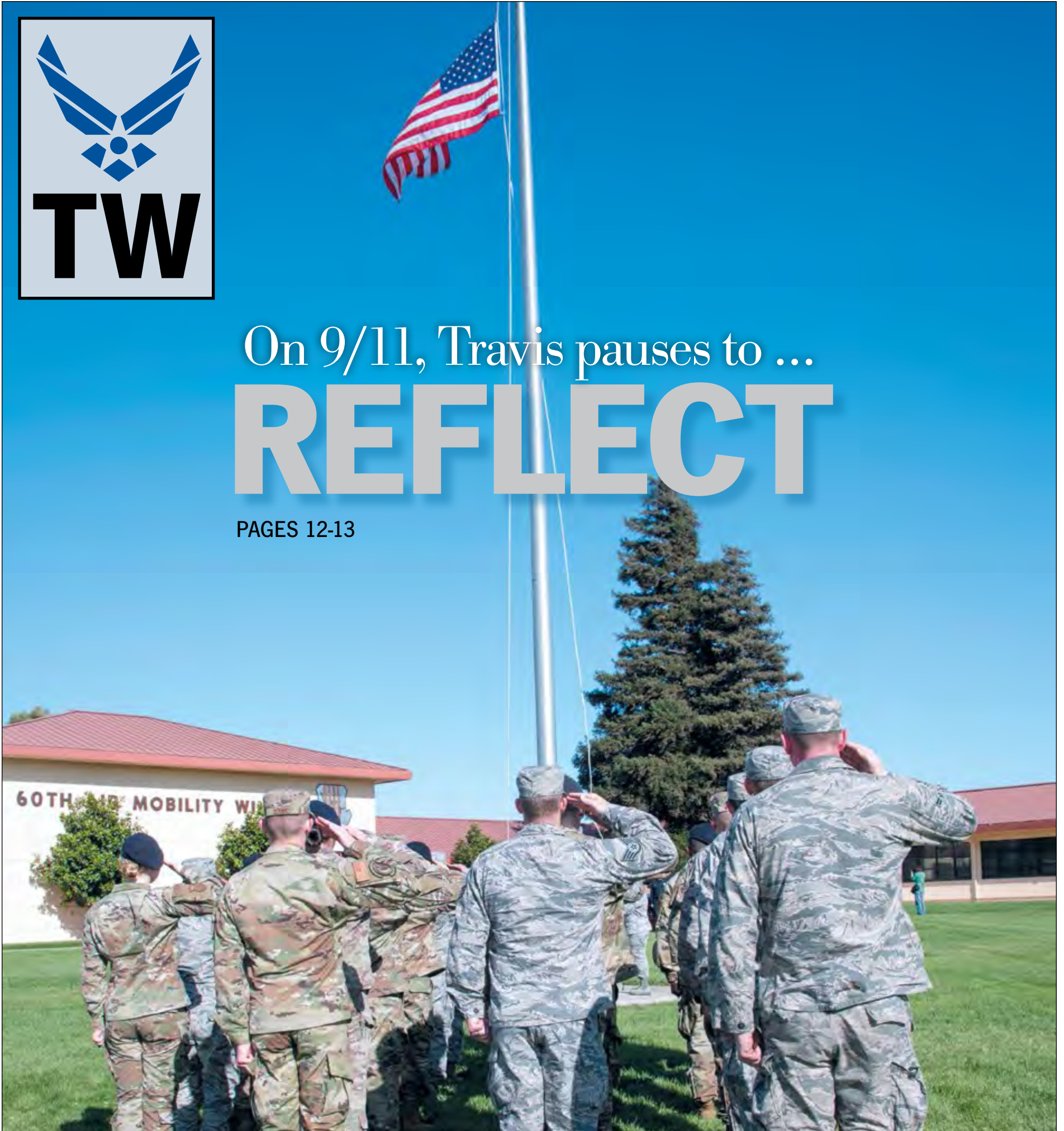




On 9/11, Travis pauses to ...  
**REFLECT**

PAGES 12-13



# Lumberjack's persistence serves as sym

**J**OINT BASE CHARLESTON, S.C. — Somewhere in a small city where there are far more trees than there are people, there is a man who woke up with his back against the wall.

He woke up to the sobering reality that he had a number of goals to accomplish and a limited amount of time to do so. With what seemed like an insurmountable number of trees to chop, he could still hear the words of his doubters. Those who said: "You should've never left



**Commentary by Maj. Wayne Leneau Jr.**  
315TH AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE SQUADRON

your home town," "You weren't cut out to be a logger;" "Your brother was always much better than you."

Those words echoed in his mind with an incessant resound as he rose from his sleep and reached for his ax. The sun is far from up. His doubters are still asleep as he raises his ax and begins to chop.

This isn't the first time that he has felt this pressure. He has been here before. After his first few chops, the tree doesn't budge. Despite this reality, he

## Commander's Commentary

continues his consistent chop. As he begins to see the wood chips fly, it is reassurance to him because he knows that it's consistency that will assist him as he chases his goal.

Like a man inspired, he continues to chop as the tree begins to buckle under the force of his swing. As he hears the tree snap, he knows there's only one thing left that he can do. He wipes the sweat from his brow and at the top of his

See **LENEAU Page 18** Maj. Wayne Leneau Jr. poses with an ax.



Courtesy photo

# Give caregivers thanks they deserve for tough job

Commentary by Antoinette Smith

AIR FORCE GLOBAL STRIKE COMMAND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

## Commentary

**B**ARKSDALE AIR FORCE BASE, La. — A little thank you goes a long way for someone who sacrifices daily to care for the patrons who safeguard our nation and fight for our freedom.

Military caregivers are vital. Caregivers take care of our veterans. It may be a spouse whose shoulder an Airman with post-traumatic stress disorder cries on, the best friend who takes his wingman back and forth to physical therapy or the nurse at the Veterans Affairs Hospital.

It is heroic to help others for the sake of helping others, and Erica Tolbert is

one of those heroes.

As a Veterans Service representative, Tolbert says, "It's such a great joy when a veteran gets a disability claim approved. ... I feel like I achieved a goal for the greater good of those who serve."

As a veteran of the United States Navy, a mother and military caregiver, Tolbert is aware of the sacrifice and dedication required to serve others.

She adopted President Abraham Lincoln's philosophy when she became a caregiver after 10 years of military service, making it her goal "to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow, and his orphan."

Caregivers are families, friends, nurses, next door neighbors or just good samaritans who decide to dedicate their time and transform their lives to make caring for those who protect us a part of their daily routine. According to the Veterans Affairs website, there are more than 5 million hidden heroes across the nation who play an important role in the health and well-being of our 2.4 million veterans.

Military caregivers face challenges every day. Some of them have no medical training or medical education and are unprepared for the responsibility that is entrusted to them. They may live far from family and loved ones, and some have to put their goals for college or their career on hold to make time for

their ward. A sudden change like that can be stressful, life altering and even a shock. Supporting military caregivers with the resources they need is key.

There are many government programs available, such as the VA Caregiver Support Line, VA Peer Support Mentoring, Military Veteran Caregiver Network and Wounded Warrior Family Support.

Invisible heroes are everywhere; they are your neighbors, spouses, parents, children, coworkers and more. They are the ones who put forth the effort to bring joy, care, assistance and relief to both past and current service members. Their actions should never go unrecognized.

Give them the thanks they deserve.

# Civic leader champions support for Travis

**Airman 1st Class Amy Younger**  
60TH AIR MOBILITY WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The old adage goes, "It takes a village to raise a child," and the same is true of cultivating the defense of a nation.

While less than 1 percent of the population serves in the military, the success of the Department of Defense is contingent on the support of the remaining 99 percent of Americans.

Military advocacy comes in all shapes and sizes. However, for some, supporting the armed forces isn't philanthropy. It's a lifestyle.

For one such citizen, Sandy Person, every day is an opportunity to aid her "heroes."

"I am not like a lot of the people that I wanted to emulate. I slip up and I swear and I say words wrong. ... I just do better when it's authentic," she said with a laugh. "When I hear something that's intriguing to me, I'm the gal who raises her hand and says, 'Oh, I'm in.' And I have no idea what I signed up for, or what it's about, but that has done me very well."

Person is the industry engagement officer for the Solano Economic Development Corporation. She served as president of the Travis Community Consortium, a regional association of businesses and affiliated governments advocating long-term sustainability at Travis AFB, for six years. She was also the chair of the Travis Regional Armed Forces



U.S. Air Force photo/Heide Couch

**Sandy Person, left, Air Force-level civic leader, and Heidi Campini, 60th Medical Support Squadron honorary commander, participate in a tour through the 60th Aerial Port Squadron warehouse Oct. 12, 2018, Travis Air Force Base. Civic leaders and honorary commanders tour the base quarterly to promote relationships with Team Travis leadership and communicate mutual interest, challenges and concerns.**

Committee, a support organization to the base, for two years and she transitioned from an Air Mobility Command-level civic leader to an Air Force-level civic leader in 2018. Her individual efforts and advocacy of Team Travis have never slowed down.

Person reflected, somewhat wistfully, on her first taste of

military culture. She became acquainted with some Navy pilots in her hometown of San Diego in the early '80s. She was awed by what they did and wanted to serve, as well, but was past the age to enlist. Fortunately, the stars aligned for her in 1984. At that time, a colleague offered her the opportunity to teach overseas when the

Navy and Marines began recruiting real estate instructors.

"Literally two months from that day, I was flying on a plane to the Middle East for six months for a deployment," said the daughter of a Korean War veteran. "I had not really had experience with the military. Suddenly, I am now in the world of the Navy and it was 'wow'... It

was the joy of the people serving, and it was evident from the get go because, you know, we are a volunteer service, and you've got that sense of pride and that servitude heart. I was mesmerized by it."

Fast forward two decades, Person became an Honorary Commander at Travis with the 15th Air Mobility Operations Squadron in 2007. Getting a glimpse of operations only fueled her desire to contribute. Subsequently, she stepped into the role of AMC civic leader in 2012 and pinned on as Air Force civic leader in 2018. With a broad smile, she gushes about how moving through the ranks of this role was revelatory.

"Big Air Force, big responsibility. The seriousness to what we represent, it is humbling because I need to grow and understand, and that's the whole message. It's never about an isolated endeavor. It's really about the big ecosystem of need," Person explained. "The Air Force is complex. So, my eyes are more open, and that curiosity is getting fed all the more and I want to share the message. Particularly, that we need to be better advocates. We need to have our voices heard with our leaders here, not just in the city and county level, but at the state and federal level."

Person is no stranger to wearing many hats in support of numerous military advocacy organizations and events.

See **SUPPORT Page 22**

## Tailwind

Travis AFB, Calif. | 60th Air Mobility Wing

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60th Air Mobility Wing commander

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Officer in charge of command information

Tech. Sgt. Traci Keller  
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Senior Airman Jonathon Carnell

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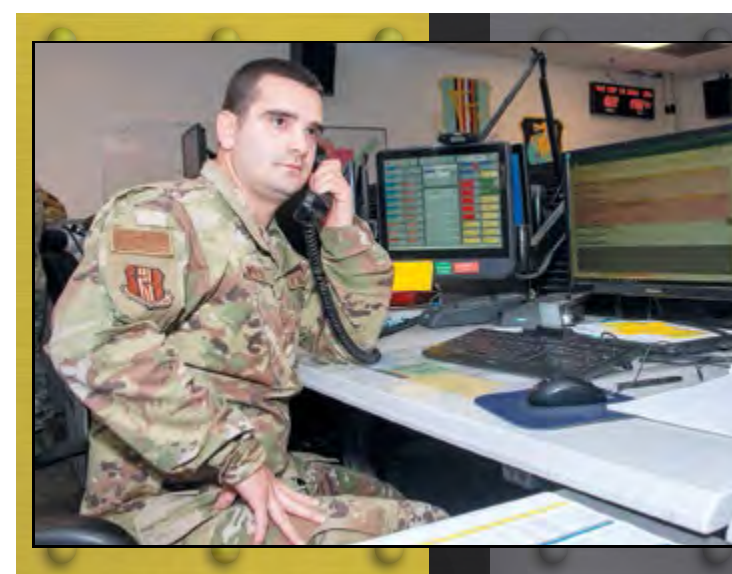
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## On the cover

**U.S. Air Force first responders from 60th Security Forces Squadron and the 60th Civil Engineer Squadron render a salute during a 9/11 Memorial Retreat Ceremony Sept. 11 at Travis Air Force Base.**

U.S. Air Force photo/Heide Couch



U.S. Air Force photo

# WARRIOR OF THE WEEK

**Name:** Tech. Sgt. Christopher Wuest

**Hometown:** Chicago

**Unit:** 60th Air Mobility Wing Command Post

**Time in service:** 12 years

**Duty title:** NCO in charge of command and control operations reports

**Family:** Spouse, Lacey; and son, Jaxston

**What are your hobbies?** Playing the guitar. Traveling the local area. Watching all Chicago sports broadcasts.

**What are your goals?** Completing my bachelor's

**What is your greatest achievement?** Fatherhood.



U.S. Air National Guard photo/Tech. Sgt. Patrick Evenson

Maj. Ed Fattman, a pilot assigned to the 180th Airlift Squadron, Missouri Air National Guard, flies a C-130 Hercules aircraft for the first time in military status Sept. 4 in St. Joseph, Miss., after an accident seven years ago left him with sight in only one eye.

## Pilot returns to flight with one eye

Master Sgt. Michael Crane  
139TH AIRLIFT WING

ROSECRANS AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, Mo. — U.S. Air Force Maj. Ed Fattmann, a pilot assigned to the 180th Airlift Squadron, Missouri Air National Guard, took his first flight Sept. 4 as an aircraft commander with one eye.

Fattmann, a resident of Platte City who became a pilot with the 139th Airlift Wing in 2009, lost vision in his right eye on July 4, 2012 when a firework misfired. He was placed in duty not

including flying status.

During the next five years, he had 32 procedures related to his eye, but ultimately he still had no vision in his right eye.

Although he could no longer fly as an Airman with the Air Force, he could fly as a civilian contractor. According to the Federal Aviation Administration, all he would need is a medical certificate from an FAA approved flight doctor and a check ride.

He soon conducted a check ride with an FAA pilot to confirm he could

perform the necessary tasks of flying: navigation, communication, flying the aircraft, pointing out traffic and landmarks, all the things a two-eyed pilot can do.

For the next few years, he flew various aircraft with civilian companies with government contracts. One of those aircraft was the MC-12W with the Oklahoma Air National Guard. He was flying Air Force owned aircraft, but as a contractor.

In December 2018, the Air Force granted a waiver

for Fattmann to fly again as an Airman with the 139th.

He attended aircraft commander upgrade training at Little Rock Air Force Base, Arkansas, and became requalified to fly the C-130H Hercules aircraft. He finished the three month long training in August.

Fattmann took his first flight with his home unit here this week.

"It took seven years to get back to military flying," said Fattmann. "It's something I didn't know I would ever get to do again."

## AFH1 phone app available on Apple, Google Play

Dan Hawkins

AIR EDUCATION AND TRAINING  
COMMAND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas — Airmen have a new digital option to stay current on Air Force knowledge and to help prepare for promotion testing with the debut of the Air Force Handbook 1 phone application, released Sept. 6 by Air Education and Training Command officials.

The AFH1 app includes the "The Air Force Handbook 1," and study guide, as well as Air Force Instruction 36-2618, The Enlisted Force Structure, known as the "The Little Brown Book." There is also access to the "The Little Blue Book" which focuses on the profession of arms. Other tools such as flash cards, audio and practice tests can also be found on the app.

"This is really exciting news for Airmen across the Air Force as this app helps them stay ready from a professional development perspective," said Chief Master Sgt. Julie Guggel, command chief of AETC. "Whether it's promotion testing study material, or access to general Air Force knowledge resources, putting all of these valuable resources into the hands of our Airmen so they can access it any time at no cost was the goal."

At this time, Airmen can find the app on both Apple and Google Play.



*Editor's note: The app, which can be downloaded on both Apple and Android operating systems, is currently loaded with the 2017 version of the Air Force Handbook 1, but is tentatively set to debut the 2019 AFH1 edition on Oct. 1.*

## DeCA celebrates service's birthday

Tamara Eastman

DEFENSE COMMISSARY AGENCY HISTORIAN

FORT LEE, Va. — Military commissaries have served the men and women of the U.S. Air Force since their creation 72 years ago, so it's with pride that the Defense Commissary Agency joins with them in observing their birthday on Sept. 18.

"The Air Force's mission is to 'fly, fight and win in air, space and cyberspace,'" said Army Command Sgt. Maj. Tomeka N. O'Neal, senior enlisted adviser to the DeCA director. "As we celebrate their 72nd birthday, we are proud to serve active duty, reserve and retired Airmen and their families by delivering the commissary benefit they've earned."

The history of the Air Force traces back to the Army Air Forces, the aerial warfare service component of the U.S. Army during and immediately after World War II.

On Sept. 18, 1947, the modern day Air Force was born when W. Stuart Symington, who had previously been the assistant secretary of War for Air, was sworn in as secretary of the newly created branch of the armed forces.

Upon its creation, the Air Force inherited all of the Army Air Forces facilities including their commissaries. The branch's 181 commissaries were initially supplied by the U.S. Army Quartermaster Corps until 1976, when the Air Force Commissary Service, aka AF-COMS, was formed.

AFCOMS ran the Air Force commissaries from its headquarters at Kelly Air Force Base, Texas.

In 1990, Congress and the Defense Department decided to consolidate the individual service commissary systems. With the formation of the Defense

See BIRTHDAY Page 18

## Tour welcomes teen with passion for military



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Christian Conrad

U.S. Airmen from the 60th Civil Engineer Squadron Explosive Ordnance Disposal flight, show Caleb Smith, a local teen with a degenerative heart disease, the effects of a controlled explosion on a deactivated munition shell Sept. 9 at the EOD flight's detonation facility at Travis Air Force Base. Born with five heart defects, Smith had his first heart surgery at 2 months old, though he said his condition has never slowed him down from enjoying his life as an active teenager.

## Wright emphasizes connections

Mark Wyatt

66TH AIR BASE GROUP PUBLIC AFFAIRS

HANSCOM AIR FORCE BASE, Mass. — Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Kalet O. Wright spoke about resilience and leadership topics during a town hall Sept. 6.

More than 400 Airmen from Hanscom AFB, as well as other invited Airmen from geographically separated units, listened as Wright touched on those topics and answered questions.

During the hour-long session in Hanscomb's AFB Aero Club hangar, Wright spoke in length about the rise in suicides across the Air Force.

"This issue, not figuratively -- but literally, keeps me up at night," he said.

He highlighted a closed Facebook group called Air Force Wingman Outreach, which, according to the page, is "for people to reach out, tell their stories."

"There are about 30,000 Airmen ... giving their testimonies about how they're seen, how they're feeling, what they're battling, their stresses, their depression (and) their anxiety," he said.

He asked those in attendance, "Do you know what your Airmen are saying?" That was a critical point: that connectivity

is the main differentiator, the thing that can prevent the downward spiral that can form when an Airman feels isolated.

The 18th Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force addressed the need for leaders at all levels to think about what they can do.

"Some of this just comes down to being good humans," Wright said. "Let's all commit to doing just a little bit better."

Other topics he addressed were ones Airmen may see in the coming months.

"We're close to having a provision in the AFI (Air Force Instruction), with some help from the Joint Staff and Congress, so commanders can grant a little

bit of time (for Airmen) to take for themselves and their families for the purpose of bereavement," Wright said.

He spoke about indefinite enlistments with provisions for those Airmen with more than 12 years of service.

"Once most people hit 12 years, they're pretty well vested in the United States Air Force," Wright said.

The chief also discussed military retention of non-deployable service members, which represents less than 5 percent of the force, he noted. Wright encouraged attendees to keep "your teammates mission ready."

See CONNECTIONS Page 18

# Hunters finish flying Dorian

**Tech. Sgt. Christopher Carranza**  
403RD WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE, Miss. — The Air Force Reserve's 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron, aka Hurricane Hunters, have flown 25 missions, from Aug. 25 to their last, Sept. 6, in support of Hurricane Dorian.

Operations began with three WC-130J aircrafts and one C-130J Super Hercules aircraft from the 403rd Wing departing Keesler Air Force Base, Aug. 25, for Curaçao to provide weather reconnaissance support of what was then Tropical Storm Dorian.

The three weather crews, assigned to the 53rd WRS, had been flying fixed missions out of Curaçao the night of Aug. 26, said Maj. Kendall Dunn, 53rd WRS pilot. The tactical airlift crew, assigned to the 815th Airlift Squadron, carried extra cargo and aircraft parts to support the weather aircraft, he added.

A fixed mission is when the



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

**A WC-130J Super Hercules aircraft from the 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron, aka Hurricane Hunters, taxis along the flight line Sept. 5 at Keesler Air Force Base, Miss., after completing its mission into Hurricane Dorian. The Hurricane Hunters flew 25 missions in support of Dorian.**

aircraft collects weather data such as temperature, wind speed, wind direction, humidity and surface pressure. Aircrews fly through the eye of a storm four to six times to locate the low-pressure center and circulation of the storm.

During each pass through the eye, crews release a dropsonde, which collects weather data on its descent to the ocean surface, specifically gathering data on the surface winds and

See HUNTERS Page 22

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SEPTEMBER 13, 2019

AIR FORCE

TAILWIND 7

# Captain follows father's footsteps

**Airman 1st Class Jayden Ford**  
19TH AIRLIFT WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

LITTLE ROCK AIR FORCE BASE, Ark. — Every box is checked and the crew is ready to go. The familiar hum of a C-130J engine begins to fill the cockpit as the plane slowly creeps forward, inch by inch.

They reach the runway, and the plane's rotors begin to spin vigorously as it darts forward. Within a few moments, the Herk is gliding gracefully through the air.

U.S. Air Force Capt. John Rebolledo, 62nd Airlift Squadron C-130J instructor pilot, feels great pride in achieving his childhood dream of becoming a C-130 pilot.

Rebolledo knew he wanted to be behind the controls of a C-130 from a young age. He grew up around the rich history and traditions of Herk Nation.

"My dad was a C-130A-model crew chief in Vietnam, so I grew up hearing all the stories about tactical airlift and about how great the C-130 was – and still is today," Rebolledo said. "Once I decided I wanted to be a pilot, I knew I wanted to fly a Herk."

After graduating high school, Rebolledo attended the Air Force Academy for four years in hopes of achieving his dream of flying. Upon graduation from the academy, Rebolledo was given a pilot training allocation where he would finally achieve his dream. This came with a few obstacles, including getting air sick during the first half of the course.

"This was the first time I thought I might not end up being a pilot," Rebolledo said. "Eventually, a lot of perseverance and discipline with

See FOOTSTEPS Page 19

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# Airman saves life amidst mass shooting

**Staff Sgt. Quay Drawdy**  
AIR UNIVERSITY PUBLIC AFFAIRS

MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE, Ala. — An Air Force Reserve member was working in a civilian capacity in Odessa, Texas, Aug. 31, and helped provide life-saving first-aid to a woman suffering from three gunshot wounds.

Lt. Col. Nathaniel Ott, an instructor in Air University's LeMay Center Joint Integration directorate, was working as an emergency room physician when he heard a "pop" from outside. Ott walked toward the nurses' station, heard three more distinctive "pop" sounds and stepped outside to see a vehicle with nearby police attempting to assist the driver.

"I ran out across the field to where the vehicle was and, in the driver's seat, was a young woman who had been shot from the passenger side; there were holes in the passenger side of her car," Ott said. "She was bleeding pretty profusely and her arm had been broken."

A paramedic on the scene had put a tourniquet on her arm to help control the bleeding. Ott assessed her condition and concluded the victim needed to be transported to a trauma center.



Courtesy photo

**Dr. Nathaniel Ott, an Air Force Reserve instructor in Air University's LeMay Center Joint Integration directorate, stands at his civilian-capacity career as an emergency room physician in Odessa, Texas.**

He knew a blood transfusion was the only way to save her life and the ER where he was working is not equipped with blood products or trauma surgeons.

One of the officers on the scene asked Ott if they should wait for an ambulance or get the victim into her police cruiser.

"Ambulances have a lot of restrictions on what they can do if there's an active-shooter situation and the police don't, so that allowed the patient to get to the hospital quickly," Ott said. "We then worked on transferring the patient. She was pretty weak and could only sort of stand up with us providing support. We got her into the back seat of the cruiser and the paramedic got into the other side, began working on getting an IV in and the cruiser took off."

Despite the shooter having left the area initially, the group wasn't completely safe.

"While we were working on getting the patient transferred, the shooter drives by in front of us, maybe 30 feet away," said Ott. "Fortunately, he wasn't shooting at that time and there were quite a few police officers chasing him. It was chaotic - It's one of those things you don't really think about in that moment; you just sort of go and focus on your task."

After passing by, the shooter pulled into a parking lot right next to the facility Ott was working in.

"We had patients in our ER

and a police officer said, 'Hey, you can't go back there,' and we told him, 'Look, we have patients we have to take care of,'" Ott said. "They let us take a circuitous route around the gunfire to get back."

The victim made it to the hospital and was in recovery.

Following the event, Ott made a point of taking care of what was important in his own life.

"What was next for me was wanting to hug my wife, Terah, and our five kiddos," said Ott. "They were out of town at the time and took a few days to get back, but it just felt so good to hold them. It puts things in perspective."

Before his transition from active duty to the Air Force Reserve, Ott served 13 years as an F-16 Fighting Falcon pilot. He then went to medical school and became an emergency physician.

"I can definitely say that training as a fighter pilot and then a year getting mortared in Iraq developed in me the ability to focus on a task and not worry about what else is going on," Ott said. "Just focus on getting the job done in spite of everything else."

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# Order aims to boost access to mental health resources

**David Vergun**  
DEFENSE.GOV

WASHINGTON — An executive order signed last year by President Donald J. Trump has already been especially helpful in transitioning service members, said Karin Orvis, Defense Suicide Prevention Office director.

Orvis spoke at the 2019 Veterans Affairs/Department of Defense Suicide Prevention Conference in Nashville, Tennessee, Aug. 29.

Executive Order 13822, "Supporting Our Veterans During Their Transition From

Uniformed Service to Civilian Life," directs the departments of Defense, Veterans Affairs and Homeland Security "to come together and ensure we have seamless access to mental health care and suicide prevention resources for transitioning service members and recent veterans, particularly during their first year of transition after separation or retirement," she said.

The first year of transition is particularly stressful for many service members, Orvis noted.

After the executive order was signed, the three departments drafted a joint action

plan that contained 16 initiatives, she said, noting that 10 initiatives have already been completed.

The plan has two broad goals:

- First is to ensure all transitioning service members and veterans are aware of and understand the mental health resources available to them.
- Second is meeting the needs of at-risk service members and veterans, to include improving mental health care and suicide prevention services, particularly for those identified as high risk.

Orvis provided two

examples:

The Transition Assistance Program has been enhanced to include information on VA benefits, she said, particularly first year after separation and beyond. TAP provides information, training and resources to service members as they plan to transition from the military

into civilian life.

Also as part of TAP, there's also now a facilitated registration in the VA health care system that walks service members through the process of registering for VA benefits, Orvis said.

TAP also focuses on providing psychosocial help, including

See **RESOURCES** Page 18

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# Travis hosts walk, ceremony to remember 9/11



1

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



2

U.S. Air Force photo/Heide Couch



3

U.S. Air Force photo/Heide Couch



4

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

1) Children participate in the Remembrance Day Freedom Walk Sept. 11 at Travis Air Force Base. The walk commemorated those who died on 9/11. 2) U.S. Air Force first responders from 60th Security Forces Squadron and the 60th Civil Engineer Squadron retire the colors Sept. 11 during a 9/11 Memorial Retreat Ceremony at Travis. The ceremony honored the victims of the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, and the first responders who risked and lost their lives to save them. 3) Lt. Col. John Dalomba, 60th Medical Operations Squadron flight commander, delivers remarks during the 9/11 Memorial Retreat Ceremony. 4) American flags are handed out to children attending the Remembrance Day Freedom Walk Sept. 11 at Travis. 5) Staff Sgts. Mark Morales, 60th Security Forces Squadron installation patrol, and Martina Shannon-Young, 60th MDOS mental health technician, fold the flag during the retreat ceremony.



5

U.S. Air Force photo/Heide Couch





# Fairchild tankers refuel Marine aircraft



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman Kiaundra Miller

A KC-135 Stratotanker from Fairchild Air Force Base, Wash., refuels a Marine Corps F/A-18C Hornet from Marine Aircraft Group 31 while flying Aug. 27 over Georgia. The refueling shows the strength of the joint partnership between the two branches, which enables Rapid Global Mobility for the United States.

## Pilot: 'Partnerships vital to mission'

**Airman Kiaundra Miller**  
92ND AIR REFUELING WING

FAIRCHILD AIR FORCE BASE, Wash. — A KC-135 Stratotanker and Airmen from the 384th Air Refueling Squadron at Fairchild Air Force Base, performed aerial refueling with two F/A-18C Hornets from the Marine Aircraft Group 31 while flying over Georgia, Aug. 27.

The refueling showcased the importance of partnerships, as the Air Force and the Marine Corps further trained their capability to work as a team.

"(Air refueling) allows us to leverage each other's capabilities to get us to the fight and to stay in the fight," said Marine Corps Capt. Matthew Hamtak, Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 251 assistant operations officer.

Joint partnerships are especially important to the

military because it allows each branch to lean on one another for support in accomplishing the mission.

"Joint partnerships are what makes mission accomplishments possible," said Air Force Capt. Jonathon O'Neill, 384th ARS aircraft commander. "No one service can act on (their) own."

Joint service experiences are developed through missions such as this. Those experiences in turn allow them to efficiently and quickly perform air refueling from either the KC-135, or the KC-10 Extender in the future with more time to focus on their mission.

"The Air Force has pretty valuable and important resources, especially in regards to air refueling," Hamtak said. "I mean you have KC-135s and KC-10s; you have the

See REFUEL Page 18

  
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## Resources

From Page 9

peer support, for individuals at high risk and in need of support, she said.

Other areas of the program focus on identifying and assisting veterans who might be at risk for homelessness, in need of transportation or assistance with unemployment benefits, Orvis said.

There's also now a mandatory separation health assessment included in TAP that must be completed by all transitioning service

members no later than 180 days before their separation date, she said.

The assessment includes a mental health component.

Second, Military OneSource availability has been extended. It was originally offered to service members for only up to 180 days after separation or retirement. It's now available for a full year, and offers help with taxes, spousal employment, a variety of training, education and relocation assistance. There is also help for those who are having interpersonal or relationship issues.

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## Refuel

From Page 15

ability to (refuel) at higher altitudes and faster speeds.”

Air refueling is an essential tool in war operations; with the fuel that KC-135s bring, each branch of the U.S. military are prepared to respond to an incident at any time in any location. Joint partnerships between Airmen and Marines allows each branch to train in a joint environment and adapt to the different ways each branch performs.

“To be able to reach out jointly and fairly quickly, having the ability to coordinate with each other and get each other to the same place, at the same time and location, across the country is pretty awesome,” Hamtak said. “I know air refueling

is needed globally, and to be able to reach that benefit locally in order to go global is pretty awesome.”

The air refueling between the two branches shows the versatility of the KC-135.

“We provide the air refueling component to train Marine aviators to be competent and qualified in air refueling procedures,” O’Neill said. “It also gives us an opportunity to go to a different field, allowing us to gain a different level of proficiency and familiarity with going to different locations across the country.”

Fairchild AFB is home to the largest fleet of tanker aircraft in the world and provides aircraft with crucial and provides the U.S. military and its allies with support to reach all corners of the globe and efficiently fight their mission.

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## Leneau

From Page 2

voice yells, “timberrrrr!” as the first tree bows down to the force of his will.

Much like that lumberjack, we all face challenges that may seem insurmountable as we pursue our goals. The voices of our doubters and of our past try to drown out our attempts of changing the narrative.

They try to negate each step we take toward rewriting our future.

However, like that nameless man, we must say to our haters, “Go get my ax!” and don’t stop swinging your ax until they hear you yell, “timber!”

## Connections

From Page 5

During the question and answer period, Wright discussed uniforms, the Developmental Special Duty Program and the enlisted performance report process.

“Performance reporting is designed to help leaders, at some point, make management decisions,” he said. “Maybe five years from now, somebody will pull it out and determine if she should be a recruiter, she should be promoted to chief (or) she should be the commander’s exec.”

## Birthday

From Page 5

Commissary Agency on Oct. 1, 1991, service commissaries – 411 stores in all – fell under DOD control.

Today, the commissary benefit has remained one of the key reasons for enlisting and reenlisting in the armed forces because of its potential to provide patrons savings of thousands of dollars each year compared to shopping in civilian grocery stores.

“Since 1947 the United States Air Force has established a superb record of honor, valor and sacrifice, serving honorably during and after the Cold War, during the Korean War, Vietnam War and the Wars in Afghanistan and Iraq,” O’Neal said.

## Footsteps

From Page 7

getting back in the pilot’s seat and flying over and over helped me overcome it.”

The young pilot was now on his way to make his dream a reality. He received orders to fly the C-130H at Yokota Air Base, Japan, for three years and then transitioned to the C-130J.

“The mission is very rewarding,” Rebolledo said. “We go into places that have been struck by natural disasters. The people there are extremely desperate because their lives have just been upended, so we bring in things to aid them like food, vaccines and clothing. When you are doing a job like that it’s pretty easy to take pride in your job.”

Rebolledo proved himself to be a skilled pilot and was given the critical task of teaching the

next generation of Herk pilots.

“We are teaching those who have never touched the plane before,” said U.S. Air Force Maj. Chance Hansen, 62nd AS assistant director of operations and Rebolledo’s supervisor. “When you are teaching someone at that skill level, it takes a lot of extra work, and you really have to be on your game to be able to fly and be safe.”

Rebolledo takes gratification in being given the opportunity to communicate his knowledge and love of the C-130 to his successors.

“Now, I take a lot of pride in being an instructor because I get to take my humanitarian aid and wartime experiences and translate that into something meaningful for these students who are coming through,” Rebolledo said.

Being able to accept that he won’t always have the right answer drives Rebolledo to find the proper solution to the

problems at hand.

“It takes a lot of humility,” Rebolledo said. “To me that means recognizing that you don’t know everything and having a humble spirit. It’s important to always want to learn lessons from pilots who are older or younger than you.”

Rebolledo’s reputation as a pilot and an instructor has garnered himself attention from his current leaders.

“He always had a very positive reputation as a pilot,” Hansen said. “He cares about what he does and shows up every day trying to be a better pilot than he was yesterday and is an excellent addition to the squadron.”

In the end, Rebolledo pursued the C-130 legacy and used his heritage as motivation in order to make his dreams become a reality.

“I’m immensely grateful



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Jayden Ford  
**Capt. John Rebolledo, 62nd Airlift Squadron C-130J instructor pilot, flies a C-130J Aug. 28 at Little Rock Air Force Base, Ark.**

and very satisfied with what I do,” Rebolledo said. “Being a C-130 pilot had been my dream from a young age so being able to self-actualize and obtain my dream is so deeply rewarding. I

also gain a lot of satisfaction in imparting my love for this airplane and this mission to the new generation that is going to be flying and performing the tactical airlift mission.”

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1st Lt. Ryan Smithies, 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron pilot, flies a WC-130J Super Hercules into the eye of Hurricane Dorian Sep. 4 off the coast of Savannah, Georgia. During his mission, Dorian was a category 2 hurricane and intensified into a category 3.

## Hunters

From Page 6

pressure.

The Hurricane Hunters continued flying fixed missions out of Curaçao until they repositioned to Homestead Air Reserve Base, Florida on Aug. 28.

“Our mission is to go out and find the exact center of the storm and find how big the wind radius is and figure out what is going on in the storm environment,” said Capt. Garrett Black, 53rd WRS aerial reconnaissance weather officer. “We then relay that information to the National Hurricane Center to improve their forecasts.”

Due to a lack of radar and weather balloons available over the Atlantic Ocean, the 53rd WRS flies into the storms, gathers the data and provides this data to the NHC to assist them with

their forecasts and storm warnings by transmitting the information gathered via satellite communication approximately every 10 minutes.

In addition to its own atmospheric data collection mission, the 53rd WRS partners with the U.S. Naval Academy to collect water temperatures in front of, directly under and behind a tropical system.

“We’ve been flying with the Navy for a number of years now and they’ve been releasing buoys, in front of hurricanes and in the hurricane environment, to see how the water interacts with the atmosphere and how that overall affects the intensity of a hurricane,” Black said. “It’s adding more data to help solve this very difficult and puzzle that is the genesis of storms and intensity of hurricanes.”

The midshipmen of the Training and Research in Oceanic and Atmospheric

Processes in Tropical Cyclones Program, conduct their own data collection mission as they ride along with the 53rd WRS.

While the Hurricane Hunters are collecting atmospheric measurements, we’re working closely with the loadmasters and conducting our oceanic measurements, explained U.S. Navy Capt. Beth Sanabia, an oceanography professor at USNA.

Data is collected by Airborne Expendable Bathythermographs, which are parachute buoys that are deployed from the rear of the aircraft. Depending on the flight pattern, time and oceanic features dictates how many can be deployed.

The data collected from the buoys is processed and readied on the aircraft and uploaded to the Global Telecommunication System. The data is in a format that is recognized by forecast modeling centers around the

world, such as the European, Navy and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration forecast models.

The combined efforts of atmospheric and oceanic data collection increases the accuracy of forecasts, Sanabia said.

“Satellites are great these days, but they’re still missing a lot of (weather) information that cannot be collected via satellite,” Black said. “So, it is important we get into the storm environment and sample in three dimensions: what’s going on in the storm by releasing our dropsondes, observing the surface of the water and getting all the data at flight levels to create that big picture of the storm to be ingested by forecast models and minimize errors.”

As Dorian made its way closer to the Florida coast, the Hunters returned to Keesler AFB Aug. 31, and continued operations from their home station.

## Support

From Page 3

However, she believes supporting the Air Force means more than just showing up.

“When you know better, you do better,” she declared. “I don’t think we’ve unearthed a tenth of the things that we could do. It just takes a little rolling up sleeves, paying attention and asking the questions.”

“It bothers me that people are so intimidated because they want to sound intelligent. Well, guess what? I sound like an idiot - a lot - but I learn every time I ask the question and I’m not fearful of doing that. I’m trying to focus more on the things that deepen my knowledge so that I can be a better advocate and not just talk at a superficial level. I feel like I can be a voice of that change and that’s part of my responsibility of being a good citizen. I love my country.”

Impassioned and gleaming, Person elaborated on her belief in actions over words, or as she refers to it, “putting your money where your mouth is.”

“We need to have more of that pro-defense (mentality), because the truth is our Airmen and our civil servants are the best workforce that we could ever strive for,” the former cheerleader expressed. “We have so many unsung heroes here, because people do transition out. That’s what it’s all about.”

Armed with knowledge about California’s socioeconomic challenges, she expresses her concern for Airmen in a state with a population of 40 million.

“So, how do we be a source of support for them?” she asked. “We need to better understand ‘quality of life’ and what that means to today’s Airmen. What are the resources to help serve them, so that our country can benefit by their excellence?”

She caught sight of the time nearly an hour into her interview and quickly began collecting her things for a meeting with the 60th Air Mobility Wing commander. She gave some final remarks before running out the door.

“In my industry, we chase shiny pennies. What’s new and sexy, rather than try to fix foundation and cultures; and I have always wanted to be a part of, ‘let’s fix what isn’t,’” she said. “That’s why I applaud this base for being so progressive and reaching out to find new and broader horizons.”

Person has supported Team Travis over the years because she became enthusiastically acquainted with the impact of rapid global mobility.

“The base is not just an asset to Solano County. This is an asset to our state and to AMC,” she said. “So, our (efforts) need to be broader than all of us. Travis isn’t ours. It’s everybody’s.”



U.S. Air Force photo/Kemberly Groue

1) A special warfare trainee from the 352nd Special Warfare Training Squadron participates in a memorial physical training session at the Triangle Pool Aug. 9 on Keesler Air Force Base, Miss. The event was held in memory of Staff Sgt. Andrew Harvell, combat controller, who was killed in action on Aug. 6, 2011. 2) A 509th Bomb Wing B-2 Spirit refuels from a 351st Aerial Refueling Squadron KC-135 Stratotanker during the Bomber Task Force training exercise Aug. 29 over the United Kingdom. 3) Tech. Sgt. Matthew Plew, 48th Fighter Wing Public Affairs photojournalist, takes a selfie while documenting two F-15E Strike Eagles and an F-15C Eagle conducting aerial maneuvers Sept. 3 over southern England.

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U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Jordan Castelan



U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Matthew Plew

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