

# DGMC lab celebrates recognition

PAGES 16-17

# Supervisors can't be afraid to let others fail

Commentary by  
Maj. Gregory Lewis

DEFENSE TECHNOLOGY SECURITY  
ADMINISTRATION INDIVIDUAL  
MOBILIZATION AUGMENTEE

**R**OBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. — Regardless of your profession, many of us have all been in positions defining the required “Leadership” and “Management” qualifications as an expectation of our ability to execute our office.

But, like many things, no two are alike and not one will prevail without the help of another.

Part of our charge in these roles is not only to lead, but to mentor, to manage, to challenge employees to be better and at times accept short-term failures to ensure long-term successes. As a military officer and business professional, I have had the

## Officer Commentary

opportunity to work with great leaders, great managers and a smaller percentage of members who require some flexibility in developing their own abilities.

The latter is my focus. These are not individuals who require micromanagement. They are typically our junior leaders and managers who bear a moderate amount of responsibility, demonstrate an adequate amount of competencies, but require a higher level of mentorship.

Scenarios such as these are playing out every day across all industries. They represent the challenges we share to focus our energy on specific individuals and the organization as a whole. As leaders, we are

inherently trustful, as we utilize a cadre of personnel to carry out our orders. However, that trust does not negate our responsibility to ensure those orders are effectively and successfully carried out.

As a field grade officer, I had the opportunity to work alongside a commander who would reiterate daily the importance of the individuals within his unit under his command. But he would also reiterate his responsibility as a leader and a mentor to provide guidance, expectations and accountability to ensure he maintained legitimate authority and not just authority based in rank.

As we met daily to discuss current operations, we often discussed personnel issues and the status of ongoing projects.

At one point, while discussing a project being led by one of our junior officers, we detailed schedule delays, communication errors and our general dissatisfaction with the way the project was being managed.

We were obviously annoyed at this individual's performance and while we took turns suggesting ideas around the room ranging from admonishment to replacement, our commander interjected and in no uncertain terms said he was willing to let this train wreck. I should include specifically, that this was not a life and death situation. He reiterated the need to let the situation play out and give the individual the opportunity to right the ship and complete the project. He was not afraid to let this individual fail

and recognized it as a learning opportunity.

Nodding our heads in agreement in accordance with his guidance, he then said in a very casual tone, “but I think it's time to have a cup of coffee with him.” We all understood what he meant and in that one sentence told us everything we needed to hear.

He once told me that he was not concerned about my ability to make important decisions, he was not afraid of me being wrong or even failing, but if at some point my performance or judgment did not reflect the level of commitment and dedication to our service, unit or people then we will no doubt be drinking coffee together.

So tell me, who do you need to have a cup of coffee with?

# Staff sergeant's military 'brat' makes her proud

Commentary by Staff Sgt. Heather Heiney

403RD WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

## Enlisted Commentary

**K**EESLER AIR FORCE BASE, Miss. — Parents worry. It's just what we do.

We worry our child will get hurt. We worry we aren't making the right decisions for them. We worry they've become irrevocably addicted to their iPad and that they really shouldn't spend so much time watching videos of a 5-year-old millionaire open new toys.

Maybe that last one's just me.

As military parents, we have an extra thick layer of worry. Will our children adjust well to another new place? Will they understand why I'm doing this? Am I missing too much?

We all worry because we can't help it. But these kids make it through separations, they adapt to new surroundings, and they become independent. According to the Department of Defense Education Activity, Month of the Military

Child was established more than 30 years ago to honor the sacrifices military children make and the challenges they overcome.

While they often face struggles others may not understand, military children also often get to see places and things others don't. For example, how many kids can say they've sat in the flight deck of an aircraft that flies into hurricanes?

My 3-year-old can, though I'm not entirely sure he even knows what a hurricane is. I'm also not sure he actually

knows my husband and I are in the military. The uniforms we wear are our “work clothes,” when we leave on temporary duty assignments we're going on “work trips” and he identifies a C-130J Super Hercules aircraft by saying, “Hey Mom, look! That's your work airplane.”

Even though he might not understand it, he sure acts like a military brat. Sometimes with the emphasis on the brat, but he's 3 and that's an entirely different story. He wants to do

See HEINEY Page 24

## Tailwind

Travis AFB, Calif.  
60th Air Mobility Wing

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

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

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## On the cover

**The Medical Laboratory Observer magazine named 60th Diagnostics and Therapeutics Squadron's clinical lab, David Grant Medical Center Laboratory as the 2017 Lab of the Year.**

U.S. Air Force photo/T.C. Perkins Jr.

# Cancer survivor fights to return to flight deck

2nd Lt. Sarah Johnson

60TH AIR MOBILITY WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

“Why are you here?”

The question came from Col. Corwin Pauly, 60th Air Mobility Wing vice commander at Travis Air Force Base, California. It was June 2015 and he had just arrived at Travis. One of the first Airmen he met was Maj. Matt Bartomeo, a C-5M Super Galaxy pilot with the 22nd Airlift Squadron who was working as an executive officer for the 60th AMW.

“The first day we met, I was standing in the doorway of my office and he was coming in through the double doors,” said Pauly. “I'm just meeting folks and shaking hands and I try to get a little more than just the ‘Hi, how are you doing?’”

“(Pauly) asked me, ‘Hey, tell me your story,’” said Bartomeo. “I said, ‘Well, I used to fly C-5s.’ He asked, ‘Used to?’ I said I had a situation going on.”

Bartomeo told Pauly he was in the middle of cancer treatment and had just received chemotherapy the day before.

Not long before the two met, Bartomeo was like any other healthy 22nd AS pilot, flying regularly before he transitioned to the wing executive position. When he began to develop symptoms of itching, night sweats and coughing, he didn't think much of it.

Eventually, however, the cough worsened enough for him to make an appointment at David Grant USAF Medical Center at Travis.

On March 13, 2015, the three seemingly common symptoms turned into a diagnosis that would change the lives of Bartomeo and his family forever: cancer.

The pilot was diagnosed with Hodgkins lymphoma, a form of cancer that attacks the body's immune system through white blood cells, according to the



U.S. Air Force photo/2nd Lt. Sarah Johnson

**Maj. Matt Bartomeo, 22nd Airlift Squadron, is all smiles during his first C-5M Super Galaxy flight in over two years April 12 at Travis Air Force Base, Calif. Bartomeo fought Hodgkins lymphoma for 14 months before being able to return to the cockpit.**

American Cancer Society. He immediately began a rigorous treatment plan at DGMC, which included several rounds of chemotherapy.

The diagnosis also meant Bartomeo was taken off flying status indefinitely.

Throughout the chemo, Bartomeo continued to work. The work was not only a welcome distraction and sense

of normalcy, but gave him a chance to spend time with friends, he said.

“I still get paid and I still felt like I could work,” he said. “So, I worked.”

“I remember seeing Matt walking around with a mask on because he couldn't be exposed to stuff and he comes to the office just to check in and say hi and ask if we need any help,” said

Pauly, shaking his head.

Bartomeo's work ethic as an officer influenced his attitude toward his cancer, said Pauly.

“Matt's personality is, ‘If you're paying me to do a job, I'm going to do the job as well as I can do it and I'm going to do

See SURVIVOR Page 19

## WARRIOR OF THE WEEK

**Name:**  
Senior Airman Nancy Fennessey.

**Hometown:**  
Du Quoin, Illinois.

**What are your goals?**  
Acceptance into the Nurse Enlisted Commissioning Program.

**Unit:**  
860th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.

**Time in service:**  
Five years.

**What are your hobbies?**  
Running, cooking and baking.

**Duty title:**  
Instrument and flight control systems journeyman.

**Family:**  
Father, Tommy McClanahan; mother, Tracy Kondouis; son, Jace Fennessey.

**What is your greatest achievement?**  
Giving birth to my son, Jace.



U.S. Air Force photo/Louis Bricease

# Travis wins first DOD environmental restoration award

**Merrie Schilter-Lowe**

60TH AIR MOBILITY WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Dedication to using green and sustainable remediation technologies and biological processes that breakdown contaminants in groundwater has earned Travis Air Force Base, California, its first Secretary of Defense Environmental Restoration Award for Installations.

The Department of Defense announced the 2017 winners April 22. DOD selected nine

individual, team and installations from a total of 30 nominees from all stateside and overseas military bases.

Established in 1962, the award recognizes outstanding environmental practices that not only protect the environment, promote efficiency, and improve quality of life, but also support mission readiness, according to the news release.

"The winners' efforts strengthen the Department of Defense's position as a

resourceful environmental steward, both at home and abroad, and demonstrate our continued commitment to fulfilling mission needs through advanced environmental practices and technologies," said James MacStravic, who is serving as Undersecretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics.

The Travis program is focused on using innovative technologies to accelerate the closure of contaminated

groundwater sites, reduce cleanup costs and ensure the protection of human health and the environment.

"Yippee!" exclaimed Glenn Anderson, Air Force Engineer Center Installation Support Team hydrologist at Travis, after hearing the news.

"It was an honor to win the Gen. Thomas D. White award for restoration, it's an absolute thrill to win the Secretary of Defense award," said Anderson. "Too bad we don't have an

award for best in country, best in the world, best in the universe! I would gladly put together the package for it."

The restoration team won the White award at the Air Force level in March, which qualified them for the DOD competition. The team previously won the White award at the Air Mobility Command level in 2001 and 2009.

Although the award period

See **AWARD** Page 22

# Reserve defenders keep watch overseas

**Maj. Jon Quinlan**

507TH AIR REFUELING WING  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

TINKER AIR FORCE BASE, Okla. — A group of citizen Airmen from the 507th Security Forces Squadron at Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma, are deployed to Kandahar Air Base, Afghanistan, to support the Afghan Air Force in their fight against insurgents in support of NATO's Resolute Support mission.

For the next six months, the team of Reserve defenders will be part of a Fly Away Security Team while in Afghanistan. Air Force FAST teams are made up of Security Forces Airmen who travel with aircraft to provide extra security around unsecured foreign airfields.

As a civilian, Senior Airman Casey Jardot of the 507th SFS is a research technician at an oil and gas company. This is his second deployment. He left the Marine Corps to join the Air Force Reserve, and said he is excited to go downrange to perform a vital security mission.

"It's important because we are there to show a presence of force and relieve active duty," Jardot said. "We do so much as Reservists. We've got to go to the fight."



U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Katherine Spessa

**Senior Airman Micheal Thomas, 738th Air Expeditionary Advisory Group security forces member, provides armed overwatch for contractors and air advisers performing maintenance April 16 on an Afghan Air Force MD-530 Light Attack Helicopter at Kandahar Air Wing, Afghanistan. Thomas is deployed with other citizen Airmen from the 507th Security Forces Squadron, Tinker Air Force Base, Okla.**

Part of the fight is protecting personnel, multi-million dollar aircraft and sensitive equipment. When air missions depart, security forces travel with the aircraft to protect the mission and provide full security overwatch at forward operating bases.

The defenders also provide security for air advisors while training and advising Afghan security forces at Kandahar Air Base.

According to the 507th SFS unit deployment manager, Tech. Sgt. Kathelene Mercado, the Airmen trained

for several months in preparation for this deployment. As Reservists with civilian careers and families, time management and prioritization of training are key elements in preparation for deployments.

"This mission still exists.

The threat is still real," Mercado said. "We sent out a well-trained team to accomplish the mission."

The commander of the 507th SFS, Maj. Richard Martin II, said farewell to both groups as they departed

See **WATCH** Page 24

# Household universal waste and what to do with it

**Milea Franklin**

60TH CIVIL ENGINEERING SQUADRON

Universal waste is a general descriptive term used to describe wastes that are generated by a large, diverse population. The category of Universal Waste was created in the United States Environmental Protection Agency's hazardous waste regulations to streamline the hazardous waste management standards for certain categories of hazardous waste that are commonly generated by a wide variety of establishments including households.

The U.S. EPA finalized the Universal Waste Rule in the May 11, 1995, Federal Register. Many states, including California, have since adopted it. The

streamlined regulations are:

- Promote the collection and recycling of universal waste.

- Ease the regulatory burden on retail stores and other generators that wish to collect these wastes and transporters of these wastes.

- Encourage the development of municipal and commercial programs to reduce the quantity of these wastes going to municipal solid waste landfills or combustors.

A benefit of the UWR is that the reduced management requirements have encouraged UW collection programs. These programs include the collection of household waste. The collection of household UW will keep these wastes out of the municipal waste streams.

The following wastes constitute the categories of UW that may be managed under the UWR.

- Electronic devices: Includes any electronic device that is a hazardous waste (with or without a Cathode Ray Tube), including televisions, computer monitors, cell phones and portable DVD players.

- Batteries: Most household-type batteries, including rechargeable nickel-cadmium batteries, silver button batteries, mercury batteries, alkaline batteries and other batteries that exhibit a characteristic of a hazardous waste.

- Electric lamps: Fluorescent tubes and bulbs, high intensity discharge lamps, sodium vapor lamps and electric lamps that contain added

mercury, as well as any other lamp that exhibits a characteristic of a hazardous waste, e.g., lead.

- Mercury-containing equipment: Thermostats, mercury switches, mercury thermometers, pressure or vacuum gauges, dilators and weighted tubing, mercury rubber flooring, mercury gas flow regulators, dental amalgams, and mercury added novelties such as jewelry, ornaments and footwear.

- CRTs: The glass picture tubes removed from devices such as televisions and computer monitors.

- CRT glass: A cathode ray tube that has been accidentally broken or processed for recycling.

- Nonempty aerosol cans.

Universal wastes may not be disposed of in the trash. UW is managed at Travis Air Force Base, California by the Travis Hazardous Waste Program. This program manages HW generated by Travis operations.

Household residents should use municipal or county UW collection programs to properly dispose of toxic materials. Households, per regulation, are defined as a single detached residence or a single unit of a multiple residence. For the area surrounding Travis, the following cities provide household HW drop-off locations.

Vacaville and Dixon  
Incorporated and  
See **WASTE** Page 24

# Guard, Reserve gather for training

**Tech. Sgt. Emerson Marcus**

NEVADA JOINT FORCE HEADQUARTERS  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

BOISE, Idaho — More than 400 personnel of the four units making up the Air Expeditionary Group arrived here April 19 for a week-long training and certification sponsored by the U.S. Forest Service.

Each orange number on the tail represents one of the eight planes on the Modular Airborne Fire Fighting System team, including three Air National Guard units and one from the U.S. Air Force Reserve, each stationed around the western U.S.

"We look forward to this joint training with our military and civilian partners," said Col. Bryan Allen, commander of the AEG. "Training together with all four MAFFS wings alongside U.S. Forest Service and other wildland firefighting agencies here in Boise provides a significant opportunity as we prepare for another challenging wildfire season."

The U.S. Forest Service's large MAFFS equipment – rolled into the back of a C-130 aircraft – can drop up to 3,000 gallons of water or fire retardant in six seconds through a

nozzle on the rear left side of the plane.

The certification training includes classroom sessions, flight operations for military flight crews, lead plane pilots and other support personnel from the U.S. Forest Service and other wildland firefighting agencies.

"MAFFS have played a critical role in wildfire suppression for more than 40 years by providing surge capacity when commercial airtankers are fully committed or not readily available as they frequently are during periods of high

See **GATHER** Page 19

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# SAPR team ready to aid in recovery

Commentary by Anita Perry  
SEXUAL ASSAULT AND RESPONSE OFFICE

## Commentary

Sexual assault can be a lonely and frightening experience. You may be left feeling shocked, confused and overwhelmed. You may find yourself unprepared to deal with the many thoughts and emotions that arise. You may find you can't eat or sleep or that you're petrified to do things that used to come naturally.

Sometimes you may feel like your mind has detached from your body and it's just watching what your body is doing. These are all normal reactions.

In time, you may find yourself trying to understand why the assault occurred in the first place.

Why did this happen to me? Did I do something to encourage the assault? Why didn't I resist more or fight harder? What sort of person would commit such a crime against another?

How long will it be before I feel like myself again? What can I do to start feeling better? Will

I ever be able to put this experience into perspective?

Many factors affect recovery from sexual assault. It is impossible to estimate how long it will be before you feel like yourself again. Each situation is unique. Sexual assault trauma is something that can be resolved and put into perspective, but it can never be forgotten. It is possible that after the initial crisis is over, there will be flashbacks of the assault. Assault-related feelings may resurface.

Time alone does not heal wounds. Here are some steps you can take to hasten your recovery from the psychological trauma of sexual assault:

- Acknowledge your feelings as real and legitimate; your thoughts and feelings are not crazy, irrational or non-existent.

- Be open to reaching out to your family, friends, chaplain, mental health counselor or therapist, Sexual Assault Prevention and Response personnel



U.S. Air Force photo/Heide Couch

The 60th Air Mobility Wing Sexual Assault Response Coordinator Team poses for a photo March 30 at Travis Air Force Base, Calif.

and other professionals for information and support. Ask as specifically as possible for the support you need.

- Be mindful to take care of your total person; that is, be aware of what you can do to strengthen yourself physically, emotionally, mentally and spiritually.

- Learn to relax when you are feeling tense and frightened. If you need help in this area, a counselor may know ways to help you relax and work through your fears.

- See yourself as capable of recovering. Take pride in the steps you are taking to help yourself.

- Give yourself time to feel better.

- Celebrate the victories no

matter how small.

Victims of sexual assault often consider whether to report the sexual assault and what type of report to make. While you are in this decision mode, reach out to someone you trust to keep your information and respect your privacy. There is a team of support standing ready to assist you, hear you and help you recover. Thank you for trusting us to be here for you.



Thank you to Team Travis SAPR personnel: Anita Perry (Installation SARC), 1st Lt. Aundrea Chapman (Deputy SARC), Tiffanie Stevenson (SAPR VA) and volunteer victim advocates from various units of Team Travis.

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# Air Force releases plans for diversity, inclusion

Secretary of the Air Force  
Public Affairs

WASHINGTON — Headquarters Air Force released finalized implementation plans following the second notification to Airmen relaying new diversity and inclusion initiatives on April 9.

Diversity and inclusion efforts have been a fundamental priority for the Air Force in addressing today's ever evolving national security challenges, the memo explained.

According to Air Force leadership, creating and fostering this environment of diversity and inclusion will enhance the ability to recruit from the broadest possible pool of talent, solve the toughest challenges, and engage the full power of an innovative force.

The memo summarizes the implementations for 13 initiatives including efforts to provide additional support to geographically-separated military spouses, lengthen the early separation decision window for female Airmen having children, establish diverse slates for key military development positions, promote civilian participation in professional development programs, and better market career fields that currently lack diversity to female and minority populations.

The Air Force has made continuous efforts toward enhancing diversity and inclusion throughout the force, including nine initiatives launched in 2015 to help build teams comprised of individuals with diverse backgrounds, experiences and demographics. However, Air Force leaders acknowledged

See DIVERSITY Page 14

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# MTIs mold trainees into Airmen

**Airman 1st Class Mariette Adams**

6TH AIR MOBILITY WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

MACDILL AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. — In the early hours of darkness, the sound of reveille routinely rings throughout Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas.

Trainees spring out of their beds to begin days filled with training, instruction and loud orders from their military training instructors.

The MTIs lead their flights through it all: the long hours of in-processing, the days filled with classroom instruction, and the meticulous practices that build resiliency and focus.

For Staff Sgt. Jessica Fairchild, a former MTI at JB San Antonio-Lackland, those long hours were worth it.

Six years into her career, Fairchild applied to be an MTI. She had dreams to be a teacher and chose to focus that drive into shaping the next generation of Airmen.

Fairchild said she wanted to make a difference through



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Mariette Adams

**Staff Sgt. Jessica Fairchild, center, a former military training instructor and currently an individual protective equipment supervisor assigned to the 6th Logistics Readiness Squadron, stands Feb. 24 for a photo with Airman 1st Class Zenawi Teclé, left, a former trainee of Fairchild and now an entry controller with the 6th Security Forces Squadron, and Senior Airman Kristin Weiland, an individual protective equipment technician with the 6th LRS, at MacDill Air Force Base, Fla.**

mentoring and pushing Airmen to do great things.

Despite dealing with the physical and mental demands of being an MTI, Fairchild said she loved it.

"I loved my job every day," she said. "It is the best job in the

entire military to me, but it was also stressful."

Long hours and strict schedules pack both the trainees and instructors' days.

"Trying to get 60 people to

**See MTI Page 13**

# Travis takes part in ride sharing

**Merrie Schilter-Lowe**

60TH AIR MOBILITY WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Ride sharing not only helps to reduce the nation's carbon footprint and mitigate the impact of climate change, it also reduces commuting costs and can earn commuters up to \$255 per month.

Last year, legislation increased the tax-free commuter transit subsidy for employer-sponsored programs from \$130 to match the national corridor monthly allowance for travel, including commuter parking fees for authorized vanpools and public transportation.

"Travis has been (in) partnership with the Department of Transportation, Transportation Services, Bay Area Commuter Benefits Program and the Solano Transportation Authority for a number of years to manage, communicate and coordinate the federal mass

transit benefit program," said Autumn Lombardi, Airman and Family Readiness Center community readiness specialist and mass transportation benefits program manager.

All federal employees are eligible for the benefit, including non-appropriated fund employees and temporary employees. However, volunteers and temporary employees from private temporary services are not eligible.

People who bike to and from work are eligible for a \$20 per month subsidy for expenses such as bicycle locks, repairs, general maintenance and upgrades – such as lights and racks, said Lombardi.

"There are some real financial incentives in this program and Team Travis has some great opportunities to go green and save green."

**See RIDE Page 14**

# DOD launches military childcare website on base

**2nd Lt. Sarah Johnson**

60TH AIR MOBILITY WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Families at Travis Air Force Base, California, will have access to a new Department of Defense website starting April 27 designed to simplify and improve the childcare request for care process.

MilitaryChildCare.com provides a single online gateway for families to access military-operated or military-subsidized childcare options worldwide across all services. The site enables families to create a household profile, conduct childcare searches, submit requests for care and manage their requests at any time and from any location.

"I am excited to see this process move along with technology, and it will save time," said Lisa Valverde-Wymer, family childcare coordinator at Travis. "Parents will now be able to keep their requests for care at the most accurate level based on their family situation and needs. Filling spaces in a timely manner will in turn serve the children and families at Travis."

The new DOD site – which is being introduced worldwide

in phases – offers a more streamlined approach to finding and requesting care, expedites placement through a standardized request process and waitlist management tools and provides reports that help programs better plan for future replacement needs.

Through MilitaryChildCare.com, eligible families can search and request care for full day and partial day options in facility-based and home-based programs for children from birth through age 12. Families may remain on a preferred program's waitlist even after being offered care or enrolling in another program.

Families at Travis who are currently on waitlists will be automatically transitioned to the new web-based system. These families will retain the original date of their request(s) for care, and all program enrollment processes will remain the same.

For additional information, go to MilitaryChildCare.com or contact the Help Desk by calling the toll free number, 855-696-2934 or emailing FamilySupport@MilitaryChildCare.com.

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# At-home exams can help catch oral cancer

**Master Sgt. Rebecca Davis**  
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April is Oral Cancer Awareness Month. One person dies every hour in the United States from oral cancer. Each day, approximately 132 people are diagnosed with oral cancer. Ninety-three percent of individuals diagnosed with oral cancer had a history of prolonged tobacco and alcohol use and/or were exposed to the human papilloma virus. For the remaining 7 percent, the cause is unknown.

The good news is that if oral cancer is found early, the survival rate is high. Early detection is key. Make it a priority to look in your mouth and request an oral cancer screening during your routine dental examination. At home, complete a self-exam by following these simple steps:

- Stand in front of a mirror. Extend your tongue forward, then side to side looking for anything "new" growing on or under your tongue.
- Look at your cheeks. Pull your top and bottom lip out looking for any white, red, brown or blue lesions. Anything suspicious should be brought to your dental provider's attention as soon as possible.

suspicious should be brought to your dental provider's attention as soon as possible.

• While looking in the mirror, see if your tonsils are swollen. Are they causing you pain?

• Place your finger on the roof of your mouth feeling for any lumps or bumps.

• Place one finger on the floor of your mouth under your tongue. With the other hand take your index finger placing it under your lower jaw and follow along with the finger on the inside of your mouth, making sure to do both sides of your jaw. Any pain? Do you feel anything different?

• Take your hands and feel the back of your neck (at the base of your head and along the sides of your neck) checking for lumps and bumps

If you take the time to notice changes in your mouth, as well as the head and neck area, and get annual professional dental exams, you will increase your knowledge on this potentially deadly disease. Dental professionals can provide you with current information


See **CANCER** Page 13

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# Air Force encouraging hackers to attack

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David L. Goldfein, left, and Acting Secretary of the Air Force Lisa Disbrow, second from left, discuss the importance of Defense Digital Service and what they bring to the fight with Chris Lynch, right, the team leader, and Paul Tagliamonte, a section member, April 12 at the Pentagon. The DDS section is a unique team of industry experts assisting the Air Force.

U.S. Air Force photo/Wayne A. Clark



## Public sites eyed in cybercampaign

**Ed Gulick**  
SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

SAN FRANCISCO — The Air Force is inviting vetted computer security specialists from across the U.S. and select partner nations to do their best to hack some of its key public websites.

The initiative is part of the Cyber Secure campaign sponsored by the Air Force's Chief Information Officer as a measure to further operationalize the domain and leverage talent from both within and outside the Defense Department.

The event expands on the DOD 'Hack the Pentagon' bug bounty program by broadening the participation pool from U.S. citizens to include "white hat" hackers from the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

"This outside approach—drawing on the talent and expertise of our citizens and partner-nation citizens—in identifying our security vulnerabilities will help bolster our cybersecurity. We already aggressively conduct exercises and 'red team' our public facing and critical websites. But this next step throws open the doors and brings additional talent onto our cyber team," said Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David L. Goldfein.

White hat hacking and crowdsourced security concepts are industry standards that are used by small businesses and large corporations alike to better secure their networks against malicious attacks. Bug bounty programs offer paid bounties for all legitimate vulnerabilities reported.

"This is the first time the AF has opened up our networks to such a broad scrutiny," said Peter Kim, the Air Force Chief Information Security Officer. "We have malicious hackers trying to get into our systems every day. It will be nice to have friendly hackers taking a shot and, most importantly, showing us how to improve our cybersecurity and defense posture. The additional participation from our partner nations greatly widens the variety of experience available to find additional unique vulnerabilities."

Kim made the announcement at a kick-off event held at the headquarters of HackerOne, the contracted security consulting firm running the contest.

"The whole idea of 'security through obscurity' is completely backwards. We need to understand where our weaknesses are in order to fix them, and there is no better way than to open it up to the global hacker

See HACKERS Page 13

From left to right, Alex Rice, chief technology officer, and Peter Kim, co-founder of HackerOne, announce the upcoming "Hack the Air Force" April 26 in San Francisco.

U.S. Air Force photo/ Tech. Sgt. Dan DeCook



## Hackers

From Page 12

community," said Chris Lynch of the Defense Digital Service, an organization comprised of industry experts incorporating critical private sector experience across numerous digital challenges.

The competition for technical talent in both the public and private sectors is fiercer than it has ever been according to Kim. The Air Force must compete with companies like Facebook and Google for the best and brightest, particularly in the science, technology, engineering, and math fields.

Keen to leverage private sector talent, the Air Force partnered with DDS to launch the Air Force Digital Service team in January 2017, affording a creative solution that turns that competition for talent into a partnership.

In fact, Goldfein and Acting Secretary of the Air Force Lisa S. Disbrow visited the Defense Digital Service and Air Force Digital Service in early April to

discuss a variety of initiatives the Air Force can benefit from.

"We're mobilizing the best talent from across the nation and among partner nations to help strengthen the Air Force's cyber defenses. It's an exciting venture, one that will make us better, and one that focuses an incredible pool of capabilities toward keeping our Air Force sites secure," Disbrow said.

The DOD's 'Hack the Pentagon' initiative was launched by the Defense Digital Service in April 2016 as the first bug bounty program employed by the federal government. More than 1,400 hackers registered to participate in the program. Nearly 200 reports were received within the first six hours of the program's launch, and \$75,000 in total bounties was paid out to participating hackers.

Registration for the 'Hack the Air Force' event opens May 15 on the HackerOne website. The contest opens May 30 and ends June 23. Military members and government civilians are not eligible for compensation, but can participate on-duty with supervisor approval.

## Cancer

From Page 11

and literature on oral cancer that will help you recognize signs and potential symptoms of the disease. There are free

## MTI

From Page 8

the same place at the same time was challenging at times; trainees are on a tight schedule," Fairchild said.

Within less than two months, trainees must be physically fit and knowledgeable on military concepts in preparation of entering the operational Air Force.

"I wanted every single person to succeed," Fairchild said. "If some weren't getting the concepts, I would think 'what am I doing wrong?' I would then look to others to get different perspectives. Getting them to where they needed to be was always my goal."

The impact Fairchild had on her trainees has endured as the trainees became Airmen.

websites such as QuitTobacco.com and www.quit.com that you can use to gather additional information and to possibly receive free tobacco replacements such as nicotine gum, mints and patches. If you are concerned about being exposed

to HPV, make an appointment with your health care provider to discuss your concerns, as well as the possibility of receiving a vaccine. If you see something suspicious in your mouth and/or the head and neck area, go see a dentist today.

"Our MTIs helped us grow into the Airmen we are today," said Airman 1st Class Zenawi Tecele, a former trainee of Fairchild and now a 6th Security Forces Squadron entry controller. "They taught us discipline, military customs and courtesies, and the importance of respecting rank to build the foundation we all use as Airmen in the operational Air Force."

After four years, more than 50 flights and thousands of trainees, Fairchild has now returned to her career field as an individual protective equipment supervisor assigned to the 6th Logistics Readiness Squadron at MacDill Air Force Base.

For Fairchild, the four years she spent training Airmen impacted her greatly.

"People reach out to me through email and tell me how they are doing and how

I impacted them," she said. "Looking back and hearing from those I trained is rewarding."

Aside from following her passion for instructing, Fairchild's experience has prepared her for later in her career.

"Being an MTI has prepared me for the next ranks," Fairchild said. "As an MTI, we handle many people and their individual needs within the flight. We learn to manage both time and people, as well as high pressure situations with a fast learning curve."

Additionally, she has taken her instructor skills and applied them as a supervisor.

"Her experience as an MTI, has given her a zero tolerance policy as a supervisor," said Senior Airman Kristin Weiland, a 6th LRS individual protective equipment technician.

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**Ride**

From Page 8

Once the application process is complete, commuters receive benefits on a government-issued debit card, said Lombardi. Applications are available at the A&FRC.

“These transportation benefits put money back in the

pockets of our Travis team members and also improves air quality and reduces traffic congestion. When this is multiplied across the Air Force, we can see greater cost savings for our Airmen and the environment,” said Lombardi.

For more information, call Lombardi at 707-424-2486 or e-mail her at autumn.lombardi.2@us.af.mil.

**Diversity**

From Page 6

work remains to ensure continued success.

In September 2016, Air Force senior leaders released the second memorandum to Airmen relaying new diversity and inclusion initiatives; the additional information on the initiatives aligns with Defense Department diversity efforts and recognizes the strength of the force will always be in its people.

The Air Force will continue to look holistically at talent

management processes for opportunities to ensure the Air Force is an employer of choice for the nation’s best and brightest talent and capitalizes on the unique contributions of all Airmen, Air Force leadership said.

For additional information on the initiatives, Airmen are encouraged to speak with their chain of command and force support squadrons. For specific personnel guidance related to each initiative, Airmen should go to myPers. Individuals who do not have a myPers account can request one by following these instructions.

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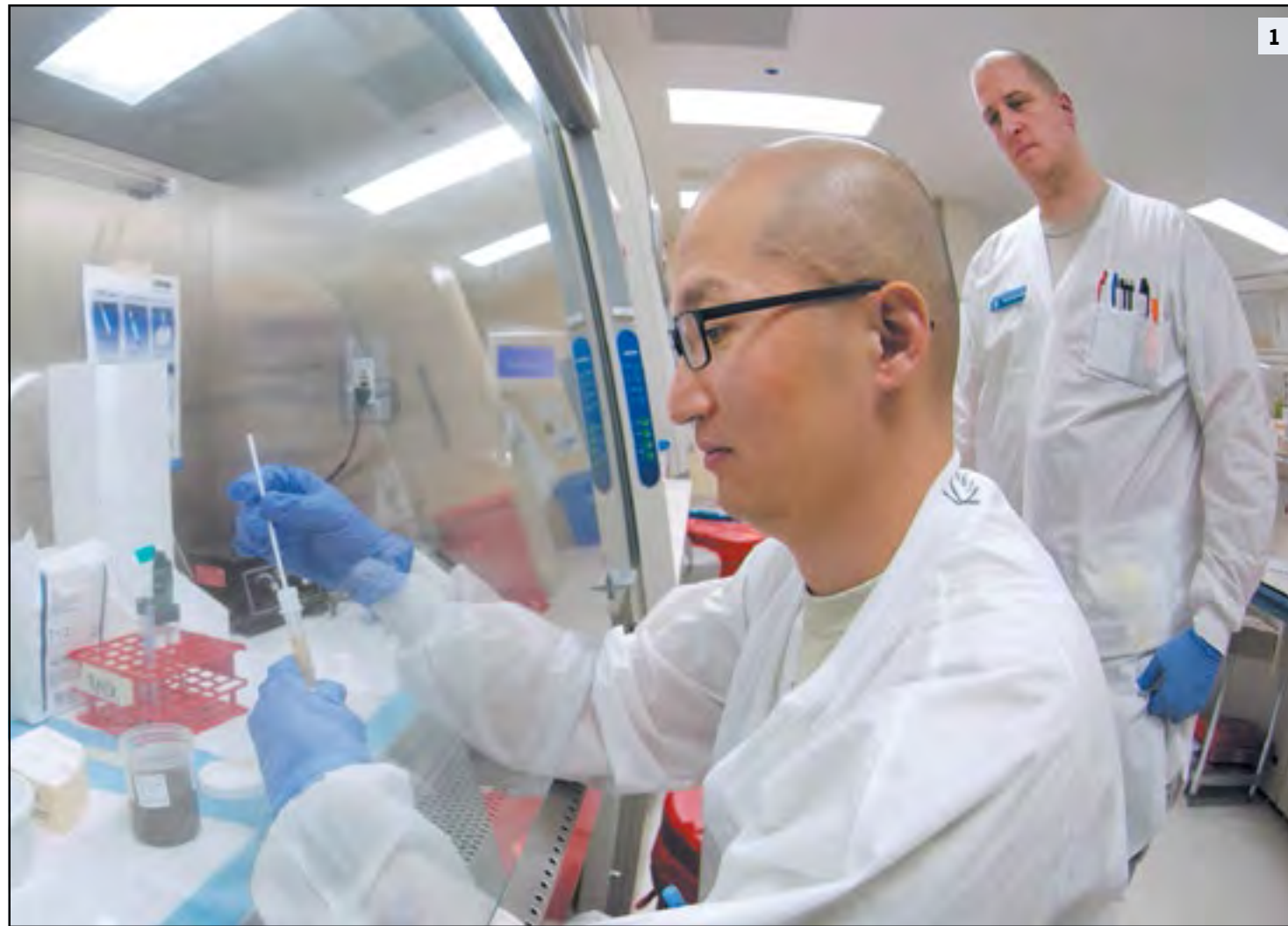


# Hospital lab celebrates success

## Magazine recognizes 60th MDTS as armed services toast professionals

US Air Force photos by T.C. Perkins Jr.

1) Airman 1st Class Michael Kim, 60th Diagnostics and Therapeutics Squadron, processes a sample while Staff Sgt. Matthew Lisherness, 60th MDTS microbiology section, watches. The Medical Laboratory Observer magazine connects clinical laboratory professionals with peer-reviewed articles, lab management tips, regulatory updates, industry trends, and new product reviews. The prestigious magazine named 60th Diagnostics and Therapeutics Squadron's clinical lab, David Grant USAF Medical Center Laboratory as the 2017 Lab of the Year. The award also coincides with the Armed Services Blood Program Medical Laboratory Professionals Week celebrated April 23 through April 29 where Travis Air Force Base Calif. has over 20 activities scheduled during that week. 2) Airman 1st Class Marisa Grantham, 60th MDTS, reads some of the accomplishments the David Grant Medical Center's Medical Laboratory has made to be recognized as Medical Lab of the Year 2017. 3) Col. Michael Higgins, 60th Medical Group commander, addresses laboratory personnel after the ribbon cutting ceremony opening the newly equipped laboratory center at DGMCC. 4) Col. Corwin Pauly, 60th Air Mobility Wing vice commander, has just read the 60th Air Mobility Wing's Proclamation declaring Medical Laboratory Professionals Week on Travis Air Force Base Calif. 5) Phlebotomist assigned to the 60th Diagnostics and Therapeutics Squadron's central operations section draw blood specimens from patients at David Grant Medical Center's Medical Laboratory. 6) Lt. Col Jimmey Labit, 60th MDTS, presents a copy of the, Medical Laboratory Observer to Pauly.





## Survivor

From Page 3

better than everyone else,' ” he said. “He is a competitive, driven guy. He attacked every one of those treatments the same way.”

In June 2015, Bartomeo was put in a brief remission, only to find two weeks later the cancer had returned and the chemo treatments had not been effective.

The second attempt at treating the cancer was completed during a clinical trial at Stanford Cancer Institute in Palo Alto, California. Bartomeo underwent various forms of immunotherapy, including an autologous bone marrow transplant.

He and Pauly remained close throughout the long process, even when Pauly was deployed during the clinical trial portion of treatment.

“I’m lucky because I got sick in the best job that you can get sick in in the Air Force,” said Bartomeo. “Colonel Pauly (always) told me, ‘We’ll get you back on flying status and then

we’ll go out and fly together.’ ”

Despite Bartomeo and Pauly’s optimism, the cancer’s toll on Bartomeo’s health, family, lifestyle and career was grueling and difficult. There were a few times his return to the Air Force seemed doubtful, said Pauly.

“I remember the day Matt came in and said, ‘They’ve found me unfit for duty and they’re going to medically retire me,’ ” said Pauly. “He told me, ‘I’m appealing it and I’m fighting it and I think I’m going to get through, but, just in case, would you be willing to do my retirement?’ ”

He paused, overcome with emotion.

“That was – still is – an emotional day, because it’s the first time I saw him crack, just a little bit,” he said. “But it was only for that long. Literally, it was only for a two-minute conversation and then he was back on and saying things like, ‘When I get healthy, I’m going to do this,’ and ‘I’m going to get back on flying status.’ ”

Despite the odds, Bartomeo was never medically retired.

The clinical trial proved successful and he was put in remission a second time. In August 2016, he returned to work full time in the 60th Operations Support Squadron at Travis.

“Matt’s the kind of guy that leans forward, attacks the problems and then finds solutions,” said Pauly. “And when the Air Force overturned their decision (to medically retire him), I will forever say the Air Force got that one right.”

As soon as he returned, Bartomeo began working toward applying for a flight waiver with the Air Force so he could reach his ultimate goal: returning to the cockpit. After several months, the long-awaited decision arrived. Bartomeo was placed back on active duty status and granted the waiver. He had not been able to fly in 26 months.

One of his first reactions to the good news? “I texted Colonel Pauly and asked him when we were going flying,” said Bartomeo.

The two reached their shared goal in April, when they flew a local C-5 training mission

together April 12.

“Matt has rolled with all of this stuff and always had a positive outlook that the outcome would be positive ... that cancer was not going to get him,” said Pauly. “I was more than willing to do everything I could to get him back, fully qualified, in an airplane, before he moved.”

Though one of his biggest hurdles is complete, Bartomeo still lives with the proud but challenging title of being a cancer survivor – a title that, as any survivor knows, is much more complicated than it seems.

“The hardest thing I’ve ever had to do in life is not go through cancer treatment,” said Bartomeo. “The hardest thing I’ve ever had to do in life, to include the Air Force, to include pilot training, is to live as a survivor. I don’t think we give cancer survivors enough credit for what they go through on a daily basis.”

Despite being in remission, survivors are always tuned in to the symptoms that led to the diagnosis in the first place, he said. In his case, it is the original three symptoms: itching,

night sweats and coughing.

“This has been the hardest part of my symptoms,” he said. “Dealing with itching, night sweats and coughing, that’s daily life for many people. Now you have to go through and determine, what is the right amount?”

He and his wife constantly pay attention to his health.

“In February, I got a cold, and I was coughing for around three weeks,” he said. “Every time I’d cough, my wife would look at me and say, ‘Uh ... do we have a problem?’ ”

So far, Bartomeo has beaten the odds. He conducts rapid global mobility with his C-5, providing critical airlift to the places and people who need it most and does it all after fighting cancer for 14 months.

“Honestly, I didn’t expect I’d ever get to fly again with Matt Bartomeo,” said Pauly. “I didn’t think the Air Force would let him into a cockpit again. The fact that he beat those odds in addition to beating cancer (and) to see him able to progress, both as a pilot and a future Air Force leader, is very, very rewarding.”

## Gather

From Page 5

wildfire activity,” said Kim Christensen, U.S. Forest Service deputy assistant director for operations.

Participating Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve units include the 153rd Airlift Wing from Cheyenne, Wyoming; the 302nd Airlift Wing from Colorado Springs, Colorado; the 146th Airlift Wing from Port Hueneme, California; and the 152nd Airlift Wing from Reno, Nevada.

Water drops for training will be executed on lands within the Boise National Forest and Boise District Bureau of Land Management. Boise area residents in these areas may see low-flying U.S. Forest Service lead planes and C-130s dropping water starting Friday and throughout the weekend.

In the past decade, military C-130s equipped with MAFFS delivered about 8 million gallons of fire retardant on wildfires around the U.S.

“Training collectively as a

large group is vitally important as it ensures overall standardization of operations while continuing to build working relationships with the key players in the wildland firefighting community,” Allen said. “It is

rewarding as guardsmen and reservists to stand alongside our wildland firefighting agency partners, knowing that we help make a difference protecting our citizens and their property.”

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## Award

From Page 4

only covered 2015 to 2016, the restoration team has built on its successes since 2008, said Lonnie Duke, AFCEC restoration program manager.

"We fully immersed ourselves in green and sustainable remediation methods," he said. "We started in 2008 and it's picked up momentum. We're using (GSR) at more and more sites."

Duke added that winning the award was a team effort.

"We have the right team – everyone on the team is working toward the same goal," he said.

The team includes the environmental contractor, CH2M Hill, the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, three regulatory

agencies and the restoration advisory board.

Anderson attributed the number of sites treated and the application of green and sustainable remediation technologies – those proven to be effective as well as technologies the team wanted to demonstrate – as the primary reasons the Travis program stood apart from other installation cleanup programs.

For example, the team installed a subgrade biogeochemical reactor, which is powered by a solar panel array, to clean up the second worst chlorinated solvent source on base. The reactor – one of two built in the United States – is an underground structure composed of gravel and mulch that cleans the contaminated groundwater as it percolates through the reactor.

The team is also using solar

panel arrays at four locations to power groundwater extraction pumps and recirculate treated water. By eliminating the electrical demand on the base's power grid, the team is saving \$37,000 annually while reducing greenhouse gas emissions by about 1.8 billion pounds a year.

Innovative technologies also include injecting materials into the subsurface to stimulate biological or chemical processes that break down contaminants in groundwater.

Replacing some of the traditional and costly groundwater remediation technologies also will save the base the thousands of dollars it would have cost to construct, operate and maintain such systems.

"Winning the award is a wonderful example of what you can achieve with a dedicated team working hard toward the

same goal," said Mark Smith, restoration advisory board member and former environmental restoration program manager at Travis.

"We're seeing the results of a performance-based contract finally coming into place," said Smith.

Basically, a performance-based contract outlines the cleanup objectives, but does not tell the contractor how to achieve the best results. Smith also credited the regulatory agencies for allowing the team to implement some of the innovative cleanup technologies.

The relationship with the agencies is extremely critical in California since some of the state's maximum contamination levels exceed federal levels, according to Anderson.

Additionally, water quality protection policies and requirements must be considered in the design and implementation of all cleanup actions, he said.

"To overcome these challenges, the (environmental restoration program) staff conducts planning discussions with the three regulatory agencies to finalize remedial

designs and remedial action work plans that meet stringent standards," said Anderson.

The team also holds monthly meetings and teleconferences with the regulatory agencies to promote two-way-communication and foster a positive relationship. They meet twice per year with the restoration advisory board – a group of community leaders and members of the public – to ensure all cleanup activities are transparent and RAB members have an opportunity to provide feedback on proposed actions.

"The hard work, effort and ability to work with other agencies – both on and off base – brought it all together, not just to achieve this award, but also the milestones we set during the year," said Angel Santiago, AFCEC restoration program manager.

Travis has been on the Environmental Protection Agency's National Priorities List since 1989. The NPL includes military and civilian locations throughout the United States and its territories with the most contaminants, hazardous waste or pollutants.

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## Watch

From Page 4

Oklahoma City, stating that he would go anywhere at any time with his deploying team.

"They sacrifice a great deal," Martin said. "It never ceases to amaze me as long as I've been doing this job. I watch mothers and fathers hand over their infants and toddlers to go do something they feel very strongly about. That sacrifice they make for

the greater good is tremendous."

Fellow defenders from the 507th SFS joined the Airmen at the airport to show their support and to bid them farewell. When Jardot and his team boarded the plane, he said even though he felt sad to leave his family, he felt anxious to support the mission.

"My hopes are to execute my job to the best of my ability, deliver the commander's intent, watch my brothers' backs and come home safe," he said.

## Heiney

From Page 2

everything by himself, he fits in at a new school on day one and he's beginning to become completely unfazed by our absence. The other day I told him I had to go on a work trip, but I was only going to be gone a night and he said, "No, I want you to be gone three nights." See? Brat.

I've tried to explain some different aspects of the military to my son, but I never realized how difficult that can be until he learned how to ask

why. Three year olds are not satisfied with the answer at the surface, they make you peel away a concept layer by layer.

"Hey Mom, what's that song called?"

"It's called the national anthem."

"Why do we have to stop?"

"Because it shows respect."

"Why?"

Respect, it turns out, is particularly difficult to explain in 3-year-old concepts. Eventually, I threw my hands up and said, "I don't know, that's just what it is." A few weeks later when retreat began to play, I knew that maybe I'd explained

it just well enough. Out of the corner of my eye, I saw his small blonde head glowing in the sunlight and his hand on his chest. My heart swelled with the music as I watched him stand (mostly) still until the last melodic note of our national anthem faded.

Month of the Military Child is an opportunity for us to recognize the contribution our kids make. When my son mimics our core values or shows strength or succeeds despite challenges, it makes me intensely proud. Maybe that pride is even strong enough to quell the worry, just a little bit.

## Waste

From Page 5

unincorporated residents: Recology Vacaville Solano Recycling Center, 855 1/2 Davis Street, Vacaville. 800-207-8222. No appointments are required. Open every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

### Fairfield, Suisun City and Rio Vista

Incorporated residents and unincorporated residents: Solano Garbage Company, 2901 Industrial Court, Fairfield. 707-437-8971. Appointments are required. Open the second and

fourth Saturday of each month from 9 a.m. to noon.

### Vallejo

Incorporated and unincorporated residents: Vallejo-Napa Household Hazardous Waste Facility, 889A Devlin Road, American Canyon. 800-984-9661. No appointments are required. Open every Friday and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

### Rio Vista

Incorporated and unincorporated residents: The City of Rio Vista will hold an annual household hazardous waste event each year. Call 707-374-5644.

In addition, free electronic waste recycling is provided by:

- Travis County Community Thrift Shop: Donate your working televisions, computer monitors and other e-waste at the Travis Community Thrift Shop, 560 Hickam Avenue, Bldg. 247, Travis AFB, California. Phone: 707 437-2370.

- Solano Recycles: Recycle televisions, computer monitors and other e-waste at Solano Recycles, 2901 Industrial Court, Fairfield, California. Call 707 437-8900 for more information.

- Solano County Programs: Participate in local county e-waste events; check the schedule at <http://bit.ly/2pmEqu0>.



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1) Matthew Wacker, associate ecologist consultant from H. T. Harvey and Associates, uses a cloth net to collect samples from a vernal pool April 20 during the Earth Day Nature Preserve Tour at Travis Air Force Base, Calif.

# EARTH DAY

... event showcases base's wildlife

U.S. Air Force photos by Heide Couch



2) Matthew Wacker, left, associate ecologist consultant from H. T. Harvey and Associates, shows a curious onlooker a close up view of creatures found in a vernal pool ecosystem April 20 during the Earth Day Nature Preserve Tour. The event showcased the many natural environmental resources available to visit on the base. 3) A young participant of the Earth Day Nature Preserve Tour gets a close look at a fairy shrimp sample.



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