



# Travis Airmen confront ... **ARCTIC**

**PAGES 14-15**

# Pathfinders pursue objectives in Norway

**Commentary by  
Lt. Col. Shawn P. Beskar**  
426TH AIR BASE SQUADRON COMMANDER

The presence of permanently assigned U.S. Air Force personnel in Norway comes as a surprise to most Airmen. “I had no idea we had a base in Norway” is a typical reaction, followed by the question “What aircraft do you support?”

Strictly speaking, we do not have a base in Norway nor do we have an active flying mission. Nevertheless, America’s Air Force is present in Norway, Land of the Midnight Sun.

Since 1952, the U.S. Air Force has maintained a small but significant enduring

presence in the Kingdom of Norway. Our unit was once designated the 7240th Air Base Squadron and located in Norway’s capital city of Oslo. In 1994, the unit was re-flagged as the 426th Air Base Squadron and moved to Sola Sea, a former German seaplane base on the Hafjrsfjord, adjacent to the Stavanger-Sola Lufthavn (airport). In 1999, the 426th Air Base Squadron moved to the Jättå Military Compound, a small Norwegian military base on the flank of the mountain Jättånuten and current home to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization’s Joint Warfare Centre (NATO JWC). Over the years the 426th Air Base Squadron has been subordinate

**Commander’s  
Commentary**

to a variety of organizations including the 603d Regional Support Group at Ramstein Air Base in Germany and the 100th Air Refueling Wing at RAF Mildenhall, United Kingdom. Since 2005, we have been part of the Pathfinders – the 501st Combat Support Wing.

Pathfinders in the 426th ABS include active duty military, U.S. civilians, and local national civilian personnel. Our Airmen collectively execute a mission that serves to

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The NATO Joint Warfare Centre and 426th Air Base Squadron reside on the Jättå Military Compound, a Norwegian installation on the flank of Jättånuten, Stavanger’s tallest mountain.

# Know your buy-in to remain inspired, focused

**Commentary by Senior  
Master Sgt. Philip Knight**

571ST MOBILITY SUPPORT ADVISORY SQUADRON

When did you buy in? It is almost cliché discussing “buy-in,” but hear me out.

We all have many reasons to serve, and, if you ask any Airman, you will be presented with a variety of answers. Sometimes it comes in a single moment, ranging from the moment you march down the bomb run at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas, or the moment you are presented with your first set of master sergeant stripes. I found

**Enlisted Commentary**

that it was more of a realization than a “gotcha” moment of how we fit into the mission.

This personal connection is vital to how you fit into the larger picture and to new Airmen it is a difficult endeavor. Leaving family and friends, taking the bus on a warm Texas night to report to basic training, is a feeling I will not forget. The fear, excitement, anxiety and anticipation of the coming weeks are a massive set of emotions to wrap your head around. At that point, I was still thinking about me and, really, what can

you expect of an 18-year-old far from home taking his first steps into adulthood?

After making it through training and arriving at my first duty station, I was overwhelmed. Meeting new people, adapting to my new freedom and the responsibility of arriving to work on time without the pleasure of someone kicking my bed was a major adjustment.

I was an aircraft weapons loader on the B-1 bomber, but that really hadn’t set in, until one July night. I had received my final qualifications to be a certified member of a loading crew. Our shift supervisor briefed us that we had two aircraft to load with live ordinance

for a training mission the next morning.

As I completed my checklists and procedures, I walked over to the bomb-lift truck, or “jammer” as they are nicknamed, and started it up. The engine roared to life and I drove it into position to pick up the first 500-pound bomb. Just seeing the young Airman I was working with to secure the bomb to the truck and clear me to drive to the aircraft was eye opening. I watched my No. 2 man as he marshaled me into position under the aircraft and set the brake. Two noncommissioned officers raced up the ladder and disappeared into the

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# Childhood passion leads to maintainer’s career

**Tech. Sgt. Liliana Moreno**  
621ST CONTINGENCY RESPONSE WING  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

“I like seeing the intricacies and how everything works inside an airplane ... others just see the airplane flying, but what they don’t see is everything that is going on inside of it or the effort that goes into it.”

Master Sgt. Raphael Romero, 571st Mobility Support Advisory Squadron, fell in love with aviation when he was a little boy flying airplanes with his father, Rafael, and watching his favorite cartoon called “Robotech”.

Being born in Arizona but raised in Mexico for 19 years, Romero started looking at the choices he had available to pursue his military aviation dream. As he considered his options, and with the advice and support of his mother, Olivia Moreno, he decided to join the U.S. Air Force.



Master Sgt. Raphael Romero, 571st Mobility Support Advisory Squadron aircraft maintenance senior air advisor, performs a post-flight inspection on an Augusta Westland AW-139 helicopter engine along with the National Air and Naval Service of Panama flying crew chief at Nicanor Air Base, Panama. Air advisors assess, train, advise and assist U.S. Southern Command lines of effort of strengthening partnerships and countering threats from transnational criminal organizations.

“I was in the Delayed-Entry Program during the 9/11 terrorist attacks when my recruiter called, (and) I immediately told him, ‘Sign me up; I’m still coming in!’” he said. “I just kept on going and ended up deploying a year after I got to my first base.”

According to Romero, joining as an aircraft maintainer opened up a new world for him and was perhaps the best choice he could have made.

“I signed up for the experience and the knowledge,” he said. “There have been many times that I’ve sent airplanes into combat and have people like

special forces or troops in contact come and say to me, ‘Hey, who was in charge of this airplane? Because thanks to you we are alive right now.’”

Romero is also very proud of the Airmen he has served alongside during his 17-year career and says they are one of the highlights of his career.

“Maintenance is not an easy job; we are out there in the sun, snow or rain,” he said. “Being able to mentor young Airmen, making them feel valuable, and telling them that without them the mission doesn’t happen, that has been the greatest thing.”

At his current unit with the 571st MSAS, Romero serves as

the aircraft maintenance senior air advisor. The 571st MSAS is a language enabled squadron that assesses, advises, trains and assists Latin American and Caribbean countries to enhance their airpower capabilities as part of the U.S. Air Force’s enduring building partner capacity mission.

“As an air advisor you go through great lengths to try to build those partnerships,” Romero said. “Relationships will flourish if we just continue to understand and have empathy for one another.”

Maj. Rodolfo Orozco, 571st

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Tailwind

Travis AFB, Calif. | 60th Air Mobility Wing

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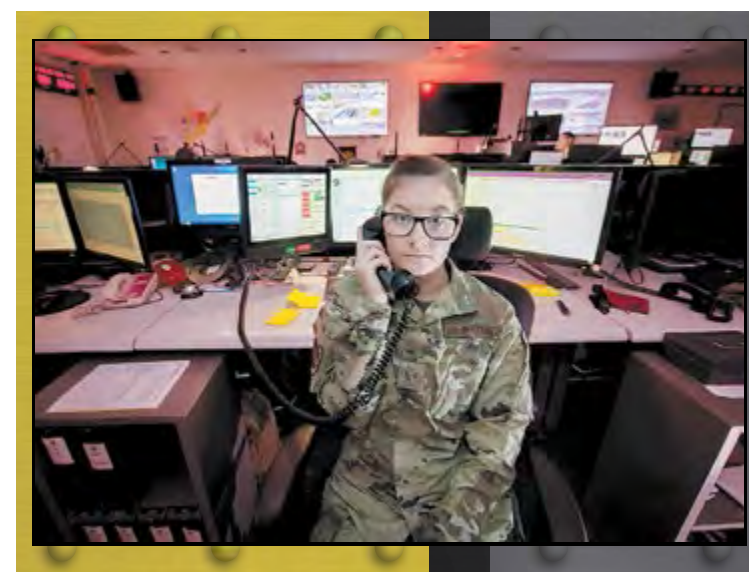
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**On the cover**

**Staff Sgt. Damien Sloan, 821st Contingency Response Squadron, operates de-icing equipment Nov. 20 on a C-5M Super Galaxy at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska.**

U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Jonathan Valdes Montijo



## WARRIOR OF THE WEEK

**Name:**  
Senior Airman Kathleen Iwaszko.

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

**Duty title:**  
Senior emergency actions controller.

**Hometown:**  
Osceola, Wisconsin.

**Time in service:**  
Four years.

**Family:**  
Boyfriend, Jake.

**What are your goals?**  
To earn my bachelor’s degree in

emergency management.

**What are your hobbies?**  
Working out, spending time with my dogs and doing home improvement projects.

**What is your greatest achievement?**  
Transitioning from the Reserves to active duty Air Force in 2016.

1) Senior Airman Salina Boodoosingh, United States Air Force Band of the Golden West vocalist, motivates student participation during a performance Nov. 21 at Travis Air Force Base, California. Travis hosted Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps students from five Northern California high schools and one Oregon high school. The students learned about various Air Force career fields and toured static aircraft, the Heritage Center museum and dormitories. They also talked with Airmen about military life.

2) Airman 1st Class Cody Ferris, 60th Civil Engineer Squadron firefighter, helps a student try on a helmet during a base tour Nov. 21 at Travis. 3) Students wait in line to see the flight deck of a C-17 Globemaster III Nov. 21 at Travis.



1

# EXPERIENCE JROTC students get taste of Air Force life

U.S. Air Force photos by Heide Couch



2



3

## Base Theater to host advance screening of Eastwood film

**60th Air Mobility Wing Public Affairs**

The Travis Reel Time Theater program will host a free, advanced screening of the upcoming film "Richard Jewell" at 6:30 p.m. Dec. 7 at the Base Theater.

Directed by Clint Eastwood and based on true events, "Richard Jewell" tells the story of a security guard who reports

finding a bomb at the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta. His report made him a hero whose swift actions saved lives.

But within days, the law enforcement wannabe became the FBI's top suspect, vilified by some members of the press and public alike.

Jewell, professing innocence, hires attorney Watson Bryant, who finds he is out of his depth

as he fights the combined powers of the FBI, Georgia Bureau of Investigation and Atlanta Police Department.

The film is rated R. Early entry passes are available at the Exchange Food Court. Seating is open to nonpass holders 30 minutes prior to showtime.

For more information about the Travis Reel Time Theater program, call 707-437-3855.

## ARPC unveils online retirement tracker

**Maj. Joe Simms**

HEADQUARTERS AIR RESERVE PERSONNEL CENTER

BUCKLEY AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — Headquarters Air Reserve Personnel Center recently introduced a virtual tracking status bar for Guard and Reserve members to monitor the status of their submitted retirement application.

The status bar provides the applicant a real-time snapshot of the status of their application. The status begins with "Coordination" following a successfully submitted application, to "Sent to DFAS" for initiation of retirement pay, and finally "Completed" at the conclusion of all retirement actions.

To view the status bar, applicants must navigate to the Action Request tab in the Virtual Personnel Center and select the Retirement Application Status link in the Retirements section.

"The virtual status bar was created to meet the needs of our customers," said Mr. Rob Poe, Headquarters ARPC retirement supervisor. "We see a large amount of calls to the Total Force Service Center and myPers inquiries regarding the status of retirement orders. This status bar will allow retirees to get immediate updates on their application and provides an element of transparency to the process."

The retirements section at Headquarters ARPC processes more than 10,000 retirement orders annually. These include orders for Airmen eligible for

Reduced Retired Pay Age, active duty and AGR retirements, and retirements for reservists and guardsmen approaching age 60.

The first step for Airmen to apply for retirement pay is to submit DD Form 2656 through the automated system found in myPers. The completed form is then submitted to a retirements technician who conducts an audit on the member's service history and other contributing factors relevant to retirement pay.

Once the audit is complete and the retirement order is produced, the retiree is able to download a copy of the retirement orders from myPers while Headquarters ARPC forwards a copy to DFAS for processing of payment.

"One of the great features the tracker provides is not only status updates here at HQ ARPC, but updates as the application passes through the system at DFAS," Poe said. "Once the application is approved and is sent to DFAS, the tracker provides an 'Ask DFAS' reference number enabling the retiree to inquire with DFAS on the status of their retired pay."

The visual tracking status bar is the latest in a number of innovative programs Headquarters ARPC has developed with the customer in mind.

"Applying for retirement pay is a once-in-a-lifetime event. We cannot expect the customer to be the expert so we're working to make the process as user-friendly as

possible," said Col. Ashley Heyen, director of Personnel and Total Force Services Directorate. "The automated application process, the reduced retirement pay age application, and now the status bar are all examples of how (Headquarters) ARPC is creating innovative solutions to provide outstanding customer service for retirees."

For additional information on the retirement pay tracker, visit the retirements sections on myPers. The ARPC website also provides resources for individuals approaching retirement pay age.

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# Housing helpline connects residents to support they seek

**Zoe Schlott**

AIR FORCE INSTALLATION AND MISSION SUPPORT CENTER PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Since its launch in May, the Air Force Housing Helpline has helped residents resolve concerns with Air Force privatized and government housing.

The Air Force Civil Engineer Center Installations Directorate, which manages and executes the Air Force's housing program, established a 24-hour helpline to address concerns raised regarding the military privatized housing program. As of November 2019, the helpline has received 32 calls from residents. Nine of those cases are open and actively being worked by AFCEC.

The helpline is a proactive measure by the Air Force to address housing issues raised by privatized and government housing residents, while

creating an improved, standardized system that ensures the health and safety of Airmen and their families, according to Col. Michael Beach, Air Force Housing Privatization chief.

"Our focus with the helpline has been to provide a tool to residents that assists them in raising their concerns in a way that they feel their issue is being addressed and resolved in a timely manner," Beach said.

Helpline agents connect concerned residents with the appropriate channels of assistance and consultation. The agent documents the issue, much like a project owner records a work order, then routes it to AFCEC, which works with the resident and project owner to understand and resolve the concern. AFCEC is analyzing calls for trends to help the Air Force and project owners prevent future, similar issues at

### More info

To reach the housing helpline, call 800-482-6431. Representatives are available toll-free 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to connect residents with the support they need related to their housing concerns.

installations.

While the toll-free line is always available, AFCEC housing program experts recommend residents use established processes to address issues. Residents should first reach out to their project owner when issues arise, then to their base Military Housing Office and wing leadership for additional help to resolve the matter.

"Residents may also use the helpline if they feel uncomfortable approaching their leadership about their situation," Beach said.

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U.S. Air Force photo/Airman Azaria E. Foster

Students of the Air Force Ranger Assessment Course perform a simulated casualty search Nov. 15 at Moody Air Force Base, Georgia. The course teaches critical tasks such as land navigation and troop movements. During the 19-day training course, students are evaluated to determine if they possess the knowledge, willpower and skills to attend Army Ranger School.

## Ranger Assessment Course pushes students' limits

Airman Azaria E. Foster  
23RD WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

MOODY AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. — The Air Force Ranger Assessment Course, hosted by the 820th Base Defense Group, tested the capabilities of 35 students at Moody Air Force Base and Camp Blanding Joint Training Center in Starke, Florida, Oct. 31-Nov. 22.

The course is designed to evaluate students to determine if they possess the knowledge, willpower and skills to qualify as a Ranger.

"The Ranger Assessment Course strives to meet the intent of senior military leaders by fielding a lethal, resilient and rapidly adapting joint force," said Tech. Sgt. Keegan

Donnelly, Ranger Assessment Course program manager. "It also builds) competent, agile and lethal Airmen capable of operating in austere, as well as joint, denied or degraded and built-up environments. Rangers (learn) how to lead when things go wrong (by) guiding themselves and their men through fatigue, stress, hunger and controlled chaos."

The Ranger Assessment Course teaches students critical tasks needed to qualify for U.S. Army Ranger School. These tasks include land navigation, troop movements, shooting and maintaining weapons, using radios, employing an M18 Claymore mine, a ruck march and a combat water survival test.

"We conduct training that

deals with weapons, small-unit tactics and stress management," Donnelly said. "We assess five components: the physical training test, combat water survival, land navigation, numerous ruck marches between five and 12 miles and ranger training tasks, which help develop students and prepare them to survive the first week of Ranger School and beyond."

Despite only 43% of this year's students qualifying to move on to Ranger School, nearly 315 Airmen have earned a Ranger tab since the Army began accepting all branches in 1955.

"Qualified Rangers gain the ability to develop and mold Airmen around them in all aspects of their career, and become proficient in troop leading in

overwhelming circumstances," Donnelly said.

The course not only focuses on critical tasks, but it assesses students on their ability to lead.

"I learned that leadership comes in different forms," said Marine Sgt. Logan Hancock, a Ranger Assessment Course student. "I also learned how to give very specific instructions to accomplish a task in a short period of time and that as a follower, you need to take a step back and hold your comments off toward someone who is leading you so (you) can get (the job) done."

Army Ranger School is physically demanding and requires students to operate on minimal sleep and food. The Ranger Assessment Course gave students a taste of this

training with long days and limited food and water.

"This course has shown me that not just the job, but the (people) that wanted to do this job, are awesome," Hancock said. "I wouldn't want to surround myself with anyone other than the caliber of (people) who want to accomplish Ranger School."

While 28 out of 35 participants completed the course, only 15 received the cadre's recommendation and a slot to attend Ranger School.

According to Donnelly, units that sent students to the Ranger Assessment Course invested in a more experienced leader that will be successful, both at home and abroad, in handling fatigue and stress while guiding those around them.

## Navy team improves care for women, infants

### Military Health System Communications Office

A team of nurses and providers at Naval Medical Center San Diego were awarded the Rear Adm. Elizabeth S. Niemyer Award for Evidence-Based Practice this August, for their work improving outcomes for pregnant women and babies.

In 2018, childbirth made up 42 percent of all hospital admissions in the Military Health Services. As with other national health systems, data have shown that delivering top outcomes for pregnant women and babies continues to be one of the MHS's greatest challenges.

This is why providers and staff across the MHS have been working on ways to improve outcomes for pregnant women and babies. The award-winning team at Naval Medical Center San Diego have had some success.

They focused on the care process for inducing labor in pregnant women. In 20 percent of pregnancies, labor must be induced. This can be a long and complex process for mothers and babies. Induction of labor can lead to complications as well. So, the team developed and implemented a care pathway.

Care pathways approach care from the patient's perspective.

They guide a patient with a specific condition through each step of the care experience. Providers use the pathway to ensure all patients receive consistent, high-quality care aligned to best practices.

When the Induction of Labor care pathway was used in the hospital, the team found that patient outcomes improved.

The team saw a 2 percent decrease in unplanned neonatal intensive care unit admissions. Time from hospital admission to delivery decreased by an average of four hours. And chorioamnionitis infections in labor went down 5 percent. Chorioamnionitis is a bacterial infection that can affect both mothers and babies.

Now that the team has seen results in San Diego, there may be opportunity to expand and improve outcomes for women and babies across the MHS.

"We are looking for the best way to roll out the pathway to other military treatment facilities," said the project team lead, Navy Cmdr. (Dr.) Monica Lutgendorf.

This project is just one example of teams improving care for MHS patients. Lutgendorf is the chair of the MHS Women and Infant Clinical Community. The

See CARE Page 19



Labor and Delivery providers were the front-line adopters of the Induction of Labor care pathway at Naval Medical Center San Diego. As of July, more than 80% of the hospital's providers were using the pathway.

U.S. Navy photo/Seaman Joseph A. Boomhower

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# Final CALCM missile package retired

**Airman 1st Class  
Jacob B. Wrightsman**  
2ND BOMB WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

BARKSDALE AIR FORCE BASE, La. — The sun has set on an integral component of the United States' long-range strategic bombing capabilities, as the final Conventional Air-Launched Cruise Missile package was downloaded and disassembled at Barksdale Air Force Base, Nov. 20.

The CALCM missile has been employed in combat operations to include Desert Storm, Desert Strike, Desert Fox, Allied Force, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. Decades later, the final missile package was disassembled to become demilitarized.

"It's incredible to see the tail end of a weapon system come full circle," said Tech. Sgt. Carlos Solorza, 2nd Munitions Squadron weapons system bay chief, during the final upload of the CALCM weapon system. "I don't think I'll ever be a part of another weapon retirement, and the fact that I'm here right now is pretty special."

The CALCM missile is a small, winged missile powered by a turbofan jet engine, able to fly complicated routes through terrain with the guidance of a GPS-aided inertial navigation system.

"I've loaded this weapon system well over 300 times," said retired Chief Master Sgt. Paul LaFlame, former weapons superintendent at Barksdale AFB. "This has been the primary weapon system on the B-52 for decades now."

Although missile design began in the mid-1970s, the

See **MISSILE** Page 18

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# Kisling, Botswana develop professional curriculum

**Tech. Sgt. Rachel Waller**  
U.S. AIR FORCES IN EUROPE & AIR FORCES  
AFRICA PUBLIC AFFAIRS

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany — When Airmen hear of an enlisted professional military education school, they typically think of an Air Force-only school with a narrow mission scope.

However, according to the Kisling Noncommissioned Officer Academy's

website, the mission is not only "to prepare junior enlisted leaders to be adaptable for current and future leadership and management challenges in order to operate critically in complex and ambiguous environments," but to bring their curriculum to joint and combined environments.

"When you hear 'Kisling NCOA,' you immediately think of U. S. Air Forces in Europe-wide students at a centralized

location but we do way more than that," said Master Sgt. Justin Luna, Kisling NCOA director of education. "We actually go to different countries and different countries come here. We have international students and students from different branches of services. We are more than what is physically here."

Kisling NCOA isn't limited to just USAFE students, it also extends to Air Forces Africa as part of the African

Military Education Program.

AMEP aims to professionalize African militaries by helping them to develop faculty and curriculum for African professional military education institutions.

"This is a continuing effort and not a one-time thing," said Chief Master Sgt. Terrance Smiley, Kisling NCOA commandant. "There are multiple events

See **CURRICULUM** Page 18



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

An Air National Guard F-15C Eagle from the 142nd Fighter Wing connects with a KC-135 Stratotanker from the 92nd Air Refueling Wing during an aerial refueling training mission Nov. 22 over Oregon. The 92nd ARW aircrew conducted the training in support of their Oregon ANG total force partners to meet aerial refueling training requirements.

# Fairchild, Oregon ANG complete oceanic training

**Airman 1st Class Lawrence Sena**  
92ND AIR REFUELING WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

FAIRCHILD AIR FORCE BASE, Wash. — Fairchild Air Force Base aircrew members from the 97th, 93rd and 384th Air Refueling squadrons conducted an air refueling training mission with Oregon Air National Guard 142nd Fighter Wing F-15C Eagles Nov. 23 over Oregon.

Fairchild AFB conducted the training with the Oregon

ANG to meet air refueling training requirements for both units en route to completing oceanic training over Hawaii.

"Even though we are active duty, we can always integrate with our Air National Guard partners," said Capt. Thomas Posey, 97th ARS instructor pilot. "Whether it is our air refueling partners from the 141st Air Refueling Wing flying with us or any other guard unit, they play a crucial role in being able

to successfully complete the mission."

Boom operators are required to become certified in refueling all aircraft types, and by supporting the Oregon ANG, Fairchild AFB is able to ensure its boom operators meet fighter refueling requirements and be mission-ready at all times.

"Supporting our ANG partners is important because we are able to get them the air refueling

See **TRAINING** Page 18

## Benicia Grill II

**KARAOKE NOW WED, THURS, FRI & SAT NIGHT!**

*Happy Hour*  
5-6pm

<p>Monday - Friday <b>ANY ITEM</b> on Special Menu <b>\$9.99 • 3-5pm</b></p>	<p>Wednesday thru Saturday <b>KARAOKE</b> 6pm - Close No Cover Charge</p>	<p><b>3-Item Breakfast Special</b> <b>\$6.99</b> Mon-Fri 6am-9am</p>	<p><b>Kids Eat FREE</b> Wed-Sat 4pm-8pm</p>
<p><b>Buy One Breakfast or Lunch Get One FREE</b> <small>Of equal or lesser value. With the purchase of 2 drinks. Up to \$7.00 value. One coupon per table. Not good with any other offers or on Senior menu items. Must present coupon. Offer expires 12/31/19.</small></p>	<p><small>Ordered from Special Breakfast Menu. Not good with any other offers. Must present coupon. Offer expires 12/31/19.</small></p>	<p><small>Age 11 and under. 2 children per adult entree ordered. 1 child menu item per child. Not good with any other offers. Must present coupon. Offer expires 12/31/19.</small></p>	<p><small>Not good with any other offers. Must present coupon. Offer expires 12/31/19.</small></p>

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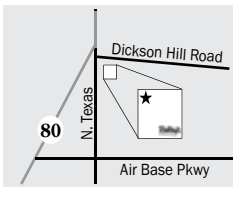
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U.S. Air Force photo/Wayne Clark

**Secretary of the Air Force Barbara M. Barrett provides testimony Dec. 3 to the Senate Armed Services Committee in Washington, D.C. The committee examined privatized military housing for service members and their families.**

## Frustrated senators addressing privatized housing problems

**Charles Pope**  
SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON — Secretary of the Air Force Barbara M. Barrett insisted to the Senate Armed Services Committee Dec. 3 that the service is moving aggressively to fix chronic problems with privatized housing while also acknowledging that the “Air Force owns part of the responsibility” for dangerous and unhealthy conditions.

“While many bases have effective privatized housing, others have suffered with project

owners who have simply failed,” Barrett said in her opening comments to the committee. Secretaries from the Army and Navy as well as the military chiefs from each of the four services joined Barrett at the hearing.

While the companies have not always performed well, the Air Force has stumbled too, she said.

“We cut too many personnel who provided oversight of the projects and failed to fully empower the chain of command to own and fix these issues,” she said. “As a result, housing

problems have distracted from the Air Force mission, disrupted our Airmen and dislocated their families. This is unacceptable, so we are taking necessary steps to hold our project owners accountable for improved performance.”

Tuesday’s hearing was a follow-up to a previous session in March to measure progress addressing widespread problems with base housing maintained by private contractors. Among the myriad chronic problems are moldy houses, rodent infestations, and gas and sewage leaks.

While senators acknowledged progress, there was bipartisan concern about what they considered the slow pace.

Sen. James Inhofe, R-Okla., committee chairman, set the tone early, noting the “dismal conditions” at some bases, including Tinker Air Force Base in Oklahoma. He told Barrett, the other service secretaries as well as the military chiefs from the Air Force, Navy, Army and

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See HOUSING Page 17

# Travis Airmen confront arctic weather at JBER



1) Staff Sgt. Damien Sloan, 821st Contingency Response Squadron contingency response maintenance craftsman assigned to Travis Air Force Base, California, conducts de-icing training on a C-5M Super Galaxy assigned to Travis during cold weather aircraft maintenance procedures training Nov. 20 at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska. The training prepared Airmen to operate in arctic environments. 2) Sloan operates de-icing equipment on a C-5M assigned to Travis during cold weather aircraft maintenance procedures training Nov. 20 at JBER. 3) Airmen from Travis and JBER get ready for cold weather aircraft maintenance procedures training Nov. 19 at JBER. 4) Staff Sgt. Joshua Sink, 921st CRS contingency response aircraft maintenance craftsman assigned to Travis, marshals a C-17 Globemaster III assigned to Travis during cold weather aircraft maintenance procedures training Nov. 19 at JBER.

U.S. Air Force photos/Senior Airman Jonathan Valdes Montijo

**Senior Airman  
Jonathan Valdes Montijo**  
673RD AIR BASE WING

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska — Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Airmen hosted a five-day training for Airmen from Travis Air Force Base, California, at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska, Nov. 18-22.

Fighter, carrier and refuel aircrafts were used as part of the de-icing/anti-icing operations training – with participation from the 821st Contingency Response Group which falls under the bi-coastal 621st Contingency Response Wing, Joint Base McGuire Dix Lakehurst, NJ and Travis, and 3rd and 176th Wing from JBER.

The purpose of the training was to gain qualification/certification on aircraft de-icing, de-ice vehicle operations, and an opportunity to perform aircraft maintenance during cold weather conditions.

“The de-ice simulator training is an awesome capability the 732nd AMS offers trainees,” said U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Dave Pimentel, 821st CRS maintenance flight chief assigned to Travis. “It allows an individual who has never operated a de-ice basket to become quite familiar, and proficient with the basket controls and overall de-icing operation, without feeling the added pressure of maneuvering around an actual aircraft.”

He also mentioned how the virtual reality software enables trainees to have a real life-like immersive experience, and how the simulator can be adjusted to fit any type of weather condition.

Furthermore, he added how his team members who have never performed de-icing operations, expressed to him that the simulator made it a lot less stressful for them when they de-iced actual aircraft throughout the week.

The training experience becomes priceless when it comes to ensuring maximum readiness

for the wide range of potential mission situations.

“The 821st CRS has a multi-faceted mission and this training prepares them for contingencies in an arctic environment,” said U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Gered Crawford, 732nd AMS lead production superintendent.

Pimentel emphasized the importance of contingency response aircraft maintainers needing to be ready to deploy and operate in any and all climates and locations.

“The experiences, training, and qualifications obtained here at JBER are vital to ensuring our aircraft maintainers are proficient in arctic environments,” Pimentel said.

The training not only helped Travis Airmen expand their knowledge and maintain their readiness, but it also benefited JBER Airmen as well.

It benefited the 732nd AMS by liberating them from excess work, augmenting their maintainers, and maximizing their time to work on additional aircraft if necessary.

“It also gave our men and women time for a tactical pause which this time of year is as important as ever,” Crawford said.

None of the trainings and opportunities would be possible unless the squadrons worked in unison.

“This training has been extremely helpful in increasing our understanding of cold weather operations and environments, and we are grateful to all JBER units who hosted us,” said U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Nathan Tawbush, 821st CRS command section executive assistant.

Pimentel mentioned how grateful he was to JBER and all involved squadrons, especially the 732nd AMS.

“The 732nd AMS went above and beyond and assisted with our travel arrangements, lodging, and transportation requirements for this trip,” Pimentel said.





## Swap Ads

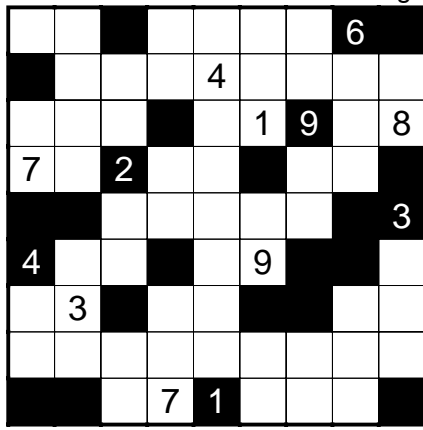
### For rent

3/2 home, very clean, 3 mins. to Travis. Living room, dining room, family room, fire place, dish-washer, microwave, custom draperies. Top-of-the-line carpet. 3 patios. A/C. No pets, no Sec. 8. \$2,000 plus deposit. 707-425-5679.

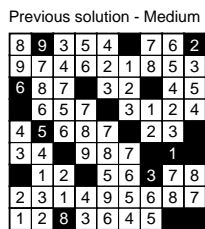
## Puzzles

### STR8TS

No. 467 Tough



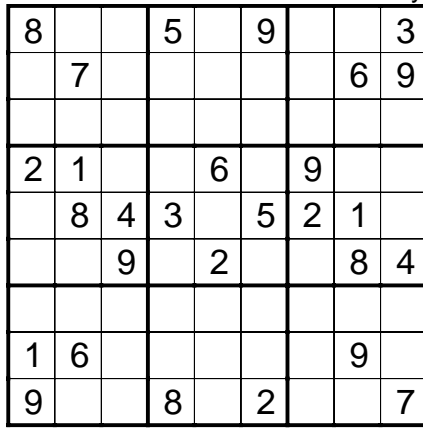
You can find more help, tips and hints at [www.str8ts.com](http://www.str8ts.com)



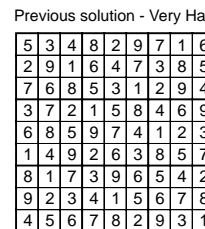
How to beat STR8ts – Like Sudoku, no single number can repeat in any row or column. But... rows and columns are divided by black squares into **compartments**. These need to be filled in with numbers that complete a 'straight'. A **straight** is a set of numbers with no gaps but can be in any order, eg [4,2,3,5]. Clues in black cells remove that number as an option in that row and column, and are not part of any straight. Glance at the solution to see how 'straights' are formed.

### SUDOKU

No. 467 Easy



The solutions will be published here in the next issue.



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

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

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

## Retiree Corner

Commissary introduces new 'open value' gift card

Defense Commissary Agency unveiled "open value" gift cards that let gift givers determine the amounts they want to give.

Anyone can order them online and have them shipped anywhere in the U.S. or to APO, FPO or DPO addresses. Or they can be

bought in any commissary.

The program also features pre-loaded cards in denominations of \$25 or \$50.

The new cards can be bought online, or at one of 40 commissaries equipped so far to load amounts on the open value cards. The capability is being rolled out to all stores. To read more, visit the DeCA website.

— **Defense Commissary Agency**

## Chapel programs

### Recurring events

#### Catholic

##### Twin Peaks Chapel

- Roman Catholic Mass: 9 a.m. and noon Sunday.
- Children's Church: 10:15 a.m. Sunday.
- Sacrament of Reconciliation/Confession: 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Wednesday or upon appointment.

- Infant Baptism Prep Class: Two classes. Registration required. 6 to 7 p.m., quarterly.
- Youth Choir: 1 p.m. Sunday.
- Children's Choir: 2 p.m. Sunday.
- Adult Choir: 4 p.m. Sunday.
- Women's Bible Study: 10 a.m. (at First Street Chapel).

- Catholic Women of the Chapel: 6 p.m. first Monday of every month. Annex.
- Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults: 6 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Annex.
- RE Classes: 10:15 to 11:30 a.m. Sunday, RE Wing.

##### First Street Chapel

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

##### DGMC Chapel

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

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

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

##### DGMC Chapel

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

##### Protestant

##### First Street Chapel

- Protestant Community Service: 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Sunday.
- Gospel Worship Service: 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Sunday.
- Children's Ministry is provided for 6-month-olds through fifth grade.
- Protestant Men of the Chapel, 6 to 8 p.m. every second and third Tuesday of the month at First Street Chapel Annex, vice 8 to 9 a.m. first Saturday of the month.
- Moms Group. Jesus Cares ministry, EFMP children's ministry, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., every third Saturday of the month at First Street Chapel Annex.

##### Twin Peaks Chapel

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

##### DGMC Chapel

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

##### Airmen's Ministry Center

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

## In the next week...

### fri

"A Visit to Bethlehem." 6 to 8 p.m. Dec. 6-8, New Hope Christian Fellowship, 4910 Allison Parkway, Vacaville. [www.newhopevacaville.com](http://www.newhopevacaville.com).

**Christmas Tree Lighting and Holiday Festivities.** 6 p.m. Dec. 6, downtown Fairfield. [www.fairfieldmainstreet.com](http://www.fairfieldmainstreet.com).

**Holiday Open House and Tree Lighting.** 6 to 9 p.m. Dec. 6, downtown Benicia. [www.beniciamainstreet.org](http://www.beniciamainstreet.org).

### sat

**Christmas on the Waterfront.** 2 to 8 p.m. Dec. 7, Suisun waterfront. [www.suisunwaterfront.com](http://www.suisunwaterfront.com).

**Mad Hatter Holiday Festival.** 2 to 8 p.m., parade begins at 4:30 p.m. Dec. 7, 2 Dec. 8, Solano Community College Theatre, 4000 Suisun Valley Road, Fairfield. [www.benicieballet.org](http://www.benicieballet.org).

**Benicia Ballet Theatre, "The Nutcracker."** 2 and 7 p.m. Dec. 7, 2 p.m. Dec. 8, Solano Community College Theatre, 4000 Suisun Valley Road, Fairfield. [www.benicieballet.org](http://www.benicieballet.org).

**Fairfield Adult Recreation Center.** Men of Worth, 7 p.m. Dec. 7, 1200 Civic Center Drive. 428-7421.

**Vallejo Choral Society.** "An Early Christmas," 7 p.m. Dec. 7, Community Congregational Church, 1305 W. Second St., Benicia and 3 p.m. Dec. 8, First Presbyterian Church, 1350 Amador St., Vallejo. [www.vallejochoral.org](http://www.vallejochoral.org).

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

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

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

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

**Air Force Sergeants Association "Walter E. Scott" Chapter 1320.** General membership meetings are at 2 p.m. on the second Friday of each month at Wingman's in the Delta Breeze Club and include a free breakfast. For more information, contact Master Sgt. Reynoldo Rios or Master Sgt. Rosel Agapay.

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

**Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Group.** Meetings take place from 1 to 2:30 p.m. the third Thursday of the month in the diabetic education classroom on the first floor in Internal Medicine at David Grant USAF Medical Center. For more information, call 707-424-4342 or visit the Facebook page "EFMP Travis AFB."

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**MPF self-renewal program.** Did you know that dependents can now renew their ID cards online? To participate in this program, visit <http://bit.ly/2mR1gI2>. This program is limited only for renewing dependents' IDs. For all other services, visit MPF during duty hours or call 707-424-8483.

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

707-424-4596 or stop by Bldg. 380B.

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Travis Air Force Base Heritage Center.** Open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, Bldg. 80, 461 Burgan Blvd., Travis Air Force Base. Escorts required for general public, call center to arrange. Free. 707-424-5598, [www.travisheritagecenter.org](http://www.travisheritagecenter.org).

**Travis Legal Office.** Power of attorney and notaries are walk-ins 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday,



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

**Today**

- 6:30 p.m. "Countdown" (PG-13)
- 9 p.m. "Terminator: Dark Fate" (R)

**Saturday**

- 6:30 p.m. "Richard Jewell" (R, free advanced screening)
- 9:30 p.m. "Black and Blue" (R)

**Sunday**

- 2 p.m. "Harriet" (PG-13)

# THE FLIP SIDE

9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday. Legal assistance for active duty members and dependents are walk-ins from 2 to 3 p.m. Tuesday. For all wills and retiree legal assistance, call 707-424-3251 to make an appointment.

**Voluntary Leave Transfer Program.** The following Travis employees are approved as leave recipients through the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program:

- Rebecca Austria, 60th Maintenance Group.
- John Butler, Special Tactics Training Squadron.
- Jaquelyn Cabanlit, Travis AFB Commissary
- Neftaly Clark, 1st Special Operations Force Support Squadron.
- Bradley Griffith, 60th Maintenance Squadron.
- Rabiye Hamilton, Travis AFB Commissary.
- Patrick Hodge USTRANSCOM, Scott AFB.
- Mark Holmes, 10th Contracting Squadron.
- Dina Patterson-Steward, 60th Aerial Port Squadron.
- Jason Perkins, Grand Forks AFB.
- Gina Silva, Air Force Academy headquarters.
- Jean Sommer, Travis AFB Commissary
- Maria Thammasan, 60th Force Support Squadron
- Dennis Weaver, Air Force Manpower Agency.

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

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

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

## Local events

### Events

**Christmas Parade and Holiday Market.** 10 a.m. Dec. 14, downtown Benicia. [www.beniciamainstreet.org](http://www.beniciamainstreet.org).

**Film Club.** "All About Eve," 7:30 p.m. Dec. 12, Empress Theatre, 330 Virginia St., Vallejo. 552-2400.

**Grand Victorian Home Tour.** 2 p.m. Dec. 15, Vallejo. [www.hattervallejo.com](http://www.hattervallejo.com).

**Lantern Light Festival.** Through Jan. 26, Solano County Fairgrounds, 900 Fairgrounds Drive, Vallejo. <https://lanternlightfestival.com>.

**Live Nativity.** 6 and 7:30 p.m. Dec. 13-15, Trinity Baptist Church, 401 W. Monte Vista Ave., Vacaville. [www.tbvacaville.com](http://www.tbvacaville.com).

**"Sounds of Suspense."** Radio broadcast, noon fourth Friday of each month, Vacaville Public Library-Town Square, 1 Town Square

Place. Free. [www.solanolibary.com](http://www.solanolibary.com).

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

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

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

### Music and dance

**Alive Music Orchestra, "AMO Swing into Christmas."** 7 p.m. Dec. 13, Valley Church, 5063 Maple Road, Vacaville. [www.facebook.com/alivemusicorchestra](http://www.facebook.com/alivemusicorchestra).

**City Sports Bar and Grill.** Music begins at 9 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, 7155 Browns Valley Parkway, Vacaville. 455-7827, [www.starsrecreation.com](http://www.starsrecreation.com).

**Empress Theatre.** Lao Tizer Band, 8 p.m. Dec. 6; James Garner's Tribute to Johnny Cash, 8 p.m. Dec. 7; Groovality, 7:30 p.m. Dec. 11; The Eve of Jackie Wilson with Chester Gregory, 8 p.m. Dec. 14; VOENA Holiday Concert, 4 p.m. Dec. 15; 330 Virginia St., Vallejo. 552-2400, [www.empresstheatre.org](http://www.empresstheatre.org).

**First Street Cafe.** Doug Houser, 7 p.m. Nov. 6; Tune Riders, 7 p.m. Dec. 7; Bryan Girard, 2 p.m. Dec. 8; According to Bazoooka, 7 p.m. Dec. 13; Jennifer Lee, 2 p.m. Dec. 15; 440 First St., Benicia. 745-1400, [www.firststreetcafe.com](http://www.firststreetcafe.com).

**Holiday Jazz.** Dalt Williams, Marcella Hooks and more, 5 p.m. Dec. 15, Sardine Can, O Harbor Way, Vallejo. [www.jazzforalloccasions.com](http://www.jazzforalloccasions.com).

**Orpheus West Choir, Orpheus Lyre Orchestra, North Bay Ringers.** 7:30 p.m. Dec. 15, St. Mary's Catholic Church, 350 Stinson Ave.,

Vacaville. [www.Orpheuswest.com](http://www.Orpheuswest.com).

**The Relik.** Wake the Neighbors, 8:30 p.m. Dec. 6; The Billy Bunch, 8:30 p.m. Dec. 7; Glenn Lowe, 6 p.m. Dec. 11; Austin Mo Experience, 8:30 p.m. Dec. 13; 726 First St., Benicia. [www.thereliktavern.com](http://www.thereliktavern.com).

**Solano Symphony.** Holiday Celebration, 3 p.m. Dec. 8, Vacaville Performing Arts Theatre, 1010 Ulatis Drive. [www.solanosymphony.org](http://www.solanosymphony.org).

**Solano Winds.** Celebrating America's Heritage, 8 p.m. Dec. 6, Downtown Theatre, 1035 Texas St., Fairfield. [www.solanowinds.org](http://www.solanowinds.org).

**Vacaville Performing Arts Theatre.** United States Air Force of the Band Golden West holiday concert, 7 p.m. Dec. 6, 3 p.m. Dec. 7; Vacaville Ballet Company "Nutcracker," 7:30 p.m. Dec. 13, 10 a.m., 2 and 7:30 p.m. Dec. 14, 2 p.m. Dec. 15; 1010 Ulatis Drive. 469-4013, [www.vpat.net](http://www.vpat.net).

**Vallejo Symphony.** "Iconclast," 8 p.m. Feb. 29, 3 p.m. March 1, Empress Theatre, 330 Virginia St., Vallejo. <https://vallejosityphony.org>.

### Theater

**"Elf: The Musical."** 8 p.m. Dec. 14, Dec. 20-21, Dec. 27-28, Jan. 3, 6 p.m. Dec. 15, Dec. 22, Dec. 29, 2 p.m. Dec. 21-22, Dec. 28-29, Jan. 4, 7:30 p.m. Dec. 26, Downtown Theatre, 1035 Texas St., Fairfield. [www.downtowntheatre.com](http://www.downtowntheatre.com).

**"No Room."** 8 p.m. Dec. 6-7, Dec. 13-14, 3 p.m. Dec. 8, Dec. 15, Harbor Arts Center, 720 Main St., Suisun City. [www.suisunharbortheater.org](http://www.suisunharbortheater.org).

**"Scrooge! The Musical."** 8 p.m. Dec. 6-7, 13-14, 20-21, 3 p.m. Dec. 8, Dec. 15, Dec. 22, Bay Area Stage, 515 Broadway St., Suite H, Vallejo. [www.bayareastage.org](http://www.bayareastage.org).



U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Javier Alvarez

**Mark Sledge, 673rd Civil Engineering Squadron senior conservation law enforcement officer and James Wendland, 673rd CES chief conservation law enforcement officer, approach a black bear den April 16, 2018, at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska.**

## Air Force, USFWS partner

**Jennifer Schneider**

AIR FORCE INSTALLATION AND MISSION  
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JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-LACKLAND, Texas — Air Force natural and cultural resources are now safer thanks to a new conservation law enforcement partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The Air Force Civil Engineer Center and USFWS kicked off a joint Conservation Law Enforcement Partnership, or CLEP, this fall, placing six USFWS conservation law enforcement officers, or CLEOs, across five Air Force installations. These officers are responsible for preserving Air Force natural and cultural resources, as well as protecting those who participate in base recreation activities.

“One significant benefit of a CLEO is the information and assistance they will provide to persons participating in outdoor recreation activities on Air Force installations,” said Kevin Porteck, Air Force natural resources subject matter expert and Air Force lead for the program.

Samantha Fleming, USFWS

supervisory law enforcement specialist and USFWS lead for the CLEP, said the program is beneficial to both organizations.

“There are benefits to both USFWS and the Air Force through an increase of more natural and cultural resource protection,” Fleming said. “Conservation protection is what federal wildlife officers are trained to do and the Air Force is legally responsible for protecting these resources within their mission framework. The partnership makes sense: more federal wildlife officers for USFWS and better protection for Air Force lands.”

The five installations participating in the pilot program are Beale and Edwards Air Force bases in California; Eglin AFB, Florida; Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey; and Kirtland AFB, New Mexico.

Officers who support the program underwent 17 weeks of intensive training at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, followed by five weeks of specialized federal wildlife officer basic training and 10 weeks of field training with experienced federal

wildlife officers.

Each participating installation has its own CLEP operations plan, which outlines officer responsibilities and helps define their relationships with members of security forces and other partner organizations.

The officers are already proving beneficial. As one of the largest installations, Eglin AFB encompasses more than 460,000 acres and is home to 19 federally listed endangered species. The base also boasts one of the largest outdoor recreation sites in the Air Force, making an effective enforcement program critical.

“This is a big deal,” said Justin Johnson, Eglin AFB supervisory biologist. “I spent the last 10 to 15 years lobbying for the establishment of a CLEP at Eglin (AFB). The biggest challenge here is scale. I’ve been here 20 years and still haven’t been everywhere on base.”

Most civil engineering programs have relied on security forces to support their conservation efforts, but manning limitations and other requirements have left some gaps in coverage the past several years.

## Housing

From Page 12

Marines that “confession is good for the soul.”

“The time for talking is over,” he said, likening the current housing issues to the “crisis” that confronted Walter Reed Medical Center in 2007 when shoddy care, unhealthy conditions and sluggish response were uncovered. Inhofe’s observations are important because he chairs the committee and because Tinker Air Force Base is in his home state.

Two of the most high-profile improvements, for example, a Tenants Bill of Rights and a mechanism for tenants to withhold rent if repairs are not made quickly and correctly, are still being developed.

Barrett, along with the other secretaries on the panel, identified steps that have been taken to provide families with a clear path to bring problems forward, such as hiring resident advocates to provide advice for navigating problems. Barrett said the Air Force will hire 219 resident advocates.

She noted that the Air Force has completed an investigation by the service’s inspector general and that many of the recommendations have been put in place.

“We are integrating leadership and accountability into all levels of housing,” she said. Where misconduct is found or suspected, including allegations of falsifying maintenance reports, “these allegations have been referred to the Air Force Office of Special Investigations which, in coordination with the FBI, will determine whether to press criminal charges.”

All four services also said they were being far more aggressive in evaluating and, when justified, withholding performance payments to companies that manage and maintain the housing.

They also emphasized efforts to train all commanders and push them to take a more active and cognizant role in addressing problems and, more broadly, ensuring more muscular oversight of housing conditions.

“You can’t delegate that,” Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David L. Goldfein told the committee, adding that providing safe and

### More info

To reach the housing helpline, call 800-482-6431. Representatives are available toll-free 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

adequate housing to Airmen and their families is a “sacred duty. This is command echelon business.”

Even with those actions, Elizabeth A. Field, who directs the Defense Capabilities and Management division for the U.S. General Accountability Office, told senators that completely fixing the problems “will take many years.”

Part of the reason, she said, is flawed data and contracts that in some cases run for 50 years.

An annual housing survey that the Department of Defense must submit to Congress each year and which the department often uses as a counterpoint to criticism “is not in any way reliable,” she said. The most recent survey found that 87% of respondents had a favorable opinion of their “community.” However, no specific questions were asked about satisfaction with actual housing or if the unit was habitable.

Field added that the GAO’s efforts to analyze another eight million records from 14 installations that included work orders for repairs, could not be accomplished because “the data was so unreliable it could not be used.”

Acting Navy Secretary Thomas B. Modly said cultural barriers connected to privatizing essential services must also be demolished.

“When you outsource something there is a cultural shift where people no longer think it’s their problem,” he said.

Army Secretary Ryan D. McCarthy made a similar point. “We must fix the current housing crisis using a house-to-house approach. We must also fix the governance model and address underlying issues to ensure systemic change.”

Inhofe said the committee will hold yet another hearing on the topic “early next year” to maintain pressure and monitor progress.

In May 2019, the Air Force launched the Air Force Housing Hotline to address the concerns regarding the military privatized housing program.



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Jacob B. Wrightsman

Senior Airman Ryan B. Jarvis, 2nd Munitions Squadron launcher maintenance technician, watches as the last Conventional Air-Launched Cruise Missile is loaded into a launcher Nov. 20 at Barksdale Air Force Base, Louisiana. The 2nd MUNS loaded the final CALCM missile package into a launcher in order to disassemble the weapon to become demilitarized.

## Missile

From Page 10

CALCM wasn't employed in combat until January 1991, during Operation Secret Squirrel, a mission in which seven B-52G Stratofortresses

took off from Barksdale AFB toward Iraqi targets, launching 35 CALCM missiles.

Opening the first strikes of Operation Desert Storm, the then-new CALCM missiles devastated Saddam Hussein's forces and marked the first time GPS had been used

to guide a missile to a target.

Former members of the mission, retired Cols. Trey Morriss and Warren Ward, alongside LaFlame, were in attendance for the final download of the last CALCM missiles.

"It's awesome to see these

young Airmen; it makes me feel young," Ward said. "It's always great to interact with young troops. They're phenomenal. It's great to see the Air Force still moving along seamlessly, with great people who still get the job done," LaFlame added.

## Curriculum

From Page 11

looking to professionally develop other armed forces so they can mimic what we are doing from an NCO academy perspective and educational aspect in their respective militaries."

The AMEP are often two-year programs with multiple events ranging from 16, 18 or 24 events in total.

Since late 2018, the Kisling NCOA has been partnering with the Botswana Air Arm to help stand up their first NCOA.

"We go there, they come

here and we teach them how to be instructors," said Tech. Sgt. Ruben Pineda, Kisling NCOA instructor. "We are helping them build their school house, lesson plans, curriculum writing and instructor delivery."

In order to help the Botswana Air Arm, Kisling instructors spend time in Germany and Botswana with the initial four instructor cadre.

"We are halfway between our 10-visit program. For the next iteration, they will be shadowing our instructors on how to be instructors themselves," Pineda said. "Two of the four instructors have attended our NCOA course at Lackland Air Force Base,

Texas. So, they know what it's like to be a student in the classroom but never have actual facilitated a course, seeing behind the scenes and learning what it takes to be an instructor."

Once the initial cadre are trained, the Kisling NCOA instructors will travel back to Botswana and watch the cadre deliver the lessons they created.

"We are going to watch, assess and provide feedback. The curriculum is going to be based off of their needs and their culture," Pineda said. "Eventually, we want to give them a completed product, a product they can deliver

once they open up their school house."

Currently, AMEP has 16 African countries with active partnerships and Kisling NCOA will continue to do their part to ensure that each country's enlisted force is professionally developed.

"The noncommissioned officer corps is the backbone of any military," said Chief Master Sgt. Ramon Colon-Lopez, former U.S. Africa Command senior enlisted leader, to an auditorium full of Ghana Armed Forces soldiers during a 2018 visit to Ghana. "If you have an effective NCO corps, you will automatically have an effective and efficient armed force."

## Training

From Page 11

qualifications they need and complete training requirements on our side as well," said Staff Sgt. Andrew Keepers, 93rd ARS instructor boom operator. "During this mission, our boom operator needed to become certified in refueling fighter aircraft, so being able to work with the Oregon ANG was a great opportunity to accomplish that."

The 142nd FW's mission is to provide unequalled, mission-ready units to sustain combat aerospace superiority and peacetime taskings any time, any place. This includes supporting Operation Noble Eagle, a homeland defense operation which started in the wake of 9/11. The no-fail nature of this mission puts training and readiness at the forefront of their daily operations.

After supporting the 142nd FW F-15 aircraft, training continued for the 97th ARS during overseas oceanic qualification training at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii. Oceanic qualification training is an annual requirement for pilots that involves successfully navigating to overseas locations with limited equipment.

"When we go 'oceanic,' we are unable to use most of our radio systems on board the aircraft, so this type of training enables us to successfully navigate over the ocean without our systems and reach our destination," Posey said.

This oceanic training mission comes just one month after the reactivation of the 97th ARS, and newly added pilots and boom operators are working to ensure they are qualified and ready to execute the Rapid Global Mobility mission.

"Right now, we're working on getting everyone qualified and 100% mission-ready," Posey said. "As we receive more members into the squadron, we need to make sure we are healthy, operational and ready to go at any time."

By supporting its total force partners in the Oregon ANG and improving the readiness of its Airmen through oceanic flight training, Fairchild AFB continues its success as the world's premier air refueling team, fueling global reach at the speed of war.

## Care

From Page 9

MHS Clinical Communities are networks of MHS providers who collaborate on clinical process improvement and standardization to ensure a consistent level of excellence in patient care at each facility.

"Our Clinical Communities identify, develop and pilot clinical performance improvement projects like the Induction of Labor care pathway to improve the way we deliver care," said Dr. Paul Cordts, Chief Medical Officer for the Defense Health Agency.

### Success in San Diego

The Induction of Labor care pathway was modeled after evidence-based processes used in other health systems. The MHS Women and Infant Clinical Community and the team in San Diego adapted these processes to fit the needs of their patients.

Developing the care pathway was just one step to success. After that, the team had to ensure providers used the pathway, and had to monitor progress for patients. The project team said

educating staff, building support and adjusting the pathway were essential to success.

"Cmdr. Lutgendorf's most critical role was as the provider," said Jeffrey Budge. Budge is a registered nurse and process improvement expert on the project team. "She led the change and led other providers to adopt the care pathway. Without someone actually using the pathway when taking care of the patients, it's all theoretical."

By July 2019, more than 80 percent of the hospital's providers were using the pathway.

Real-time data collection served an important role in showing the success of the pathway. This helped the team gain the support of other providers. This data will also inform the MHS approach to expanding the pathway to other facilities.

### Standardization across the MHS

The MHS Clinical Communities, including the Women and Infant Clinical Community, develop and spread improvements like this pathway. The communities target areas of varying care and apply standard approaches

to get the best outcomes for patients.

Current changes within the MHS support standardized and improved care. The Defense

Health Agency is becoming responsible for the Army, Navy and Air Force hospitals and clinics. This authority advances the MHS's efforts to become

a reliable system that drives improvement and decreases disparity in care. This will ensure every patient receives the best possible care.




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

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www.tagff.org  
email: info@tagff.org


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Bible Study  
Tuesdays @ 7:00pm (Youth Sanctuary)  
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Suisun City, CA 94585  
Sunday Worship Services, 11:00am  
Bible Study  
Tuesdays @ 12:00noon  
707-425-1849  
www.mcbcfs.org for more information

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Worship ..... 11:00 am  
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**WEDNESDAY**  
Adult Studies.....2:00 pm  
AWANA for Kids .....6:15 pm  
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Courtesy photo

**Master Sgt. Raphael Romero, 571st Mobility Support Advisory Squadron aircraft maintenance senior air advisor, inspects the Salvadorian air force helicopter boneyard while searching for a trainer model to be used as part of the maintenance school at Ilopango Air Base, El Salvador.**

## Passion

From Page 3

MSAS director of operations, spoke highly of Romero and said that he has always been a valued member of the squadron.

“Through my experience working alongside him, I’ve witnessed firsthand his natural ability to connect with our international partners and fortify enduring relationships in the Southern Command area of responsibility,” Orozco said. “As a result, his students highly respect his position and expertise as an aircraft mechanic and a U.S. Air Force Airman.”

Orozco also said, Romero’s positive can-do attitude radiates throughout the squadron and sets the tone for all to follow. In fact, Romero is often by-name requested to provide specialized training to partner nation air forces by Air Forces Southern and the U.S. embassy security cooperation offices.

“Whether it is language and culture training, technical training, or mentorship and

developmental skills, he is passionate about his job, our Air Force, and the strategic impact our mission has on the National Defense Strategy,” Orozco said. “We are very lucky to have him.”

Some of Romero’s most memorable trips have been to Panama, Peru, Ecuador and the Dominican Republic.

“I love diving into other cultures!” he said. “People are so warm and their candor is just incredible. They are proud and they want to show you their capabilities, as well as their hometowns and the pride they have for their respective countries.”

Romero went on to say, the one thing he learned when he was a young Airman was some advice given to him by his former flight-chief, Master Sgt. Mike McGuire.

“Follow your heart, that’s the secret to success. And now that I fully understand it, I tell my troops the same thing: Follow your heart and you will never go wrong,” he said. “Enjoy the ride, because being in the Air Force is an experience of a lifetime.”

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## Knight

From Page 2

bomb bay while I stared at the city lights in the distance.

After completing the job, I was terrified and overwhelmed that as a teenager I was given the responsibility to move live ordnance onto a priceless aircraft.

Then it hit me: I am a part of this massive enterprise, the U.S. Air Force.

The reality that people who may want to attack the United States thought twice about doing so because of me, my teammates and that airplane sitting in front of me was powerful.

It is cliché as I said, but something clicked in that moment and I’ll never forget it. I can’t say that I always felt like that and I have had my moments over the past two decades where I lost sight of my buy-in, but who hasn’t needed a little course correction?

Believe me, I stand on the backs of some great NCOs who provided it when I got lost.

Taking frequent stock of your career and where you fit into the mission may be deliberate or through a revelation like I had 20 years ago.

My batteries were recharged on many missions after cross-training to be a C-5M Galaxy loadmaster, whether it was delivering supplies to tsunami victims or honoring the life of a fallen Airman.

Today, I find it in the smiles of my children, but it can come from anywhere and at any time if you take a moment to recognize it.

Where do you fit into the mission? Where can you find that “buy-in” in the day-to-day grind to help you connect with your teammates and recharge you when the batteries begin to drain?

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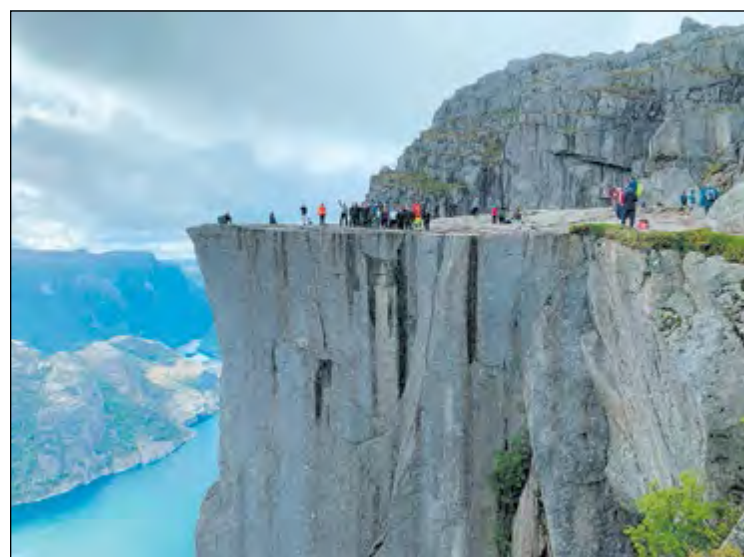
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## Beskar

From Page 2

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Courtesy photo

### The 426th Air Base Squadron participates in a resiliency hike to Preikestolen – the Pulpit Rock.

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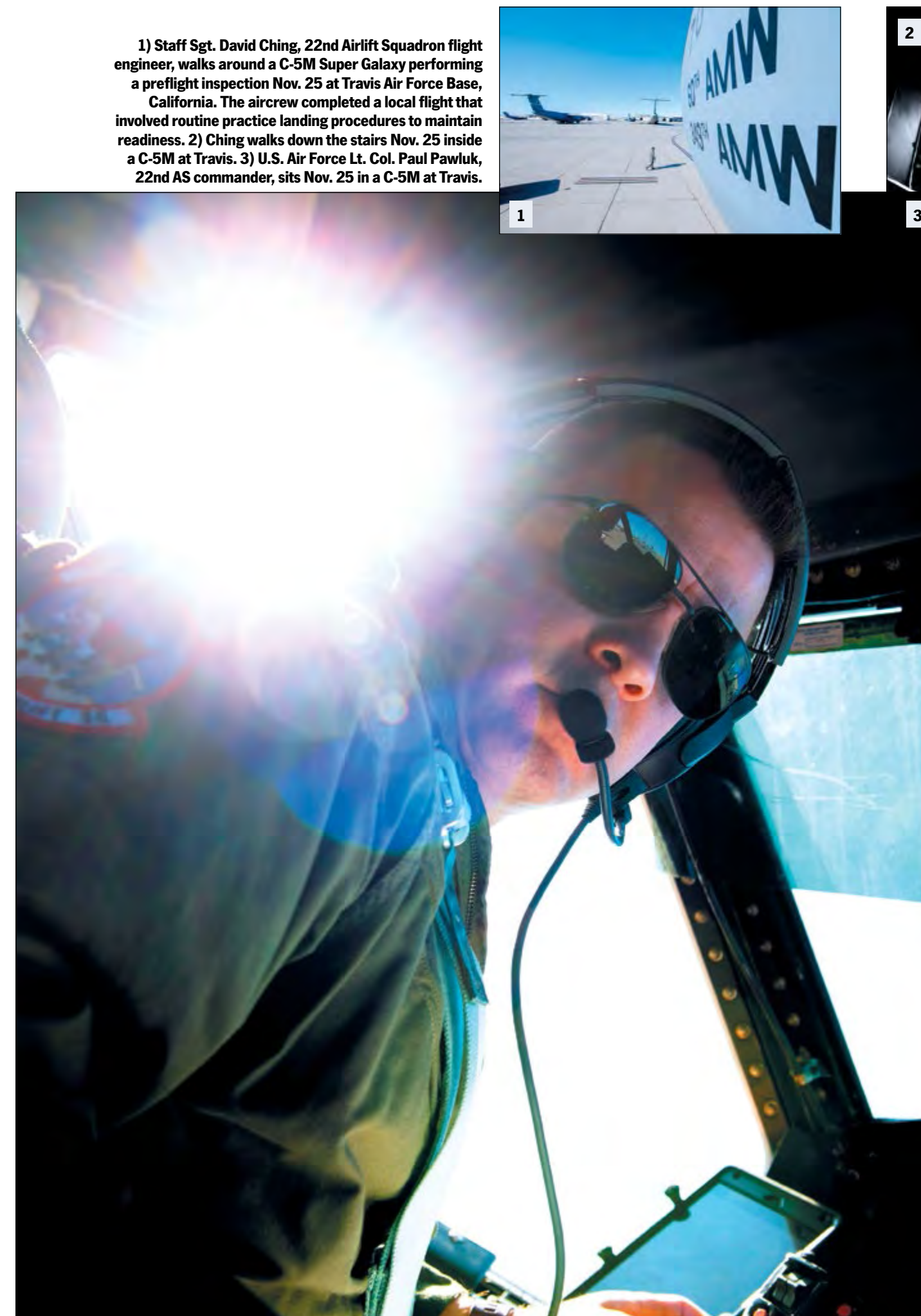
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1) Staff Sgt. David Ching, 22nd Airlift Squadron flight engineer, walks around a C-5M Super Galaxy performing a preflight inspection Nov. 25 at Travis Air Force Base, California. The aircrew completed a local flight that involved routine practice landing procedures to maintain readiness. 2) Ching walks down the stairs Nov. 25 inside a C-5M at Travis. 3) U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Paul Pawluk, 22nd AS commander, sits Nov. 25 in a C-5M at Travis.

22nd AS keeps readiness ...  
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