



TAILWIND

Cadets get chance to look ...

CLOSER

PAGES 12-13

Travis joins Army's JRTC at Green Flag exercise

Airman 1st Class Aaron Irvin
19TH AIRLIFT WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Personnel from the 34th Combat Training Squadron and the U.S. Army collaborated with coalition forces from Canada during the joint forcible entry and airborne assault to kick off exercise Green Flag Little Rock 20-03 Jan. 11-21, 2020, at the Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Polk, Louisiana and Alexandria, Louisiana.

GFLR 20-03 was held in conjunction with exercise JRTC 20-3 in Fort Polk, the Army's final certification event before they are deemed ready to deploy or assume a ready force posture.

This joint live-training tactical exercise focused on combat airlift and airdrop operations, interoperability with our joint and international partners, as well as survival, evasion, resistance and escape.

"In the 34th CTS, our focus is on improving the joint relationship between the mobility air forces and our joint partners," said U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Philip Newman, 34th CTS director of operations.

This exercise also included partners from the 921st Contingency Response Squadron at Travis Air Force Base, California, 321st Contingency Response Squadron at McConnell Air Force Base, Kansas, U.S. Army, six C-130J Super Hercules from the 41st and 61st Airlift Squadrons from Little Rock Air Force Base, Arkansas, four C-17 Globemaster III's from the 62nd Airlift Wing at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington, two C-17 Globemaster III's from the 437th Airlift Wing at Joint Base Charleston, South Carolina, and two C-130J Super Hercules from the Royal Canadian air force.

The desired training objective was to simulate an airfield assault, airfield



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Aaron Irvin

A pilot from the 61st Airlift Squadron gives a pre-flight mission brief on the back of a C-130J Super Hercules during the joint forcible entry and airborne assault, which kicked off Green Flag Little Rock 20-03 Jan. 12 at Alexandria International Airport in Alexandria, Louisiana. GFLR 20-03 focused on the ability to operate in an austere environment while being able to rapidly assemble forces in response to crises.

opening and subsequent follow-on sustainment support in which participants train together to ensure efficient interoperability for potential future operations, Newman said.

"We're trying to give our crews combat-like experience before they deploy by

increasing exposure to working with an external command and control agency," he explained.

In addition to promoting interoperability between the U.S. Army, U.S. Air Force and international partners, this exercise focused on the ability to operate

cohesively in an austere environment and being able to rapidly assemble forces in response to crises.

"The joint force aspect improves everyone involved," Newman said. "It

See JRTC Page 22

EOD assists in Stockton investigation

60th Air Mobility Wing Public Affairs

A team of Travis Air Force Base Explosive Ordnance Disposal technicians responded to a call from civil authorities Jan. 23 to assist in an investigation at a Stockton residence believed to have military-type munitions inside.

Travis EOD returned to the residence Jan. 24 with a team of seven personnel to continue assisting with the ongoing investigation.

"We have a fantastic working relationship and partnership with law enforcement, and we are always willing to assist our community partners," said Lt. Col. Glenn Cameron, 60th Civil Engineer Squadron commander. "Department of Defense Explosive Ordnance Disposal teams are called to investigate any time there are suspected Department of Defense munitions to ensure any confirmed munitions are disposed of appropriately."

EOD technicians safely removed a combination of military-style replicas, inert munitions, and a small number of flares and fuses with "live" fragmentation. The cache has been confiscated by the Travis EOD team and will be disposed of in accordance with current protocol.

All Travis EOD personnel are trained by the Naval School Explosive Ordnance Disposal located at Eglin Air Force Base, Florida, for up to 11 months, followed by a career of continual training and real-world operations.

Travis Air Force Base is committed to serving as good stewards of the local community, and the 60th CES/EOD specialists are trained and ready to respond at a moment's notice to any concerns of public safety.



U.S. Air Force photo/Nicholas Pilch

Tech. Sgt. Jason Clapp, 60th Civil Engineer Squadron explosive ordnance disposal technician, examines munitions behind a home Jan. 24 in Stockton, California. A team of Travis Air Force Base, California, EOD technicians responded to a call from civil authorities Jan. 23 and 24 to assist in an investigation at a residence believed to have military-type munitions inside.

Tailwind

Travis AFB, Calif. | 60th Air Mobility Wing

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Table of contents

Worship services	8-9
The Flip Side	11/14
Cover story	12-13
Classifieds	20-21
Parting Shots	23

On the cover

University of Puerto Rico Reserve Officer Training Corps cadets inspect the engine of a Travis Air Force Base, California, KC-10 Extender while on a tour Jan. 29 at Travis.

Daily Republic photo/Robinson Kurtz

WARRIOR OF THE WEEK



U.S. Air Force photo

Name:
Airman 1st Class
Jeremy Fitzgerald.

Unit:
60th Logistics Readiness
Squadron.

Duty title:
Fuels distribution operator.

Hometown:
St. Petersburg, Florida.

Time in service:
One year.

Family:
Spouse, Jessica; child, Madison.

What are your goals?
I have many goals for my career, some short term and long term. One of my short-term goals is to complete my Community College of the Air Force degree prior to

sewing on senior airman and earning below the zone.

What are your hobbies?
Spending time with family, playing video games and exercising.

What is your greatest achievement?
How I have been able to incorporate the core values and skills into being a husband and a father.



U.S. Air Force photo/Heide Couch

DGMC is the Air Force's flagship treatment facility, in the United States, providing a full spectrum of health care and patient-centered treatment to a prime service area throughout eight western states.

DGMC earns fresh accreditation

Senior Airman Amy Younger
60TH AIR MOBILITY WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

David Grant USAF Medical Center is stepping into the new decade with a renewed Joint Commission accreditation.

Joint Commission accreditation is voluntary and reserved for health care organizations across the globe that meet the highest quality and patient care requisites.

"Accreditation by the Joint Commission is considered a gold standard for hospitals, and is one way military and civilian health care systems can compare themselves using industry-set standards and best practices," said Col. Kristen Beals, 60th Medical Group commander. "We are evaluated

on the processes that we have established across both inpatient and outpatient clinical areas that provide safe and high quality care for our patients."

Health care facilities must undergo an on-site evaluation to earn The Gold Seal of Approval accreditation from the Joint Commission.

The DGMC's no-notice evaluation included four days of Joint Commission officials inspecting the hospital. Commission officials evaluated DGMC staff members and processes to ensure they met nearly 2,000 standards and criteria.

The accreditation came with another major milestone on its heels – the launch of MHS GENESIS. The new electronic health record, initially rolled out to four additional

Department of Defense installations in the Pacific Northwest, consolidates and modernizes the legacy medical record systems. Completing both significant events simultaneously hasn't been accomplished by another military treatment facility to date, said Tricia Vadney, DGMC's clinical quality and compliance chief.

"David Grant Medical Center was surveyed the week prior to implementation of MHS GENESIS," Vadney said. "The hospital proved they could successfully undergo a major accreditation survey and prepare for the transition to a new electronic health record."

The new electronic health record proved to be instrumental in correcting shortcomings identified with the

legacy system during the Joint Commission Survey.

"The benefit of being surveyed is the identification of opportunities to strengthen our processes and policies," Vadney said. "As part of the accreditation, all deficiencies were corrected within 60 calendar days."

DGMC was also re-certified for Primary Care Medical Home – an ancillary certification verifying an organization provides disease-specific services – for its outpatient primary care clinics: Internal Medicine, Family Medicine Residency Clinic, Pediatrics, Family Health and Flight Medicine.

"All the positive improvements are implemented to provide the best care possible," Beals said.



U.S. Air Force photo/Eric Dietrich

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David L. Goldfein during an appearance Jan. 27 at the Center for a New American Security, emphasized the importance of a strong presence in space and the need to harness data. Both, he said, are central to ensuring that the Air Force is able to meet and prevail against modern-day threats.

Goldfein offers optimistic update on Air Force's evolution, future

Charles Pope
SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON — Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David L. Goldfein said during a Jan. 27 appearance at the Center for a New American Security that the service is making significant strides in harnessing and using data for deterrence, decision-making and warfighting while also maintaining dominance in space.

Creating a system that uses data, machine learning and state-of-the-art software to seamlessly link "sensors to shooters" across all

domains – air, land, sea, cyber and space – is among Goldfein's highest priorities as the Air Force's highest-ranking military officer.

"First and foremost, we have to connect the joint team," he said in describing what's necessary to prevail in the future fight. "We have to have access to common data so we can operate at speeds that will bring all our capabilities against an adversary."

He also said that the creation of the Space Force as a separate branch of the U.S. military is critical to ensuring national security and to protect commerce and other

national interests.

"You've got to dominate space. You will see some significant investment in space capabilities. It won't be just enough to be in the ring and take some punches. At some point, you have to be able to punch back," he said.

In his 50-minute remarks to the influential think tank, Goldfein noted the technical advances and cultural shifts that have moved the concept of tightly connected, joint warfare forward, not only in the Air Force, but across the entire U.S. military establishment.

"Based on where we

started," Goldfein said, "I will say we are having discussions on alignment of all services. How we talk about the business of joint warfighting in ways I have not seen in previous years."

The concept, known as Joint All Domain Command and Control or JADC2, has been widely embraced as the critical transformation needed in an era in which Russia and China are emerging in addition to traditional threats.

That support, Goldfein said, has moved from rhetoric to action.

See **GOLDFEIN** Page 17

Travis part of massive donation of food

**Defense Commissary Agency
Corporate Communications**

FORT LEE, Va. — Military commissaries would rather fill a food bank than a landfill.

That's the mindset of the Defense Commissary Agency as it announces a new milestone in donations – 21 million pounds plus – to local food banks.

Travis Air Force Base is one of more than 175 facilities participating in the program.

DeCA reached this mark in donations over a five-year period; 5 million pounds of it coming in 2019 alone. The donated items are certified by food inspectors as being edible but unsellable, said Randy Eller, director of the agency's logistics directorate.

"Instead of edible food being discarded in trash bins, we're using it to help feed the hungry," Eller said. "I'm proud that we can connect with food banks to make that happen."

Although DeCA always had limited authority to request food bank approval to donate edible but unsaleable products, the agency's formal food donation program emerged after the 2013 government shutdown. As the agency prepared to close its stateside commissaries on Oct. 2 of that year, they requested temporary approval from the Department of Defense to donate edible food, especially perishables, to local food banks to avoid dumping it in the trash.

Six months and a lot of bureaucratic wrangling later, Department of Defense gave DeCA a clear process for food bank approvals which provided a formal donation program. Perhaps the hardest part for commissaries

See **FOOD** Page 22

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U.S. Air Force photo

Senior Airman Alexis Lopez, 319th Medical Group dental assistant, demonstrates proper sanitary procedure by putting on a face mask at the medical treatment facility Sept. 7, 2017, at Grand Forks Air Force Base, North Dakota. Lopez said in addition to personal sanitation, there are also multiple steps taken to ensure treatment rooms are prepared for patient use.

DOD prepared for coronavirus

Military Health System Communications Office

FALLS CHURCH, Va. — With news of the contagious and potentially deadly illness known as novel coronavirus grabbing headlines worldwide, military health officials say that an informed, common-sense approach minimizes the chances of getting sick.

Many forms of coronavirus exist among both humans and animals, but this new strain's lethality has triggered considerable alarm.

Believed to have originated at an animal market in Wuhan City, China, novel coronavirus has sickened thousands and killed dozens as of Jan. 29. It has since spread to other parts of Asia.

The first case of novel coronavirus in the U.S. was reported Jan. 22 in the state of Washington. It has since been reported in California.

Anyone contracting a respiratory illness shouldn't assume it's novel coronavirus; it is far more likely to be a more common malady.

"For example, right now in the U.S., influenza, with 35

"We must be extra vigilant about basic prevention measures."

— Dr. (Lt. Cmdr.) David Shih

million cases last season, is far more commonplace than novel coronavirus," said U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps Dr. (Lt. Cmdr.) David Shih, a preventive medicine physician and epidemiologist with the Clinical Support Division, Defense Health Agency.

He added that those experiencing symptoms of respiratory illness — like coughing, sneezing, shortness of breath and fever — should avoid contact with others and making them sick, Shih said.

"Don't think you're being super dedicated by showing up to work when ill," Shih said. "Likewise, if you're a duty supervisor, please don't compel your workers to show up when they're sick. In the short run, you might get a bit of a productivity boost. In

the long run, that person could transmit a respiratory illness to co-workers, and pretty soon you lose way more productivity because your entire office is sick."

Shih understands that service members stationed in areas of strategic importance and elevated states of readiness are not necessarily in the position to call in sick. In such instances, sick personnel still can take steps to practice effective cough hygiene and use whatever hygienic services they can find to avert hindering readiness by making their fellow service members sick. Frequent thorough hand-washing, for instance, is a cornerstone of respiratory disease prevention.

"You may not have plumbing for washing hands, but hand sanitizer can become your best friend and keep you healthy," Shih said.

Regarding novel coronavirus, Shih recommends following the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention travel notices. First, avoid all non-essential travel to Wuhan, China, the outbreak's epicenter. Second, patients who traveled to China in the past 14 days and

See **CORONAVIRUS** Page 19

'Tank Divers' confront cramped spaces, fuel vapors

Airman 1st Class Ryan C. Grossklag

6TH AIR REFUELING WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

MACDILL AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. — Tucked away behind U.S. Central Command and MacDill Air Force Base's traditional hangars lies a hangar originally built to house fighter jets.

On a given day, peeking out of that hangar will sit a KC-135 Stratotanker aircraft seemingly out of place in the considerably smaller maintenance shop, but surely, it's in the right hands.

This hangar is the home of the 6th Maintenance Squadron's fuels systems section. "Tank Divers," as the technicians of this shop are called, work day and night to ensure MacDill AFB's aircraft are always ready to fuel the fight.

Fuels technicians handle all operations involving the pumps, valves, manifolds and all aspects that encompass the fuel cell, which the Tank Divers view as the heart of the aircraft. The system is made up of massive, black bladders that hold jet fuel within the wings and run down the bottom of the KC-135 fuselage. Maintaining these cells takes a special group of Airmen willing and capable to contort and fit themselves into

the body of this aircraft.

"We're well-trained and well-versed in how to do anything on the fuel system," said Staff Sgt. Dakota Williamson, a 6th MXS fuel systems craftsman. "I like to say the fuel is the blood of the system and all of its workings are its veins. You can't have a well-oiled machine without it, so without us, you can't fly."

When a fuel leak is reported, fuels technicians must assess the damage to the cell, like a medic triaging a patient. Fuel is intended to remain in the bladder, so if it is found in the aircraft body cavity, Airmen perform tests to inspect for damage. Airmen remove the bladder from a hole not much bigger than a shoebox, pump it up with air pressure and then test with either a chemical or bubble solution to uncover any impairment.

"It's important to maintain the cells and make sure they're in the best condition they can be," said Airman 1st Class Brendon Kozicki, a 6th MXS fuel system journeyman. "We make sure all components are working as they should be and fix anything that would keep it out of the sky."

As with any job involving

See **TANK DIVERS** Page 22



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Ryan C. Grossklag

A KC-135 Stratotanker sits in the 6th Maintenance Squadron hangar Nov. 25, 2019, at MacDill Air Force Base, Florida. Home of the 6th MXS "Tank Divers," aircraft fuels systems technicians maintain the fuel cells of all 24 KC-135s assigned to the installation.

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9am and 11am, 10am only in the summer

- Men's and Women's Bible Studies
- In Home Small Group's
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www.tfh.org

Service Times
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Sunday: 9am & 11am

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Worship Service 10:30 a.m.
Sunday School for Children during the Worship Service

Communion - 1st Sunday of each month

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unityvv@pacbell.net
www.unityvacaville.org

Sunday Morning
8:00 am Coffee with God
10:00 am Contemporary Celebration with Youth Education

Wednesday Evening
6:30 pm Non-Denominational Meditation Time
7:00 pm Contemplative Prayer

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AFMC starts holistic resiliency effort

Marisa Alia-Novobilski
AIR FORCE MATERIEL COMMAND
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio — The Air Force Materiel Command has launched a new initiative that aims to increase unit cohesion and connectedness by emphasizing a culture that holistically builds mental, physical, social and spiritual fitness across the enterprise.

AFMC Connect provides units and leaders with the time, tools and resources to foster a culture of continual communication, building resilient military and civilian Airmen able to operate at optimal levels as they aim for personal

and professional success.

“This is a holistic approach that aims to strengthen our collective resilience, while reinforcing protective factors and reducing unwanted behaviors through deliberate and meaningful development,” said Maj. Gen. Carl Schaefer, AFMC deputy commander. “By focusing on our mission and building a shared purpose augmented by strong connections, our people will be in the best position to create the AFMC and Air Force we need.”

Driven by the Air Force Resilience Tactical Pause held in fall 2019, the AFMC Connect effort focuses on the

See **HOLISTIC** Page 18



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Samuel R. Colvin

Jessie Mauldin, 673rd Logistics Readiness Squadron heavy mobile equipment mechanic, attaches an eyelet to the top of a de-icing truck to tether a fall-protection safety harness Jan. 22 at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska. The modification attaches four eyelets to the top of each truck so mechanics have an attachment point for their safety harnesses.

Mechanic innovates safety solution

**Airman 1st Class
Samuel R. Colvin**

673RD AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska — A civilian Airman began upgrading 18 aircraft de-icing trucks with anchor points to enhance the safety of 673rd Logistics Readiness Squadron heavy mobile equipment mechanics at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Jan. 22.

These trucks are used to remove ice and snow prior to aircraft takeoff. During the trucks' regularly – scheduled maintenance and times requiring immediate attention, heavy-vehicle mechanics must work on top of the trucks, which require fall-protection in case of accidents.

“Having the safety harnesses attached on top of the trucks is going to save us a lot of headaches,” said Jessie Mauldin, 673rd LRS heavy mobile equipment mechanic and safety innovator. “There are times when the trucks break (near

the) planes and if we have to get on top of the trucks, there's nowhere to hook yourself to them.”

The older de-icing trucks must be brought into the hangar where mechanics can tether themselves to overhead cables. This can delay mission readiness, and causes issues when one of the two fall-protection systems in the hangar isn't available.

“When we got the newer de-icer fleet, Mauldin noticed the trucks were coming from the factory with eyelets, these fall-protection anchor points,” said Master Sgt. Brian Estonactoc, 673rd LRS mission generation vehicular maintenance section chief. “That's what sparked his idea.”

“I got in touch with the engineer for the de-icing truck manufacturer and he sent me a blueprint of exactly where I could drill holes on top of the older trucks without damaging the structural integrity,” Mauldin said.

Since this is a safety issue,

Mauldin used the blueprint as a guide and cut a metal template to line up exactly with the new holes on top of the trucks to ensure uniformity.

“Wintertime is when I see this being really useful because a lot of the trucks are left outside and have ice on them,” Mauldin said. “After this is done, it kind of takes the worry away because you're tethered to the truck. If you fall, you're only going to fall two or three feet.”

Mauldin describes his project as a simple, quick-fix to a big problem.

“Mauldin identified a short-fall and sourced a solution,” Estonactoc said, who also worked with Mauldin at Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota, in the early 2000s. “He worked with the manufacturer, engineers and wing safety, and we finalized the addition within our flight.”

“He's our lead de-icer mechanic,” Estonactoc said. “He's very passionate about his job and safety comes with it.”

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Puerto Rico ROTC cadets pay visit to Travis



1) University of Puerto Rico Reserve Officer Training Corps cadets board a Travis Air Force Base, California, KC-10 Extender while on a tour of the base Jan. 29 at Travis. More than 100 cadets flew from Puerto Rico to Travis for a two-day tour to learn about the Travis AFB mission and talk with personnel about military life and their experiences in the U.S. Air Force during their visit.

Daily Republic photos/Robinson Kuntz

Nick DeCicco
DAILY REPUBLIC

Approximately 100 Reserve Officer Training Corps cadets from the University of Puerto Rico visited Jan. 29 at Travis Air Force Base to bridge the gap between knowledge and experience.

The cadets from Detachment 756 in Mayagüez, Puerto Rico, often rely on their commander's PowerPoint slides and anecdotal stories about serving in the military, but the students – some of whom left the United States' island territory for the first time for the Travis visit – spoke of the practical and cultural impact of first-hand contact.

"It kind of validates what we've been doing so far," said Inara Otaola, a cadet colonel and the detachment's student wing commander. "You see this and you're like, 'Yeah, this is what I want to do.' . . . Sometimes you kind of get lost and then you get this opportunity, it's like, whoa. This is what I want to do. This is exactly why I'm in the Air Force."

During the first day of their two-day visit, cadets toured the base fire station and watched a demonstration by military working dogs in addition to touring all three aircraft based at Travis, the C-5M Super Galaxy, the C-17 Globemaster III and the KC-10 Extender. Thursday's stops include the base's dining facility, passenger terminal and the Travis Heritage Center museum.

Air Force Lt. Col. Eric Hamilton, Detachment 756 commander, who is three months away from retirement, said the experience was "nothing short of amazing" for his students.

Many of the cadets are not native English speakers, but must learn it as part of the Air Force Qualification Test, he said, with as few as 2 percent passing in the first of three required attempts. Hamilton said the students show steady improvement, year over year, as they approach graduation and commissioning.

Diego Sacarero, a first-year cadet, inadvertently helped demonstrate that growth when describing the experience of being at Travis.

"It's not like anything else I've ever done. Seeing the flight line like that is really – what's the word?" he said, asking a fellow cadet for the English translation for "impressive."

Hamilton praised the cadets for their abilities to endure hardships Puerto Ricans have faced in recent years with natural disasters such as Hurricane Maria, Hurricane Irma and a swarm of earthquakes – as well as challenges presented by the classroom.

Otaola said she was without electricity for nearly one year after 2017's Hurricane Maria. Another cadet, Giancarlo Casanova, was impressed by the synthesis of airmen working together at Travis, echoing the enduring spirit he saw among Puerto Ricans in the aftermath of the natural disasters.

"People in Puerto Rico, we're fighters. We don't quit," he said. "We tend to be very active together and very helpful to each other. That's where we come together."

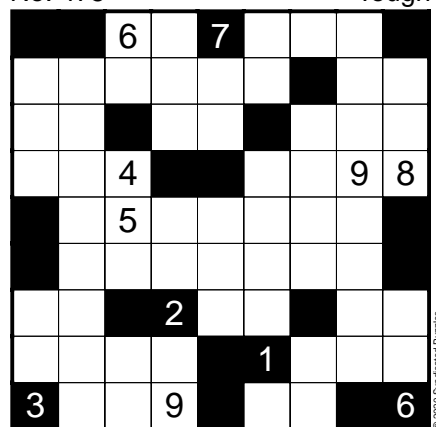


2) Reserve Officer Training Corps cadets from the University of Puerto Rico gather for a photo Jan. 29 at Travis Air Force Base, California. 3) ROTC cadets from the University of Puerto Rico tour Travis aircraft on the base flight line Jan. 29. 4) ROTC cadets gather by a ladder to access a C-5M Super Galaxy Jan. 29 at Travis.

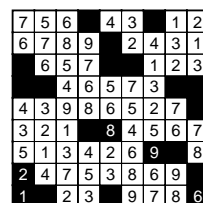
Puzzles

STR8TS

No. 475 Tough



Previous solution - Medium

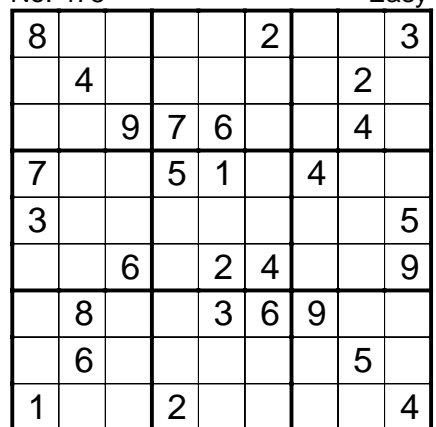


How to beat **STR8ts** – Like Sudoku, no single number can repeat in any row or column. But... rows and columns are divided by black squares into **compartments**. These need to be filled in with numbers that complete a 'straight'. A **straight** is a set of numbers with no gaps but can be in any order,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

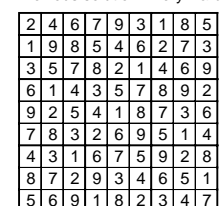
You can find more help, tips and hints at www.str8ts.com

SUDOKU

No. 475 Easy



Previous solution - Very Hard



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

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

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

The solutions will be published here in the next issue.

Retiree Corner

DHA stands up first four health care markets

The Defense Health Agency is changing the way military hospitals and clinics are managed Jan. 30 when facilities in four regions within the United States will become the first military medical markets aligned by geographic location.

The new markets include hospitals and clinics in the National Capital Region (Washington, D.C., southern Maryland, and northern Virginia), Jacksonville, Florida; the Mississippi coast

(Biloxi-Gulfport-Pascagoula); and Central North Carolina (Fayetteville). Each market will share patients, staff, budgets, and many other functions across facilities to optimize readiness and the delivery and coordination of health services.

DHA will eventually establish 21 markets where DoD has large concentrations of facilities and patients. Markets will be centered on large medical centers, establishing centers of excellence for specialty care that meet the needs of beneficiaries across their regions.

— **Military Health System Communications Office**

News Notes

Scholarships for Military Children.

Defense Commissary Agency program underway. 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.
- 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 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.



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

Recurring

Air Force Office of Special Investigations.

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

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

Air Force Sergeants Association "Walter E. Scott" Chapter 1320. General membership meetings are at 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 707-423-7227.

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

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

707-424-2575. For hazardous chemical/material spills, call the base emergency numbers.

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

Combat Arms Firing Range. Bldg. 1370, located 200 yards 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 Vandenberg 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 quickly.

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

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

Family Advocacy Parent/Child play groups. Toddlers to the Max play group for 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 travspcombatpsd@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://poptform.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/2mR1gl2>. 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.

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.



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

Today

- 6:30 p.m. "Cats" (PG)
- 9 p.m. "Black Christmas" (PG-13)

Saturday

- 6:30 p.m. "Little Women" (PG)

For more information on the Reel Time program, visit <https://www.aafes.com/exchange-stores/Movie-Guide/showtimes-Travis-AFB.htm>.

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

Travis Air Force Base Heritage Center. Open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, 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.

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

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 Thammasen, 60th Force Support Squadron
- Dennis Weaver, Air Force Manpower Agency.

The VLT 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

"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.vallejoartwalk.com.

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

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

Music and dance

City Sports Bar and Grill. Music begins at 9 p.m.: Level Set, Jan. 31; 7155 Browns Valley Parkway, Vacaville. 455-7827, www.starsrecreation.com.

Downtown Theatre. Love Notes: A Tribute to Luther Vandross, 8 p.m. Feb. 14; 1035 Texas St., Fairfield. www.downtowntheatre.com.

Empress Theatre. The Three Tenors: The Next Generation, 7:30 p.m. Feb. 1; Suspects of Soul, 7:30 p.m. Feb. 5; Golden Dragon Acrobats, 3 and 8 p.m. Feb. 8; 330 Virginia St., Vallejo. 552-2400, www.empresstheatre.org.

First Street Cafe. Open mic, 7 p.m. Feb. 1; Darlyn & The Groove Room, 7 p.m. Feb. 8; 440 First St., Benicia. 745-1400, www.firststreetcafe.com.

The Reliik. The Inflatables, 8:30 p.m. Jan. 31; The Bell Brothers, 6 p.m. Feb. 1; Ralph Woodson, 6 p.m. Feb. 5; The e11evn Band, 8:30 p.m. Feb. 7; Sunny & The Black Pack, 8:30 p.m. Feb. 9; 726 First St., Benicia. www.thereliiktavem.com.

Solano Symphony. Salute to Youth, 3 p.m. Feb. 9, Vacaville Performing Arts Theatre, 1010 Ulatis Drive. www.solanosymphony.org.

Solano Winds. "Blue Notes," 8 p.m. March 13, Downtown Theatre, 1035 Texas St., Fairfield. www.solanowinds.org.

Vacaville Performing Arts Theatre. Elevate Dance Showcase, 6 p.m. Feb. 1; Come Together: The Beatles Experience, 7:30 p.m. Feb. 8; 1010 Ulatis Drive. 469-4013, <https://vpat.net>.

Vallejo Jazz Society. Ray Obiedo Sextet, 5 p.m. March 15, Empress Theatre, 330 Virginia St., Vallejo. <https://empresstheatre.org>.

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

Verismo Opera. "L'Elisir d'Amore," 3 p.m. Feb. 2, Feb. 16, Bay Terrace Theatre, 51 Daniels

THE FLIP SIDE

Way, Vallejo. www.facebook.com/events/1203605126696572.

Places to go

BackRoad Vines. Open 1 to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday, Saturday and Sunday, 4 to 8 p.m. Friday, 221 Julian Lane, Fairfield. www.backroadvines.com.

Benicia Capitol State Historic Park. Open noon to 4 p.m. Thursday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday through Sunday, 115 W. G St. 745-3385, www.parks.ca.gov.

Cheers a Pub. The Band at Hand, 8:30 p.m. Feb. 1; Running with Scissors, 8:30 p.m. Feb. 7-8, 321 Merchant St., Vacaville. 451-4049.

Children's Wonderland. Open 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, contingent on weather, 360 Glenn St., Vallejo. 980-0004.

GV Cellars. Wine tasting, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, 1635 Mason Road, Fairfield. 864-2089, www.gvcellars.com.

Il Fiorello Olive Oil Co. Tasting and tours, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, 2625 Mankas Corner Road, Fairfield. 864-1529, www.ilfiorello.com.

Imagine That! Open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, 848B Alamo Drive, Vacaville. 474-5317, www.imaginequivacaville.org.

Jelly Belly. Free tours; open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily, 1 Jelly Belly Lane, Fairfield. 428-2838, www.jellybelly.com.

Loma Vista Farm. Open 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. weekdays; 150 Rainier Ave., Vallejo. <https://lomavistafarm.org>.

Mangels Vineyards. Open noon to 5 p.m. Friday through Sunday, 4529 Suisun Valley Road, Fairfield. 410-5392.

The Pioneer Taproom. Chris, Rob &

Friends, 6 p.m. Wednesdays; 4491 Suisun Valley Road, Fairfield. 208-8408, www.facebook.com/pioneertaproom.

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Seven Artisans Winery. Leah & The Wyld Onez, 2 p.m. Feb. 1; 5 O'clock Somewhere, Feb. 8; tasting room open 1 to 5 p.m. Thursday, 1 to 7 p.m. Friday, 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday, 4341 Abernathy Road, Fairfield. 771-0911, www.sevenartisanswinery.com.

Six Flags Discovery Kingdom. Open 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturdays, Sundays, Feb. 17; 1001 Fairgrounds Drive, Vallejo. www.sixflags.com/discoverykingdom.

Stars Recreation Center. Bowling, QZar laser tag, happy hour, open 24 hours daily, 155 Browns Valley Parkway, Vacaville. www.starsrecreation.com, 455-7827.

Suisun Valley Wine Cooperative. Tasting room open noon to 5 p.m. Thursday through Sunday, 4495 Suisun Valley Road, Fairfield. 864-3135.

Vezer Family Vineyard. Open 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, Blue Victorian, 5071 Suisun Valley Road, and Mankas Gardens, 2522 Mankas Corner Road, Fairfield. www.vezerfamilyvineyard.com.

Vino Godfather Winery. Ariel Marin, 2 p.m. Feb

Commands team up on VR solutions for training

Airman 1st Class Aaron Irvin
19TH AIRLIFT WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

LITTLE ROCK AIR FORCE BASE, Ark. — With technology constantly changing, the Air Force is actively seeking innovative methods to train today's Airmen with tomorrow's technology.

The Air Force is committed to world-class training for Airmen by preventing stagnation in education through constant innovation to meet the needs of a new generation through a continuum of learning.

Headquarters Air Force, Air Mobility Command, and Air Education and Training Command have been working on a virtual-reality platform for

maintenance training through Mass Virtual, a contractor that scans real-world objects to create virtual environments.

The C-130 enterprise established a working group with airlift wings from Little Rock Air Force Base; Dyess AFB, Texas; Yokota Air Base, Japan; and Ramstein Air Base, Germany; in order to collaborate and eliminate duplication of effort while crafting a VR platform focused on visualizing the ins-and-outs of the C-130H Hercules and C-130J Super Hercules to benefit maintenance Airmen.

"We pulled together with other wings to develop work tasks that would be most beneficial to invest in for Airmen —

allowing us to establish a VR platform with a focus on the C-130," said Master Sgt. Nicholas Massingill, 19th Maintenance Group development and instructor section chief.

With a tentative completion date of summer 2020, Massingill hopes VR maintenance training will bridge the gap for new Airmen joining the Air Force in a technology-oriented system and speed up training while controlling the environment to safely and effectively train on mission-essential tasks.

"The new generation learns using technology, so incorporating VR will appeal to their learning styles," said Master Sgt. Gary Armstrong, 19th

MXG maintenance training management section chief. "VR will help Airmen learn tasks quicker by transitioning to the 21st century of mainstream technology."

The current training system requires constant preparation and coordination to ensure a C-130 is available on the flight line the day training occurs. VR will replace the need to coordinate for weeks, or even months in advance, to get a

small window of time with an aircraft for mandatory maintenance training.

"We request an aircraft to be down three days a week in order to train our students," Massingill said. "When we do that, we are taking aircraft away from the mission. While VR will never replace hands-on training, it will help bring familiarization to the task, so the instructors can speed up

See VR SOLUTIONS Page 24




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Senior Airman
Valentina Viglianco

9TH INTELLIGENCE SQUADRON

BEALE AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. — Countless factors can contribute to the outcome of the mission at Beale Air Force Base, including something as simple as the weather.

In order to keep the mission going, weather-flight Airmen assigned to the 9th Operational Support Squadron propel the 9th Reconnaissance Wing's operations through discipline and attention to detail of the skies.

"Our main purpose is to provide weather support for the pilots and the base populous," said Senior Airman Andrew Goudge, 9th OSS weather forecaster. "We monitor conditions of the entirety of the base, including its airspace. We make sure to put out advisories for base resources so we maintain protection of our assets."

An imperative part of Goudge's job is to forecast weather accurately.

"With our job, we have stakes that are higher compared to the meteorologist someone sees on TV," Goudge said. "As Air Force weather forecasters, we need to be confident with our calculations because we are essentially



Senior Airman Andrew Goudge, 9th Operational Support Squadron weather forecaster, looks at meteorological data Jan. 15 at Beale Air Force Base, California. Weather-flight Airmen boost the 9th Reconnaissance Wing's mission through detecting, recording and transmitting space environmental observations.

responsible for the pilot's life and they put their trust in us to do our best to take care of them."

One of the tools used to make their forecasts is the Air Force Weather Web Service,

which is a program that allows them to get meteorological data from anywhere in the world. Also, to ensure their predictions are correct, they use sensors on the airfield and coordinate with airfield management

and air traffic control to gather real-time weather.

Another responsibility of the weather unit is to relay this information to U-2 Dragon Lady/T-38 Talon pilots before and during any local training flights. "The briefer cell is the outreach we provide for the pilots," Goudge said. "We communicate with them directly about factors that might come up in their flying routes. We make sure they have everything they need to complete their mission and have a safe flight."

The weather unit doesn't only play a part in local

airborne operations; certain members work closely with the 12th Reconnaissance Squadron and deliver weather support for the RQ-4 Global Hawk missions around the globe.

"Due to the RQ-4 being an unmanned aircraft, we work diligently with the pilots to be their eyes for navigating the sky," said Staff Sgt. Joshua Snyder, 9th OSS weather forecaster. "We are constantly keeping an eye out for turbulence, thunderstorms and freezing temperatures, which could affect not only the function of the aircraft, but also the intelligence to help troops down range."

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DoD units join forces to engage small business

Staff Sgt. Jordyn Fetter

AFWERX PUBLIC AFFAIRS

SAN ANTONIO — In the collaborative nature of innovation efforts in the Department of Defense, five agencies came together to present the first-ever Joint Small Business Innovation Research Open Topic for the first application period of 2020.

Over the past few months, AFWERX, Army Futures Command, NavalX, the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, the National Security Innovation Network/Defense Innovation Unit have joined

forces to make this experimental concept an interagency initiative built to bridge the gap between startups, small businesses and government.

"This represents a single front door for the DoD, where small companies can access a portion of the approximately \$1.5 billion of DoD SBIR funds within 90 days of applying," said Capt. Chris Benson, AFWERX AFVentures lead. "Companies that go on a Joint Phase I can now go to a Phase II with any of the participating organizations."

In 2018, AFWERX worked with other Air Force

organizations like the Air Force Research Laboratory to revamp the congressionally funded SBIR process by reducing submission requirements and accelerating the time it takes to issue contracts.

"Startups and small businesses are moving faster than the government is typically used to," said Capt. Steve Lauver, AFWERX director of technology accelerators. "Before they would consider working with us, we needed to simplify and accelerate our process to meet them halfway."

The Open Topic concept also allows all majority U.S.-owned

businesses with fewer than 500 employees to initially submit their commercial off-the-shelf solutions as opposed to developing a product for a specific solicitation.

After receiving a contract and \$50,000 in seed funding, companies in Phase I of the program are encouraged to locate a Department of Defense customer before applying for Phase II and receiving additional money to complete a trial run with an end-user.

All companies that have received a Phase I contract are eligible for a contract with any federal government agency

without the need for further competition, making the contracting process smoother.

By transitioning this to a DoD initiative as opposed to exclusively an Air Force one, these innovation units are hoping to provide a straightforward platform for startups and small businesses to work with the government.

"In the Defense Innovation ecosystem, it can be extremely tough for businesses to know where to turn to find a customer for their product or service," said David Schiff, NavalX

See BUSINESS Page 18

Goldfein

From Page 5

"We're actually building the foundation," he said. "We're not talking about cloud architecture. We actually built one. It's operating and up and running and all the services are connected in. We've actually built unified data libraries that are inclusive of all the services going forward."

"Are we where we need to be? No. This journey never ends," he said.

While complex both technically and culturally, the effort is moving forward in distinct ways, he said. Last month, the Air Force, Navy and Army staged a joint exercise to test new methods and technology for collecting, analyzing and sharing information in real time to identify and defeat a simulated cruise missile. Among other advances, it featured new technology that allowed pilots flying F-35 Lightning IIs and F-22 Raptors to receive data simultaneously along with Army units on the ground, special forces and commanders.

Goldfein also pointed out that the Air Force has created a new "numbered Air Force" dedicated to information warfare.

"You have to do that foundational work, which is digital engineering and data architecture," he said.

Those steps, along with increasing the number of Air Force operational squadrons to

386 from 312, refining logistics to make the Air Force "more agile on our feet," ensuring readiness and powered by the priorities in the 2018 National Defense Strategy are transforming the service.

When asked how to reconcile the needs "of the future over the present," Goldfein was direct.

"If we build what we need to defeat China and Russia, we'll have everything we need to handle Iran," he said. "If we build a force that just handles Iran, we're not going to have what we need to handle a peer power."

Though nascent and still developing, the changes have produced tangible results, Goldfein said. Previously simulated war games against peer competitors yielded distressing results. But the move to legitimately joint operations, continued prowess in space, the simulations suggest "we can actually win for the first time in years."

In order to sustain progress, Goldfein said future budgets must be sufficient and the Space Force must be successful.

On that front, Goldfein said he and Gen. John Raymond, the newly designated chief of Space Operations, are working together closely.

"The objective for Chief Raymond and me is how do we build a foundation of trust and confidence and focused on integrated joint warfare. At the same time, how do we allow the Space Force to develop its own service culture," he said.

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Senior Airman Alzara Kimalova, Air Force Sustainment Center contract specialist, walks through power-off procedures for a C-130H Hercules through virtual reality technology at the Inaugural Pitch Day hosted by the Robins Spark Cell and AFSC Contracting located Sept. 20 at Robins Air Force Base, Georgia, at the Advanced Technology and Training Center in Warner Robins, Georgia.

Business

From Page 17

deputy director. "As we look to the future, it's vital that our agencies come together with a collective voice to interface with the private sector."

Since the introduction of

the Open Topic in late 2018 through 2019, the program has received more than 3,600 submissions and awarded more than 1,300 contracts worth a combined total value of approximately \$240 million.

"Collaboration across services is critical for modernization efforts," said Casey Perly, Army Applications Lab

technical insights and analysis director. "By participating in a Joint SBIR Open Topic, we can work together to deliver tangible capabilities to the warfighter, and simultaneously provide small businesses better access to the DoD."

Learn more about this new way of doing SBIR on the AFWERX website.

Holistic

From Page 10

importance of relationships and communication in a resilient culture. Monthly training topics with tools and implementation guidance center on deliberate, leader-driven, meaningful discussions.

"AFMC Connect offers leader-led discussions that incorporate the content normally delivered in mandatory training sessions. This delivery method is aimed at helping our Airmen develop strong connections with leadership and one another as well as a shared purpose as an organization," said Jennifer Treat, AFMC Integrated Prevention and Resilience chief. "The discussions are efficient, deliberately targeting specific protective factors and are tailorable for commanders to meet the individual needs of their installation populations. We want our leaders to have the freedom and flexibility to meet the needs of their own organizations within the context of the overall effort."

AFMC Connect integrates annual suicide awareness and bystander training for military

and civilian employees, with implementation and tracking the responsibility of commanders at all levels. The short, 15- to 30-minute training sessions promote meaningful dialogue, leveraging personal accounts of resiliency to create and reinforce connections within organizations.

Resources and implementation guidance is available on the AFMC Connect page at <https://www.afmc.af.mil/connect>. An internal SharePoint page hosts additional content and training resources for use by the leadership team and facilitators when conducting the monthly sessions. Leaders and participants are encouraged to provide feedback to the AFMC Connect team to help ensure the training, tools and resources are meeting command needs.

"The resiliency tactical pause was merely a starting point for continued conversation and dialogue between our leaders and teams. AFMC Connect provides an opportunity to continue this engagement as we grow more resilient personally and professionally," Schaefer said. "Together we can cultivate and continue to grow a culture of caring across AFMC."

Coronavirus

From Page 6

show symptoms including fever, cough or difficulty breathing, should seek medical care right away, calling the doctor's office or emergency room in advance to report travel and symptoms, and otherwise avoid contact with others and travel while sick.

The CDC also has guidance for health care professionals,

who should evaluate patients with fever and respiratory illness by taking a careful travel history to identify patients under investigation who include those with fever, lower respiratory illness symptoms, and travel history to Wuhan, China, within 14 days prior to symptom onset. PUIs should wear a surgical mask as soon as they are identified and be evaluated in a private room with the door closed, ideally an airborne infection isolation room if available.

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JRTC

From Page 2

allows the U.S. Army users to become familiar with different regulations the U.S. Air Force has on preparing cargo before it can be loaded on an aircraft. From a planning perspective, it allows U.S. Air Force aircrew to better understand how important the training is to increase cohesiveness and lethality.”

Exercises like this improve the process of getting a ground force moved into an area as rapidly as possible so they can build a combat capability in

the objective area.

“This exercise helps teach aircrew the ‘why’ behind all the training while also being able to drop actual equipment and personnel rather than simulating it,” Newman said.

Exercises like GFLR 20-03 and JRTC 20-3 ensure the development of ready, willing and capable partners to collectively address global security challenges.

“This training allows our crews to be immersed in a scenario that an individual base or squadron can’t organically create,” said U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Thomas Joyner, 34th CTS commander.

Tank Divers

From Page 7

harmful chemicals, fuels come with carefully procured safety regulations to ensure the Airmen are safe when they go diving. Before climbing into the aircraft fuel cell, Tank Divers don personal protective equipment such as coveralls, head covers, gloves and air respirators to avoid harm from the chemicals they encounter.

“The process of opening a fuel tank is very dangerous and can present an explosive environment,” Williamson said. “People don’t really get to see much of what we do or where we go because when we open that tank up, we can’t have anything that produces a spark or is not intrinsically safe (nearby). Our hangar is set up to be 100% safe and fireproof.”

Though the Tank Divers call the hangar their home, they also must complete facets of their work on MacDill AFB’s flight line.

“Since we’re considered a



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Ryan C. Grosslag

Airman 1st Class Luis Garcia-Munoz, 6th Maintenance Squadron fuels system apprentice, and Staff Sgt. Dakota Williamson, a 6th MXS fuels system craftsman, test a fuel cell bladder for leaks Nov. 25, 2019, at MacDill Air Force Base, Florida.

back shop, we also go out to our alternate location on the opposite end of the flight line,” Williamson said. “To mitigate going back and forth, our team here designed a trailer that would house everything we need to be out on a job and take shelter from the elements.”

There’s a sense of pride among the Tank Divers about their careers; they are the chosen few to do a unique job that

puts them in tight places no one else gets to see or experience.

“My favorite part of my job would be fixing the jet myself and knowing I did something to fix what was keeping the jet out of the sky,” Kozicki said. “It feels great working together to figure out what is wrong with a jet and seeing the outcome of it being out and ready to fly again.”

Food

From Page 5

involved nudging nonprofit food banks to register with DoD to be designated to receive donations, Eller said.

That first year, 2014, DeCA donated 636,000 pounds to 72 food banks. By 2019, the annual donation total eclipsed 5 million pounds going to 193 food banks.

“Once the word went out, the network of DoD-designated

food banks went from a trickle to a downpour,” Eller said. “The donated amount represents less than 1 percent of our sales, but every bit helps for those who need it.”

To be designated eligible for commissary donations, nonprofit food banks must formally send a request to the assistant secretary of defense for manpower and reserve affairs. Interested parties should contact Kim Short at kim.short@deca.mil or 804-734-8000, x48042.

To qualify, a food bank must be a public or private nonprofit organization that routinely provides edible food to food pantries, soup kitchens, hunger relief centers, or other food or feeding centers that provide meals or food to needy persons.

DeCA’s food bank donations should not be confused with the annual USDA-sponsored Feds Feed Families campaign that runs June through October. Through Feds Feed Families, commissaries serve as collection points for their installations with all donations coming from DeCA customers and DoD civilians.



1) Col. Jeffrey Nelson, left, 60th Air Mobility Wing commander, reads to children at the Child Development Center III during a Leadership Rounds visit Jan. 17 at Travis Air Force Base, California. The Leadership Rounds program provides 60th AMW leadership an opportunity to interact with members of Team Travis and get a detailed view of each mission performed on base. 2) Satomi Richardson, middle, 60th Force Support Squadron graphic illustrator at the Outdoor Recreation shop, briefs her duties to Nelson and Command Chief Master Sgt. Derek Crowder, 60th AMW command chief, during a Leadership Rounds visit Jan. 17 at Travis. 3) Tyler Peretti, 60th FSS rental lead at the Outdoor Recreation shop, briefs rental procedures to Nelson and Crowder Jan. 17 at Travis.

Base leadership visits 60th FSS to ... REACH OUT

U.S. Air Force photos by Lan Kim



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