

Senior airmen selected for ...

PROMOTION

PAGES 16-17



Introspection leads to redefining excellence

Does the Air Force value my contribution? What is my true value? We tend to believe our value is determined by Air Force systems that measure our performance.



Commentary by Lt. Col. Troy Pierce
821ST CONTINGENCY RESPONSE SUPPORT SQUADRON

Our pursuit of accomplishment and "excellence in all we do" leads us to measure our success by stratifications, performance reports and board results. The problem is there are too many outside variables that determine exceptional versus average careers. I became much happier when I redefined success, and learned that my true value is not determined by performance feedback systems, but by the friendships, relationships and support I provide to

my family, friends and fellow Airmen.

It took me longer than it should to reach this conclusion. I entered the Air Force with no real dream of making it a career. The events of 9/11 and the deployments that followed gave me a sense of purpose, but I was always looking for something better. I wandered through my early years as a lieutenant and young captain. I

did the things I needed to do, but I wasn't "all in." My mindset changed when I was lucky enough to work with leaders who truly cared about their people and impacted the culture around them. I decided I wanted to be one of these people, and that to do that I needed

Commander's Commentary

to be a squadron commander. I confused a leadership position with actual leadership, which was wrong. Worse, I realized I was pursuing a highly competitive position, and I was defining success by how I compared with others on promotion boards.

The contrast between my promotions or school board results compared to my fast-tracked friends inevitably led to disappointment. I felt like my hard work should be rewarded with better results. My dreams of becoming a squadron commander were almost certainly crushed, so I began to build my civilian resume.

My friends, family and a few

Air Force leaders noticed my attitude change. They took the time to show me their support and let me know they appreciated my hard work. To this day, I am truly thankful for how they shaped my career. Their sincere encouragement helped me realize that the friendships and relationships we create throughout our careers are the real point of all this. My value is not in a position, title or board result. I can be OK with being "average," because what really matters is whether I'm an exceptional teammate. Instead of asking myself, "Why didn't I get selected for school or promotion below the zone?" I started asking myself, "How much support am I providing my fellow Airmen? Was I able to impact their lives in a positive way? Did I know when they needed help, and did I try and do something about it?"

Was I a good wingman? Most importantly, was I a good husband and father? The minute I started asking these questions I defined success differently. I defined it in a way that even I, a truly average Airman, can achieve it in a way that, in the end, matters far more than the insignia on my epaulets.

The message I hope I conveyed is "excellence in all we do" applies to all of us. Some of you will go on to amazing careers and reach dizzying ranks. Many of us won't. I hope each and every one of you define success by how well we do as a team, not by how well we do as individuals. I hope we define success by how well we learn from each other, respect and support one another. I hope we recognize that "excellence in all we do" really means "excellence in all we do for each other."

See SHAFER Page 22



Commentary by Chief Master Sgt. Kevin Shaffer
821ST CONTINGENCY RESPONSE SUPPORT SQUADRON

Power of pride, professionalism fuels Airmen

Wow. It's hard to believe two months ago hall-marked my 28th year of faithful service to the U.S. Air Force. Dawning the Air Force uniform every day for that many years kind of makes you think.

As I settled into my moment of reflection, two things came to mind; first was "Damn I'm old." After that, I pondered what it was that made me bleed blue for so many years, raise my right

Chief's Commentary

hand and recite the oath of enlistment each time the Air Force allowed me to. I will be the first to admit I didn't join the military as a selfless act of patriotism, proudly ready to give my life for duty, honor and country. My path to service was much simpler and probably not far off from why many of us initially joined. The allure for me

was that of a steady job, free education and all the extra benefits. I'll take it a step further and divulge that even though I joined the Air Force in 1989, I didn't truly "join the Air Force" until 1992 when my second supervisor taught me a little something about pride and professionalism.

My epiphanic moment was as a young senior airman working at a cryptologic equipment depot while stationed at Kelly Air Force Base,

Texas. To simplify things for the non-geeks out there, I basically soldered and repaired circuit cards that went inside widget X, Y and Z. The job was quite mundane and my daily focus was to "yellow tag" as many widgets as I could, while keeping one eye on my soldering iron and the other on the clock. I viewed my commitment to the Air Force as no more than a basic 9-to-5 job.

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Travis brass quintet demonstrates music's power

Heide Couch

60TH AIR MOBILITY WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

"How do you guys feel about the tempo? Let's start at bar 70. It's sounding a little sour. You make the difference not with volume, but with accent," Tech. Sgt. Thomas Salyers, Travis Brass noncommissioned officer in charge, said during a recent rehearsal.

One of the cornerstone ensembles for the United States Air Force Band of the Golden West, the Travis Brass has been delighting audiences in the western U.S. for several decades. The brass quintet is made up of two trumpets, a horn, a trombone and a tuba.

It takes hours of practice for the members of the quintet to reach the level of excellence audiences expect. Each musical composition performed may vary with individual interpretation depending on the artist and the instrument. When not out traveling for a performance, the quintet conducts practice sessions for two to three hours, at least twice a week, at Travis Air Force Base, California.

"In any group like this, there's a lot of personal preparation and ownership that goes into the way we play," Salyers said. "As NCOIC, I feel it's important to empower these guys to bring their skill, their professionalism, their musicality into how we play a piece. There is a certain amount of consensus."

Senior Airman James Wright has been a trombonist for the BOGW for nearly three years, but has been playing since he was a kid growing up in Saltsburg, Pennsylvania, about an hour north of Pittsburgh.

"I was in third grade when I had the chance to try out different instruments to see which one I liked the most,"

See BRASS Page 24



U.S. Air Force photo/Heide Couch

Airman 1st Class Lee Jarzembak, United States Air Force Band of the Golden West tuba player, rehearses Aug. 7 with the Travis Brass Quintet at Travis Air Force Base, Calif. The brass quintet is made up of two trumpets, a horn, a trombone and a tuba.

Tailwind

Travis AFB, Calif.
60th Air Mobility Wing

Air Force
Col. John Klein
60th Air Mobility Wing commander

2nd Lt. Sarah Johnson
Chief of command information

Daily Republic
Nick DeCicco
Tailwind editor

Todd R. Hansen
Copy editor

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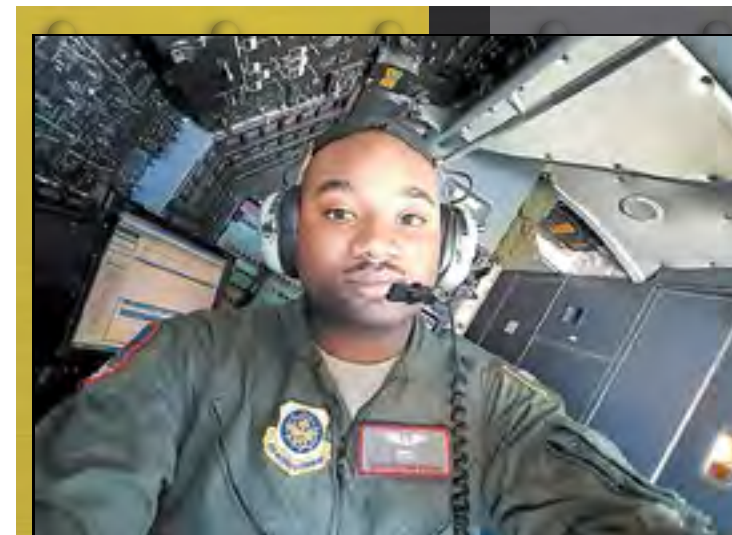
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On the cover

Travis Air Force Base, Calif., congratulated hundreds of newly selected staff sergeants Aug. 24 at a celebration at Hangar 837.

U.S. Air Force photo/Heide Couch



U.S. Air Force photo

WARRIOR OF THE WEEK

Name:
Staff Sgt.
Stephen Gibson.

Hometown:
Columbia, South Carolina.

What are your goals?
Help other Airmen be the best they can be.

What are your hobbies?
Writing nonfiction stories, drums, basketball.

Time in service:
Seven years.

Family:
Spouse, Jessica.

What is your greatest achievement?
Starting my own nonprofit.

Unit:
22nd Airlift Squadron.

Duty title:
Flight engineer.



U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Nicole Leidholm

Senior Airman Johemir Lopez-Ortez, 60th Maintenance Squadron aero repair technician, left, and Airman 1st Class David Pluskota, 60th MXS AR technician, remove the ball screw on the nose landing gear of a C-5M Super Galaxy, on tail No. 70034. C-5M No. 70034 flew Aug. 19 for the first time after the ball screw drive assembly replacement.

Base adjusts C-5Ms

Staff Sgt. Nicole Leidholm
60TH AIR MOBILITY WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

After two C-5M Super Galaxies had a malfunction of the nose landing gear, Gen. Carlton Everhart II, Air Mobility Command commander directed a stand-down of C-5M flying operations in July at Dover Air Force Base, Delaware.

After inspection, work immediately began on the 18 C-5Ms stationed at Travis Air Force Base, California, to ensure safety and minimize impact on

worldwide operations.

There are two ball screw drive assemblies on the C-5M nose landing gear. Both ball screw drive operate in tandem to retract and extend the nose landing gear, according to officials.

If a single ball screw drive assembly is not operational and causes binding, the gear cannot operate and will stall the extension or retraction process. The process to replace the ball screw drive assemblies takes approximately 24 hours to complete.

AF seeks nominations for leadership award

Staff Sgt. Alexx Pons

AIR FORCE PERSONNEL CENTER PUBLIC AFFAIRS

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas — Air Force officials are seeking nominations for the 69th annual Arthur S. Flemming Award.

The award, sponsored by George Washington University and the Arthur S. Flemming Awards Commission, honors outstanding federal employees who have made significant and extraordinary contributions to the federal government in the categories of leadership and/or management; legal achievement; social science, clinical trials and translational research; applied science and engineering; and basic science.

The Air Force can submit two civil service or military members per category for a total of 10 nominations.

The purpose of the award is to recognize outstanding and meritorious achievement while working for the

federal government; to encourage the highest standards of performance in the federal service; to enhance appreciation for the United States government and the opportunities and responsibilities it presents; and to attract outstanding individuals to a career in federal service.

Organizations and base-level personnel must contact their major command, combatant command, field operating agency or direct reporting unit for applicable suspense dates and additional information regarding nomination procedures. Nomination packages are due to the Air Force's Personnel Center by Nov. 17.

Specific eligibility and application procedures are available via myPers. Select "any" from the dropdown menu and search "Flemming."

For more information about Air Force personnel programs, go to myPers. Individuals who do not have a myPers account can request one by following the instructions on the Air Force's Personnel Center website.

Annual consent for automatic prescription refills begins Sept. 1

TRICARE Staff

FALLS CHURCH, Va. — Beginning Sept. 1, Express Scripts will need annual consent from patients who want to receive automatic refills of their maintenance medications enrolled in TRICARE Pharmacy Home Delivery.

This means that just before one of your prescriptions runs out of refills, Express Scripts will reach out to you to know if you would like your doctor to be contacted to renew the prescription and if you'd like to continue in the Automatic Refill program. If not, Express Scripts will not refill your prescription.

"This new process gives beneficiaries more control over their medications and keeps the convenience of automatic refills," said Amy Aldighere, the DOD Program Management Express Scripts senior director. "It also makes it easier to opt out of the Auto Refill program and helps to prevent beneficiaries from receiving medications that they no longer need or shouldn't receive."

What to expect

When the last refill of a medication enrolled in the Automatic Refill program

ships, Express Scripts will reach out to you by telephone and/or email (depending on the preference you indicated) and ask the following:

- Would you like Express Scripts to reach out to your doctor for a new prescription?
- Do you want to keep your medication enrolled in the Auto Refill program?

How to respond

Express Scripts will not re-enroll your medication unless they hear from you. You have several ways to respond:

- Online at Express-Scripts.com/TRICARE.
- Via the automated phone call from Express Scripts.
- By calling an Express Scripts patient care advocate at 1-877-363-1303.

If Express Scripts does not receive your consent within 10 days of reaching out to you, they will remove your medication from the Auto Refill program. However, re-enrolling is simple. You can re-enroll your medication at any time online, or through a PCA.

For more information or if you have questions, go to the Express Scripts website. You can also call Express Scripts at 1-877-363-1303 to speak with a PCA.

Airmen's actions have consequences

60th Air Mobility Wing
Judge Advocate

Law and Order is a monthly feature detailing the previous month's military justice matters at Travis.

Publicizing this information fosters an atmosphere of good order and discipline by demonstrating how the military enforces standards of conduct.

This feature also serves to educate and inform the public concerning military law and the military justice system:

During the months of June and July 2017, five Airmen received final action from a court-martial, 12 Airmen received final review of nonjudicial punishment under Article 15, Uniform Code of Military Justice and nine Airmen were involuntarily separated.

Courts-martial

A senior airman from the 60th Medical Operations Squadron pled guilty at a general court-martial to one specification of wrongful use of fentanyl and one specification of wrongful use of ketamine, violations of Article 112a, UCMJ. The member also pled guilty to three specifications of wrongful appropriation of military property, a violation of Article 121, UCMJ. The sentence consisted of a reduction to the rank of airman basic, forfeiture of \$500 pay per month for one month, confinement for one year and a reprimand.

A master sergeant from the 60th Civil Engineer Squadron was tried by a special court-martial for one specification of wrongful use of marijuana, a violation of Article 112a, UCMJ. The case resulted in an acquittal.

An airman first class from the 60th Operations Support Squadron pled guilty at a special court-martial to wrongful use of lysergic acid diethylamide, a violation of Article 112a, UCMJ. The sentence consisted of a reduction to the rank of airman basic, forfeiture of \$500 pay per month for one month, confinement for 30 days, restriction to the limits of Travis Air Force Base, California for

30 days and hard labor without confinement for 30 days.

An airman first class from the 60th Operations Support Squadron pled guilty at a summary court-martial to one specification of wrongful use of 3,4-methylenedioxymethamphetamine and one specification of wrongful use of cocaine, violations of Article 112a, UCMJ. The sentence consisted of a reduction to the rank of airman basic, confinement for 29 days and a reprimand.

An airman first class from the 60th Operations Support Squadron pled guilty at a summary court-martial to one specification of wrongful possession of lysergic acid diethylamide, a violation of Article 112a, UCMJ. The sentence consisted of reduction to the rank of airman basic and a reprimand.

Nonjudicial punishment
(Article 15s)

An airman first class from the 60th Aerial Port Squadron received an Article 15 for misuse of the government travel card, a violation of Article 92, UCMJ. Punishment consisted of a reduction to the rank of airman and a reprimand.

A technical sergeant from

Law and Order



the 60th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron received an Article 15 for being drunk on duty, a violation of Article 112, UCMJ, for driving under the influence of alcohol, a violation of Article 111, UCMJ and for being absent without leave, a violation of Article 86, UCMJ. Punishment consisted of a suspended reduction to the rank of staff sergeant, forfeiture of \$225 pay per month for two months and 10 days of extra duty.

A senior airman from the 60th AMXS received an Article 15 for being drunk and disorderly, a violation of Article 134, UCMJ. Punishment consisted of a suspended reduction to the rank of airman first class, forfeiture of \$306 pay per month for two months, 45 days of extra duty and a reprimand.

A senior airman from the 60th AMXS received an Article

15 for being drunk and disorderly, a violation of Article 134, UCMJ. Punishment consisted of a suspended reduction to the rank of airman first class, forfeiture of \$306 pay per month for two months, 45 days of extra duty and a reprimand.

An airman first class from the 60th Dental Squadron received an Article 15 for assault, a violation of Article 128, UCMJ. Punishment consisted of reduction to the rank of airman, 15 days of extra duty and a reprimand.

An airman first class from the 60th Medical Support Squadron received an Article 15 for failure to go on two occasions, a violation of Article 86, UCMJ. Punishment consisted of a suspended reduction to the

rank of airman, 14 days of extra duty and a reprimand.

A technical sergeant from the 60th Operations Support Squadron received an Article 15 for being absent without leave, a violation of Article 86, UCMJ, and for making a false official statement, a violation of Article 107, UCMJ. Punishment consisted of a reduction to the rank of staff sergeant, forfeiture of \$1,616 pay and a reprimand.

An airman first class from the 60th Surgical Operations Squadron received an Article 15 for failure to obey a no contact order, a violation of Article 92, UCMJ. Punishment consisted of reduction to the rank of airman and a reprimand.

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Space Ops directorate names leaders

**Secretary of the Air Force
Public Affairs**

WASHINGTON — The Air Force selected the senior civilian and mobilization assistant for the deputy chief of staff for Space Operations directorate, or "AF/A11," Aug. 17.

Shawn Barnes will serve as the assistant deputy chief of staff for Space Operations,

and Maj. Gen. Pamela Lincoln has been named as the mobilization assistant to the deputy chief of staff for Space Operations.

"Mr. Barnes and Maj. Gen. Lincoln are experienced leaders who will provide the vision and direction for our new Space Operations directorate," said Secretary of the Air Force Heather Wilson. "This is one

more element of the plan to ensure our space forces are organized, trained, and equipped to prevail in any conflict."

The initial cadre of the A11 has been identified and assigned, consisting of 43 military members, government civilians and contractors. These professionals have formed the

See LEADERS Page 21

Officials stop at Travis



U.S. Air Force photo/Louis Briscese

Congresswoman Ann Louise Wagner, of Missouri and Ed Markey, U.S. senator from Massachusetts, get ready to board an aircraft Aug. 16 at Travis Air Force Base, Calif. Wagner and Markey are part of a congressional delegation that stopped at Travis en route to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii.

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Intel analyst keeps pilots safe at home, abroad



U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Stephanie Wade

Senior Airman Brittany Fuentes, a collection requirements manager at Air Mobility Command, briefs other analysts about information regarding a mobility mission July 18 at Scott Air Force Base, Ill.

Staff Sgt. Stephanie Wade
AIR MOBILITY COMMAND

SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, Ill. — Every day, Air Force Senior Airman Brittany Fuentes is tasked with the responsibility of collecting and providing vital information that could impact the outcome of mobility missions worldwide.

Fuentes is a collection requirements manager assigned to Air Mobility Command's Air Intelligence Squadron at Scott Air Force Base, Illinois. On a daily basis Fuentes provides answers to 104 AMC intelligence sections around the world when they have a request for information.

"Fuentes is outside her analyst role right now," said Ric Salas, AMC collection management team chief.

"She is assuming the role of a technical sergeant and doing it well," Salas said. "Most analysts are assigned to one geographic combatant command. Fuentes is in charge of monitoring or being the subject

matter expert on all the geographic combatant commands. All the analysts come to our section to request information for mobility missions globally and she has to find the answers."

During her time at AMC, Fuentes has also managed the weapons and tactics team's threat assessment process where she served as a SME on weapons systems that have the potential to damage AMC aircraft. In 2016, she analyzed 116 enemy attacks in Iraq, Syria and Afghanistan. Her expertise helped the Air Force identify enemy tactics and safeguard sections around the world more than 69,000 mobility aircraft sorties.

No mission too small

"There's not a mission (at AMC) we don't support," she said. "Before pilots take off, we provide the best overall picture of what they can expect during their mission. I think [analysts] have a very important role of keeping our pilots safe."

The responsibilities that

See INTEL Page 23

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U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Greg Nash
Commandant Micka, a French exchange pilot and assistant director of operations for the 41st Rescue Squadron, actuates switches in a HH-60G Pavehawk, Aug. 2 at Moody Air Force Base, Ga.

Exchange pilot reaches dream

Senior Airman Greg Nash
23RD WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Editor's note: Last names withheld for security purposes.

◆◆◆
MOODY AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. — Allured by the distant chopping of helicopter blades, a young French boy diverts his attention from his television screen to watch native pilots rescue stranded hikers in Southeast France.

Glancing back at his favorite show, he notices an American

pilot navigating a similar airframe, causing him to wonder what it would be like to fly a "chopper."

Through sheer determination, Commandant Micka propelled himself to serve and fly for both nations. As part of the 67th Helicopter Squadron "Pyrenees," Cazaux Air Base, France, he was proud to 'Fight and Save,' fulfilling the French air force helicopter community's mantra. Now, he's a part of Moody Air Force Base's 41st Rescue Squadron to contribute

to their motto.

"So That Others May Live," is a (motto) I want to honor during my tenure here and I'm proud to represent my country as the only current French exchange pilot in the (U.S.) Air Force," said Micka. "I was very excited to join the 41st RQS because of the mission similarities with my unit back home and the United States' and France's rescue history together.

"I've seen the HH-60G Pavehawk throughout my deployments and the ability to now fly one is special," Micka added, who is the 41 RQS assistant director of operations and an HH-60 pilot. "It resembles and maneuvers a lot like my old airframe, the (French air force's) EC-275 Caracal."

According to Micka, in addition to the aircraft likeness, he relished the two nation's lengthy experience and capabilities in performing in hostile environments and highlighted the 100th birthday of the nation's being brothers in arms during World War I.

"I've always appreciated how the Americans aided France and also helped change the tide of the war," said Micka.

See DREAM Page 14



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Airmen, Sailors prepare to support F-35 at sea



U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Peter Thompson

Petty Officer 2nd Class Eric Stark, right, Navy aviation support equipment technician and a 33rd Maintenance Squadron aerospace ground equipment trainer, demonstrates how to operate a portable floor crane for Petty Officer 1st Class Jerimiah Appel, Navy aviation support equipment technician on the USS Abraham Lincoln, Aug. 9 at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla.

Staff Sgt. Peter Thompson
33RD FIGHTER WING

EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. — Two Petty Officers 1st Class from the USS Abraham Lincoln received initial training from the Air Force's 33rd Maintenance Squadron's Aerospace Ground Equipment Aug. 7-11 at Eglin Air Force Base, Florida.

The Sailors, Petty Officers 1st Class Jeremiah Appel and Kunthea Sam, received the training in preparation for F-35C operations onboard their ship. In the future, when the F-35C is training aboard the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier, these technicians will be able to operate and maintain the

aircraft.

"We are here to familiarize ourselves with what we can expect on the ship when F-35s are on board, allowing us to be fully functional," said Appel, a CVN-72, trainee. "When we do return to our command we will be capable enough to handle any situations that come up."

The AGE flight has a unique mission supporting both the Air Force 58th Fighter Squadron's F-35As and the Navy VFA-101's F-35Cs. The Airmen and Sailors assigned to the unit work hand-in-hand with both aircraft.

"(These Sailors) are here because we are the people who are the most capable of providing them with this training," said Petty Officer 2nd Class Eric Stark a Navy aviation support equipment technician and a 33rd MXS AGE trainer. "We've worked with this equipment the longest, making us the most experienced."

The AGE flight operates and maintains the machines that supply electricity, air pressure

and hydraulic pressure to the aircraft when the engine is not running.

"An aircraft in the air is totally self-sufficient, meaning it maintains its own systems," said Master Sgt. Jesse Cotter, the AGE flight chief. "When it's on the ground it has none of that, so that's where we come into play. Our support equipment does the same things the aircraft systems do, but while it's on the ground."

In the past, AGE technicians in the Air Force and Navy have worked with equipment that can be used across multiple legacy platforms. The majority of machinery that supports the Lightning II is particular to the aircraft, requiring specialized training. Additionally, the Navy's fixtures will be different from the Air Forces when operating on an aircraft carrier.

"Our equipment serves the same functions as theirs does, but some of their systems are a little bit smaller because of space constraints," said Cotter.

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Defender graduates first joint service course

Debbie Aragon

AIR FORCE INSTALLATION AND MISSION SUPPORT CENTER PUBLIC AFFAIRS

FORT BLISS, Texas — Working side-by-side, Sailors and Airmen built critical skill sets during the first joint service security course at the Desert Defender Ground Combat Readiness Training Center recently.

Although Sailors have attended two Desert Defender classes in the past, this was the first time Air Force and Navy students completed the same course together, according to Lt. Col. Bernard Sprute, the DDGCRTC commander.

Desert Defender, the Air Force's largest security forces readiness training center, focuses on fundamental base defense training prior to a deployment. The standard security operations curriculum experienced by the joint students focused on topics like improvised explosive device detection, mounted and dismounted patrols, counter insurgency operations, culture awareness, entry control point operations, vehicle roll-over response, as well as combat lifesaving skills.

Desert Defender provides "a great, fundamental baseline prior to deploying, regardless of where you're going to deploy. Whether it be a gulf state, Afghanistan, Iraq or anywhere in Africa," said Sprute.

Bringing U.S. military services together in a frontline joint training environment is "huge," Sprute added. The training offers a consistent baseline, "not just for our Air Force security forces defenders but for those Navy security forces (deploying) to the very same countries (Airmen) go to and provide the same sort of base defense and ECP operations we do."

One of the Navy students in the joint course was Petty Officer 2nd Class Christopher Norberto, a master-at-arms, or military policeman, assigned to Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, Washington.

"Training with the Air Force allows us to learn tactics, techniques and a skill set that we wouldn't have access to in our branch of service," said Norberto. "It also leads to an exchange

of techniques and ideas that can be built upon each other and allows us to have a deeper understanding and appreciation for our brothers and sisters in uniform."

In addition to the joint environment, Desert Defender provides a safe environment for students to learn what can inherently be dangerous skills while in a safe, controlled environment. Mistakes made during training are quickly corrected by cadre members who are always nearby.

"Making mistakes in training allows for us to identify and correct them before they can potentially lead to catastrophic incidents (while deployed). The importance of having a safe and controlled environment to practice these skills and make the mistakes beforehand can be measured by the lives it can save in the future," said Norberto.

In addition to the standard security operations course, DDGCRTC offers a wide variety

of training on more than 1.1 million acres at Fort Bliss, Texas.

"Whether you're talking about a base defense operations course...mounted or dismounted operations, we have convoy live-fire ranges here, we have real full distance firing ranges. We have restricted airspace that we can fly the RQ-11B Raven in... it's a great place for defenders to come through and receive realistic training... as realistic as we can make it," said Sprute.

The RQ-11B Raven is a small, unmanned aircraft system that provides security forces with real-time, direct intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance, and target information.

"(Fort Bliss) offers a very, very realistic and rigorous training environment whether you're talking about the elevation, the mountains, the heat, the critters... you name it, very realistic training environment to what you're going to see (while deployed)," said Sprute.



U.S. Air Force photo/Debbie Aragon

Staff Sgt. Joshua Hopkins fires the M2 .50-caliber machine gun while assistant gunner U.S. Petty Officer 3rd Class Derek Dick monitors ammunition during heavy weapons firing at Range 39 at Fort Bliss, Texas.

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Equipment gives Airmen time to breathe



U.S. Air Force photo/Justin Parsons

9th Physiological Support Squadron personnel monitor a pilot's vitals and cognitive abilities as he flies a simulated mission using the Reduced Oxygen Breathing Device July 21 at Beale Air Force Base, Calif.

Airman 1st Class Tristan D. Viglianco

9TH RECONNAISSANCE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

BEALE AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. — After pilots complete their Initial Aerospace Physiology Training they occasionally go through a refresher course to maintain their flying status.

In order to complete the course, aircrew work with the 9th Physiological Support Squadron for a variety of reasons, including a hypoxia demonstration.

"After someone completes the academics portion of their training they have to do a hypoxia demonstration," said Master Sgt. Jennifer Flecker, the 9th PSPTS support flight chief. "Hypoxia is a state of oxygen deficiency. When a person goes up in attitude and breathes less

oxygen they become susceptible to cognition errors, situational awareness errors, loss of coordination, and visual impairment."

Hypoxia poses a serious threat to pilots and up until recently, exposing pilots to the conditions which cause it required 9th PSPTS Airmen to spend a lot of time and manpower completing hypoxia demonstrations. However, with the acquisition of the Reduced Oxygen Breathing Device it now only takes two individuals versus the six Airmen it used to take.

"It saves us a lot of manpower and time," said Airman 1st Class Mariah Rosenberg, a 9th PSPTS aerospace physiologist technician. "A hyperbaric chamber flight takes us about an hour and a half to do the entire

thing and with the ROBD it takes us about 30 minutes."

According to Rosenberg, pilots prefer using the ROBD instead of the hyperbaric chamber because they aren't required to wear the full pressure suit and are able to spend more time on the mission as opposed to training.

In addition to the time saved, demonstrating hypoxia with the ROBD is safer for aircrew going through the training.

"The ROBD demonstrates hypoxia without exposing aircrew to altitude threats," said Flecker. "It takes oxygen, nitrogen, and compressed air and mixes them up to different percentage levels a person would be exposed to at various altitudes."

Since students aren't exposed to high altitudes, they aren't restricted from flying like they used to after training.

"The ROBD is freeing up our pilots because they aren't restricted from flying," said Flecker. "They can actually fly a mission the same day."

All the time being saved by aircrew and 9th PSPTS Airmen goes a long way in allowing them to focus on other aspects of the mission. The aircrew can get back to flying sorties and providing high-altitude intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance and the Airmen can focus on ensuring the equipment they need is working properly.

AF introduces tool to manage civilian benefits

Richard Salomon
AIR FORCE PERSONNEL CENTER
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas — The Air Force is the first agency in the Department of Defense to roll out a new tool that helps government civilians more effectively manage their benefits and entitlement information.

The Government Retirement and Benefits Platform is a web-based application that allows employees to make changes and updates to their

health insurance, life insurance, Thrift Savings Plan and other personal benefit information.

The GRB Platform replaces the Employee Benefits Information System, which replaced most paper-based processes in 1996.

"The GRB Platform includes all the functionality previously offered with EBIS, but in a much more intuitive and user-friendly environment," said Annette Castro, an Air Force Personnel Center human resource specialist. "It gives employees the ability to easily

obtain and request various retirement estimates, complete their retirement packages and review their current benefits coverage."

The site also contains informational videos, facts sheets, electronic forms, calculators, retirement courses and links to external websites to help individuals make important decisions regarding their benefits.

Employees can access the GRB Platform application through AFPC Secure by selecting the "GRB Platform" application link. Employees should see a brief video

explaining the new system the first time they log in.

"This is another example of how we are providing smarter and more efficient personnel services to our customers worldwide," Castro said. "It's important that we continue to improve and enhance all of our business processes, so our

customers can have what they need right at their fingertips."

For more information, visit the myPers website and search "GRB Platform." Individuals who do not have a myPers account can request one by following the instructions on the Air Force's Personnel Center website.

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Dream

From Page 8

“Understanding the historic, close relationship and similar mantras between these nations is very dear to me.”

Knowing his dedication of this symbolic relationship and his eagerness to learn to be a

better pilot and wingman, one 41st RQS member speaks on how the unit has embraced Micka.

“(Micka) has proven and continues to prove he is an excellent ambassador for our French rotary wing partners,” said Lt. Col. Chris Richardson, the 41 RQS commander. “He consistently, much like his predecessors before him, brings

outstanding insight, credibility and experience to our squadron. His interactions with the (combat search and rescue) community, more specifically, the 41st RQS, are instrumental in building a bigger, more holistic approach to how we conduct and execute our mission.

“For as long as this partnership has been around, this squadron and our community continues to reap the benefits of experiencing how each respective partner and individual unit integrate into and provide capability to the joint fight,” Richardson added. “This exchange program allows (U.S. Air Force) members to work with our French partners, while also allowing us to incorporate (Micka’s) expertise into our own programs.”

Throughout his career, Micka said he’s gratified to have flown over 2,000 flight hours, completed 650 missions in hostile territory and participated in 13 deployments, but nothing yet compares to his first save.

“My first save was of a wounded Afghan child when I was a young co-pilot in this unit,” said Micka. “It was such an adrenaline rush and special moment for me. You don’t

realize the impacts of everything you’re accomplishing on a mission because you’re so in the moment. When you land and think about all the training you did to save someone’s life, it’s the best feeling in the world.”

Another great feeling for Micka is the ability to become a more proficient pilot during deployments. According to him, one aspect of accomplishing this doesn’t always involve maneuvering the controls in the cockpit.

“There’s nothing like being (entrenched) in an international coalition environment to achieve one goal,” said Micka. “The opportunity to build relationships, share tactics and familiarize myself with the 30 nations I’ve deployed alongside with has been great.”

Micka credits this exposure of different nation’s aircraft and pilots for helping him prepare for his biggest challenge thus far.

“Overcoming the language barrier and improving my minimal English skills has been one of the hardest tests for me since my arrival (at Moody AFB),” said Micka. “Over time, I’ve sufficiently progressed through the process by getting

accustomed to hearing different accents in flight and in the simulator, reading emails and talking with my comrades.”

As the 41 RQS ADO, Micka recently finished his HH-60 qualification training. In the near future, he hopes to accomplish his main desire as part of the exchange program.

“One of the biggest purposes of the program is to deploy to save lives,” said Micka. “It’s been my favorite part of the job since I’ve started. I’m doing the same mission I love, just in a different unit.”

Micka added that the program is so much more than one pilot getting to experience another country’s tactics and training. According to him, it’s also about being able share what he’s learned.

“I hope to take my experiences back home to better help the 67th Helicopter Squadron,” said Micka. “My next goal is to be their squadron commander and overall serve in the Air Force for as long as possible. Being open-minded and embracing challenges helped me succeed. It hasn’t been an easy process, but it’s all definitely been worth it.”

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60th Air Mobility Wing Public Affairs

The Air Force announced the selection of 300 senior airmen assigned to the 60th Air Mobility Wing, including inbound Airmen, for promotion to staff sergeant Aug. 24.

According to the Air Force Personnel Center, 44.31 percent of the 32,006 promotion-eligible senior airmen were selected for staff sergeant.

Below is a comprehensive list of staff sergeant selects from the 60th Air Mobility Wing and 621st Contingency Response Wing.

60th Air Mobility Wing

Abaya, Jovie	Costin, Jarrett	Hedman, Andrew	Manasco, Christopher	Roman, Samantha	Watson, Michael
Abdeljawad, Hasan	Crawford, Devon	Henry, Kelsi	Mantle, Andrew	Ruff, Zachary	Weatherly, Kagan
Aguilar, Julian	Cruz, Nicole	Hilliard, Matthew	Marcellus, Mikkah	Ruliva, Jon	Wehunt, Dylan
Alford, Tavin	Curllett, Kevin	Hoffman, Derrick	Mathew, Alexis	Russell, Brian	Williams, Byle
Algiene, Leroy	Curran, Creed	Holmes, Paul	McCullum, Charles	Saetern, Adrian	Williams, Robert
Alvarado, James	Day, Derek	Horak, Raymond	McGee, Callie	Saldana, Cameron	Williams, Taylor
Andrus, Katrina	Deadwiley, Jeremy P	Hornback, Jason	McVey, Conner	Salmin, Omar	Wingard, Clegi
Anthony, Jefferson	Dela Cruz, Deondre	Horner, Sean	Meacham, Alex	Sanchez, Derrick	Wittman, Logan
Archer, Nigel	Draves, Andrew	Howington, Christopher	Mendoza, Cody	Sanchez, Larry	Woolston, Emily
Armour, Kyle	Dutcher, Trey	Hudecheck, Justin	Miller, Andrew	Sandoval, Jazmin	Wright, Rachael
Arn, Isaiah	Edgerly, Brandon	Hudson, Dominick	Miller, Mackenzie	Sautter, Robert	Yang, Lee
Avant, Jeremy	Eriksson, Romar	Huffman, Timothy	Minatee, Jahkiyah	Sayre, Jordan	Yodico, Edrick
Avery, Brandon	Escaleraolivencia, Francheska	Hurless, Matthew	Miotto, John	Schexnyder, Jon	York, Dylan
Baccaro, Mark	Estell, Joshua	Hurst, Micah	Mitchell, Jarvis	Shelley, Justin	Young, Aaron
Bartczak, Taylor	Estep, Lane	Ibarra, Juan	Mongeone, Bridgette	Shively, Beau	Young, Charles
Bennett, Richard	Estevez, Angel	Ignacio, Kaelah	Moore, Alice	Smith, David	
Besse, Kaitlyn	Evans, Joshua	Ingram, Adam	Moore, Joshua	Smith, Jonathan	
Bieber, Zachary	Famadior, Audreyanne	Jackson, Thomas	Moore, Patrick	Smith, Tysaiah	
Billings, Ryan	Feldman, Lorretta	Jacobs, Darren	Mulligan, Daniel	Snow, Christina	
Bland, Brandon	Fennessey, Nancy	Jarvis, Tarnicia	Navarro, Andrewmiguel	Spears, Christopher	
Blosser, Caleb	Ferro, Anna	Jeffries, Adam	New, Michael	Staten, Brett	
Blue, Gregory	Ferry, Jonathon	Johnson, Michael	Nguyen, Toan	Stevens, Andrew	
Bogenreif, Brett	Figueroa, Alexander	Joslyn, Cherielyn	Niggli, Tanner	Stevens, Carlie	
Bomatay, Federick	Finley, Taylor	Justice, Jacquelyn	Nunley, Tyler	Stevens, David	
Boyd, Michael	Finchum, Jacob	Kenley, Alynn	Ortiz, Fernando	Suroip, Martelangelo	
Bradley, Darius	Folks, Ashlee	Kerby, Jackson	Overbay, Alyssa	Swit, Matthew	
Breeding, Deanna	Forrider, Nathaniel	Kim, Daniel	Owens, Jeffery	Taylor, Matthew	
Brown, Terry	Galbut, Nguyen	Kincadejackson, Chelsen	Perkins, Jeremy	Tebo, Natalie	
Burrell, Jacob	Galgos, Hank	King, Adam	Perriraz, Brian	Teegerstrom, Garret	
Burton, Melissa	Garcia, Christian	King, Trisha	Peterson, Michael	Terry, Stephen	
Caldaronello, Jacob	Gardona, Lucas	Kinzer, Nicholas	Phillips, Stover	Tessier, Joshua	
Callahan, Jared	Gentry, Richard	Kirschner, Dylan	Pincin, Cole	Thies, Andrew	
Campbell, David	Getts, Richard	Koll, Jason	Pinkney, Jacob	Thomassetmojica, Kiana	
Carmack, Dustin	Gillespie, Erica	Kunkleman, Casey	Pinto, David	Torales, Luis	
Carrillo, Michelle	Giraud, Jake	Landers, Diquan	Ploeger, Zachariah	Torres Cosme, Andre	
Carrilomontes, Oscar	Goodrum, Cole	Landis, Taylor	Polanco, Vincent	Trujillo, Maranda	
Carter, Amber	Gracia, Khaila	Lawrence, Levi	Poniatowski, Janet	Tulodieski, Eric	
Castillo, Andres	Green, Dylan	Powers, Cory	Punalehe, Emeliana	Vaillancourt, Bradley	
Cayago, Miguel	Green, Elizabeth	Lechner, Cheyenne	Ramirezarenas, Ramo	Valencia, Luis	
Charland, Caleb	Greenlee, Donovan	Lee, Matthew	Ramos, Carlyn	Vanderway, Brian	
Chase, Bradley	Griffith, Grant	Varnes, Marissa	Ray, April	Vega, Bernadita	
Clifton, Benjamin	Hahaj, Christopher	Lenormand, Lloyd	Reeves, Janisa	Velez Diaz, Gabriel	
Cline, Ryan	Hall, Sarah	Lewis Morrisa	Reeves, Nicholas	Velezchristian, Andrew	
Coker, Matthew	Halstead, Anthony	Lock, Tyler	Reside, Eric	Vick, Zachary	
Colgrove, Christopher	Halverson, Ashley	Lopez, Michael	Ribeiro, Thomas	Vickers, Joseph	
Connor, Gabriel	Hamilton, Destiny	Lopezortiz, Johemir	Roberts, Sean	Villegas, Carmina	
Corbett, James	Hamilton, Trevor	Loy, Dustin	Rodriguez, Gilbert	Wagner, Zachary	
Cordon, Robert	Hanshaw, Gregory	Ludy, Christopher	Rodriguez, Julio Jr	Walker, James	
Cornwell, Blayne	Harmon, Michelle	Luzack, Rebecca	Rodriguez, Maray	Walters, Orion	
	Harrison, Dannie	Lynn, Michael	Rodulfo, Sarah	Walton, Kristopher	
	Harvey, Nicholas	Lyons, Matthew			

621st Contingency Response Wing

Blumnenstock, Andrew	Braun, Jeremy	Brown, Zachary	Chamberlain, Victor	Champion, Tyler	Clemons, Nathaniel	Daniles, Kyle	Davis, Zevon	Gomez-Santana, Luis	Hall, Jacqueline	Kagenski, Dominic	Keiffer, Keith	Lane, Jeffrey	Martin, Joshua	McCarthy, Ryan	Mongeone, William	Monfiero, Victoria	Nibert, Chelsea	Nippert, Kyle	Pereira, Leighann	Perry, Jared	Player, Austin	Robinson, Andrew	Rozelle-Murphy, Austin	Ryals, Joshua	Smith, Christopher	Sorber, Johnathan	Thomas, Terrance	Venneberg, Josefina	Wachob, Anthony	Weatherly, Brandon
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Travis Air Force Base, Calif., congratulated 300 newly selected staff sergeants at a celebration Aug. 24 at Hangar 837. Col. John Klein, 60th Air Mobility Wing commander, Chief Master Sgt. Steve Nichols, 60th AMW command chief, and Chief Master Sgt. Michael Thomas, 60th Operations Group superintendent, were on hand for the festivities, along with family, friends and fellow colleagues.



Puzzles

STR8TS

No. 348 Medium

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

Previous solution - Tough

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

How to beat Str8ts – Like Sudoku, no single number can repeat in any row or column. But... rows and columns are divided by black squares into compartments. These need to be filled in with numbers that complete a 'straight'. A straight is a set of numbers with no gaps but can be in any order, eg [4,2,3,5]. Clues in black cells remove that number as an option in that row and column, and are not part of any straight. Glance at the solution to see how 'straights' are formed.

SUDOKU

No. 348 Medium

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

Previous solution - Easy

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

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.

News notes

Events and information

Notice to creditors. Anyone with a claim for or against Airman 1st Class Patricia Roy's estate may contact the summary court officer, 2nd Lt. Suzanna Palmer, 60th Aerial Port Squadron cargo operations officer, at suzanna.palmer.1@us.af.mil or 707-424-5260

Back to School Outdoor Sale. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sept. 27-30 at the Travis Commissary. Enjoy up to 50 percent off regular retail price on a variety of products The sale will take place on the side parking lot of the store.

Air Force birthday

Join Team Travis for a week full of events as we honor those before us, celebrate 70 years of airpower and look forward to the next 70 years. Events are free and open to all personnel with base access unless otherwise noted. Registration is required for the Night at the Museum Air Force Gala and Superhero Half Marathon and ticket purchase is required for the Air Force Gala.

Event schedule is as follows:
9/11 Remembrance Day, Children's Freedom Walk. 9 a.m. Sept. 11 at Airman and Family Readiness Center lawn, Bldg. 660. Children's walk with local elementary school students; playing of taps at 9/11 aircraft crash times.

Night at the Museum. 4-7 p.m. Sept. 12 at the Travis AFB Heritage Center. Social focusing on heritage and history; Heritage Center aircraft open for display; panel of veterans throughout the decades; local beer and wine tasting. RSVP at <http://bit.ly/2uJOBna>.

Air Force Movie Marathon. Midnight to noon Sept. 13 at the Base Theater and passenger terminal, 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. at David Grant USAF Medical Center and Bldg. 381 auditoriums. Air Force-themed movies played nonstop at various locations to showcase 70 years of airpower.

POW/MIA 24-hour Vigil Run. 1:30 p.m. Sept. 14 to 1:30 p.m. Sept. 15 at Travis AFB track. Vigil run to honor and reflect on prisoners of war and those missing in action.

POW/MIA Luncheon. 11:30 a.m. Sept. 15 at the Maintenance Group atrium. Luncheon in conjunction with National POW/MIA Recognition Day. By invite only.

POW/MIA Recognition Ceremony. 1:30 p.m. Sept. 15 at Bldg. 51 flag pole. Ceremony in conjunction with National POW/MIA Recognition Day.

AF Gala. 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. Sept. 15 at the Delta Breeze Club. Formal event to celebrate and honor the Air Force's birthday with hors d'oeuvres, live music, dancing and door prizes. RSVP at TravisAirForceGala.com.

Superhero Half Marathon. 9 a.m. Sept. 16 at the Travis Fitness Center. Running events for the whole family, including half marathon, 5K, 1-mile fun run and doggy dash. To register, call 707-424-2008.

California Capital Air Show. Sept. 9-10 at Mather Airport in Mather, California. Tickets for base personnel will be available for purchase at Outdoor Recreation and the BX Mini Mall. For

In the next week...

fri Back-to-School Aerobathon. 9 a.m. to noon Aug. 25, join the Fitness Center for a Back-to-School Aerobathon. For more information, call 707-424-2008.

Mason Jar Banks. Aug. 25 at Arts & Crafts. 424-2929.

Karaoke. Aug. 25 at Wingman's. 437-3227.

sat Mountain biking trip. On Aug. 26, explore California's best mountain trail with Outdoor Recreation. For \$35, all levels can participate on this exciting trip. Transportation, guides and bicycles are included. For more information, call 707-424-0969.

Stand Up Paddle Board. Aug. 26 at Outdoor Recreation. 707-424-0969.

Mountain Biking. Aug. 26 at Outdoor Recreation. 707-424-0969.

UFC Fight Night. Aug. 26 at Wingman's. 707-437-3227.

sun Whitewater Rafting. Aug. 27 at Outdoor Recreation. 707-424-0969.

Wine Tour. Aug. 27 at Outdoor Recreation. 707-424-0969.

more information on the air show, visit californiaairshow.com. For more information, visit the event's Facebook page at <http://bit.ly/2xe315B>.

60th FSS

Events and information

Free Mayweather vs. McGregor fight viewing. Doors 4 p.m., fight 7 p.m. Aug. 26 at Wingman's. Club members receive free entry into the event and nonmembers pay \$10 at the door. For details, call 707-437-3711.

Bike & Brew Experience. On Sept. 23, jump on a giant, pedal-powered cycle that transports you from pub to pub. This trip is for those 21 years of age and older. For \$50, transportation to and from the bike stop is included and certain restrictions apply. To register or for more information, call Outdoor Recreation at 707-424-0969.

Free Training & Licensing at FCC. For those interested in becoming a certified Travis Child Care Provider, Family Child Care offers free training and licensing. Registration is available at FCC for their classes scheduled from 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Sept. 18-21. For more information, call 707-424-4596.

Volunteer coaches. To volunteer, call

Pre-K Storytime. Aug. 28 at Mitchell Memorial Library. 707-424-3279.

Baby Bounce. Aug. 29 at Mitchell Memorial Library. 707-424-3279.

Steak Night. Aug. 29 at Delta Breeze Club. 707-437-3711.

Wing Wednesdays. Aug. 30 at Wingman's. 437-3227.

Switch, Spin & Win. The 60th Force Support Squadron is offering two lucky club members the chance to win free fuel for a year and other prizes. Next winner will be chosen Aug. 31. Upgrade your existing

membership or become a new member online at MyAirForceLife.com or visit the Delta Breeze Club from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday through Friday. For more information, visit TravisFSS.com/DBC.

707-424-5392 or pickup your volunteer packet at the Youth Center.

For more information on FSS, visit <http://www.travisfss.com>.

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., offered 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 11 a.m. Sunday at Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Fairfield Stake Center, 2700 Camrose Ave., Fairfield.

DGMC Chapel

- Latter-day Saints Service: 4 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sunday at DGMC Medical Center Chapel.
- For all other enquires, 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: 8 to 9 a.m., first Saturday of every month.

Twin Peaks Chapel

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

DGMC Medical Center Chapel

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

Airmen's Ministry Center

- The Peak is open from 6 to 9 p.m. Monday through Friday at Bldg 1348. Home-cooked meal at 6 p.m. Tuesday's followed at 7 p.m. 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.



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

Today

- 6:30 p.m. "Valerian and the City of a Thousand Planets" (PG-13)
- 9 p.m. "Atomic Blonde" (R)

Saturday

- 6:30 p.m. "Dunkirk" (PG-13)
- 9 p.m. "The House" (R)

Sunday

- 2 p.m. "Emoji Movie" (PG)

Air Force Sergeants Association "Walter E. Scott" Chapter 1320. General membership meetings are at 3 p.m. on the second Friday of every month at Wingman's in the Delta Breeze Club. For more information, contact Senior Master Sgt. Angell Nichols or Tech. Sgt. Rebecca Linden de Romero.

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.

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."

Fairfield/Vacaville Train Station Project. Located at Peabody Road and Vanden Road in Fairfield with a six-lane overpass. Construction is scheduled for completion in October. For more information, visit <http://bit.ly/1yNIBwV>.

Family Advocacy Parent/Child playgroups. Toddlers to the Max Playgroup 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 Playgroup 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 1-2 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 travspocombatpds@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://pftform.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.

LGBT Alliance. General membership meetings take place at 6 p.m. the first Wednesday of every month at the Airman and Family Readiness Center. For more information, email lgbtalliance707@gmail.com or call 707-424-2486.

Mare Island Museum. Now a Blue Star Museum, which means active-duty military, reservists and their family members are eligible for free admission from Memorial Day to Labor Day. 1100 Railroad Ave. on Mare Island in Vallejo. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday. 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.

Montezuma Shrine Club. Meets every third Thursday of the month at the Masonic Center, 412 Travis Blvd., Fairfield. For more information, call Mike Michaelis at 707-427-2573 or Cal Gitsam at 707-425-0060.

Motorcycle licensing and training. California Rider Education offers the Motorcyclists Training Course, Basic Riders Course 2 and the Military Sportsbike Riders Course on base. MTC classes take place most weekends. Motorcycles and helmets provided. Successful completion gives students a DL389 that waives the skills test at DMV. Course cost covered for active duty, reserves, some DOD and NAJ folks. Family members welcome, but must cover own costs. All registrations done via phone at 1-800-966-3844.

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.

THE FLIP SIDE

Airmen complete FTAC



U.S. Air Force photo

Congratulations to the latest Airmen to complete the First-Term Airman Center course. Alphabetically: Airman 1st Class Ralph Beachum, 60th Communications Squadron; Airman 1st Class Adrian Beatty, 60th Civil Engineer Squadron; Airman Taylor Boone, 60th Inpatient Squadron; Airman 1st Class Maryssa Boyd, 60th Medical Operations Squadron; Airman 1st Class Jason Brown, 60th Maintenance Squadron; Airman 1st Class Brian Cairns, 60th IPTS; Airman Samuel Castaneda, 60th MXS; Airman 1st Class Matthew Chrisman, 60th MXS; Airman 1st Class Cagdas Donmez, U.S. Air Force Band of the Golden West; Airman Stephanie Garcia, 60th MXS; Airman 1st Class Levi Gordon, 60th MXS; Airman 1st Class Katelyn Hancock, 60th OSS; Airman 1st Class Douglas Hock, 60th MXS; Airman 1st Class Lance Holley, 60th MXS; Airman 1st Class Alexander Huff, 60th MXS; Airman 1st Class Michelle Longoria-Fisher, 60th Diagnostics and Therapeutics Squadron; Airman 1st Class Dustin Lopatic, 921st Contingency Response Squadron; Airman 1st Class Nick McEssey, 660th AMXS; Airman 1st Class John Phoebus, 660th AMXS; Airman 1st Class Paul Ratliff, 860th AMXS; Airman 1st Class Karina Santiago Blanco, 60th Medical Support Squadron; Airman 1st Class Nathan Schwab, 860th AMXS; Airman Nino Shengelina, 60th Logistics Readiness Squadron; Airman 1st Class Matthew Suite, 660th AMXS; Airman 1st Class Yun Yun Tan, 60th Dental Squadron; Airman 1st Class Xavier Villarreal, 860th AMXS; Airman 1st Class Kaitlyn Wagner, 60th LRS; Airman 1st Class Keymani Washington, 60th LRS; Airman 1st Class Damoni Williams, 60th MXS; and Airman 1st Class Erick Zabalza, 60th LRS.

Retiree Corner

Resources available to cope with PTSD

Imagine you are in a life-threatening situation. You have seconds to decide how to protect yourself. How you react to this situation is your intuitive "fight or flight" response.

Although the fight or flight response is "normal", service members and combat veterans with posttraumatic stress disorder may have an elevated fight or flight response.

Learn more by visiting one of the websites below:
 • Learn the basics: PTSD 101 provides an overview of what PTSD is and

available treatment options at <http://bit.ly/2g6K68R>.

• Take a deep breath: The National Center for Telehealth & Technology Breathe2Relax app can help you learn basic breathing skills to help reduce PTSD symptoms at <http://bit.ly/1DuNy0C>.

• Manage symptoms: PTSD Coach is a mobile app that helps with coping skills while working with a health care provider at <http://bit.ly/2rzhhDm>.

• Ask for help: The DCoE Outreach Center is available 24/7 to help service members and their families at <http://bit.ly/2w5yJSo>.

— Health.mil

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of LUCK
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Cash Winners
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\$24,500 CASH DRAWINGS
at 7pm

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CASINO RESORT
cachecreek.com

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

DIRECTORY OF local worship services

For advertising information about this directory, call Classifieds at 707-427-6973 or email: perry@dailyrepublic.net

ASSEMBLY OF GOD

First Assembly Of God
of Fairfield

Lead Pastor: C. Eric Lura
• 9:15 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL
• 10:30 AM * MORNING WORSHIP
• KID'z CHURCH Grades K-5th
• 10:00 AM WEDNESDAY SENIOR PRAYER
• 7:00 PM WEDNESDAY NIGHT
Adult Bible Study
Girl's Club
Royal Rangers
Revolution Youth
*Nursery Care Provided
707 425-3612
2207 UNION AVE., FAIRFIELD
www.1agff.org
email: info@1agff.org

BAPTIST

**Worship With Us...
St. Paul Baptist Church**

2500 N Texas Street, Suite H
Fairfield, CA 94533
Rev. Dr. Terry Long, Pastor
Sunday
Sunday School: 10:00 a.m.
Morning Worship Service: 11:00 a.m.
Children's Church: 11:30 a.m.
Tuesday
Prayer Meeting: 6:30-7:00 p.m.
Bible Study: 7:00-8:00 p.m.
Web Site: www.stpaulfairfield.com
Email: stpaulbcfairfield@comcast.net
Church Phone: 707-422-2003

For More Information On Our Worship Directory, Contact Daily Republic Classifieds at (707) 427-6973

BAPTIST



Cooperates with The Southern Baptist Convention
Sunday Schedule:
Worship Service 8:00 am
Bible Study 9:00 am
Worship Service 10:30 am
Evening Prayer & Praise 6:00 pm
Wednesday Schedule:
Dinner (Sept-May) 4:45 pm
AWANA (Sept-May), Youth 6:00 pm
Adult Choir 6:30 pm
Adult Bible Study 10:00 am
1:30 pm, 3:30 pm & 6:30 pm
Greg Davidson, Senior Pastor
707-448-5430
401 W. Monte Vista Ave., Vacaville
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A home for Military families since 1960

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1 Church in 2 Locations
A multi-ethnic ministry
Dr. Clayton Lea, Jr., Senior Pastor
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601 Whispering Bay Lane
T.N.T. Bible Study
Tuesday Noon Teaching, 12 p.m.
Sunday Worship, 10:30 a.m.
ORDINANCES
Communion & Baptism:
1st Tuesday @ 12:00 p.m.
Fairfield Campus
1735 Enterprise Drive, Bldg. 3
T.N.T. Bible Study
Tuesday Night Teaching, 7:00 p.m.
AWANA Bible Study 7:00 p.m.
Sunday Worship 7:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m. & 11:45 a.m.
Children's Church 11:45 a.m.
Youth & Collegiate Church 11:45 a.m.
1st, 2nd, & 3rd Sundays
Nursery provided at 11:45 a.m.
ORDINANCES
Communion & Baptism:
1st Tuesday @ 7:00 p.m.
All are welcome.
Please call the Church Office for
bookstore & library hours.
(707) 425-1849
Website: www.mcbcfcs.org

CHURCH OF CHRIST

First Baptist Church of Vacaville
The All Together Different Church
Senior Pastor Wyatt Duncan
Sunday Services: 8am and 11am
Nursery available during the 11am service
Sunday School for all ages at 9:30am
Awana on Wednesdays at 6pm
1127 Davis Street, Vacaville
707-448-6209
www.fbcvv.com

BAPTIST



itsallaboutfamilies.org
301 N. Orchard Ave., Vacaville
707.448.5848
SUNDAY
Classes for all ages..... 10:00 am
Worship 11:00 am
CORE Bible Studies 12:30 & 5:00 pm
(2nd & 4th Sunday)
WEDNESDAY
Adult Studies.....2:00 pm
AWANA for Kids6:15 pm
Adult & Youth Studies.....6:30 pm

CATHOLIC

HOLY FAMILY OLD CATHOLIC CHURCH
(Old Catholic Diocese of Napa)
Meeting at: 1600 Union Ave. Fairfield, CA 94533
Mass and Worship every Saturday at 5:00pm
• Fr. Robert T. Fuentes, Pastor
• Deacon Louis Souza-Fuentes, Associate Pastor
CHURCH:
House of God, House of All COME! Whether you are a Christian or not. Whether you are married or divorced. Whether you are gay or straight. Whether you are from this community or passing through. Whether you are filled with joy or with sadness. ENTER with all confidence for this is your house as well as the House of God.
Open Communion - No one is turned away from the Altar
For more information call the Church Office at 425-1748
www.holyfamilyfairfield.org
www.toculsa.org
The Old Catholic Church, Province of the United States Ancient Faith, Welcoming and Inclusive Church, Serving the Modern World

CHURCH OF CHRIST

YOU are the one that God loves the most. Come worship with us so we can learn from **YOU**.
Jesus said, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live; John 11:25
Sunday Morning Bible Study 9 AM
Sunday Morning Worship 10 AM
Sunday Evening Worship 6 PM
Wed. Evening Bible Study 7 PM
Homeless ministry at Mission Solano
Rescue Mission 1st Friday of month 6-8 PM
CHURCH OF CHRIST - SOLANO
1201 Marshall Road, Vacaville, CA 95687
707-451-9301 • www.churchofchristisolano.com

CHURCH OF CHRIST

CHURCH of CHRIST
Meets at Rockville Cemetery Stone Chapel
4221 Suisun Valley Rd, Fairfield
9:00 a.m. Sunday Morning Bible Study
9:50 a.m. Sunday Morning Worship
5:30 p.m. Sunday Evening Worship
7:00 p.m. Wednesday Evening Bible Study
We welcome and encourage you to come and hear the good news of the gospel of Christ, and to learn about eternal salvation for all mankind that is offered through Jesus.
"And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved." Acts 4:12
Bring a heart and mind willing to hear God's Word and to do His great will...
For more information or directions, please visit our website at www.rockvillecofc.com

EPISCOPAL

Grace Episcopal Church
1st & Kentucky Streets, Fairfield
(just off W. Texas St.)
425-4481
Sunday Services:
8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist Rite I
9:15 a.m.
Pastor's Forum
10:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist Rite II
Tuesday Service:
10:00 a.m.
Healing Eucharist
Childcare Provided for all Services
For additional information, contact the office at 425-4481
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THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS
Fairfield Stake Center
2700 Camrose Ave.
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Sunday 0900 and 1100
Base Sacrament Services
DGMC Chapel
(1st Floor North entrance)
Sunday 1600-1630
Inquiries: Call LDS
Military Relations Missionaries
707-535-6979

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Tired of gimmicks and games? Want a Bible-believing traditional church? Need a loving church family? You are invited to:
TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH - LCMS
Traditional Worship: 10 AM
Children's Church during 10 AM Service
Adult Bible Study: 8:45 AM
2075 Dover Ave., Fairfield
(2 blocks south of Airbase Pkwy.)
(707) 425-2944
www.tlcp.org
Rev. Dr. Dan Molyneux, Pastor

BETHANY LUTHERAN MINISTRIES

621 South Orchard Ave.
Vacaville, CA 95688
(707) 451-6675
bethanychurch@pacbell.net
Worship Services:
Sunday: 8:30am & 11:15am with Bible Studies and Sunday School for all ages at 10:00am
Communion on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month @ 621 S. Orchard Ave., VV
Pastor Gregory Stringer
Bethany Lutheran Preschool
451-6678
bethanypreschool@pacbell.net
www.gobethany.com
Bethany Lutheran School
1011 Ulatis Drive
Vacaville, CA 95687
451-6683 ph • 359-2230 Fax
bethanyhschool@pacbell.net
www.gobethany.com

NON-DENOMINATIONAL

LIBERTY CHURCH
SUNDAYS
8:00 AM
9:30 AM
(Spanish Translation Available)
11:30 AM
WEDNESDAYS
7:00 PM
@LCCFairfield
libertychurchconnected
libertychurchonline.org
2641 N. Texas St.
Fairfield, CA 94533

Leaders

From Page 6

core of the organization and began initial operating capability Aug. 21. The A11 will be a strong and vocal advocate for space capabilities inside the Air Force and with our national security, commercial, and international partners.

"The A11 will be key to ensuring we link combatant commander and service space requirements with our

capabilities," said Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David L. Goldfein, the joint chief most responsible for military space forces. "We must ensure our space forces have the tools necessary to operate in any environment, defend our systems, and provide our joint force with vital space capabilities to remain the most responsive, agile and lethal on the planet."

This is one of several key initiatives the Air Force is pursuing to adapt its operations, processes and organizational

structure to reflect the reality that space is a warfighting domain. To outpace emerging threats, the Air Force is also instituting a new space warfighting concept of operations, changing its space force training model, streamlining its acquisition processes, and designing more resilient and survivable space systems.

Principal defense space advisor role continues, supported by joint personnel
At the Defense Department

level, the secretary of the Air Force will continue to serve as the principal space advisor to the secretary of Defense over the next year, giving the Air Force and DOD leadership time to revalidate the current approach. As the principal advisor, Wilson has responsibilities to guide and advocate for space-related programs across all services and defense agencies. A staff comprised of joint personnel, to include Army and Navy representatives, will support her in this role and assist her in

addressing each services' space operations, acquisitions and space-related equities.

"While we are integrating and normalizing space on the Air Staff, we are also strengthening the integrated service staff supporting the principal DOD space advisor role so that major issues are addressed, operations and acquisition is streamlined and every service is heard when it comes to space," said Wilson in a June 16, 2017 press release regarding her PDSA role.

DIRECTORY OF local worship services

NON-DENOMINATIONAL



A Passion to...
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Sunday Worship Services
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• AWANA Program
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707-446-9838
www.cccv.me
190 Butcher Road, Vacaville, CA 95687
(off of Alamo, Just South of I-80)

NON-DENOMINATIONAL



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Pastor Jon Kile
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94534
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HopeChristianChurch.net

NON-DENOMINATIONAL

Vacaville Church of Christ

401 Fir St., Vacaville, CA 95688
(707) 448-5085

Minister: Garrett Sander

Sunday Morning Bible Study
9:30 AM

Sunday Morning Worship
10:30 AM

Sunday Evening Worship
6:00 PM

Wed. Evening Bible Study
7:00 PM

www.vacavillecofc.com

If you would like to take a free Bible correspondence course contact:

Know Your Bible Program
401 Fir Street • Vacaville, CA 95688
(707) 448-5085

PRESBYTERIAN

ROCKVILLE PRESBYTERIAN FELLOWSHIP

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JOIN US THIS SUNDAY.

Sunday Services
Traditional with Choir 9:00 a.m.
Praise Service with Band 10:30 a.m.
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Shaffer

From Page 2

This went on for some time until a new rater was assigned to me. Staff Sgt. Singleton introduced himself and immediately

sat down with me for a long overdue feedback session. A few minutes into the session he asked me if I was proud of the work I was doing and if I even knew what the heck those widgets I cranked out on a daily basis were used for. At first I was a bit apprehensive, thinking this was some kind of

trick, but then acquiesced to his line of questioning by simply replying, "No, I don't." He enthusiastically grinned and told me I should take great pride in the work I do every day because not only does my squadron's mission depend on my duties, but there are Soldiers, Sailors, and

Airmen overseas supporting the Gulf War that depend on the operation and reliability of the widgets I repair. If this equipment failed, critical communications could falter and lives may be jeopardized. He went on to state that there are very few people in this world that work in a profession with an "unlimited liability clause," an ethos that says you are willing to give your life in service to your country. It doesn't matter if you work in this depot cranking out widgets or fly an F-16 over Iraq, your overarching mission is inextricably intertwined and every Airman plays an important role. Singleton demanded I no longer think of the work I did as merely a job, but rather a profession that requires continual commitment to training, professional development, and readiness if and when, I was called into harm's way.

As I reflect back on that feedback session with my supervisor, I can honestly say that single interaction resonated with me throughout my entire Air Force career and shaped me into the proud servant leader I am today. I challenge all supervisors, raters and mentors out there to take the time to sit down with those under your charge and fully immerse them in what their profession really means to the Air Force. I have talked to many junior enlisted, noncommissioned officers and senior noncommissioned officers throughout my

tenure in the Air Force and have found if you can get them genuinely invested in what they do, pride in ownership goes a long way toward mission success. Pride in your profession begets attention to detail and the desire to continually strive to perfect your craft. Instilling pride in our members also encourages a healthy spirit of competition and process improvement. Introduce them to, or re-acquaint them with the Profession of Arms and impress upon them that they no longer have just a job. They are now part of a unique profession where less than 1 percent of the civilian population serves, but they are responsible for the life, liberty and freedom of over 318 million people.

We all join the military for our own unique reasons and it matters not whether your premise was selfish or selfless. The fact that you joined sets you apart, and you are now obliged to serve a higher calling. I was blessed early in my career to have a supervisor eager and willing to share his perspectives and wisdom. And now, as I reflect, the last 27 years of service and the reasons I kept raising my right hand and proudly reciting the oath boiled down to one five-minute conversation years ago. Current and future leaders, I'll leave you with this short phrase: "Never underestimate the power of instilling pride and professionalism in your Airmen."

Intel

From Page 7

come with her job stateside are very similar to what an analyst would be doing when deployed, or so she thought.

Fuentes said she had only been in the Air Force two years when she was tasked to deploy to Incirlik Air Base, Turkey. Then two months into her deployment, on July 15, 2016, a coup took place.

Fuentes was tasked as the lead analyst for the first 48 hours of what would turn into an 8-day airfield closure.

"My experience (at AMC) prepared me for the mission," she said. "Deploying from headquarters (AMC) I knew who I needed to contact. When the coup happened, it was important we gave our analysts in the states a daily status update on what was happening. We ended up having to divert aircraft, but if we had not been there to deliver information, it could have had a different outcome."

During the short time Fuentes was lead analyst, she crafted 23 time-sensitive intelligence reports and provided the pre-mission brief to the first C-17 departure, initiating the safe evacuation of more than 700 military family members.

Continued leadership

When the coup was over she continued to lead her team through 30 days of increased force protection conditions. Her team provided 28 intelligence briefings, ensuring wing and subordinate squadrons were prepared for potential threats.

"In my short three years of being in the Air Force, this was the first time I got to witness a unit coming together during a crisis situation," she said. "In headquarters we are supporting units from the outside in. When you deploy you are working from the inside out. The deployment provided a lot of perspective about how intelligence can impact the mission and how much AMC means downrange."

Fuentes worked with Army and Marine Corps intelligence specialists during her deployment to discuss what Air Force resources were available and vice versa. She said not only did she gain insight on her joint partners' processes, the experience motivated her to pursue a new degree path -- computer networking and cyber security.

"When I entered the intelligence career field, I recognized the need and potential for cyber communications experts," said Fuentes, a native of Albuquerque, New Mexico. "I love that this area is so new. In the future I want to work in the same career field but in a position that molds intelligence and cyber together because I love my job and supporting my team."

"It is nice when you have people who are supporting you. I wouldn't be where I am without them. It's all about the people you work with that make the job worthwhile. If you love your job, that's a bonus."

Fuentes is one of the Air Force's 12 Outstanding Airmen of the Year. She will represent AMC at the Air Force Association convention in Washington in September.

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Brass

From Page 3

Wright said.

"My best childhood friend, who was a few years older than me, played an instrument in elementary school and I wanted to be in band with him," Wright said. "It wasn't until high school that I became more serious about it, and realized that it was what I wanted to do with my life."

Wright had the opportunity to attend a high school that emphasized the arts. As a teenager, he also studied privately with a trombonist in the Pittsburgh Symphony who he looked up to. Wright's parents often took him to see live performances given by military musical groups, which had a great impact on him.

Wright continued on his path of education obtaining a bachelor's degree in trombone performance from the Cleveland Institute of Music, Cleveland, Ohio and a master's degree in trombone performance from Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh.

"I really wanted to go to a conservatory, where my focus would be entirely on music. Studying at the Cleveland Institute of Music afforded me the opportunity to work with members of the Cleveland Orchestra, which is one of the best

orchestras in the world," said Wright. "At Carnegie Mellon, I was able to study with members of the Pittsburgh Symphony and also return to my hometown."

Wright joined the U.S. Air Force when he learned more about the service's musical organizations from someone who had experience.

"Before living in Fairfield (California), I lived in the Washington, D.C. area and became friends with a former member of the Airmen of Note," he said. "This group is the premier jazz ensemble of the Air Force. I never thought about joining a military band until he told me about his career. The Air Force seemed like a good fit because their band programs are very strong compared to the other services. It also offered financial stability, which is hard to come by in the professional music field. I'm extremely proud to say that I am able to serve my country through making music."

The Air Force hires band members in a manner similar other professional organizations. Competition is stiff, only the best are selected to perform rock, jazz and classical music with Air Force bands. To adapt to the demands of each unique performance situation, Air Force bands are exceptionally versatile. They are filled with highly experienced and

talented musicians often selected from top universities, conservatories and colleges. Eighty percent of Air Force band officers possess a master's degree and 10 percent possess a doctorate. More than 90 percent of enlisted musicians possess a bachelor's degree; 45 percent possess advanced graduate degrees.

"I was required to send in prescreening material and then was invited to a live audition, where I had to compete against many other talented musicians for a single opening," said Wright. "It is a highly competitive process. From there, I had to take the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery, go to the Military Entrance Processing Station and ultimately, complete Basic Military Training, just like any other enlisted recruit."

"I currently work with a group of young, talented Airmen musicians who are constantly pushing the envelope for excellence when it comes to their craft. It forces me to always be working to improve myself," he said. "It is truly one of the highlights of my professional career - not many people get to say that what they do for a living is also their passion in life."

Bands serve as both a recruiting and public relations tool, inspiring patriotism and promoting the military mission

both at home and abroad with every performance.

"Last summer, some of us had the chance to play in front of a sold out crowd of 18,000 at the Hollywood Bowl during their 4th of July concert series," said Wright. "It was inspiring to be able to get to wear the uniform in front of that many appreciative people. One of our main priorities at these types of events is to connect with the public by honoring our veterans and inspiring everyone through our music. The icing on the cake was that we got to play alongside the band Chicago."

Belonging to an Air Force band means constant travel and time spent away from home. Band members can be sent on deployments that generally last around 90 days, performing at different venues throughout the year, with many concerts coinciding with holiday seasons.

"Our band performs around 250 annual performances," said Wright. "Our 60-member unit is comprised of two rock bands, a woodwind and brass quintet, a jazz ensemble, a clarinet quartet, jazz combo and our largest group, which is the concert band. I go on around 15-20 trips a year which range from two days to two weeks at a time. We are responsible for all seven states west of the Rocky Mountains covering approximately 726,000 square miles, and

roughly 62.6 million people."

According to the USAF Bands' website, Air Force musicians perform for heads of state, military functions and ceremonies, funeral honors and a variety of military support events. The musicians reach millions of listeners at over 5,000 live and televised events every year. Outreach events may include public concerts, school assemblies, master classes, recitals and special youth programs.

"The public doesn't typically get the chance to put a face to someone serving their country in the military," said Wright. "We afford the opportunity to put on a show to express our gratitude for all the support the public gives the U.S. Air Force. It is our job, as Air Force musicians, to tell the public about all the amazing things the Air Force and its Airmen are doing every day."

Wright encourages anyone thinking about a music career in the Air Force to take private lessons.

"It is becoming more and more difficult to make a living performing music, and that includes (with) Air Force Band programs," he said. "There is no substitute for hard work and a private teacher. Even though it can be hard to win an audition, it is worth it if making music is your passion."

Law

From Page 5

An airman first class from the 60th SGCS received an Article 15 for driving while driving privileges were suspended, a violation of Article 92, UCMJ. Punishment consisted of a suspended reduction to the rank of airman and a reprimand.

A technical sergeant from the 660th AMXS received an Article 15 for dereliction of duty, a violation of Article 92, UCMJ. Punishment consisted of a suspended reduction to the rank of staff sergeant and a reprimand.

A staff sergeant from the 660th AMXS received an Article 15 for dereliction of duty, a violation of Article 92, UCMJ. Punishment consisted of a suspended reduction to the rank of senior airman, forfeiture of \$300 pay per month for two months, 45 days of extra duty and a reprimand.

A senior airman from the 921st Contingency Response Squadron received an Article 15 for failure to go, a violation of Article 86, UCMJ. Punishment consisted of a suspended reduction to the grade of airman first class, forfeiture of \$814 pay per month for two months and a reprimand.

Administrative separation actions

An airman first class from

the 821st Contingency Response Support Squadron was administratively discharged for commission of a serious offense, with a general service characterization.

An airman basic from the 660th AMXS was administratively discharged for drug abuse, with a general service characterization.

A senior airman from the 21st Airlift Squadron was administratively discharged for minor disciplinary infractions, with a general service characterization.

A senior airman from the 60th Diagnostics and Therapeutics Squadron was administratively discharged for minor disciplinary infractions, with a general service characterization.

A senior airman from the 60th Logistics Readiness Squadron was administratively discharged for a mental disorder, with an honorable service characterization.

An airman first class from the 60th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron was administratively discharged for minor disciplinary infractions, with a general service characterization.

Three airmen in the rank of airman basic from the 60th Operations Support Squadron were administratively discharged for drug abuse, with a general service characterization.

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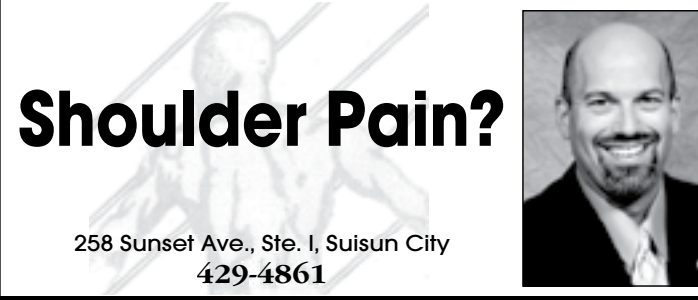
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1) Xavier Edwards squats 405 pounds during the 2017 Strongman/Bench Press Competition Aug. 18 at Travis Air Force, Calif. Edwards took first place overall in the competition with a bench press of 315 pounds, squat of 405 pounds and deadlift of 495 pounds.

Competition gets Travis doing some heavy ... **LIFTING**

U.S. Air Force photos by Staff Sgt. Christopher Carranza



2) Airman 1st Class Julia Nagy, 60th Civil Engineer Squadron, deadlifts 165 pounds during the 2017 Strongman/Bench Press Competition Aug. 18 at Travis Air Force Base, Calif. Nagy was the only woman to compete and ended the day with a bench of 110 pounds, squat of 145 pounds and deadlift of 165 pounds. 3) Tech. Sgt. Michael Kozak, 515th Air Mobility Operations Wing, bench presses 345 pounds on his third lift during the competition. Kozak took first place in the bench press category. 4) Senior Airman Mason Bradford, 821st Contingency Response Support Squadron, deadlifts 550 pounds during the competition. Bradford placed second overall in the competition with a bench press of 295 pounds, squat of 430 pounds, and deadlift of 550 pounds.



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