

Staff Sgt. Corey Fugate, 349th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron marshals a C-5M Super Galaxy during a readiness exercise May 9 at Travis Air Force Base, Calif.

U.S. Air Force photo/Heide Couch

WARRIOR OF THE WEEK

Name: Airman 1st Class Kelcie Edwards.	Hometown: Fairfield, California.	What are your goals? Air Force commission.
Unit: 60th Operations Support Squadron.	Time in service: One year.	What are your hobbies? Hiking, Alcatraz historian, baking.
Duty title: Airfield management operations coordinator.	Family: Spouse, Staff Sgt. Taylor Edwards.	What is your greatest achievement? Dean's list, Bachelor's of Science historical interpreter.

Ruck march to celebrate Gold Star families

Suzanne Black
AIRMAN & FAMILY READINESS CENTER

On May 18, Travis Air Force Base first sergeants will honor fallen members at the ninth Annual Gold Star Families 10K Ruck March.

The ruck march, which consists of a 10-kilometer course around the base, honors families who lost loved ones in defense of this country.

All proceeds from the event will support the annual Gold Star Family Honor and Remembrance event held at the Marine's Memorial Club and Hotel in San Francisco.

The event ties in with May's designation as "Gold Star Family Awareness Month" to focus attention on families in the Gold Star Program.

It is no coincidence that efforts to increase awareness of Gold Star Survivors occur during the same month with a day specifically set aside for remembering lost servicemen and women – Memorial Day.

Memorial Day is about remembering those who truly gave their lives in defense of this country and their loved ones who have to somehow learn how to move on.

The freedoms and liberties we enjoy every day as Americans is a direct result of the sacrifices and courage of the service men and women who died defending this great nation; and it is truly heartbreaking when we lose any service member.

We know the loss of a service member has a profound impact on his or her family. Regardless of the cause, location or circumstances of the loss, surviving family members deserve our acknowledgment and deepest

See MARCH Page 25



U.S. Army photo/Spc. Christopher Brecht

Tech. Sgt. Alex Rose, 721st Aerial Port Squadron special handling operator, gives the one-minute signal while securing a parachute static line during a sustained airborne demonstration May 9 at Ramstein Air Base, Germany.

Atlantic Stripe molds today's NCOs

Master Sgt. Renae Pittman
U.S. AIR FORCES IN EUROPE
AND AIR FORCES AFRICA

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany — Approximately 70 Airmen, Soldiers and NATO service members from across Europe came together at Ramstein Air Base, Germany, for the annual Atlantic Stripe conference, a highly selective, four-day professional development seminar aimed at deliberately developing junior noncommissioned officers to become better Airmen and leaders.

Multiple leaders came together from U.S. Air Forces in Europe and Air Forces Africa, 3rd Air Force and NATO to provide various leadership perspectives to the class throughout the week.

"This professional development conference was designed for hard-charging, high potential E-5s and E-6s throughout the command," said Chief Master Sgt. Philip Easton, USAF – AF-AFRICA command chief.

"Our goal is to make sure they understand how they fit into the mission: in their squadron, in their group, in their wing, in their (major command) and in their combatant commands," Easton added.

There were 26 topics discussed including the importance of honest feedback, setting priorities for individuals and teams, emotional intelligence, resiliency and formal etiquette to help attendees strengthen their leadership skills.

Easton continued on the

importance of the conference and how these skills are vital to developing the NCO corps.

"We ask a lot out of our junior enlisted. We ask them to be technical experts, improve themselves, be involved in the community and take care of their Airmen. We have to make sure they have all the tools they need to be successful."

While primarily U.S. Air Force Airmen were in attendance, there were several U.S. Army and NATO service members selected, giving the class a one-of-a-kind joint and international perspective.

"I work with over 29 nations from all different branches of the military ... all the services and countries have different cultures,

career fields and standards. When we come together, we get a better understanding of those things and become better at operating in a coalition and teams to face today's challenges," said Warrant Officer Jake Alpert, command senior enlisted leader NATO Allied Air Command.

The class also had senior NCOs in attendance to mentor, guide and facilitate. Their primary role was to help attendees digest the information and ensure understanding of the tactical, operational and strategic concepts being communicated.

"Over the last week, it was mutually beneficial to be able to learn and share our respective missions,

See STRIPE Page 27

Courses, screenings look to boost health

Civilian Health Promotion Services

Civilian Health Promotion Services offers services to help everyone work toward being their healthiest selves.

Take control of your health with these helpful tips:

- Avoid unhealthy behaviors, such as smoking, texting while driving, and not wearing a seatbelt or bicycle helmet.
- Participate in a wellness screening with Travis Civilian Health Promotion Services.

Wellness screenings for glucose levels, cholesterol, blood pressure and body composition take place from 12:30-2:30 p.m. May 23 at David Grant USAF Medical Center and 8:30-10:30 a.m. May 29 at the first-floor auditorium in Bldg. 854.

Body composition and blood pressure screenings take place from 10-11 a.m. May 22 at Bldg. 381 and 10:30-11:30 a.m. May 28 in the heritage room at Bldg. 836.

- Learn more and develop a plan for getting active, eating healthy, sleep hygiene, and managing stress by attending one of these upcoming sessions with Travis CHPS.

Women's health courses take place at 12:30 p.m. May 28 in Bldg. 977 and 11:30 a.m. May 29 in the break room of Bldg. 176.

For more information, contact Travis CHPS by phone at 707-424-CHPS (2477) or via mail at CHPSTravis@foh.hhs.gov.

Air Force to reactivate aggressor squadron

Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

ARLINGTON, Va. — The Air Force is reactivating the 65th Aggressor Squadron and moving 11 F-35A Lightning IIs to Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada, as part of a larger initiative to improve training for fifth generation fighter aircraft.

The action came after Gen. Mike Holmes, Air Combat Command commander, recommended improving training for fifth generation fighter tactics development and close-air support by adding F-35s to complement the fourth generation aircraft currently being used.

To support this requirement, the Air Force decided to create a fifth generation aggressor squadron at Nellis AFB and move nine non-combat capable F-35A aircraft from Eglin AFB, Florida, to the squadron.

"This move will allow us to repurpose early production F-35s to help train Airmen for the high end fight," said Secretary

of the Air Force Heather Wilson.

It also draws from a deep and successful history.

"Aggressor squadrons have been honing the skills of Air Force pilots since the early 1970s," said Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David L. Goldfein. "They provide a dose of realism in air exercises and their training value is crucial. These F-35 aggressor aircraft will keep us ahead of adversaries for years to come."

Aircraft transferring from Eglin AFB to Nellis AFB will not occur until newly produced aircraft arrive at Eglin AFB to replace them. New aircraft are planned to arrive at Nellis AFB beginning in early 2022.

The 65th AS, which previously flew F-15 Eagle aircraft, was inactivated in September 2014.

The Air Force will also assign two F-35A aircraft from Edwards AFB, California, to Nellis AFB to join the 24th Tactical Air Support Squadron.

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Echoes of 1999 rescue ring for Goldfein

Charles Pope
SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

ARLINGTON, Va. — Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David L. Goldfein has a direct answer when asked what echoes to this day, what continues to influence his thinking and actions even now, 20 years after he found himself on the ground in hostile surroundings, his F-16 Fighting Falcon in the distance smoldering and destroyed.

“Where it echoes most for me is trying to lead with character,” Goldfein said May 7. “When I talk to young commanders I tell them, ‘As an officer, we never know when some young Airman will risk everything to save our lives, to pull us out of bad-guy land, to pull us out of a burning vehicle. They risk everything they hold dear and their families hold dear to save us.’

“And the question at that moment is, am I worthy of their risk?”

For Goldfein, of course, the question and his answer are both meaningful and literal. It is especially potent this month, which marks the 20th anniversary of his shoot-down and rescue during a mission



U.S. Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David L. Goldfein offers remarks May 8 during a Pentagon ceremony honoring the 20th anniversary of Operation Allied Force. The ceremony featured comments by Kosovo’s ambassador to the United States, Vlora Citaku, and the unveiling of a display commemorating the 78-day air campaign.

U.S. Air Force photo/Adrian Cadiz

over Serbia.

The facts of that incident are well known. Goldfein was a squadron commander for the May 2, 1999 mission to find and destroy anti-aircraft

batteries. The mission was part of Operation Allied Force, which was NATO’s response to Serbian attacks on Kosovar Albanians that had risen to an ethnic cleansing. The 78-day

air campaign ultimately convinced Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic to capitulate. Getting to that point, however, was difficult and

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New ALS curriculum rolls out

Staff Sgt. Quay Drawdy
AIR UNIVERSITY PUBLIC AFFAIRS

MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE, Ala. — When pencils go down and scores go up, senior Airmen across the Air Force check to see their line number.

Out of thousands, a name they recognize as their own shows up and when the dust they kicked up from clicking their heels finally settles, a unit first sergeant, commander or supervisor lets them know when they’ll be headed to Airman Leadership School.

Academic experts at the Barnes Center took a look at the ALS curriculum and decided a new, modernized plan was overdue. Several of the more than 60 Airman Leadership Schools around the world are currently testing the course ahead of the Air Force-wide release scheduled for June 5.

“We’ve completely rebuilt the curriculum,” said Tech. Sgt. Michael Heming, Barnes Center for Enlisted Education instructional systems designer. “We sought input from officers, enlisted of all grades and sister services. We looked at what 21st century Airmen need to get out of ALS and molded a new curriculum around those ideas. We wanted to find the right balance between education and training, so we removed a few things that are handled at the unit level like bullet writing and feedback.”

Among other changes were the removal of the final exam, various written assignments and marching. These were replaced with four graded performance tasks and a capstone simulation at the end. The new course relies heavily on student research and student-led discussions, emphasizing creative problem-solving, communication and an openness to other perspectives. These concepts are rooted in the four “universal outcomes” of PME: the mission, leadership, problem

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Bolt inspection tool wins innovation award

Airman 1st Class Joseph Barron
100TH AIR REFUELING WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

RAF MILDENHALL, United Kingdom — Tech. Sgt. Steven Iziguerra, 100th Maintenance Squadron Non-Destructive Inspections Section noncommissioned officer in charge, won the Team Mildenhall Innovation of the Quarter Award for the first quarter of 2019 for a slot guided inspection carriage he developed to increase the efficiency of the bolt inspection process.

As part of the NDI team, Iziguerra and his Airmen inspect aircraft parts to ensure they are anatomically sound and free of cracks and defects.

“We provide structural integrity to the aircraft,” Iziguerra said. “We look for microscopic cracks and give peace of mind to both pilots and maintainers.”

The tool Iziguerra developed is made out of plastic and was produced using a 3-D printer.

“Originally, we were only able to inspect seven bolts, but now we’re able inspect 24 bolts at once. We cut our inspection time by 93 percent,” Iziguerra said.

Iziguerra’s troops have noticed the time savings as well.

“It gives us a lot more time to do other things in the shop,” said Airman 1st Class Clarence Bennett, 100th MXS NDI apprentice. “Having the carriage really does make my job easier.”

In addition to saving time, the slot guided inspection carriage is saving money. The innovation saves upwards of \$25,000 per year due to decreased inspection time per bolt.

“The amount of money we are saving is ridiculous,” Bennett said.

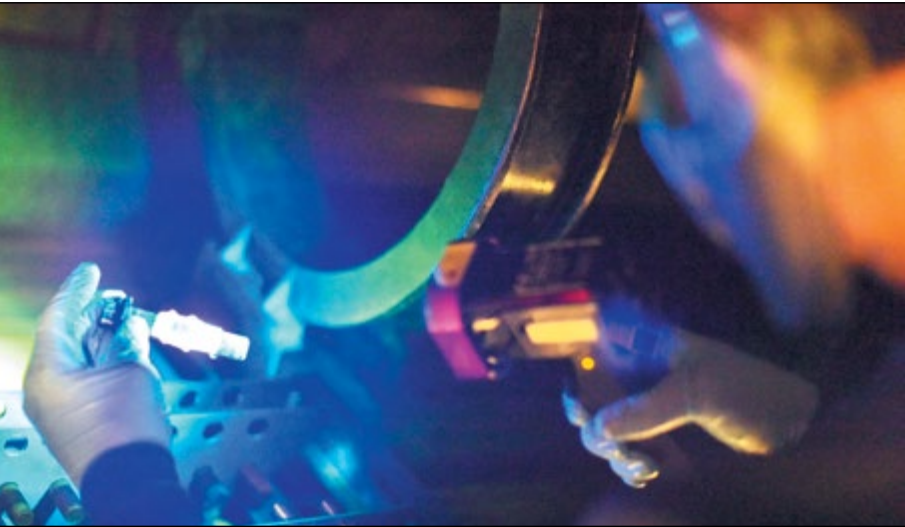
Iziguerra’s time and money-saving innovation hasn’t fallen on deaf ears. Air Force leadership has already taken notice.

“It’s being looked at by our Air Force NDI program managers and they are looking to implement it in the technical orders we use to actually do our jobs,” Iziguerra said.

“Pacific Air Forces as a whole is interested in using our innovation, and Beale Air Force Base is also testing it.”

After seeing the impact his innovation has made, Iziguerra encourages others to realize improvements in their work centers.

“If you take the time to really write down what the savings are and map it out, you can make it happen,” Iziguerra said. “The technology is there. 3D printing is there. Your innovation might save you some time, or it could save the Air Force millions of dollars.”



Tech. Sgt. Steven Izaguirre, 100th Maintenance Squadron Non-Destructive Inspections Section noncommissioned officer in charge, inspects a bolt May 7 at RAF Mildenhall, United Kingdom. Iziguerra created a device that cuts bolt inspection time by 93 percent.

U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Joseph Barron

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U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Miranda Simpson

David Young, Air Mobility Command current operations air mobility analyst and retired Air Force pilot, holds the premature grandson of a retired Air Force member April 19 while in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Mercy Hospital in St. Louis. Young has been a volunteer for the hospital's "cuddler program" for a year and a half. He has eight children of his own and was interested in the program because his youngest child, now 17 years old, was born eight weeks early.

Volunteer baby cuddler helps preemie infants thrive

**Airman 1st Class
Miranda Simpson**
375TH AIR MOBILITY WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, Ill. — A quiet and still corridor is safely tucked away at Mercy Hospital in St. Louis. A tender-hearted man scrubs his hands with soapy water before entering one of the dimly lit hide-aways.

His bright blue eyes light up when he sees a tiny inhabitant of a clear crib sleeping peacefully, and a sense of tranquility washes over him, because this Neonatal Intensive Care Unit is David Young's happy place.

"From the day my first son

was born I've really enjoyed holding babies, and I just love to feel like I'm making a difference for these babies," said the retired Air Force lieutenant colonel with tears forming. He looked up to keep the drop-lets from falling and continued shakily, "I think about what their future could be."

Young has been a volunteer for the NICU cuddling program for a year and a half, spending five hours every other Friday helping the nurses by holding babies when they need to be held. Volunteers like Young undergo a strict screening and training process to be eligible for the opportunity.

The hospital can house more than 100 premature babies in the NICU at a time, so having volunteers to cuddle them plays a critical role in their care.

Young explained that many of the babies are fed through a tube and can often spit the food back up, so they need to be held instead of lying flat. Additionally, holding the babies helps with their brain development and increases their overall survival rate.

Young understands the importance of human interaction with premature babies more than most. He has eight children of his own, and his last child was born eight weeks

early. She was in the NICU for 3½ weeks at Travis Air Force Base, California, back when he was a C-5 pilot for the Air Force.

"The NICU nurses there were so good to us and our baby, so I've always felt appreciative of them," said Young. "My preemie daughter is now 17," he continued with a subtle smile. "Now, this is an opportunity for me to help these families, and let them know that we care."

According to his wife, he is the perfect person for the job.

"David loves babies," said Mami. "He is well known in our family as 'the baby whisperer' because he has always had a

gift of calming down crying or fussy babies."

She also described him as steady and unflappable, which explains why he excels in other areas of his life.

When Young is not volunteering, he is working at Air Mobility Command in current operations as a manager of a program that allocates aircrews and aircraft to where they need to be. He is also going to school full-time and learning how to fly helicopters. He said he is grateful to the Air Force for making it all possible.

"I get to fly and hold babies," said Young. "Life couldn't be better!"

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Year of Defender revitalizes security forces squadrons

**Senior Airman
Tryphena Mayhugh**
62ND AIRLIFT WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

JOINT BASE LEWIS-MCCHORD, Wash. — Security forces is the largest enlisted career field in the Air Force with approximately 38,000 defenders spanning 120 bases. In order to better care for these Airmen and ensure they have everything they need to complete their mission, 2019 was declared The Year of the Defender by top Air Force officials.

During the 2018 Air Space Cyber Conference, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David L. Goldfein announced the Air Force would begin implementing the Reconstitute Defender Initiative in all security forces squadrons.

“We must always take integrated and layered base defense to a new level by increasing investment in our defenders with new equipment, new training, new tactics, techniques and procedures and renewed focus at every echelon of command,” he said. “This is the Year of the Defender because we don’t project power without the network of bases and infrastructure needed to execute multi-domain operations.”

The RDI is a multi-year approach to enhance mission effectiveness across the security forces career field. Its purpose is to restore readiness, revitalize security forces organizations at all levels and build a more lethal force in accordance with the secretary of defense and secretary of the Air Force direction.

For the 627th Security Forces Squadron at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, this is not something new.

“When the command team came in before RDI, our squadron said we needed to be revitalized,” said Maj. Michael Holt, 627th SFS commander. “We kind of ran with RDI before RDI was even a concept and have just been grinding it out.”

“We have done a lot in the two years since I’ve been here, not just with facilities, but also with the overall mindset,” he continued. “I think we have changed the atmosphere a little with owning the battle space.”

Eight objectives fall under the RDI: human capital, modern weapons, improved policy, modern equipment, integrate technology, competent and lethal Defenders, improved facilities and improved infrastructure.



U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Tryphena Mayhugh
Staff Sgt. Chad Rogers, 627th Security Forces Squadron noncommissioned officer in charge of plans and programs, draws his weapon during a simulated active-shooter training scenario April 30 at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash. Top Air Force leaders declared 2019 as the Year of the Defender, initiating the Reconstitute Defender Initiative to revitalize the security forces squadrons across the Air Force.

Now that the initiative is in place, Holt and his squadron are receiving the time and funds to continue to implement many of the ideas they have had

to improve the squadron’s effectiveness and morale.

In order to restore readiness to their squadron, they have digitized their mobility folders, re-aligned their organizational structure, implemented a leader-led training focus and more.

One major step was upgrading the Defenders’ training time from twice a month to four times a month. They also have more funds to purchase better training equipment, such as simulators that enhance and test active-shooter; use-of-force; and shoot-no-shoot scenarios.

“It’s making them more

lethal, but it’s also resurging and revitalizing them as defenders,” said Tech. Sgt. Jessica Stilwell, 627th SFS noncommissioned officer in charge of training. “I think because we don’t have a deployed mission set at this base, you can become stagnant and complacent.”

Stilwell added the funds and time afforded to them this year are going to help them better respond to threats as training builds a kind of muscle memory.

Secretary of the Air Force Heather Wilson is one of the

See DEFENDER Page 27

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Post-9/11 GI Bill changes take effect in July

445th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio — The transferability option under the Post-9/11 GI Bill allows service members to transfer all or some unused benefits to their spouses or dependent children.

The request to transfer unused GI Bill benefits to eligible dependents must be completed while serving as an active member of the armed forces. The Department of Defense determines whether or not you can transfer benefits to your family. Once the DoD approves benefits for transfer, the new beneficiaries apply for them at Veterans Affairs.

The option to transfer is open to any member of the armed forces active duty or Selected Reserve, officer or enlisted who is eligible for the Post-9/11 GI Bill and meets the following criteria:

- Has at least six years of service in the armed forces (active duty and/or Selected Reserve) on the date of approval and agrees to serve four additional years in the armed forces from the date of election.
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- Transfer requests are submitted and approved while the member is in the armed forces.
- Effective July 12, eligibility to transfer benefits will

See CHANGES Page 25



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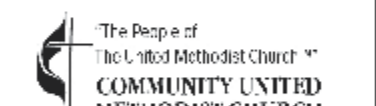
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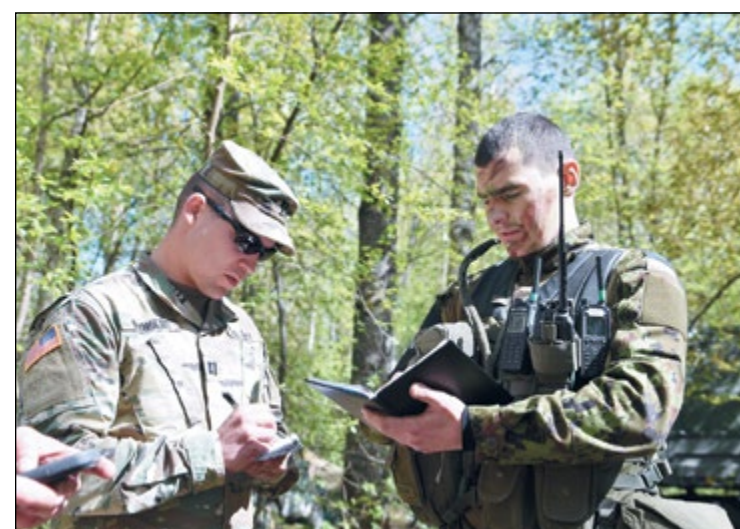
- **Dolores Huerta: Revolution in the Fields / Revolución en los Campos** exploring the life and legacy of the iconic Latina civil rights activist organized by the Smithsonian Institution (3/9-7/7/19)
- **Making the Grade: California & the Transcontinental Railroad** celebrating the 150th anniversary of the overland route's 1869 completion (5/10-9/1/19)
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U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Enjoli Saunders

U.S. Army Capt. Timothy Reynolds, 290th Military Police Company commander, Maryland National Guard, speaks with 1st Lt. Mart Sildnik, 1st Infantry Brigade military police company commander, Estonian Defense Force, during the Spring Storm exercise May 6 in Ida-Viru County, Estonia.

Maryland Guard forces join Estonian military in exercise

Staff Sgt. Enjoli Saunders
175TH WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

TAPA, Estonia — Approximately 50 Airmen and Soldiers from the Maryland National Guard deployed to Estonia to participate in exercise Spring Storm (Kevadtorm), an Estonian Defense Force annual exercise.

Members from the 290th Military Police Company, Maryland Army National Guard, the 175th Wing Security Forces Squadron and the 175th Cyberspace Operations Group, Maryland Air National Guard, embedded with Estonian military forces to conduct training that mirrored realistic combat situations.

“One of the biggest highlights is being able to work with our international counterparts,” said Army Capt. Timothy Reynolds, 290th Military Police Company commander, Maryland Army National Guard. “Being able to interoperate and build those international alliances and relationships has been a highly valuable experience for this joint force unit and myself as well.”

The training fostered collaboration for more than 9,000 military personnel from more than a dozen NATO partner countries. The brigade versus brigade scenarios were implemented to test preparedness and response for wartime situations.

“This is not a typical training environment for the military police detachment,” said U.S. Army Spc. Angelique Helkowsky, 290th Military Police Company. “When we train stateside, we do the same things repetitively. This gets us out into nature and relates more to a deployed environment.”

Maryland National Guard Soldiers and Airmen participated in scenarios to include convoy security, detainee operations, entry control points and tactical patrols. The integrated groups were required to build camps and live in field conditions where they had to sleep in single person tents with only meals-ready-to-eat.

“In an austere environment, especially on cold mornings, you see the troops’ morale actually goes higher when they are

See ESTONIAN Page 25

Travis tests capabilities with readiness exercise



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Army Younger



U.S. Air Force photo/Louis Briscese



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



U.S. Air Force photo/Louis Briscese

1) Airmen assigned to the 60th Air Mobility Wing wait to be processed through simulated decontamination during a readiness exercise May 9 at Travis Air Force Base, Calif. 2) Airmen assigned to the 60th Aerial Port Squadron perform a cargo load during a readiness exercise May 7 at Sacramento McClellan Airport, Calif. 3) Airman 1st Class Kelvin Powell, 60th Medical Group bioenvironmental specialist, sets up a cordon around a fake projectile May 7 during a readiness exercise at Travis Air Force Base, Calif. 4) Airmen assigned to the 60th Aerial Port Squadron perform a cargo load during a readiness exercise May 7 at Travis Air Force Base, Calif.

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

Travis Air Force Base conducted a readiness exercise May 2-9 to test the base's response capabilities. The exercise took seven months to plan and featured numerous training scenarios which Airmen had to respond to including nearly a dozen enemy attacks, transporting wounded service members, cargo loading and flying operations in simulated contested environments. Bill Hoeft, 60th Air Mobility Wing inspection planner, said with each exercise, his team works to blend the training requirements of Air Mobility Command, along with the requirements of the 60th AMW commander and squadron commanders. "This exercise featured all three wings at Travis and multiple agencies all coming together to enhance their skills at operating in a contested environment," Hoeft said. Honing skills to ensure operational effectiveness is critical to mission success, he added. "We want our Airmen to be ready for anything and the only way to be ready for anything is to practice for anything," Hoeft said. "We try and present as much as we can to our Airmen before they have to experience those things and potentially be in harm's way. This enables our Airmen to make their foundation of skills stronger so they can better perform their mission when called upon." During the weeklong exercise, Airmen performed a variety of operations all while wearing mission oriented protective posture gear. "Some of our Airmen were in MOPP gear for about 12 hours combined throughout the exercise," Hoeft said. MOPP gear is equipment designed to protect service members while operating in a potentially contaminated environment. Senior Master Sgt. Shana Gale, 349th AMW Inspector General inspections superintendent, helped oversee exercise operations. "This exercise enabled us to integrate on a large scale with our active-duty counterparts for the first time since 2012," she said. "We are here to support the 60th AMW, which is our host wing, as best we can. When we deploy to support an operation somewhere in the world, we are all working together to get the mission done. Our expectation is to be ready when the call comes and exercising together provides us the opportunity to hone our skills." Gale said she was impressed with how well the members of the 349th AMW worked with the members of the 60th AMW. "The Airmen did a phenomenal job integrating and working together," she said. "No matter what was asked of them, medical support, maintenance actions or assisting in one way or another with a variety of tasks, the Airmen from all three wings performed really well." The mission at Travis is to project American power, anytime, anywhere—mission that does not slow down when the base is undergoing an exercise. "This exercise was only successful because everyone on this base came together," Hoeft said. "For the most part, the Airmen who were out there every day had great attitudes and met their exercise objectives. The base also completed its daily mission, which is probably the most impressive thing."



U.S. Air Force photo/Heide Couch



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



U.S. Air Force photo/Louis Briscese

5) A C-5M Super Galaxy takes off during a readiness exercise May 9 at Travis Air Force Base, Calif. 6) Senior Airman Charles Dungca, left, and Airman 1st Class Kelvin Powell, right, 60th Medical Group bioenvironmental specialists, perform a post-attack reconnaissance ar sweep May 7 during the exercise at Travis. 7) Senior Airman Matthew Hatcher, 860th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, grounds a C-17 Globemaster III during the exercise at Travis. 8) Firefighters assigned to the 60th Civil Engineer Squadron work to extinguish a fire May 9 during a training exercise at Travis. The base conducted a weeklong exercise to to evaluate its ability to execute and sustain rapid global mobility operations.



U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. James Hodgman

Swap Ads

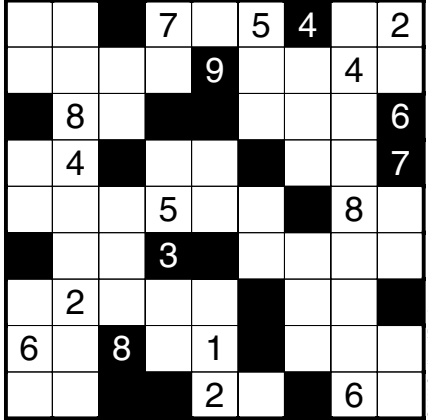
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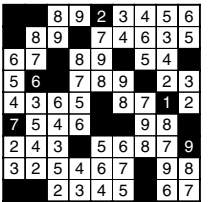
Puzzles

STR8TS

No. 438 Medium



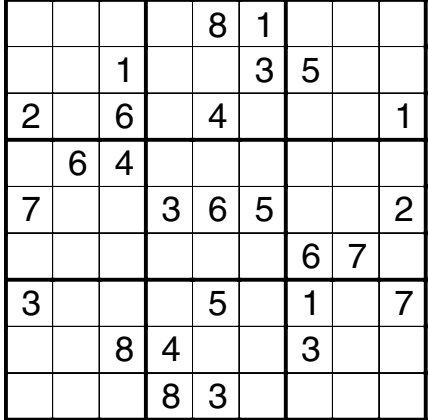
Previous solution - Easy



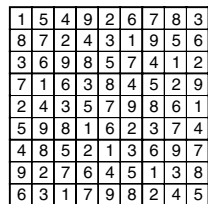
How to beat **STR8ts** – Like Sudoku, no single number can repeat in any row or column. But... rows and columns are divided by black squares into **compartments**. These need to be filled in with numbers that complete a 'straight'. A **straight** is a set of numbers with no gaps but can be in any order, 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.

SUDOKU

No. 438 Very Hard



Previous solution - Tough



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

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

The solutions will be published here in the next issue.

Retiree Corner

ARPC streamlines process for retirement

BUCKLEY AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — Headquarters Air Reserve Personnel Center released a web-based application April 29 enabling retired Guard and Reserve Airmen to more easily apply for retirement pay and benefits.

Retirees approaching age 60, or those who qualify for a

reduced retired pay age, or RRP, will no longer need to mail their DD Form 2656 and ARPC Form 83 for their retirement pay and benefits.

Applicants using the web-based application will be guided through the process, allowing them to only input relevant information, and reducing the number of incomplete or inaccurate applications submitted to headquarters ARPC.

— **Air Force News Service**

Chapel programs

Recurring events

Catholic

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- 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
- 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.

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.AFMWellness.com or contact CHPS at 707-424-CHPS or CHPSTravis@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

In the next week...

California Dreaming Spring Block Party. Come out to the First Street Chapel from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. May 18 and enjoy a free pancake breakfast, BMX bike demonstration, games, bounce houses, a DJ, Beach Boys cover band, petting zoo and much more.

children ages 1 to 3 meets from 9:30 to 11 a.m. Wednesdays at the First Street Chapel Annex. The Rattles to Raspberries play group for infants 8 weeks to 1 year meets 9:30 to 11 a.m. Thursdays at the First Street Chapel Annex. For more information, call 707-423-5168.

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 travspocombatptsd@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://pfpform.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/2mR1gI2>. 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. Matthew Clayton at matthew.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 center to arrange. Free. 424-5598, 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 VLTP 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 Wednesdays. 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. September and October, First Street between B and D streets. 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.

"Sounds of Suspense." Radio broadcast, noon fourth Friday of each month, Vacaville Public Library-Town Square, 1 Town Square Place. Free. www.solanolibrary.com.

Vacaville Farmers Market. 8 a.m. to noon Saturday, through October, Creekwalk Plaza at Andrews Park. www.vacavillefarmer-smarket.com.

Vallejo Art Walk. 5 to 10 p.m. second Friday of each month, downtown Vallejo. Free admission. www.vallejoartwalk.com.

Vallejo Farmers Market. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays, year-round, Georgia and Marin streets. 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.

Here are the showtimes for this weekend's movies at the Base Theater:

- | Today |
|---|
| • 6:30 p.m. "Little" (PG-13) |
| • 9 p.m. "Pet Sematary" (R) |
| Saturday |
| • 6:30 p.m. "Shazam" (PG-13) |
| • 9:30 p.m. "The Curse of La Llorona" (R) |
| Sunday |
| • 2 p.m. "Breakthrough" (PG-13) |

Music and dance

City Sports Bar and Grill. Music begins at 9 p.m.: Strange Brew, May 17; Dueling DJs with DJ Aaron, 9 p.m. May 18; 7155 Browns Valley Parkway, Vacaville. 455-7827, www.starsrecreation.com.

Empress Theatre. Robben Ford, 8 p.m. May 18; 330 Virginia St., Vallejo. 552-2400, www.empresstheatre.org.

First Street Cafe. 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.

Sardine Can. Jazz, 5 to 8 p.m.: Frankeye Kelley, May 19; 0 Harbor Way, Vallejo. www.vallejosardinecan.com.

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.solano-choralsociety.org.

Theatre DeVille. McKenna Faith & The Crossman Connection, 8 p.m. May 17; 308 Main St., Vacaville. www.theatredeville.com.

Town Square Friday Night. Music begins at 6 p.m.: The Sapphire Sisters and Total Recall, May 17; downtown Vacaville. Free. www.downtownvacaville.com.

Vacaville Performing Arts Theatre. Orpheus West, 7:30 p.m. May 18; 1010 Ulatis Drive. 469-4013, www.vpat.net.

Airmen complete FTAC



U.S. Air Force photo

Congratulations to the latest Airmen to complete the First Term Airman Center course. Alphabetically: Airman 1st Class Dominic Alese, 60th Civil Engineer Squadron; Airman Austin Bean, 60th CES; Airman Basic Edwin Castro, 60th Aerial Port Squadron; Airman 1st Class Michaela Darrow, 60th Operations Support Squadron; Airman 1st Class Alexandra Galindo, 60th APS; Airman Da Zehona Garner, 60th Logistics Readiness Squadron; Airman 1st Class Krystal Glover, 60th Surgical Operations Squadron; Airman 1st Class Perla Gomez, 60th Medical Diagnostics and Therapeutics Squadron; Airman 1st Class Bryce Haggerty, 660th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron; Airman 1st Class Zachary Hastings, 60th Maintenance Squadron; Airman 1st Class Tyrek Jackson, 60th MDTs; Airman Basic Kelsey Marchman, 60th MDTs; Airman 1st Class Navaughn McFadden, 60th LRS; Airman 1st Class Christian McKnight, 60th CES; Airman 1st Class Christopher Moreno, 60th APS; Airman 1st Class Steven Peters, 60th Medical Operations Squadron; Airman 1st Class Khim Pham, 60th Medical Support Squadron; Airman 1st Class Andrew Rannow, 660th AMXS; Airman 1st Class Frankie Shannon, 60th SGCS; Airman Basic Erica Tisdale, 60th Force Support Squadron; Airman 1st Class Tywon Toney, 60th LRS; Airman 1st Class Jhawaun Vann, 60th LRS; Airman 1st Class Aaran Vire, 60th CES; Airman 1st Class Kristen Witte, 60th APS; Airman 1st Class Benjamin Young, 60th MXS.

Air Force transitions special tactics capabilities

Senior Airman Rachel Yates
24TH SPECIAL OPERATIONS WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

HURLBURT FIELD, Fla. — Enlisted Airmen have been analyzing weather since the very beginning of American military flight in 1917. Decades of hard-earned experience led to Special Operations Weather Team Airmen being designated with their own Air Force specialty code in 2008.

By combining the core skills of special operations forces with their meteorology skills, SOWTs have been a critical asset to the war on terror. Alongside special tactics teammates from forward deployed locations, SOWTs would

gather, assess and interpret environmental to forecast weather impacts to operations. In a location like Afghanistan, this was vital to successful air-ground operations.

However, in an era of great power competition, the need to look critically at the entire Air Force Special Operations Command formation drove Headquarters Air Force and AFSOC to broaden the skillset of special tactics teams. On April 30, SOWT became special reconnaissance, expanding the capacity and lethality of Air Force special tactics.

“Air Commandos need to operate effectively across the spectrum of conflict, from the low end to the high end and

everywhere in between,” said Lt. Gen. Brad Webb, AFSOC commander. “It’s what the nation expects from us and this transition demonstrates our commitment to the National Defense Strategy.”

SOWT Airmen have been an integral piece of Special Tactics with unique training to conduct multi-domain reconnaissance and surveillance across the spectrum of conflict and crisis. As special reconnaissance, or SR, they will continue to maintain their application of lethal and non-lethal air-to-ground integration of airpower.

“The evolution of Air Force Special Tactics on today’s



U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Sandra Welch

Special tactics Airmen with the 24th Special Operations Wing perform avalanche training in Moran, Wyo., Dec. 13, 2016.

Eglin to host next F-35 training unit

Secretary of the Air Force
Public Affairs

ARLINGTON, Va. — The Air Force announced May 9 Eglin Air Force Base, Florida, is the preferred alternative to receive an additional F-35A Lightning II training squadron.

Eglin AFB was the location of the F-35 initial joint training site hosting Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps F-35s. The Marine Corps relocated its F-35Bs in 2014 and the Navy announced its plans to relocate F-35Cs in 2019.

“By basing the next F-35A training squadron at Eglin Air Force Base, we are taking advantage of existing facilities and training air space,” said Secretary of the Air Force Heather Wilson.

Additional F-35As are expected to begin arriving in the fall of 2021. The new squadron is expected to reach full operational capability by spring 2023.

“The F-35 is a game-changer with its unprecedented combination of lethality, survivability and adaptability,” said Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David Goldfein. “Bringing this new



U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Devante Williams

An F-35A Lightning II performs a maneuver Sept. 12, 2016 over Luke Air Force Base, Ariz. A future F-35 training squadron will be based at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla.

training squadron to Eglin allows us to expand Fifth Generation fighter training so we can dominate in any conflict.”

Eglin AFB will only receive the additional F-35 training unit if the F-22 Raptor formal training unit temporarily operating at Eglin AFB is permanently moved to Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Virginia.

In March, the Air Force acknowledged plans to move the F-22 training unit to JB Langley-Eustis, pending the outcome of the National Environmental Policy Act and other regulatory and planning processes.



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Top recruiter climbs even higher

Leslie Brown
AIR FORCE RECRUITING SERVICE
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas – In what’s believed to be a first, Air Force Recruiting Service’s top recruiter received an incentive flight with the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds as a congratulations for all of his hard work.

Master Sgt. Gervacio Maldonado, a former Health Professions recruiter and now flight chief with the 318th Recruiting Squadron, was surprised and ecstatic when he learned winning the 2018 Maj. Gen. A.J. Stewart Top AFRS Recruiter award would take him even higher.

“I was blown away,” Maldonado said after hearing about the opportunity to fly. “The news stopped me in my tracks.”

The flight, with Thunderbird pilot No. 8, Maj. Jason Markzon, was a first for Maldonado in any fighter aircraft.

“I’d always wanted to fly in a fighter aircraft, however I never thought it would come to fruition,” Maldonado said. “I was so pumped to fly with the Thunderbirds.”

According to his supervisor, Maldonado is more than deserving of this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

“His selection for this flight is an honor for all recruiters and Airmen,” said Senior Master Sgt. Aaron Akridge, 318th RCS Production superintendent. “I’m honored to see the Thunderbirds bestow this opportunity to a hardworking Airman such as Gervacio Maldonado.”

The top recruiter said he



U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Cory W. Bush

Master Sgt. Gervacio Maldonado, Top Recruiter in the Air Force for 2018, flew with the U.S. Air Force Air Demonstration Squadron Thunderbirds May 11 at Joint Base Andrews, Md. Since 1953, the Thunderbirds have served as America’s premier air demonstration squadron, entrusted with the vital mission to recruit, retain and inspire past, present and future Airmen.

appreciates the opportunity of being the face of the Air Force at many local events where the Air Force doesn’t normally have a presence.

“Anyone selected for recruiting duty during the Developmental Special Duty process should embrace the opportunity,” Maldonado said. “Whether it is representing the Air Force at your local fairs or on larger stages, like the NBA All-Star game or the Super Bowl, you will have plenty of chances to enjoy these unique experiences.”

He recalls attending his first

NFL game – an opportunity he had because of his recruiting duties. “I was on the 50-yard line. It was awesome.”

His production superintendent also shared many interesting things he has learned about the top performer since they began working together.

“He’s an entrepreneur and a thrill seeker,” Akridge said. “He’s built a successful lodging business as well as conducted freediving all around the world, most recently in the Fiji Islands. But the most important aspect I’ve learned about him is his genuine passion to

help others. He is a true wingman; always there to listen or help when and if needed.”

According to Akridge, when Maldonado was a firefighter, he directly responded to over 360 fire, rescue and medical calls, and he still volunteers as a firefighter in his off-duty time. Also, being a recruiter is a natural fit for Maldonado’s entrepreneurial spirit after spending the first part of his career as a weapons specialist.

“Being a recruiter is very business-like,” Maldonado

See RECRUITER Page 24

Air Force to pay for license transfer

**Secretary of the Air Force
Public Affairs**

ARLINGTON, Va. — The Air Force announced the spouse relicensure reimbursement program, May 15, which would provide financial relief up to \$500 to Airmen whose spouses must obtain state occupational relicensures or recertifications during a permanent change of station or assignment across state lines.

The Air Force will reimburse qualifying relicensure and recertification fees incurred during PCS/PCAs authenticated on or after Dec. 12, 2017.

“Part of taking care of Airmen and families means making it easier for spouses to continue their careers after a military move,” said Secretary of the Air Force Heather Wilson. “This policy reduces financial burdens and makes the professional careers of our Air Force spouses more portable.”

The 2018 National Defense Authorization Act authorized the military services to reimburse service members for occupational state relicensing and recertification costs their spouses incur due to a PCS/PCA. While some states authorize reciprocity for certain types of occupational licenses, not all states do, resulting in the spouse needing to update a license or certification according to the new state’s requirements.

“The strength of the nation’s Air Force is not the platforms we operate or the technologies we employ; it is our Airmen and their families. Family readiness is Airman readiness,” said Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David L. Goldfein.

The new policy will allow for reimbursement of relicensing fees including exams, certifications and registration, and will cover occupations such as teaching, cosmetology, real estate and nursing.

Jacksonville nurse throws out first pitch

**Military Health System
Communications Office**

TAMPA BAY, Fla. — Navy Cmdr. Coby Croft threw out the ceremonial first pitch May 6 before the game between the Tampa Bay Rays and the Arizona Diamondbacks.

Croft, the associate director of nursing at Naval Hospital Jacksonville, was invited to throw out the pitch as part of National Nurses Week, which ran from May 6-12.

A native of Lovell, Wyoming, Croft said getting the opportunity to throw out a first pitch was an unexpected joy for someone who grew up loving the sport but had never even attended a live game before joining the Navy.

“I have always believed that the experience of going on the field to throw the first pitch would be a fantastic experience, and yesterday did not disappoint,” Croft said. “It was definitely a



Tampa Bay Rays courtesy photo

Navy Cmdr. Coby Croft throws out the first pitch at the invitation of the Tampa Bay Rays baseball team as they took on the Arizona Diamondbacks on May 6. Croft was invited as part of this year’s National Nurses Week celebration, which concluded May 12.



U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Christopher Carranza

Maj. Tobi Baker, 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron aerial reconnaissance weather officer, talks about his duties and responsibilities May 10 during an interview in Brunswick, Ga.

Team builds weather-ready nation

Staff Sgt. Diana Cossaboom
403RD WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE, Miss. — Teams from the Air Force Reserve’s 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron and National Oceanic

and Atmospheric Administration’s National Hurricane Center participated in a weeklong Hurricane Awareness Tour at five locations along the East Coast, May 6-10.

The purpose of the tour is to help create a weather-ready

nation for the upcoming hurricane season occurring June 1-Nov. 30, with an emphasis this year on raising awareness about inland flooding.

“When people think about hurricanes, they think about

See WEATHER Page 26

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Hanscom software teams decode F-35 maintenance

Benjamin Newell
66TH AIR BASE GROUP PUBLIC AFFAIRS

HANSCOM AIR FORCE BASE, Mass. — Software teams from Hanscom Air Force Base are fielding applications that help aircraft maintainers at Nellis AFB, Nevada, plan for successful operational testing of the Air Force's newest fighter, the F-35 Lightning II.

Hanscom AFB's software teams travel to Nellis AFB to work with customers in the 57th Wing's Bolt Aircraft Maintenance Unit. Bolt AMU maintains six F-35 operational testing aircraft. The 57th AMU's maintainers serve as beta testers for programmers and designers who custom build applications Air Force flight line mechanics use daily.

Maintainers work with the Autonomous Logistics Information System, or ALIS, to track scheduled and unscheduled maintenance issues on specific aircraft and fleet-wide. Hanscom AFB used ALIS (pronounced Alice) as the inspiration for their effort, Mad Hatter, in reference to Lewis Carroll's "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland."

"We're not necessarily focused on changing ALIS," said Lt. Col. Aaron Capizzi, Mad Hatter lead. "We're here to deliver software our Airmen love and help them spend the most amount of time on the flight line, physically fixing the aircraft. We want to provide applications that enable our maintainers to keep



Ron Golan, Peter Wallace and DeMarcus Townsend from Detachment 12 at Hanscom Air Force Base, Mass., work with Staff Sgt. Samantha Buxton, dedicated crew chief with the 57th Wing's Bolt Aircraft Maintenance Unit, at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., on the Nellis AFB flight line, April 10 near an F-35 Lightning II Joint Strike Fighter. The "Mad Hatter" team from Det. 12 is learning how maintainers navigate technical orders while working on the flight line.

the aircraft they have mission-capable."

Mad Hatter is the Air Force's ongoing effort to work with Lockheed Martin's F-35 systems, including ALIS. Lockheed supports diverse teams of Mad Hatter Airmen, government employees and specialized contractors by ensuring access to the source code necessary to understand the massive amount

of information generated by the most advanced fighter aircraft on earth. Lockheed Martin has also contributed its own software engineers to the project, adding its prime contractor experience to government-led efforts to build software to service the aircraft.

One of the F-35's inherent advantages is its ability to self-diagnose and tell maintainers when

certain systems need to be inspected, repaired or replaced. Modern auto mechanics reach for a digital interrogator that they plug into a car's dash or under the hood before they ever grab a wrench. F-35 maintainers use similar tools to keep their jets flying, but PEO Digital software experts found they relied on more antiquated processes to augment or replace existing F-35

software.

"When we did initial discovery, we found that a lot of Airmen had augmented maintenance software with spreadsheets and printed schedules to track and plan maintenance," said Capt. Brian Humphreys, an aircraft maintenance officer who is participating in career broadening as a program manager for the F-35 software design effort. "There's all this great data the aircraft can give you, but since the existing system didn't allow maintainers easy access to the data, we needed to build applications maintainers could use to access it."

The PEO Digital software teams did what agile software developers always do when they encounter a large, complicated system. They isolate it into smaller, modular components that small teams can handle.

Their first success came just last week, in the form of two applications — Kronos and Titan. Kronos serves as an interactive scheduler that maintenance supervisors can use to create short- and long-term plans for flight line maintenance. Kronos digitized the Airmen's maintenance tracking process, eliminating repetitive data entry tasks and helping plan future maintenance by providing calendars that respond to simple inputs. Titan is an application helping to track an aircraft's health, ensuring every Airman can see and understand an aircraft's readiness status in a

See DECODE Page 23

Decode

From Page 22

single glance.

Mad Hatter saw a similar opportunity with tracking the most vital piece of aircraft maintenance: Airmen themselves.

"When a maintenance supervisor is designing a shift schedule, he doesn't actually care that much about ranks on each shift," said David Zemsky, a product designer who came on board during a special one-day hiring event, run by Mad Hatter's parent unit, Detachment 12. "He cares about the levels of certification each Airman has, and tracking that can be extremely complex."

Zemsky plied his trade as a user-design expert only three days after joining Detachment 12, also known as Kessel Run. He is working on another application called Athena. This mythologically-inspired application enables certification tracking in maintenance units by asking supervisors to add their Airmen's certification statuses digitally, feeding into a more complete assignment process.

Putting enough people on

duty to tackle every problem that rolls into the hangar is a crucial step for any maintenance unit. Athena could make that a nearly frictionless process.

Another team, Monocle, led by Maj. Jennifer Kannegaard, project manager, is in initial discovery phases for an application that could one day provide technical orders, or TOs, to maintainers in a user-friendly way. Maintainers need TOs any time they touch an aircraft, but the current process for distributing TOs is wasteful and time-intensive and TO viewers are clunky at best.

Each Mad Hatter team has found success by maintaining tight ties with the 57th Wing aircraft maintainers in order to meet customer needs and ensure their final application contributes directly to aircraft readiness.

Kronos and Titan are already helping one Nellis AFB unit, and the Mad Hatter team is eyeing the next step in the Agile development process. Capizzi and the Mad Hatter team of 70 government-led personnel are laying groundwork to scale their work for use in more F-35 maintenance units, possibly to include sister services' and allied F-35 variants.

Tactics

From Page 19

battlefield has called for SOWT to transition their singular focus to a more holistic approach — the highly demanded special reconnaissance," said Chief Master Sgt. Jeff Guilmain, 24th Special Operations Wing command chief.

SR Airmen add a new capability to Special Tactics teams to prepare the environment and aid in air, space, cyberspace and information superiority for the successful execution of joint force objectives.

"(Special reconnaissance) will truncate (special operations) weather training with a shift in focus from long-term regional forecasting to short-term, small-scale, team-specific environmental reconnaissance with an emphasis on special recon as a whole," said Master Sgt. Thomas Howser, special reconnaissance career assistant functional manager.

The training pipeline for SR won't be much different

"This move will modernize the force and bridge a gap across all domains."

— Master Sgt. Thomas Howser

from that of SOWT.

Trainees will still undergo:

- Special Warfare Preparatory Course.

- Assessment and Selection.

- Initial Skills Course.

- Army Airborne School.

- Air Force Basic Survival School.

- Air Force Water Survival School.

- Air Force Underwater Egress Training.

- Special Operations Weather Course.

- Advanced Skills Training.

- Special Tactics Training.

Combat dive and military free-fall qualifications, as well as recon-specific training, are being added to the pipeline.

Existing SOWTs will

attend a special reconnaissance transition course that will sign off SR-specific training.

"This move will modernize the force and bridge a gap across all domains," Howser said. "It will allow joint interoperability across all the services with regard to special reconnaissance."

The special reconnaissance designation is not only creating Air Force history, but honoring a giant in special operations weather history.

"SR" is the operator-initials of Lt. Col. William Schroeder, a career special operations weather officer and former commander of the 342nd Training Squadron, Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas.

Schroeder was fatally wounded during a struggle with a gunman after he instinctively placed himself between the armed individual and the squadron's first sergeant, saving the lives of many, on April 8, 2016.

The new designation is just one way future SR Airmen will remember their roots and the true meaning of service before self.

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Recruiter

From Page 20

said. “It lets you operate your very own Air Force franchise. You will have quite a bit of autonomy to conduct the business as you see fit – you will not find that in many career fields within the Air Force.”

Maldonado continually reminds himself it’s all about the opportunities. Most recruiters focus solely on the goal and not the experience, he said.

“As a recruiter you are the face of the Air Force, the gatekeeper,” he continued. “You are a beacon of opportunity and will be sitting in the most opportune position to mentor and directly change lives. Just like any job there are challenges, but again, it is what you make of it. Stay positive and know that all your efforts are undoubtedly contributing to the betterment of people and the future of the Air Force.”

Those efforts are what got Maldonado his flight with the Thunderbirds, something he described as breathtaking.

“I still can’t believe people get paid to do this job,” he said. “They told me as I was preparing for the flight to be ready for the ride of a lifetime – and that’s pretty accurate.”

He praised the demonstration team members for their very high standard of



Master Sgt. Gervacio Maldonado, Top Recruiter in the Air Force for 2018, flew with the U.S. Air Force Air Demonstration Squadron Thunderbirds May 11 at Joint Base Andrews, Md. Since 1953, the Thunderbirds have served as America’s premier air demonstration squadron, entrusted with the vital mission to recruit, retain and inspire past, present and future Airmen.

professionalism and attention to detail.

“As a recruiter, my focus is on customer service and they provided that in very detail –

from beginning to end,” he said.

Both Akridge and Maldonado agree they hope the tradition of flying the top recruiter

with the Thunderbirds continues every year since the aerial demonstration team is an extension of professional Air Force recruiters.

U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Cory W. Bush

Reactivate

From Page 5

The 24th TASS is an F-16 Fighting Falcon squadron whose primary function is supporting and performing close-air support training. Introducing the F-35As from Edwards AFB will allow additional training for the F-35As as close-air support assets.

The reactivation of the aggressor squadron and the addition of aircraft to the tactical air support squadron will add approximately 194 additional military personnel and 37 contractors to the base.

As part of the strategic basing process, the Air Force determined Nellis AFB was uniquely suited to support the requirements of these missions because it hosts large Combat Air Forces exercises, U.S. Air Force Weapons School, Weapons Instructor Courses, a test and evaluation squadron and a close air support integration group.

The Air Force will make its final basing decision following compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act and other regulatory and planning processes.

ALS

From Page 6

solving and Air Force culture. “We, as PME instructors, are educators,” said Tech. Sgt. Dan Sims, Maxwell Air Force Base ALS instructor. “We only have students in our classroom for roughly four weeks, so we are focused on giving the Airmen the leadership skills and knowledge they will need to be successful leaders in their career field.”

The student-centered lessons revolve around discussion and group exercises. Instructors facilitate the conversation to ensure it stays on task, leaning on relevant experiences from the students.

“After teaching for two years, it’s a very new delivery method,” Sims said. “It’s great to see lesson concepts linked together by the students without me having to guide them directly to the connection. The conversation is more positive and relatable for them.”

Changes

From Page 11

be limited to service members with at least 6 years but not more than 16 years of active

duty or selected reserve service. So service members with more than 16 years of service should transfer benefits before July 12.

For more information, go to https://www.benefits.va.gov/gi-bill/post911_transfer.asp.

March

From Page 4

respect.

The Air Force Gold Star Program has dedicated the month of May as Gold Star Awareness Month to bring awareness to what it means to be a Gold Star Family member and to ensure that we honor and remember the men and women who have given

the ultimate sacrifice.

The Gold Star Program serves to assure Gold Star Families that their deceased service members are not forgotten.

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The Gold Star Program delivers on the Department of Defense’s commitment to those families by providing long term support and services.

Scofield

From Page 2

for an Airman to come to their NCOs, supervisors or unit leaders for help. When they do come to you with the issue they are struggling with, remember this: at that moment, this issue is the most important thing going on in that Airman’s life. Give them

your full attention and help them.

Nothing is more important in our Air Force than our people. Aircraft, facilities, equipment and vehicles are all critical “things” that are required for the mission, but they are not people. No matter how difficult of a day you are having as a leader, take one piece of advice and care. Just a few thoughts from a crusty ole senior NCO.

Estonian

From Page 14

dealing with harder situations,” said Army 1st Sgt. Chad Crockett, 290th Military Police Company. “I think it’s because they realize they are a team and they are working through it together.”

Before the exercise began, Maryland National Guard members trained with their international counterparts at the Estonian Defense Force army base in Tapa, Estonia. The exercise commenced for the Maryland military police and security forces personnel in Ida-Viru County in East Estonia.

The members were separated into four integrated squads. Tech. Sgt. Kevin Miner, 175th Wing Security Forces specialist, Maryland Air National Guard, served as the second squad leader during the training.

“My squad included nine team members that performed very well together, especially in the detainee operations portion, which was one of the larger training sections that was evaluated,” Miner said. “Although



U.S. National Guard photo/Maj. Kurt Rauschenberg
Estonian Defense Force personnel from 2nd Brigade conduct recon and react to contact missions May 6 during Exercise Hedgehog in Southern Estonia. Soldiers from the Maryland Guard 629th Expeditionary Military Intelligence Battalion worked as observers and controllers for the EDF.

my squad had never trained together, we were able to mobilize as a team. It was a very easy transition and we had unit cohesion immediately.”

This was the first year that MDNG members jointly participated in this capacity within the Spring Storm exercise. Another first was the Estonian Cyber Command authorized Maryland cyber personnel to access Estonian networks.

“It’s a big deal because we have different laws and regulations that normally prevent us from being on different partner nation networks,” said Master Sgt. Martin Bartkowski, 275th Operations Support Squadron cyber intelligence analyst, Maryland Air National Guard. “This is huge that they trust us enough to let us on and look at their real data that’s across the network.”

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U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Christopher Carranza

Ken Graham, National Hurricane Center director, talks with local media during the Hurricane Awareness Tour May 10 in Brunswick, Georgia. The purpose of the HAT is to help create a weather-ready nation by raising awareness for the upcoming hurricane season occurring June 1-Nov. 30, with emphasis this year on raising awareness about inland flooding.

Weather

From Page 21

the wind,” said Lt. Col. Jeff Ragusa, 53rd WRS chief pilot. “As it turns out, the major threat for somebody is going to be inland flooding. People think they are safe, but as you look at lives lost from hurricanes, it’s from inland flooding. We want to get that warning out to folks and let them know that just because they don’t live on the coast and won’t see debris flying around, doesn’t mean they are safe.”

Inland flooding accounts for 83 percent of the fatalities during a tropical storm system; more than half of those fatalities are within automobiles, stated Ken Graham, National Hurricane Center director.

“It’s important to remember hurricanes don’t just impact the coast, storm surge and rain are also a threat inland,” Graham said. “The highest storm surge value for Hurricane Florence was 100 miles inland. Just because you don’t live on the coast doesn’t mean you don’t have to prepare for hurricane season.”

The Hurricane Awareness Tour gave an opportunity for the media and public to tour aircraft that fly into hurricanes, the “Hurricane Hunter” WC-130J Super Hercules and the NOAA WP-3D Orion aircraft, and learn about their mission and how to prepare for potential disasters.

“Satellites are really good at telling us what’s at the top of a hurricane,” Ragusa said.

“Nobody cares what’s at the top of a hurricane, they want to know what’s going on where the homes and where the people are. In order to do that, (we) need to get in there as low as safety will allow so that we can provide that data required for the National Hurricane Center to really figure out what that storm is doing.”

The tour, taking place in conjunction with National Hurricane Preparedness Week, stopped in Rhode Island, Pennsylvania, Virginia, North Carolina and Georgia.

“The research and the surveys show that the public’s perception of their risk is based on their past experience,” Graham said. “Events like this are so critical to remind of those risks.”

Other government and private organizations participated in the event including the National Weather Service, Federal Emergency Management Agency and Federal Alliance for Safe Homes.

“This week is about coming together,” Graham said. “It’s one thing to prepare by reading something in a book, it’s another thing to come here. Events like this are what’s going to help us become a weather-ready nation.”

More than 7,000 people participated in the events, gaining knowledge of safety and awareness in preparation for the coming hurricane season.

“An important thing I like to get out to folks is that I’m going to ask my flight crew to do something that no other flight

crews around the world are even allowed to do,” Ragusa said. “We are happy to do it and we are here to do it for you, please don’t make us do it in vain. When those warnings come out, please pay attention.”

In 2018, the 53rd WRS flew a total of 43 missions over the Atlantic Basin, and the NOAA WP-3D Orion flew a total of 10 missions. The missions flown provide real-time data on what is going on with the tropical systems and can decrease the forecast cone by 20%.

“Every storm is different,” Graham said. “Just because it didn’t happen last time doesn’t mean it won’t happen next time. It is so critical to prepare for what could happen, not what’s happened in the past.”



U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Tryphena Mayhugh

A Warrior Training Alliance instructor explains to 627th Security Forces Squadron Airmen the process for training with a simulator that puts the defenders through various scenarios to test them on use of force and other tactics April 30 at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash. The Warrior Training Alliance is just one of several opportunities the 627th SFS can take advantage of as a part of the Reconstitute Defender Initiative that was implemented by top Air Force leaders.

Defender

From Page 10

leaders spearheading the defender initiative. She believes training for defenders is an integral part in the success of the Air Force mission.

“Throughout our 71-year history, we have had the primary task of defending the bases from which we project combat power,” she said. “At the heart of this no-fail mission is the elite defender who must be the best in the world at 21st century integrated base defense.”

As a part of that base defense, one of the 627th SFS’ primary missions at JB Lewis-McChord is flight line security. To revitalize the squadron, the 627th SFS is focusing on providing up-to-date vehicles, weapons and gear that will make the defender’s tasks easier and more effective.

“Since I have been here, we really were struggling to get the gear or equipment we need, but that’s starting to change,” said Staff Sgt. Ashley Thomas, 627th SFS flight chief. “We are getting

new weapons systems all the time. It’s nice the higher ups are giving us the tools we need to be effective with our mission for flight line security.

“Any equipment you can get that makes the job easier helps keep our spirits up,” she continued. “It’s nice to know these things are being looked at and we’re being taken care of.”

Having the training and equipment needed to effectively defend the base is important. The 627th SFS has started doing mounted operations convoy simulations, added a combatives room to their squadron and training at a full distance range with pop-up targets to increase lethality.

In addition, the 627th SFS armory has also received an upgrade to their system, shortening the time it takes to arm a flight of approximately 10 Airmen.

“In case of emergency, or even for day-to-day operations, our old system would take us ten minutes to arm up flight,” said Senior Airman Cory Loicao, 627th SFS flight armorer. “You

would have to shove stuff aside to get the right guns out or fight with the locker system. With this new system, it has taken it down to (less than five minutes) per person.”

The new armory system is on rollers that can be moved back and forth to open up an aisle. This provides more shelving in a smaller space, allowing the weapons to have more room per shelf. Before, the weapons were crowded together and could be torn up while being taken off or put back on the shelf. The added space also allows the weapons to dry more efficiently when necessary.

“It makes it a lot more efficient for just about everything,” Loicao said. “It’s easier to access weapons, it gives us more walking room when we’re going in and out of it so it’s not so crowded and it’s a lot easier to grab the guns off the row.”

The bottom line of the RDI is working to restore full spectrum-readiness and retain the tactical advantage so defenders always have the advantage in defense.

Stripe

From Page 4

leadership successes and failures in order to grow and be better, together,” said the class’ mentor, Senior Master Sgt. Kodi Bailey, USAFE-AF-AFRICA A3 superintendent for operations and plans division.

In addition to briefings and panel discussions, attendees had an opportunity to tour the 435th Combat Readiness Group, the deployment transition center and the 603rd Air Operations Center to better understand various, unique components of the USAFE-AFAFRICA mission.

“This conference was great. The topics were interesting, the briefers were

enthusiastic and I was able to network with many Americans from different services,” reflected Senior Sergeant Hanne Skjaeveland, a Royal Norwegian Air Force mission planner from the Command and Control Squadron, from the Heavy Airlift Wing, Papa, Hungary.

The week concluded with a physical training obstacle course designed to challenge teams on communication, physical abilities and cooperation.

“Mentoring, molding and developing our force is critical to our success,” Easton said in his closing remarks bringing the conference to an end. “Serving alongside NCOs like you gives me faith in our military’s future and our ability to remain the world’s greatest Air Force.”

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U.S. Navy Vice Adm. Raquel C. Bono, left, Defense Health Agency, Defense Health Headquarters director, tours the heart, lung vascular center at David Grant USAF Medical Center April 23 at Travis Air Force Base, Calif. Bono's visit focused on the rollout of the Military Health System Genesis, the Department of Defense's new electronic health record which the 60th Medical Group will use exclusively beginning in September.

U.S. Air Force photo/Heide Couch

Records

From Page 3

responsibility for health care delivery, business operations and supporting readiness. Military medical facilities are migrating medical documents to MHS GENESIS to standardize care across the DoD, allow providers to collaborate on patient care and improve health outcomes. MHS GENESIS replaces legacy systems, which cannot be upgraded to be compatible with today's technology. "It's gotten to the point that we can't upgrade (the legacy systems) to meet some of the technological specifications or use with our IT equipment,"

said Bono. "As we become more advanced, that will become an issue." With legacy systems, medical information is stored on local servers. With MHS GENESIS, medical information is stored in the cloud, which means providers at any military treatment facility can access their patient's medical records from any military hospital or medical clinic in the world. "From my quick tour of the heart, lung vascular center, you're using high-tech equipment to care for patients," said Bono. "When we have an electronic health record that can't keep pace with what you're doing here, we really need to do something about that." The MHS GENESIS system

is being deployed in waves and Travis is one of four military installations in the first wave, said DaLomba. Other California bases include Naval Air Station Lemoore and U.S. Army Health Clinic Presidio of Monterey. Mountain Home AFB, Idaho, is also in the first wave. DGMC personnel are currently being trained on the system and will begin using it exclusively for inpatient and outpatient records in September, said DaLomba. DGMC currently maintains three electronic health care systems. Medical data from each of the systems will be transferred to MHS GENESIS. DHA conducted initial operational capability tests of MHS GENESIS in the Pacific

Northwest in 2017. Users discovered some operational discrepancies in the system, which have been corrected. However, DGMC users may encounter further glitches in the system, which Bono said DHA will address. "Based on the comments and the way you presented yourselves during my quick tour ... you're on the leading edge, making things happen, making things happen for the right reasons and you're not afraid to test these things and help us figure out what we need to do," said Bono. "I'm excited that David Grant is leaning forward and is probably going to make this (transition) happen in a way we haven't seen," she said. "I'm very excited."

Goldfein

From Page 6

dangerous. Air power made the difference. While officially a NATO campaign with many participants and facets, the U.S. Air Force played a prominent role, flying 30,018 sorties and striking 421 fixed targets. It was a defining moment for the Air Force in several ways. It validated the air expeditionary force concept; it was the first time a B-2 stealth bomber was used in combat and the first significant use of what today are referred to as drone aircraft. And for Goldfein, it was a life-shaping event that forced him to eject into a moonlit night, test his training and forge a unique command outlook. It triggered a tight bond with pararescuemen Staff Sgt. Jeremy Hardy, Senior Airman Ron Ellis and Staff Sgt. Andy Kubik, a combat controller. All three bolted from a MH-60G Pave Hawk helicopter and ran toward Goldfein as he emerged from a row of trees and brought him home safely, eluding vigorous gunfire on the way out. For Goldfein, the memory and the lessons from that night endure. He remembers how the training he received 20 years before that night on the proper way to safely eject, parachute to earth and evade capture, returned clearly and instantly when needed. "What I found that was amazing in looking back was how little I had to recall," he said, reciting the stern admonitions of his instructors for a successful "parachute landing fall" – "knees together, don't look down, roll like a football!" There also was something more profound that only someone who's been shot down and rescued can fully understand. "I wear these stars every day for somebody else," Goldfein said. "I wear them for some young Airmen who risked everything and did a great job that night. So every day you get to serve is a day to pay it forward." It also forces him to return to the question, am I worth it? "The answer is, God, I hope so," he said.



Base marches in Dixon ... MAY FAIR

U.S. Air Force photos/Airman 1st Class Amy Younger

1) Airmen assigned to the 60th Air Mobility Wing march May 11 in the annual Dixon May Fair Parade in Dixon, Calif. The Airmen from the 60th Operations Group and Wing Staff Agency marched in the parade to promote community engagement and build strong partnerships. 2) Airmen assigned to the 60th AMW march in the annual Dixon May Fair Parade. 3) Community members watch Airmen from the 60th AMW march in the Dixon May Fair Parade.





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