



Nellis supports Australia wildfire relief

Senior Airman Miranda A. Loera 57TH WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

NELLIS AIR FORCE BASE, Nev. -Members of the Royal Australian Air Force and Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada, recently teamed up to load more than 50 bundles of fire suppressant and other critical firefighting equipment onto three RAAF C-17 Globemaster III aircraft for delivery to the Australian Emergency authorities and Rural Fire Service.

Australians have battled devastating wildfires since September.

More than 13 million acres have burned across the country.

The chief of the Royal Australian Air Force, Air Marshal Mel Hupfeld, was thankful for the support of the United States Air Force and United States stakeholders assisting with this movement of supplies.

"The Royal Australian Air Force deeply appreciates the offer of help from the United States Air Force," Hupfeld said. "The Australian people are comforted to know that in times of need, we have great friends like the United States who are ready to lend a hand. This is yet another example of the strength of our long-term friendship between our countries."

The 99th Logistics Readiness Squadron provided help throughout the entire process. Airmen from both air forces worked together to load aircraft quickly and efficiently so they could get back to Australia with the vital equipment.

"Our LRS experts are skilled at prepping and loading all kinds of cargo and equipment into various airframes for transport across the world," said Lt. Col. Danielle Kirk, 99th Logistics Readiness Squadron commander.

Tailwind

Travis AFB, Calif. | 60th Air Mobility Wing

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Daily Republic

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U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Jeremy Wentworth

A Royal Australian Air Force loadmaster watches as pallets of fire suppressant are loaded onto an Australian C-17 Globemaster III, Jan. 16 at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev. The RAAF has been working to secure extra materials to aid in the fighting of Australian wildfires.

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Table of contents

| The Flip Side | 11/14 |
|------------------|-------|
| Cover story | 12-13 |
| Worship services | 16-17 |
| Classifieds | 20-21 |

| assifieds | 20-21 |
|-------------|-------|
| rting Shots | 23 |
| | |

On the cover

Pa

The container carrying the AEHF-6 satellite is unloaded from a C-5M aircraft for transportation to the Astrotech **Space Operations processing** facility in Titusville, Florida, for final preparation for the satellite's March launch.

U.S. Air Force photo/45th Space Wing Public Affairs



Lorraine Harris-Ortega

The Army & Air Force Exresilient in the new year.

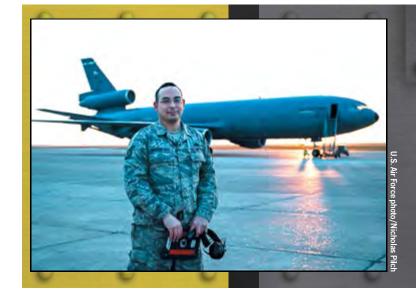
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by the Travis Army and Air • Athletic apparel from Nike, Under Armor, Adidas and

• Athletic footwear from popular brands including New

• Apple Watch and other devices with fitness tracking ca-

• Installation hydration gear from Camelbak, Yeti and

See GEAR Page 19

Former 349th AMW vice commander promotes



Brig. Gen. Adrian K. White receives the oath of office from retired Maj. Gen. Ronald "Bruce" Miller on Jan. 18 at The Heritage Center Museum, Travis Air Force Base, California. White served as vice commander of the 349th Air Mobility Wing at Travis from March 2016 to March 2018. He is now the mobilization assistant to the director of Operations, Strategic Deterrence and Nuclear Integration, U.S. Air Forces in Europe and Air Forces Africa at Ramstein Air Base, Germany.

Name: Tech. Sgt. Joshua Cintron-Ruiz.

Unit: 660th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.

Duty title: Aerospace maintenance craftsman.

Hometown: Round Rock, Texas.

Time in service: Thirteen years.

Family: Spouse, Savanna; children, Jakob, Juliana, Sophia and Selena.

What are your goals? Completing airframe and propulsion certification.

What are your hobbies? Playing the drums.

What is your greatest achievement? Owning a home.

Officer

moves to

classroom

Lt. Col. Vanessa Saks

HEADQUARTERS AIR FORCE JUNIOR RESERVE

OFFICERS' TRAINING CORPS

BASE, Ala. — What to do after

retirement from the Air Force

is a question that plagues many

Airmen as they approach the

an unsolicited email from the

Air Force's Personnel Center

answered that question for her,

Lt. Col. Trinh Warner, an

Air Force judge advocate for

17 years, was getting close to

retirement and in search of a

ance during the time just be-

fore terminal leave, an email

came to me from Air Force

Junior ROTC Headquarters

(through AFPC) that asked.

'Looking for a rewarding op-

portunity after retirement?"

Soon after receiving the

message. Warner applied for a

position as an Air Force Junior

ROTC senior aerospace science

tice of law, while fun at times,

would not give the kind of in-

ternal rewards that making a

difference in children's lives

It didn't take very long af-

"Because I was very diligent

ter applying for the job offers to

"I knew the private prac-

instructor, or SASI.

would," Warner said.

start coming in.

"As I was praying for guid-

and changed her life forever.

For one lieutenant colonel.

end of their careers.

meaningful job.

she said.

MAXWELL AIR FORCE

JANUARY 24, 2020

Commentary

DGMC celebrates Biomed Sciences Week

Capt. Jeremy Kang Matsumoto 60TH MEDICAL DIAGNOSTICS AND

to the pharmacy to get prescription medications.

annual checkup by a physician assistant and then go to the lab to get blood drawn. If you need to regain use of your leg, you may be referred to therapy. On the outside pharmacists, physician assistants, laboratory officers and occu-



n the corner of N. Texas St. & Dickson Hill Rd

'I have a dream' speech still inspires

L. Cunningham 55TH WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

OFFUTT AIR FORCE BASE. Neb. — "I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: 'We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal.' ... I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character."

These words were spoken by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., in his "I Have a Dream" speech in August 1963, at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C.

King was a Baptist minister, turned social activist and civil rights leader who called for civil and economic rights and an end to racism. In 1964. King was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize at the age of 35 for his work for civil rights and social justice. When first selected, he said the \$54,123 prize would be given to further the civil rights movement

"All that I have said boils down to the point of affirming that mankind's survival is dependent upon man's ability to solve the problems of racial injustice, poverty and war: The solution of these problems is in turn dependent upon man squaring his moral progress with his scientific progress, and learning the practical art of living in harmony," King said as part of his acceptance speech in Oslo, Norway.

King was assassinated April 4, 1968 in Memphis, Tennessee, at the age of 39. He was to have led a protest march the next day in sympathy with garbage workers on strike.

In January 1986, the nation commenced the celebration of King, a man who strove for freedom, justice al Mall. and equality among all the



LLS Air Force photo/L Cunningham

The 30-foot memorial of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., a social activist, civil rights leader and Nobel Peace Prize winner, stands tall in the sunlight, June 6, 2013, at the National Mall in Washington, D.C. The sculpture was designed as a lasting tribute to King's legacy and as a monument to freedom, opportunity and justice for which he stood.

people of this nation.

In August 2011, a monument inspired by his "I Have a Dream" speech was unveiled in West Potomac Park, Washington, D.C. King was the first African-American to be honored at the Nation-

of African-American citizens and prompting the creation of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965

Martin Luther King Jr. Day is a day to remember and commemorate a man skin, the fight for justice and King had a pivotal role who inspired this country to equality will succeed.

in ending legal segregation be a better nation.

We continue this struggle to be better people every day. Some of us are still inspired by King's message, his speeches, books and dreams; that one day, no matter the color of your

in my efforts to apply, get interviewed and get approved by

the Air Force, I was able to get job interviews by three schools very quickly. I had offers from all three schools, and it was a difficult decision to make," she said.

The retired judge advocate accepted a position with Cypress Springs High School in Texas this past summer.

"I knew I would like working with students, but my love for the Junior ROTC mission has surpassed my expectations,"

THERAPEUTICS SQUADRON PHARMACIST

hen you come to a military treatment facility, you might come On other days, you get your pational therapists do not seem

See COMMENTARY Page 19

TRAVIS/AIR FORCE

Robot helps strip paint off of A-10

Todd Cromar 75TH AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

HILL AIR FORCE BASE, Utah - Robotic media blasting used to strip paint from fighter aircraft such as the F-16 Fighting Falcon has been around at Hill Air Force Base for more than three decades. Now, the technology is being used for the first time to remove paint from the A-10 Thunderbolt II.

The 576th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron is upgrading its traditional manual media blast paint removal process by using new-generation robots to strip the paint from A-10s that come to the base for depot overhaul and maintenance.

All aircraft require regular exterior maintenance to protect their metal surfaces from corrosion due to moisture and the harsh environments in which they continually operate.

The process is expected to reduce the man-hours it takes to strip paint from the aircraft and increase safety by removing employees from the blasting atmosphere, resulting in measurable time and costs savings.



U.S.Air Force photo/Todd Croma

The 576th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron prepares the first production A-10 Thunderbolt II for paint removal using a new robotic media blast technology, Dec. 4, 2019, at Hill Air Force Base, Utah. The aircraft is prepared See ROBOT Page 22 by sealing up all seams and holes in the outer-surface skin to prevent the blast media from entering the aircraft.



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meet current threats and var-

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"Our program brings our

partner nations together to try

and solve African problems. By

providing frameworks for how

to address most of these chal-

lenges, we bring partners to-

gether to collaborate, share

ideas and come up with solutions

force development program is

its lasting ability to have a huge

impact despite its low cost, ac-

cording to Fachi. He highlight-

ed the fact that because of their

program, they are able to con-

duct engagements with coun-

tries in Africa more frequently

throughout the year. This leads

to creating trusted partner-

ships with those countries and

ultimately leads to greater in-

teroperability with our partners

Fachi also highlighted how

"To have an air chief and a

deputy air chief sit in every sin-

here, day in and day out, it shows

you how serious they are," Fa-

chi said. "They have empowered

The majority of events dur-

the Malawian air force has been

an eager and excited partner

across Africa.

their Airmen.'

One unique element about the

to answer those challenges."

JANUARY 24, 2020

Military OneSource offers free tax prep

for service members and their families.

ily Policy program analyst.





Airmen build partnership with Malawian air force



Master Sgt. Brandon Owens, 86th Mission Support Group Detachment 1 superintendent, Air Force Deployment Transition Center, briefs members of the Malawian air force on the U.S. Air Force's decompression program Jan. 16 at Lilongwe Air Base, Malawi.



6 TAILWIND

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Capt. Korey Fratini

ing.

U.S. AIR FORCES FUROPE & AIR FORCES AFRICA PUBLIC AFFAIRS LILONGWE AIR BASE, Malawi — Airmen from U.S. Air

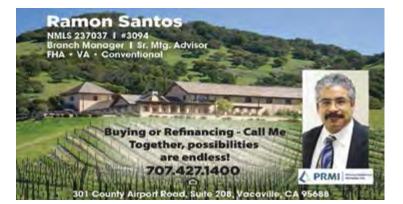
ious challenges in terms of hu-Forces Africa conducted force man resources," said Mr. Noel development training with the Fachi. Malawian air force, Jan. 13-17. Force Development program Force development training manager.

provides an opportunity for the U.S. Air Force to enhance relations, share ideas and build partnership capability in the region.

"This is a very important partnership for us and right now the force development program is helping us lay the foundation of the Malawian air force," said Maj. Gen. Andrew Lapken Namathanga, Malawi air force commander.

"I am very excited because the establishment of the force development program here three years ago has brought a foundation during the transition period for the development of our air force. It is through the program that the Malawian air force airmen are becoming knowledgeable on how an air force functions. Now, our airmen are all equipped with air knowledge and able to execute roles and functions in our air force because of this program."

Since 2018, the USAFE-AFto work with over the last few AFRICA Manpower, Personnel and Services Directorate, Force years. Development team, has been coming to Malawi to partner gle event when we have been with the Malawian air force to provide them with tools to build, sustain and stand up an independent air force. Until August 2019, the Malawian air force was not a separate service within the Malawian defense force. ing the week revolved around Since that time, the newly sepa- the sharing of ideas related to rate service has expressed con- the U.S. Air Force's Deploytinued partnership with the U.S. ment Transition Center, located Air Force resulting in events at Ramstein Air Base, Germany,





U.S. Air Force photo/Capt. Korey Fratini



AIR FORCE

TAILWIND 7

Terri Moon Cronk DEFENSE.GOV

son can be a dreaded time of year for many people, but the Defense Department's Military OneSource offers the MilTax program to ease filing stress

There is no need to worry about costs in tax preparation because the services are free. MilTax kicks off on Military OneSource Jan. 22, offering electronic filing via do-it-yourself software and personalized support from a tax consultant. Those who qualify to use the free MilTax program are active duty service members and their families, National Guard members and Reservists, survivors and veterans who have left the service in the last 365

days, said Kelly Smith, DoD's Military Community and Fam-

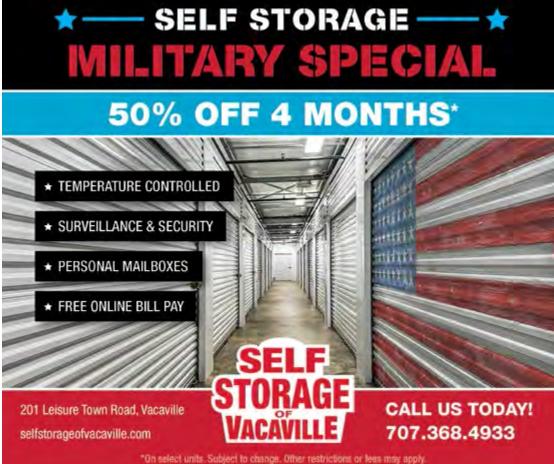
Smith emphasized that whether filing on one's own or seeking out assistance from a WASHINGTON — Tax sea- tax consultant, MilTax services are available year-round for extensions and circumstances unique to the military community.

"It is important for service members and families to know that they have options when it comes to support during tax-filing season," she said.

"Services are offered well past the tax deadline," she said, noting that some service members may file extensions, have additional properties, are looking to sell their homes and other situations that are unique to military members.

"Tax consultants can let families know how to maximize their refund," she added.

A particular advantage of using MilTax is the military tax expertise that the Military OneSource tax consultants See TAX PREP Page 18



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AFMC standardizes on-boarding, civilian acculturation

Marisa Alia-Novobilski

AIR FORCE MATERIEL COMMAND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio — New civilian employees can expect to get on the job faster as a result of a new. standardized Acculturation Program.

May 2019, encompasses the time from also imperative that they are able to be as they can," said Mandy Smith-Nethwhich an individual receives a firm of- fully mission-functional as soon as posfer of employment through the end of sible. the new employee's two-year probationary period. It standardizes and streamlines the on-boarding process across AFMC, with impacts ranging from in- across the command. Employees ofcreased job satisfaction to improved ten experienced long wait times in ob- or do things better." new employee retention and more.

all aspects of our mission," said Col. Charles Parada, AFMC Manpower, Personnel and Services deputy director. "We need to make sure that when Air Force Materiel Command Civilian they arrive at AFMC they understand the Air Force culture, our mission and The program, officially launched in how they play a role in our success. It is

> A 2018 review of AFMC civilian onboarding revealed there was a lack of consistency in processes and training taining base and Air Force network

than two-thirds of our AFMC work- more, limiting their ability to be fulforce and support the warfighter in ly productive members of the AFMC team

> The acculturation program aims to decrease on-boarding time while increasing effectiveness, ultimately setting employees up for success.

"New employees are excited to start work and want to get started as soon ercott, program lead. "We're doing everything possible to make this happen and ensure they feel part of the AFMC family from the start. This required us to look at current processes and procedures to see where we could eliminate

"Civilian Airmen make up more systems access, training delays and acculturation model centers on a fourday, on-boarding expectation for new employees across AFMC. This includes completion of new employee orientation, total force awareness training, common access card acquisition and unit in-processing requirements, all within the first week of work.

To support this expectation, AFMC civilian personnel and unit sponsors actively engage with new employees to ensure completion of all pre-employment paperwork and testing ranging from fingerprinting to physicals, drug tests, security clearance applications and base access requirements prior to the first day of work.

The elimination of the Department See ACCULTURATION Page 18

A key aspect of the AFMC **Tyndall plants trees** Staff Sgt. Magen M. Reeves 325TH FIGHTER WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS TYNDALL AIR FORCE bris scattered across Tyndall BASE, Fla. — Tyndall Air AFB's 18,000 acres of forest-Force Base Airmen, the 325th ed land Civil Engineer Squadron natural resources section and contracted partners, began planting Longleaf pine trees along had been accomplished for the U.S. Highway 98, Jan. 15. This is a partnership between Air Force service members, Department of Defense fire and forestry, but I knew contracted employees and representatives of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. "This year, we will be broken," said Melanie Kaeser, planting 475,000 trees over U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 700 acres," said Jose Cintron, 325th CES environmen- seeing the visual of the damtal element chief. "These trees age and destruction and not

will be approximately (one knowing how we were going to foot) tall and we plan to begin move forward was hard." planting along the south side

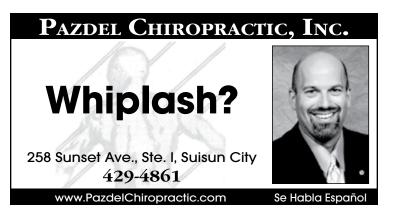
of Highway 98." ricane Michael in October with debris removal.

2018 left an immense amount of downed trees, uprooted shrubbery and other de-

"I felt helpless," said Dann Childs. 325th CES base forester. "I felt that everything that forestry program over the last 27 years had been destroyed. My background is in wildland the implications to the environment would be serious"

"I was completely heartliaison to the 325th CES. "Just

The DoD awarded contracts to companies and local The aftermath of Hur- businesses to come in and help



Military Health System Communications Office

active-duty service member.

Current trends show an increase in flu activity at the halfway point of the season. While it's too early in the season to determine the overall severity of the flu, the Military Health System maintains readiness and resourcefulness to protect the armed forces and their loved ones from effects of the flu.

sonnel.

fection.

and Analysis section.

been vaccinated.



Immunization helps health during flu season

Influenza can affect anyone, from the everyday civilian to the

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has found an elevated level of influenza activity earlier in the season than is typically observed around this time. As of Jan. 16, the CDC estimates that there have been approximately 4,800 flu-related deaths and 87,000 hospitalizations nationwide this season. Active surveillance by the Defense Health Agency's Armed Forces Health Surveillance Division has also found high levels of influenza activity among military per-

Despite the increase in activity, MHS is prepared to sustain the health of service members and their families. All military personnel are required to be immunized against the flu annually to decrease susceptibility to in-

"Immunization is important given that military personnel live and work in close proximity with other members of the community," said Navy Cmdr. Shawn Clausen of AFHSD's Epidemiology

While involvement in patientcare activities and participation in large gatherings increases the risk of infection, early data and discussions with the CDC show that the risk among military members and the general population appears to be similar. To get ahead of this risk, the Department of Defense has already distributed more than 3.3 million doses of influenza vaccine throughout the military. As of Jan. 16, approximately 90 percent of all service members have

Vaccination is recommended not just for military members, but also their loved ones, according to Janet Brunader, a research nurse



U.S. Navy photo/Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Apprentice Angel Thuy Jaskulosk

Navy Hospital Corpsman Kenny Liu, from San Jose, assigned to the USS Gerald R. Ford's medical department, prepares a needle with a flu vaccination in the ship's hangar bay.

tion section of the Defense Health Agency's Immunization Healthcare Division.

"The good news is that although seasonal influenza vaccine is not always a perfect match, it is still the best way to provide protection against influenza disease," she said. Brunader suggests that everyone 6 months or older get a flu shot each year in

of age, but under age 8 who have never had a flu shot should get two shots – one shot followed by another at least four weeks later. Children who have had at least one flu shot in the past only need to get one flu shot each year.

There are numerous ways in addition to vaccination to keep safe against the flu.

in the Vaccine Safety & Evalua- the fall. Children over 6 months addition to washing your hands before eating or handling food, is to avoid touching your eyes, nose, or face with your unwashed hands," Brunader said. "This will help prevent spreading germs from surfaces to your eyes, nose, or mouth."

Since flu viruses can also spread through the air. Brunader suggests staying at least six "One helpful suggestion, in feet away from people who are veillance section.

coughing, sneezing, or blowing their nose. If you already have the flu, coughing into a tissue or the bend of the elbow will reduce the spread of viruses. Those suspecting they have the flu should contact a health care provider within two days of the symptoms. Early treatment with anti-influenza drugs can shorten the duration of illness.

Beneficiaries can receive flu vaccines through their closest military hospital and retail networks. TRICARE representatives can help determine how to get the vaccine if a person is unable to visit a military hospital. MHS also has an archive of influenza resources for beneficiaries to learn more about the flu and what they need to do to keep safe during the season.

Among the four types of flu, influenza A and B are the main two strains that cause "flu season." AFHSD has paid close attention to both of these strains this year.

"As reflected in the U.S. among civilian populations [this season], the majority of laboratory-confirmed influenza-positive specimens continued to be influenza subtype B [Victoria lineage]," said Navy Cmdr. Mark Scheckelhoff from AFHSD's Global Emerging Infections Sur-



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U.S. Air Force photo/C.J. Lovela

Col. Timothy D. Walsh, commander of the U.S. Army Medical Materiel Agency, speaks during a workshop at Fort Detrick, Md., to discuss additive manufacturing with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration on Dec. 9, 2019. Also pictured is Heather L. Agler, a senior program manager for the FDA.

Army, FDA discuss 3D printing

C.J. Lovelace

ARMY MEDICAL LOGISTICS COMMAND

FORT DETRICK, Md. -When a medical device breaks even weeks, if it's logistically feadown on a U.S. Army unit deployed to a remote part of the world, the closest repair parts could be thousands of miles

ily available, the shipping pro- this challenge. cess - sometimes into hostile ensible at all.

vanced manufacturing in its ly pushing the state of the art," modernization strategies, medical logisticians are looking to 3-D Medical Maintenance Manage-



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Even when parts are read- printing as a potential solution to

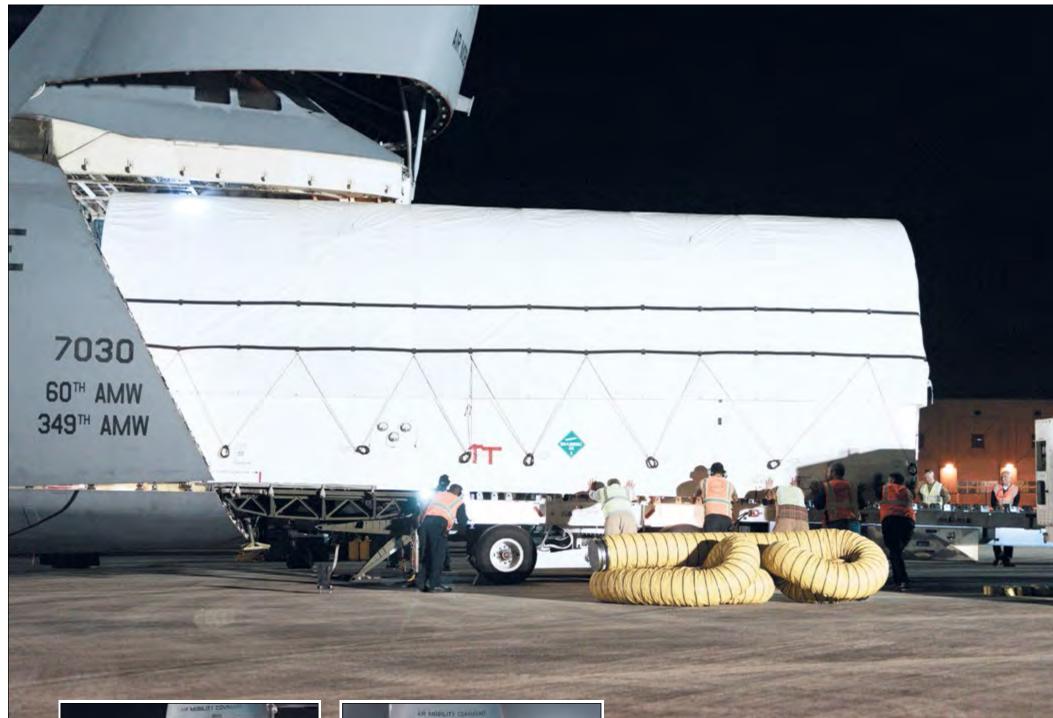
"The medical industry is one vironments - could take days or of the fastest innovators in the defense industrial base, so the AMLC is used to working with As the Army embraces ad- industrial partners constantsaid Jack Rosarius, director of ment Directorate within the U.S. Army Medical Materiel Agency, a direct reporting unit to Army Medical Logistics Command.

Specifically, for medical devices, 3-D printing technology - also known as additive manufacturing - may enable the Army to develop repair parts that extend the life cycle of equipment and ensure they are ready for use when and where Soldiers need them.

While the technology offers numerous new uses and potential advantages, it also poses regulatory challenges and warrants safety considerations still under review by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

On Dec. 9, AMLC hosted a military-specific workshop at Fort Detrick with FDA leaders on the topic to seek guidance on current policies, concept regulations and potential stumbling blocks as it explores manufacturing its own repair parts and other 3-D-printed items.

Travis plays role in delivering satellite to Florida







U.S. Air Force photos/45th Space Wing Public Affairs The container carrying the AEHF-6 satellite is unloaded from a C-5M Super Galaxy aircraft for transportation to the Astrotech Space Operations processing facility in Titusville, Florida, for final preparation for the satellite's March launch. The final satellite in the AEHF constellation, this marks the first delivery of a satellite for the U.S. Space Force.

Titusville, Florida.

materiel leader.

space vehicle."

Space and Missile Systems **Center Public Affairs**

CAPE CANAVERAL AIR Advanced Extremely High to spare.

Frequency-6 satellite to the Astrotech Space Operations processing facility Jan. 12 in

"The delivery of the last AEHF satellite comes at an inflection point, as the first delivery of the USSF for launch," said Lt. Col. Paul La Tour, AEHF Space Segment

"The successful delivery of AEHF-6 is a significant achievement for the program, it brings us another step closer to delivering mission critical capabilities to the warfighter," said Mr. Cordell DeLaPena. Program Executive Officer for Space Production. "AEHF is an important asset to our sea, air, and ground missions and thanks to outstanding teamwork, innovation, and partnership we are ready to begin launch processing for the final AEHF

The enormous satellite was transported from the Lockheed Martin Space Systems Center satellite integration facility in Sunnyvale, California. via a C-5MSuper Galaxy aircraft, Jan. 11. The C-5 crew from the 22nd Airlift Squadron, Travis Air Force Base, California, ensured the satellite was transported safely and according he said. to the time sensitive schedule. The C-5 was built to carry more cargo around the globe than any other plane. It can lift more than a quarter million pounds, and the approximately 34,000-cubic-foot car-

contain six helicopters. The

containers" that safely transport satellites and other payloads. This flight was a regular C-5M aircraft; however, FORCE STATION, Fla. - the container carrying the The U.S. Space Force's Space satellite was specifically built and Missile Systems Cen- for a C-5M and it fits in the ter successfully delivered the cargo area with only inches

> "The C-5M Super Galaxy provides an unmatched strategic airlift capability whether it be delivering cargo directly to the warfighter, in response to humanitarian crises, or for specialized outsized cargo like the transportation of this AEHF-6 satellite" said Capt. Adam Smith, 22nd Airlift Squadron pilot and aircraft commander for the AEHF-6 delivery. "The whole "Double Deuce" (22AS) team takes great pride in delivering cargo to all of our users safely and efficiently; and make no mistake it is a team effort for not only the 22nd AS but also in partnership with the 60th Maintenance Group and the 312th Airlift Squadron from Air Force Reserve Command."

"It's not always the case for Special Assignment Airlift Missions to know what the cargo is, but for missions like this one where we know the impact it will have for the warfighter, it is especially fulfilling to be a part of. The whole crew recognizes the impact and importance of making an on-time delivery and worked tirelessly to overcome setbacks that could have delayed getting AEHF-6 to destination as scheduled."

As the anchor satellite of the constellation. AEHF-6 is now on the path for final launch.

A combined government and contractor team is prego bay is large enough to paring to execute the final ground activities, including a Air Force converted two C- Launch Base Confidence Test

test to verify communication compatibility from the satellite to the ground operations center, and the final battery reconditioning for launch. Following these activities. the satellite will be fueled and prepared for integration with the United Launch Alliance Atlas V launch vehicle.

"As with the creation of the Air Force in 1947, identity matters to the people assigned to the USSF," La Tour noted. "AEHF speaks to a history of success in delivering unparalleled communications capability and serves as an excellent kernel to begin building a unique Space Force culture: a first win."

"Having started in 2000, the AEHF system was envisioned at another inflection point. Initially designed for strategic and tactical us- meet the coming threats and itary ground, sea and air asers across the full spectrum accelerate a culture of learn- sets. The AEHF program space vehicle checkout before of war, the AEHF system has ing in space production," La hit another recent milestone met its purpose for the last decade supporting warfighters across the globe. While AEHF design has spanned two decades it is increasing- to augment and improve on ponent Command will begin ly relevant with the renewed the already existing Mil-5As to C-5C status, modi- to verify satellite integrity af- rise of great-power con- star constellation by providfying them to carry "space ter shipment, an intersegment flict. As space moves from a ing enhanced survivable, al users to the system.



congested to a contested domain, the upgraded resiliency of AEHF-6 is posed to cations for high-priority mil-Tour said.

AEHF-6 is slated to launch in March 2020. The AEHF system is designed

global, secure, protected, and jam-resistant communiwhen AEHF-4 was accepted for operational use by U.S. Space Command on Jan 6. Combined Force Space Commission activation of AEHF-4 and transition of operation-



information, call 707-424-2689.

closed Sunday

call 707-424-8483

For more information, call 707-424-5324.

The Professional Loadmaster Association meets

at 7 p.m. the first Tuesday of each month at the

Retiree Activities Office. Openings for

service members and their family members. It is

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.

recurring events Tuesday through Saturday. For

Travis Community Thrift Shop. 10 a.m.

to 2 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday. Ongoing need

more information, email Staff Sgt. Mathew

Clavton at mathew.clavton@us.af.mil.

for volunteers to organize, sort and price

Thrift Shop at 707-437-2370.

donations. For more information, contact the

Delta Breeze Club. For more information, call

volunteers. Customers are retired American

the RAO's responsibility to maintain open

Mark Raymond at 707-416-5331.

Puzzles

How to beat Str8ts -

Like Sudoku, no single number car

rows and columns are divided by black

squares into compartments. These

need to be filled in with numbers that

of numbers with no gaps but can be in

ny order, eg [4.2.3.5]. Clues in black

ells 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

Previous solution - Tough

To complete Sudoku, fill the board

that each row, column and 3x3 box

contains every number uniquely.

For many strategies, hints and tips, visit www.sudokuwiki.org

other puzzles, check out our books.

iPhone/iPad Apps and much more on

If you like Str8ts, Sudoku and

our store at www.str8ts.com

by entering numbers 1 to 9 such

1 4 3 9 6 7 6 1 8 5

1 3 9 6 5 4 6 2 9 1 8 5 7 2 3

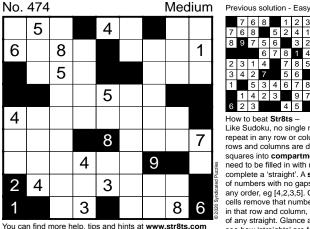
9 1 4
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 6
 9
 4
 7
 1

 6
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omplete a 'straight'. A **straight** is a se

repeat in any row or column. But ..

STR8TS



SUDOKU

| No. 474 Very Ha | | | | | | | lard | |
|-----------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|------|---|
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| | | 8 | | 4 | | 2 | | 3 |
| | | | 8 | 2 | | 4 | 6 | |
| | | | 3 | | | 8 | | |
| | 2 | 5 | | | | 7 | 3 | |
| | | 3 | | | 9 | | | |
| | 3 | 1 | | 7 | 5 | | | |
| 8 | | 2 | | 3 | | 6 | | |
| 5 | | | | | | | | |

The solutions will be published here in the next issue

Retiree Corner

Exchange shoppers can save, eat healthy

Soldiers and families can enjoy their greens and save some greenbacks every Salad Wednesday at Travis Army & Air Force Exchange Service restaurants.

On Wednesdays, diners can take \$2 off any salad priced \$4 or more at the Travis Army And Air Force Exchange direct-operated restaurants, including Arby's, Charley's, Subway and Taco Bell.

"The Travis Army and Air Force Exchange is all in to promote a Be Fit lifestyle focused on the health and well-being of Soldiers, retirees, military families and

Veterans" said Exchange Phonda Bishop General Manager. "Saving money on smarter food choices can help military shoppers make their healthy lifestyle a re-

The Exchange is a partner in the Healthy Army Communities under the Office of the Secretary of Defense, Operation Live Well. All Exchange restaurants offer better-for-you menu choices to support Warfighters' readiness and resiliency.

Military Star cardholders receive even greater savings on Salad Wednesdays - diners who pay with Military Star get an additional 10% discount.

- Army & Air Force Exchange Service Public Affairs

News Notes

Scholarships for Military Children. Defense Commissary Agency program under way. The program is administered by Fisher House Foundation, a nonprofit organization that helps service members and their families, and is funded primarily through the generosity of manufacturers and suppliers whose products are sold at military commissaries worldwide. For scholarship year 2020-21, Fisher House Foundation will award 500 scholarship grants of \$2,000 each. Applications accepted through Feb. 24. All rules and requirements for the program are available via the website. For more information and to apply, visit https:// militaryscholar.org/sfmc/index.html

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.

Street Chapel).

first Monday of every month, Annex.

7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Annex.

• RE Classes: 10:15 to 11:30 a.m. Sunday, RE Wing

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

• Sacrament services: 9 and noon Sunday Fairfield Stake Center, 2700 Camrose Ave., Fairfield

DGMC Chapel

• Latter-day Saints Service: 4 to 4:30 p.m.

 For all other inquiries, call LDS Military relations representatives at 707-535-

Protestant Community Service: 9:30 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. 707-424-2575. For hazardous chemical/material 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. Sundav

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.

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

Recurring

Air Force Office of Special Investigations

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

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

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 Agapav

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

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

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

Base illicit discharge number. To report sewage/water leaks or illegal dumping, call

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 or contact CHPS at 707-424-CHPS or CHPSTravis@ foh hhs gov

Combat Arms Firing Range. Bldg. 1370, located 200 vards northeast of perimeter road in the northeast corner of Travis is off limits to all personnel. Trespassing is not only illegal, but extremely dangerous due to live weapons firing. Anyone requiring entry into the area or needing further information should contact the base Combat Arms Section at 707-424-2122 or visit at 700 Vandenburg Drive, Bldg 1219 Travis AFB, CA 94535

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

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

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

Family Advocacy Parent/Child play groups. Toddlers to the Max play group for children ages 1 to 3 meets from 9:30 to 11 a.m. Wednesdays at the First Street Chapel Annex. 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

travsopcombatptsd@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://pptform.state.gov and/or https://travel. state.gov. For more information, call 707-424-5324. Hometown News Releases. To submit a Hometown News Release, visit

https://jhns.release.dma.mil/public and fill out the information

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



"NEWS NOTES" BRIEFS MUST BE SUBMITTED TO 60AMWPA@US.AF.MIL SEVEN DAYS BEFORE THE EVENT DATE. CALL THE 60TH AIR MOBILITY WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE COMMAND INFO SECTION AT 424-2011 FOR MORE INFORMATION.

 Children's Choir: 2 p.m. Sunday • Adult Choir: 4 p.m. Sunday. • Women's Bible Study: 10 a.m. (at First

• Catholic Women of the Chapel: 6 p.m.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults: 6 to

First Street Chapel

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

DGMC Chapel

federal holidays The Church of Jesus Christ

of Latter-day Saints

at Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Sunday at DGMC Medical Center Chapel.

6979. Protestant

First Street Chapel

10:30 a.m. Sunday

Gospel Worship Service: 11:30 a.m. to

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

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

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

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.

Squadron · Jaqualynn Cabanlit, Travis AFB Commis-Professional Loadmaster Association.

Program

Group.

 Neftaly Clark, 1st Special Operations Force Support Squadron.

• Bradley Griffith, 60th Maintenance Squadror

• Rabiye Hamilton, Travis AFB Commissary

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

Lt. Jo Nash at 707-424-3996 or recruiting@

Open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through

out http://squadron22-cap.us

www.travisheritagecenter.org.

Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday,

make an appointment

squadron22-cap.us, visit during a UTA or check

Saturday, Bldg. 80, 461 Burgan Blvd., Travis Air

Force Base. Escorts required for general public.

call center to arrange. Free. 707-424-5598,

notaries are walk-ins 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday,

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

Voluntary Leave Transfer Program. The

following Travis employees are approved as leave

recipients through the Voluntary Leave Transfer

Rebecca Austria, 60th Maintenance

John Butler, Special Tactics Training

Travis Air Force Base Heritage Center.

Travis Legal Office. Power of attorney and

average. For more information, contact CAP 1st

 Patrick Hodge USTRANSCOM, Scott AFR

Mark Holmes, 10th Contracting

Squadror Dina Patterson-Steward, 60th Aerial Port

Squadron Jason Perkins, Grand Forks AFB.

Gina Silva Air Force Academy

This organization welcomes volunteers and supporters from all backgrounds. There are headquarters

Jean Sommer Travis AFB Commissary

 Maria Thammasen, 60th Force Support Sauadron

 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

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

• 6:30 p.m. "Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker" (PG-13)

Saturday

• 6:30 p.m. "Jumanji: The Next Level" (PG-13)

• 9:30 p.m. "Bad Boys for Life" (R) Sunday

• 2 p.m. "Spies in Disguise" (PG)

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

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

Local events

Events

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

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

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

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

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

Airmen complete FTAC



Congratulations to the latest Airmen to complete the First Term Airman Center course. Alphabetically: Airman 1st Class Victoria Armentrout, 60th Medical Operations Squadron; Airman 1st Class Andrea Baylon, 60th Inpatient Squadron; Airman 1st Class Jayln Destiny Broughton Washington, 60th Security Forces Squadron; Airman 1st Class Kaviana Brown-Williams, 60th MDOS; Airman 1st Class Angel Castillo, 22nd Airlift Squadron; Airman 1st Class Gregory Concilla, 60th Aerial Port Squadron; Airman Landon Johnston Borboa, 60th Communications Squadron; Airman 1st Class Zinwyne Edwinson, 22nd AS; Airman 1st Class Ricardo Gonzalez Cousins, 660th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron; Airman 1st Class Victoria Hettinger, 22nd AS; Airman Basic Brandon Hughes, 60th APS; Airman 1st Class Jaylon Jones, 22nd AS; Airman Sydney Kraemer, 22nd AS; Airman 1st Class Ivan Lobaton, 60th AMXS; Airman 1st Class Aaron McDougle, 60th Operations Support Squadron: Airman 1st Class Dawson Moore, 22nd AS; Airman 1st Class Josue Mova Cariel, 660th AMXS; Airman Mvranda Nevins, 60th OSS; Airman 1st Class Luis Ortiz, 660th AMXS; Airman Austin Parker, 60th OSS; Airman 1st Class Dylan Poblete, 60th APS: Airman 1st Class Jerome Rivera, 60th Surgical Operations Squadron: Airman Dalton Scholler, 60th CS: Airman Basic Evan Sweat, 860th AMXS; Airman 1st Class Amnesti Terrell, 60th MDOS; Airman 1st Class Patrick Tran, 60th APS; Airman 1st Class Payne Trent, 860th AMXS; Airman Ezekiel Valdez, 60th Force Support Squadron; Airman Noah Wenzel, 60th APS; Airman 1st Class Samantha Williamson, 60th SFS; and Airman 1st Class Jeremy Yoder, 660th AMXS.





Cache Creek Casino Resort is committed to responsible gaming. For help call 800-GAMBLER. Must be 21 to gamble.





Tax prep

From Page 7

bring with them to each session

They are certified public accountants or enrolled IRS agents, she said. They are knowledgeable about costs incurred during permanent changes of station, living in more than one state during the year, how to navigate benefits survivors may be entitled to and other military-specific issues.

The tax consultants are up to date on tax-law changes that would affect service members.

"Something we're constantly working on and striving to do within military community and family policy is to raise awareness about the services that are offered through Military OneSource, so we're constantly letting people know what's available, and that support is essentially an entitlement to them to help them live their best military life," Smith said.

To use MilTax beginning Jan. 22, visit the MilTax website, call 800-342-9647 or live chat to schedule an appointment with a Military One-Source tax consultant.

Acculturation

From Page 8

of Defense Form 2875 requirement for unclassified Air Force network access, one of a number of processes streamlined as a part of the program overhaul, enables employees to get on their computers from day one after showing completion of information assurance training completed during the pre-employment process.

"The DD 2875 was just one of a number of requirements that we examined with the help of the AFMC We Need and continued process improvement teams to facilitate positive change in on-boarding," Smith-Nethercott said. "The DD 2875 delays were identified as a significant cause of long on-boarding times during the AFMC We Need review, causing frustration across the board. We're thrilled that we were able to overcome this barrier.'

JANUARY 24, 2020

Classroom

From Page 4

she said. "Every day, cadets impectation was there would be make it worth it for me."

retirement orders.

over 1,000 enlisted positions and our vacancy list is updated at least weekly."

Gear From Page 3

"The Travis Army and Air Force Exchange is committed to encouraging our Military Service Members to stay ready and resilient while serving our country," said, Phonda Bishop Travis Air Force Base Exchange General Manager. "We have a variety of fitness gear as well as healthy food options so

Commentary From Page 5

to share much in common. In they are under the Air Force's Biomedical Sciences Corps.

Force will celebrate the achievements of the men and women who make up the BSC as part of BSC Week.

The BSC consists of 17 different professions ranging from pharmacists and physiclinical social workers. The corps was created in 1965 and



Turn to Travis

for great rates and easy applications for Auto and Home Loans

Our hometown service and dedication to helping members earned us the 2018 Air Force Credit Union Service Award! Visit us at any branch or online-we fit your busy lifestyle. And when you PCS (Permanent Change of Station), take us along, with Online Banking and our Mobile App.



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Federally Insured by NCUA. Everyone who lives, works, worships or attends school in our 12-county area is eligible to join. Certain membership eligibility requirements may apply. Equal Housing Opportunity. NMLS #643926.

press me with their initiative. dedication and drive. My exdifficult days, but the cadets

Airmen can submit an application to become an Air Force Junior ROTC instructor when they are within nine months of retirement and have approved

"Air Force Junior ROTC is an amazing opportunity for Airmen to continue to serve after retirement while staying connected to the Air Force family," said David Richerson, Air Force Junior ROTC chief of instructor management. "We have nearly 900 officer and worldwide. We are always taking new instructor applications

For an application to be ter/afjrotc.

approved, an Airman must be retired less than five years, have a bachelor's degree and hold a retired enlisted grade of technical sergeant to chief master sergeant or officer grade of major to colonel.

Air Force Junior ROTC provides citizenship training and an aerospace science program for high school students. The objectives are to educate and train high school cadets in citizenship and life skills; promote community service; instill a sense responsibility; and develop character, leadership and self-discipline through education and instruction in air and space fundamentals and the Air Force's core values of Integrity First. Service Before Self and Excellence In All We Do.

For more information on Air Force Junior ROTC and a list of instructor opportunities, visit www.afjrotc.com and www. airuniversity.af.edu/holm-cen-

every Military Service Member and military shopper can live a Be Fit lifestyle."

Since Jan. 1, disabled Veterans, Purple Heart recipients, former prisoners of war and certain caregivers were granted in-store shopping access with the Exchange. All honorably discharged Veterans can shop these brands online through their earned online shopping benefit. For more information, visit ShopMyExchange.com/vets.

the U.S. Air Force however, the one theme they all share is that From Jan. 27-31, the Air cian assistants to dietitians and

ever since has expanded to include all of the above professions and more. Within the BSC, there are numerous fellowships, residencies and other post-graduate training programs for all officers.

Additionally, all BSC officers must attend Biomedical Officer Management Course. as well as other professional military education courses needed for rank advancement. Yet BSC officers are not limited to their respective professions either; they participate in all levels of medical command, take part in research and take charge in other roles needed to support the Air Force mission.

We are so pleased to announce our merge with Solano Plastic Surgery and Brian K. Klink, M.D. INTRODUCING

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22 TAILWIND



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EXPIRES 01/31/20.

Robot

From Page 5

"There are going to be across-the-board improvements including a dramatic reduction in exposure to a Hexavalent Chromium dust environment. This is perhaps the greatest benefit to the robotic system," said Tim Randolph, 576th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron director. "Savings will also be seen with reduced operating time and less power consumption, as well as reduced costs in material. We really haven't found a downside to this system

James Gill, Corrosion Control flight chief for the 576th AMXS, said while the traditional manual media blast process is effective, it's labor intensive, requiring teams of workers at least three full days to complete.

The new paint-removal process is accomplished by two robots, each with four hose attachments that move



Corrosion control technicians with the 576th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron monitor two media blast robots as they strip paint off the first production A-10 Thunderbolt II to receive a new robotic removal process, Dec. 4, 2019, at Hill Air Force Base, Utah.

is decreased from three days only half the waste stream." to 9-12 hours.

"Compared to the manuuniformly, across the entire aircraft surface," Gill said. "This translates into a process independently along both that is less stressful on the air-nology, the squadron is exsides of the aircraft. In addi- craft skins and saves money tion, the time to strip an A-10 in media cost, while creating capability.

Dentistry with a Gentle Touch ...

In addition to the robotics process, a new laser-burn proal paint-stripping method, the cess is currently being tested robots use half the amount of and used on F-16s with proven blast media at half of the air success. However, the squadpressure, while removing an ron is still maturing the proextremely precise thickness, cess, and hopes to apply this process to the A-10s in the future.

By using new robotic techpanding its capacity by adding

syoondds@gmail.com







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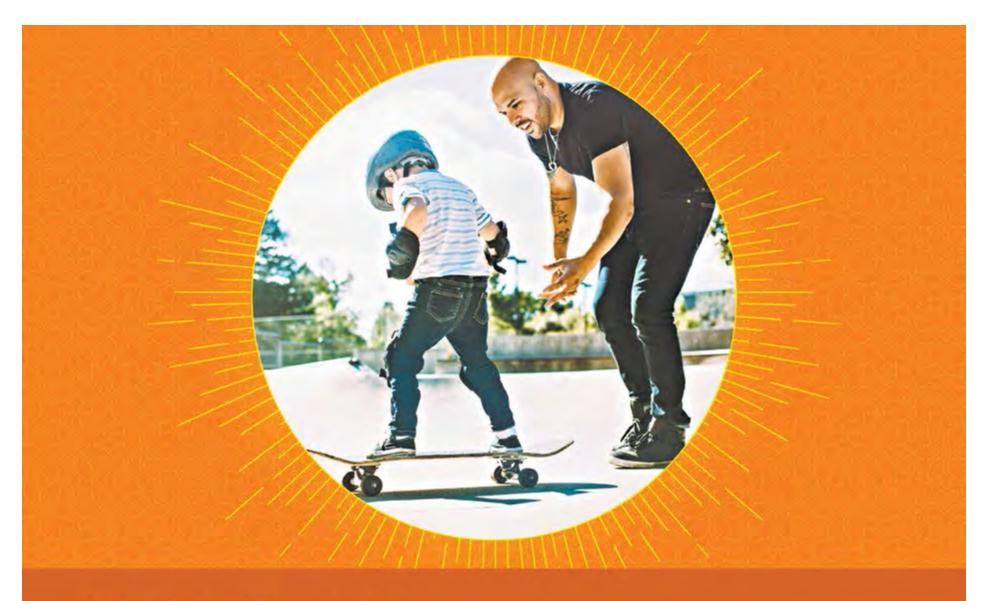
A group of Airmen from Travis Air Force Base, California, were among over 300 volunteers who helped complete beautification projects Jan. 20 at Fairfield High School in Fairfield, California, in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, The Airmen partnered with Rebuilding **Together Solano** and Kaiser Permanente for the 11th annual MLK work day in Solano County. Volunteers constructed outdoor garden boxes, performed yard work and spring cleaning, painted outdoor and interior murals, organized clothes and gave the faculty lounge

makeover.

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







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