



After disasters, Travis pushes out ...

RELIEF

PAGES 3-6



Share it when you 'find the awesome'

We all should take moments here and there to reflect on what we do and what other Airmen do each day.

Sometimes this is difficult as we all try to slay the alligators closest to the boat – the next mission, the next staff meeting, the next task, the next training event, the next shift, the next patient or even just the next weekend or vacation.

As I speed past my first year at Travis, I find it difficult to capture all the awesome things we are doing as a squadron, as a wing and as Team Travis,



Commentary by Lt. Col. Thomas Stady
60TH COMMUNICATIONS SQUADRON

not because there is no awesomeness, but just the opposite. There is an abundance of awesomeness happening across the base every day. Team Travis Airmen, which includes our civil service civilians, are the professional, educated, motivated, innovative and dedicated Airmen this Air Force needs to take us into the next 70 years and beyond.

It has been said many times over the years at Travis, that if there is something going on in the world, Team Travis Airmen are most certainly a part of it. You don't get put

Commander's Commentary

in every play of every game as a starter unless you are awesome. In the short time I've been here, Travis Airmen have done so much awesome for Air Mobility Command, the Air Force and our nation. I could take the rest of this article and try to list those things, but I want you to find the awesome. I challenge leaders at all levels across the base to find the awesome things Airmen are doing every day. This is an easy request as Team Travis Airmen approach their day-to-day tasks with a great attitude, enthusiasm and an

innovative spirit.

Awesome exists everywhere. Our family members and community partners have their own special awesome that shines through. The awesome that exudes from our families and our community is amazing. An Airman's primary duty is to be awesome. Our families and community partners each have many other things they need to get done, but always find time to support Team Travis and contribute their own blood, sweat and tears. Each of us should go find the awesome in a family member and community partner and thank them for doing the unasked and often unexpected, but always unselfish.

When you find awesome across the base and community, I encourage you to highlight it. That can be as simple as a smile and a thank you or as elaborate as writing an award or public interest story. That recognition of the awesome in that person might ignite or enflame a passion for continued service, encourage or validate a unique approach to solving a problem or it might show others that being awesome is OK and help awesome to spread. Additionally, when you find the awesome, it does something to you. When I find the awesome, it inspires me, motivates me and helps fuel me. I challenge you to go find the awesome out there.

Embrace diversity as means to Air Force success



Commentary by Chief Master Sgt. Leslie Gould
60TH COMMUNICATIONS SQUADRON SUPERINTENDENT

Since my first days at Basic Military Training, I have marveled at the Air Force's ability to bring people together from such diverse backgrounds to accomplish a common goal.

Our first goal was simple: To effectively march in unison as a flight. That was possible not only because we shared one goal, but because we recognized our diversity, embraced it and used it as a strength. It did not matter from where someone had come. As a team, we quickly realized those who excelled and utilized them to coach others in order to benefit the

Chief's Commentary

flight. The practice of appointing our best repeated itself throughout the balance of our training whether it was for dormitory inspections, expeditionary skills or on the drill pad.

During my career, I've had the good fortune to serve nine years as a first sergeant. In my first position in that role, I was assigned to a technical training squadron. Each year, our unit would conduct a two-day "Warrior Challenge" where the students were divided into teams

and competed for excellence. The tasks included graded execution of drill, demonstration of knowledge of the Airman's Handbook, utilization of navigational skills, maneuvering an obstacle course and completion of several team-building exercises. Throughout these tasks, I observed the same pattern of behavior that I had witnessed during BMT. Repeatedly, the first actions were to identify the strengths of each team member and assign roles accordingly.

Some may see differences as an excuse to divide. Conversely, the Air Force celebrates our diversity

and aptly utilizes the sum of our many talents. Each of us brings value to the force with our various gifts and skills. Ironically, it is not only essential for the Air Force that we deliver our best, but it is required of us in order to excel and promote. For each of us who has the privilege to serve, there are multiple people who would love to have the opportunity to serve in our Air Force, take our places and give their utmost to do so.

How many times in the past have you heard, "Airmen today are

See GOULD Page 25

BEEliners bring humanitarian aid to St. Croix

Master Sgt. Joseph Swafford
60TH AIR MOBILITY WING

ST. CROIX, U.S. Virgin Islands – As U.S. Army and Marine Corps helicopters delivered humanitarian aid throughout St. Croix, a U.S. Air Force C-17 Globemaster III from Travis AFB, California, landed Sept. 23, at the Henry E. Rohlsen Airport, bringing humanitarian aid to residents affected by Hurricanes Irma and Maria.

The C-17 crew assigned to the 21st Airlift Squadron, also known as BEEliners, received the St. Croix humanitarian aid tasking after completing another humanitarian relief mission to Mexico City.

"The two missions on this trip demonstrated our rapid global mobility capabilities," said Staff Sgt. Jacob Costello, 860th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron C-17 flying crew chief. "We were able to leave home station in a moment's notice, make it down to March Air Reserve Base, fuel and load our aircraft and make it all the way down to Mexico City in just one evening."

At the request of the Mexican government, the crew delivered 67 U.S. Agency for International Development elite disaster team members and five canines, along with equipment and medical supplies to Mexico's capital to support search and rescue efforts after a 7.1 magnitude earthquake struck the country Sept. 19.

The C-17 was on its way back to California after leaving Mexico City when the 618th Air Operations Center at Scott Air Force Base, Illinois, contacted the crew with a new tasking in support of the Federal Emergency Management Agency relief efforts in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

The 618th AOC coordinates an



Staff Sgt. Jacob Costello, 860th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron C-17 flying crew chief, performs engine maintenance on a Travis Air Force Base, Calif., C-17 Globemaster III delivering humanitarian aid Sept. 23 at the Henry E. Rohlsen Airport in St. Croix in the U.S. Virgin Islands. The C-17 delivered 105,000 pounds and 18 pallets of water and Meals Ready to Eat to the island after it had sustained damage from Hurricane Maria.

average of 900 airlift and air refueling missions each day. They can seamlessly redirect aircraft to support requirements for contingency or humanitarian relief operations.

"When we thought we were on our

way home, we got an emergency tasking to deliver aid supplies to the people of St. Croix and diverted to Kelly Field (Texas), to be ready to deliver those supplies when the airfield was ready for our aircraft," said Costello.

When missions change mid-flight, flexibility from the crew can be critical to mission success.

"C-17 crewmembers are used to rapidly changing missions and situations,"

See ST. CROIX Page 25

Tailwind

Travis AFB, Calif.
60th Air Mobility Wing

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On the cover

1st Lt. Zach Gilbert, 21st Airlift Squadron pilot, helps load humanitarian aid onto a C-17 Globemaster III aircraft from Travis Air Force Base, Calif., Sept. 22 at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland Kelly Field, Texas.

U.S. Air Force photo/Master Sgt. Joseph Swafford



U.S. Air Force photo/Hedra Couch

WARRIOR OF THE WEEK

Name: Staff Sgt. Charles Rivezzo.	Hometown: San Diego, California.	Family: Spouse, Alyse.
Unit: 60th Air Mobility Wing Public Affairs.	Time in service: Six years.	What are your hobbies? Sports, golf, working out.
Duty title: NCO in charge of community engagement.	What are your goals? Bachelor of the Arts in communication from Arizona State.	What is your greatest achievement? Marrying the love of my life.

821st CRG, 60th MDG, return after efforts

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

Approximately 60 personnel from the 821st Contingency Response Group and 60th Medical Group returned back to Travis Air Force Base, California, recently after supporting civil authorities in Hurricane Irma relief efforts in Florida and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

From the initial days after the disaster to ongoing efforts, multiple teams from Travis worked together to provide rapid, continuous humanitarian aid to those affected in Florida and the Caribbean.

"There is an incredible amount of work that goes into any one of these missions," said Lt. Col. Blaine Baker, 821st Contingency Response Squadron commander. "Getting out the door was a colossal effort between the (contingency response wing) and 60th (Air Mobility Wing)."

The 821st CRG worked hand-in-hand with the 60th AMW to prepare for its mission to Marathon Key, Florida.

"We have to prepare personnel to make sure all their requirements to deploy are met in time and also our equipment," said Baker. "There's a lot of time and effort that needs to be put in, to make sure our equipment is prepared, making sure that it is working correctly, operating well, and then, to make sure that it's ready to get on an aircraft and loaded as soon as possible."

The 821st CRG facilitated relief supplies coming in and distributed them out to the Florida Keys while also working alongside U.S. Marines who provided fuel for the helicopters and National Guard Soldiers who provided air traffic control support.

"Our mission out there was to take our personnel and establish air mobility



Department of Defense photo/Capt. Lauren Hill

A U.S. Air Force C-17 Globemaster III from Travis Air Force Base, Calif., unloads medical equipment and personnel Sept. 8 from the 60th Medical Group on the island of St. Croix. The 60th MDG will provide aeromedical evacuation and emergency medical care to victims of Hurricane Irma in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

operations, the capability to upload and download military aircraft as well as to provide air traffic control spacing and deconfliction to ensure all the aircraft could operate safely at Marathon (International Airport)," said Baker. "In a very short time, we were able to download and distribute over 29,000 cases of water and Meals-Ready-to-Eat to the local population. That was very fulfilling. The local community was incredibly supportive and appreciative and a very humbling experience to be a part of

that and see a vibrant and resilient community in Marathon Key."

Additionally, a 23-person team from the 60th MDG worked with Health and Human Services, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the local port authority and the National Guard to evacuate 32 patients in critical condition from Roy Lester Schneider Region Medical Center in St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands to St. Croix. Ten U.S. Navy helicopters transported the 32 patients and four evacuees.

"I've been doing aeromedical evacuation for a little over 12 years and I absolutely love it," said Lt. Col. Tanya Yelverton, 60th Medical Support Squadron medical service corps officer and en-route patient staging team commander. "Anything I can do to help and to be part of this mission and to help people in need, especially after such a big hurricane that took out the hospital. These patients needed to be evacuated right away, we're talking about the lives of patients. It means the world to me to be a part of this, I'm

very grateful."

There, the team staged and cared for the patients until they were prepared to be moved. Ten of the patients were moved to Puerto Rico on a Travis C-17. The other 22 patients and four evacuees were moved via FEMA planes to Puerto Rico.

"It was an incredible experience to see a need and meet that need for our fellow Americans," said Baker. "We are watching Hurricane Maria now and making sure we are postured and that we have the capability to respond as needed."



U.S. Air Force photo/Master Sgt. Joseph Swafford

Stephen Jones, a member of the Los Angeles County Fire Department and a U.S. Agency for International Development elite disaster team member, helps offload cargo Sept. 21 from a Travis Air Force Base, Calif., C-17 Globemaster III at the Mexico City International Airport.

Travis delivers response team to Mexico City

Master Sgt. Joseph Swafford
60TH AIR MOBILITY WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

A C-17 Globemaster III from Travis Air Force Base, California, arrived to Mexico City International Airport in support of earthquake relief efforts Sept. 21.

The crew delivered 67 U.S. Agency for International Development elite disaster team members and five canines along with equipment and medical supplies.

"The men and women of the USAR needed to get to Mexico to support the search and rescue operations after the earthquake," said Capt. Kyle Brackett, 21st Airlift Squadron. "Helping our allies when they are in need is one of the most important things we do as a nation."

All 67 USAID disaster team members are also part of the Los Angeles County Fire Department Urban Search and Rescue Team and put past training and real-world experiences to use for this mission.

"Several member of the team have traveled to other

countries to conduct search and rescue operations during past disasters, including in Haiti, China, Nepal and Chile," said Capt. Whit Gremillion, 21st Airlift Squadron aircraft commander for this mission. "They had flown with the Air Force before, and they were familiar with how we operate."

At the request of the Mexican government, the team arrived in Mexico's capital to support search and rescue efforts after a 7.1 magnitude earthquake struck the country Sept. 19. The second earthquake in two weeks to strike Mexico collapsed buildings and damaged highways while killing hundreds of people.

The crew flew from Travis AFB to March Air Reserve Base Sept. 20 to load the aircraft. March ARB aerial porters worked with the crew through the night to load 76,000 pounds of cargo bound for Mexico.

"The short notice tasking isn't that out of the ordinary for C-17 crewmembers," said

See MEXICO CITY Page 25

Innovator powers Air Force asset

Lori A. Bultman
25TH AIR FORCE

Editor's name: Surnames are withheld for security purposes.

◆◆◆
JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO - LACKLAND, Texas — Among the nearly 30,000 Airmen of 25th Air Force are a multitude of outstanding innovators who, through hard work and diligence, make technological advancements that significantly improve mission and training capabilities.

Tech. Sgt. Christopher, a member of the Tactical

Systems Operators' Research and Development section, 25th Intelligence Squadron, is one of those innovators. His technical expertise and innovation led to the acquisition and development of a wireless command and control network for remote emitters, according to his recent Air Force Achievement Medal citation.

"Specifically, (Christopher) was able to procure two \$50,000 portable towers that will be used to advance our training areas on the Eglin range," said Master Sgt. Joshua, Christopher's supervisor. "(Christopher) noticed the

first tower sitting behind someone's building not being used, so he asked if he could have it. With that, the snowball effect of setting up remotely operated emitters for our training purposes was in full roll. Innovation seems to be born out of necessity and with folks like (Christopher) and the rest of our Airmen in our small Research and Development shop - they are exceptional at acknowledging where we can improve using this kind of thinking," his supervisor said.

When Christopher began **See INNOVATOR Page 24**

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Travis teams with Army to aid Puerto Rico

101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) Public Affairs

FORT CAMPBELL, Ky. – A C-5M Super Galaxy aircraft assigned to the 22nd Airlift Squadron at Travis Air Force Base, California, carried Soldiers to Puerto Rico Sept. 27 as part of a mission to support Hurricane Maria relief.

An element of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) deployed to Puerto Rico as part of the Defense Department's Defense Support of Civil Authorities efforts.

"There is no nobler task, no more profound depth of commitment and no selfless service greater than people helping people, Americans helping Americans," said Maj. Gen. Andrew Poppas, 101st ABN DIV (AASLT) commander. "This undertaking also speaks to the readiness of this division and its ability to accomplish any mission, at any time and in any place."

The group, dubbed "Team Medevac," consists of more than 70 personnel and eight HH-60 medevac Blackhawk helicopters from the 101st Combat Aviation Brigade, 101st ABN DIV (AASLT).

The Travis C-5M as well as



Soldiers with the 101st Combat Aviation Brigade, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) and Airmen assigned to the 22nd Airlift Squadron, 60th Air Mobility Wing stationed at Travis Air Force Base, Calif., load an HH-60 medevac Black Hawk helicopter Sept. 26 into a C-5M Super Galaxy at Campbell Army Airfield. The helicopter is one of eight aircraft the division deployed Sept. 27 to Puerto Rico.

another assigned to the 68th Airlift Squadron, 433rd Airlift Wing transported the personnel and equipment to José Aponte de la Torre Airport, in Ceiba, a coastal municipality

on the northeast of the island. "We have been called forward and will provide a unique capability with our medevac helicopters," said Maj. Kurtis P. Evick, Team Medevac

commander. "We will help save lives and mitigate suffering, and we will continue to serve the American people of Puerto Rico until we are no longer needed."

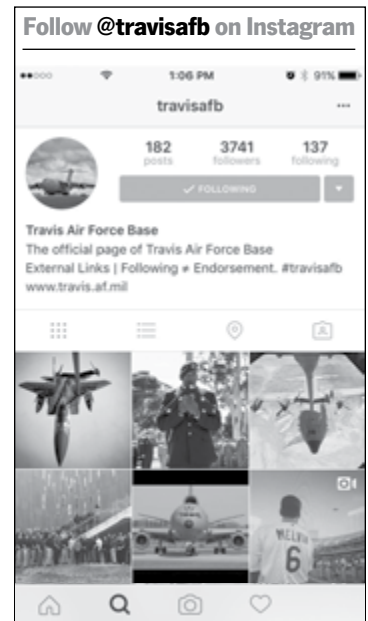
The 22nd AS and 68th AS Airmen, and 101st ABN DIV (AASLT) Soldiers worked throughout the day, Sept. 26, to load the helicopters onto the aircraft.

Once in Puerto Rico, the Airmen and Soldiers will unload the helicopters. The Soldiers will then place the aircraft into operation and conduct test flights before conducting their first mission.

"What's happened in Puerto Rico is nothing short of a tragedy, and I am honored to support this relief effort and to help the citizens of our nation," said 1st Sgt. Jason C. Straub, Team Medevac senior enlisted leader. "Our Soldiers are trained, our aircraft are prepped and we are ready to go."

Although the division relocated many of its assets in preparation to support Hurricane Irma relief efforts, this deployment will mark the first instance of hurricane relief in the 101st ABN DIV's (AASLT) 75-year history.

"The 101st Airborne Division has responded to numerous civil emergencies, but this is the first time we have supported commonwealth and federal officials to provide hurricane relief," said Lt. Col. Martin L. O'Donnell, 101st ABN DIV (AASLT) spokesperson. "While noteworthy, the occurrence is not unique. For the last 75 years, the division has responded to threats near and far."



KC-10 shows off capabilities to CAP at Andrews

Douglas Kahn

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JOINT BASE ANDREWS, Md. — A Travis KC-10 Extender was at Joint Base Andrews, Maryland for the 2017 open house and airshow, giving aviation fans an up-close look at state-of-the-art U.S. Air Force aircraft.

Aircrafts included were F-15E Super Eagle, A-10C Thunderbolt II, C-5M Super Galaxy, C-17 Globemaster III, T-1A Jayhawk, C-32, KC-135 Stratotanker and two experimental aircraft in the USAF T-X program the T-50 and the Textron AirLand Scorpion.

While at the airshow, the cadets were exposed to several science, technology, engineering and math booths run by active duty military personnel, NASA, the U.S. Air Force Academy and the USAF Office of Special Investigations. The cadets explained several of the degree granting programs in the STEM realm, the grades and procedures to become a cadet.

The highlight was receiving information from the Travis-based flight crew of four, a pilot, co-pilot, flight engineer and boom operator. The aircraft commander, a recent cancer survivor, explained how the KC-10 can transport up to 75 people and nearly 170,000 pounds of cargo a distance of about 4,400 miles unrefueled.

A modified Boeing Company DC-10, the KC-10A entered service in 1981. Although it retains 88 percent of systems commonality with the DC-10, it has additional systems and equipment necessary for its Air Force mission. These additions include military avionics; aerial refueling boom and aerial refueling hose and drogue; seated aerial refueling operator station; and aerial refueling receptacle and satellite communications.

Since Sept. 11, 2001, KC-10s have played a prominent role in the fight against terrorism. The KC-10 has flown more than 350 missions guarding U.S. skies as a part of Operation Noble Eagle. During operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi

Freedom, KC-10s flew more than 10,000 missions delivering critical air refueling support to numerous joint and coalition receiver aircraft.

The Travis boom operator discussed the boom operator controls refueling operations through a digital, fly-by-wire system. Sitting in the rear of the aircraft, the operator can see the receiver aircraft through a wide window. During boom refueling operations, fuel is transferred to the receiver at a maximum rate of 1,100 gallons per minute; the hose and drogue refueling maximum rate is 470 gallons per minute. The automatic load alleviation and independent disconnect systems greatly enhance safety and facilitate air refueling. The KC-10 can be air-refueled by a KC-135 or another KC-10A to increase its delivery range.

The large cargo-loading door can accept most air forces' fighter unit support equipment.

The KC-10A is operated by the 305th Air Mobility Wing at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey; and the 60th Air Mobility Wing, Travis AFB, California. Air Force Reserve Associate units are assigned to the 349th Air Mobility Wing at Travis, and the 514th Air Mobility Wing at JB MDL.



A KC-10 Extender pilot with the 6th Air Refueling Squadron at Travis Air Force Base, Calif., talks with the Gettysburg Composite Squadron 308 at the 2017 open house and airshow at Joint Base Andrews, Md. While at the airshow, the cadets were exposed to several science, technology, engineering and math booths run by active duty military personnel, NASA, the U.S. Air Force Academy and the USAF Office of Special Investigations.

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55th HMMU: Ready to repair at a moment's notice

An HH-60G Pave Hawk awaits a new engine after an emergency landing Sept. 6 near a mountain in central Arizona. Maintainers from the 55th Helicopter Maintenance Unit at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz., arrived at the landing site and performed an engine swap in less than 48 hours.

Courtesy photo



Airman 1st Class Frankie D. Moore
355TH FIGHTER WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

DAVIS-MONTHAN AIR FORCE BASE, Ariz. — High above the desert mountains, an HH-60G Pave Hawk glided through the evening air. What was supposed to be a standard maneuvering exercise turned into an inflight emergency when the helicopter suffered a detrimental bird strike.

“The impact was enough for the pilots to decide to land the aircraft as soon as possible and see what was going on,” said Tech. Sgt. Jason Lesieur, 55th Helicopter Maintenance Unit flightline expeditor. “From there, we got a call saying

that the aircraft had landed out in the middle of nowhere on the side of a mountain.”

When the coordinates of the aircraft were received, mid shift maintainers loaded the supplies needed for the job into trucks and rushed off to the landing zone.

It took the crew two hours to get close to the site, but because of the nature of the landing, the rest of the journey had to be made on foot. The Airmen grabbed their gear and trekked for one mile through a mountainous terrain.

“The guys were sent out to initially see what was wrong with the motor,” Lesieur said. “They found out the blades on

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Space commanders address operations

Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

NATIONAL HARBOR, Md. — Several of the Air Force's space commanders spoke on a panel about the significance of Air Force space operations and its undeniable importance to national defense during the Air Force Association Air, Space and Cyber Conference Sept. 19, 2017.

The Air Force is the lead service for space and has the vast majority of the Defense Department's space systems, personnel and budget with 36,000 Airmen at 134 different locations.

The panel highlighted that

space capabilities provide an unmatched advantage to joint warfighters on the battlefield, a fact that has not gone unnoticed by potential adversaries. This means space assets, like GPS, which allow directions on smart phones, and other complicated networks that enable multi-domain command and control, are more threatened.

“Largely, since 1991, our Air Force has been focused on integrating space capabilities into theater operations, and we have done so in a relatively benign domain,” said Gen. Jay Raymond, commander of Air Force Space Command.

As space rapidly evolves into

See OPERATIONS Page 19




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Capt. Emmanuel Enoch, 386th Air Expeditionary Wing Catholic chaplain, reads a prayer from the Missal. The Missal is a liturgical book containing all instructions and texts necessary for the celebration of Mass throughout the year.

Journey leads to higher calling

Master Sgt. Eric M. Sharman
386TH AIR EXPEDITIONARY WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

SOUTHWEST ASIA — In Abak, Nigeria, Dec. 8, 1974, a mother, nine-months pregnant, feels that her baby is ready to arrive. The duration of the journey to the hospital is longer than her new child can wait. She gives birth to her fourth child on the side of the road.

“So, I’ve always been on the road,” laughed Capt. Emmanuel Enoch, 386th Air Expeditionary Wing Catholic chaplain. “I was the one who was always going somewhere, like when I went away to boarding school, or left the country for college and again for missionary work. I was born on the road, and I’ve been traveling it all my life.”

Raised in Nigeria, his hometown was frequently a host for Irish-Catholic missionaries, from whom Enoch took inspiration. From a young age, he was fascinated with their devotion and the great risks they took on their missions. He studied them at the Catholic boarding school he attended as a child.

“I was fascinated with what they did, even going back to the

1700s,” said Enoch. “They would cross the seas; many of them dying on the voyage, and more contracting malaria when they arrived in Africa. I wondered what inspired them. What was their secret that in the face of death, they were not deterred?”

This curiosity led him into missionary work. He joined a hometown missionary group and entered the priesthood in Owensboro, Kentucky, after completing his master of divinity degree.

Enoch’s first assignment as a priest was to the Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Church in Hopkinsville, Kentucky, thirty minutes from Fort Campbell, Kentucky. It was there that Enoch had his first experience with the military through a nearby mental health facility. He received a call, saying that a post-traumatic stress disorder patient needed to talk to a priest.

“The patient was suffering from her experiences in the Iraq war,” recalled Enoch. “She just wanted to talk about her experiences, so we spent the whole night talking. I couldn’t relate to her experiences, but by being there and letting her

talk, it gave her comfort. That experience drew me to serve as a military chaplain.”

He entered the Air Force Reserve as an individual mobilization augmentee, assigned to the 42nd Air Base Wing, Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama. After a year of reserve duty, he came on to active-duty and was reassigned to the 97th Air Mobility Wing, Altus AFB, Oklahoma. Enoch’s service has given him a broader perspective on the differences between serving his parish and serving his country. He understands that while he is still a Catholic priest conducting the services associated with that role, his duties are to serve all Airmen, regardless of faith.

“The person who needs help isn’t necessarily Christian, or Muslim or any religion,” explained Enoch. “They might just need another person to listen, or show them direction. It’s about being there for the Airmen, not necessarily giving them my perspective as a Catholic priest.”

As an Airmen, Enoch has embraced the Comprehensive Airmen Fitness model, comprised

See **CALLING Page 24**

Air Force leaders address aircrew crisis

Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

JOINT BASE ANDREWS, Md. — More than 60 Air Force senior leaders discussed the Air Force’s aircrew crisis which has left the service more than 1,500 pilots short of its requirements Sept. 22 at Joint Base Andrews, Maryland.

“We are in a crisis,” said Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David L. Goldfein. “We’re 1,500 pilots short, and if we don’t find a way to turn this around, our ability to defend the nation is compromised.”

Throughout the day, Goldfein challenged presenters and leaders to develop new and creative solutions for problems ranging from pilot training limitations to filling staff positions to retention.

“We need to stay focused,” said Goldfein. “We’re doing this to increase the readiness and lethality of the force. This is a warfighting imperative.”

The 2017 Aircrew Summit is

part of the Air Force’s Aircrew Crisis Task Force’s ongoing efforts to address the service’s growing shortage of experienced aircrew. Air Force senior leaders from the headquarters, major commands and other experts discussed strategies, plans and initiatives falling under the ACTF’s seven lines of effort: requirements, accessions, production, absorption, retention, sortie production and industry collaboration.

“We presented some ideas to General Goldfein that are the first steps in completely changing how the Air Force recruits, trains, manages and employs our aircrew,” said Brig. Gen. Mike Koscheski, the Air Force’s Aircrew Crisis Task Force director.

Leaders at the summit were briefed on proposed retention initiatives to limit and incentivize non-command 365-day deployments, production initiatives that prioritize flying training and offer alternative

See **AIRCREW Page 22**



Maj. Gen. Lawrence Martin, assistant deputy under Secretary of the Air Force for Internal Affairs, listens as Capt. Michael Byrnes, Chief of Staff doctoral scholar, briefs attendees about pilot retention Sept. 22 at the annual Air Crew Summit at Joint Base Andrews, Md.

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A-10 demo team to perform in 2018

355 Fighter Wing Public Affairs

DAVIS-MONTHAN AIR FORCE BASE, Ariz — The U.S. Air Force A-10 demonstration team will once again display the capabilities of the Thunderbolt II at approximately 14 shows throughout the 2018 airshow season.

The A-10 demonstration team last flew in 2011. The A-10 flew exclusively with the Air Force Heritage Flight program in 2012 and 2017.

Specifically designed for close air support, the Thunderbolt II's combination of high and low speed maneuverability, long loiter time and

accurate weapons delivery has proven an important asset in Air Force operations throughout history.

The aerial demonstration team is sponsored by Air Combat Command and assigned to Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Arizona. The team pilot is Capt. Cody Wilton.

The team's schedule is currently being built. Airshow coordinators interested in booking the A-10 demonstration team should send requests to acc.a3ta@us.af.mil.

Questions should be directed to the 355th FW Public Affairs office at 520-228-3407 or 355wgpa@us.af.mil.



U.S. Air Force photos/Tech. Sgt. Veronica Pierce

An Afghan air force UH-60 is towed as two AAF A-29s taxi for takeoff Sept. 18 at Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan. The UH-60 was the first to arrive in Afghanistan as part of modernization efforts to transition the AAF to a more sustainable and modern helicopter fleet.

Afghans receive first UH-60s

Tech. Sgt. Veronica Pierce

438TH AIR EXPEDITIONARY WING AND TRAIN, ADVISE, ASSIST COMMAND-AIR PUBLIC AFFAIRS

KANDAHAR AIR FIELD, Afghanistan — The first two Afghan air force UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters arrived at Kandahar Airfield.

The UH-60s are the first to be delivered to the AAF under the Aviation Transition and Modernization program. The plan to modernize and increase the AAF fleet will provide fire-power and mobility enabling the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces to bring a decisive advantage to the fight against anti-government forces.

The first group of UH-60s will remain at Kandahar Airfield, where flight training for Afghan pilots is slated to begin in October. Air advisers assigned to Train, Advise, Assist Command-Air, 738th Air Expeditionary Advisory Group, will oversee the training program. Over the coming years, additional Blackhawks will be distributed to four primary AAF



An Afghan air force UH-60 is off loaded from a C-17 Globemaster, Sept. 18 at Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan.

bases throughout Afghanistan.

"The AAF has grown in the last year and they're asymmetric effects are changing the battlefield," said Col. Armando Fiterre, 738th AEAG commander, TAAC-Air. "As the AAF mission grows they are becoming a more modernized, sustainable and more capable air force."

The UH-60s are just part of the plan to modernize and

expand the AAF. Additions to its current fleet will increase strike aircraft numbers from 58 to 173, while its rotary aircraft fleet will increase from 74 to 173.

"The Blackhawks will gradually be replacing the Mi-17 in the AAF inventory over the next few years," said Brig. Gen. Phillip Stewart, commander of the 438th Air Expeditionary

See UH-60S Page 23

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Program helps Airmen at time of need

Kat Bailey

AIR FORCES PERSONNEL CENTER PUBLIC AFFAIRS

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas — Today's American Airmen do the impossible every day. They pursue their mission with excellence and integrity to become leaders and warriors, providing help to a world in need.

However, even Airmen need help at times, especially if an acute problem occurs with a family member.

The Humanitarian Reassignment and Deferment Program, run by the Air Force Personnel Center, assists active-duty Airmen in resolving severe, short-term problems involving a family member while Airmen continue to meet the needs of the Air Force.

"The spirit and intent of the program is to place the Airman at the closest location to where the problem exists," said Kimberly Schuler, Humanitarian Assignment Policy chief. "Typically, a reassignment or deferment is a one-time action to resolve a critical problem with a family member within a reasonable period of time, normally 12 months."

The definition of "family member" for the Humanitarian Program is limited to spouse; child; parents; to include in-laws and stepparents; person in loco parentis; or other persons actually residing in the household who are dependent on the Airman for more than half of their financial support.

"We often get asked about siblings," Schuler said. "That's always a tough one because siblings aren't within the scope of

See NEED Page 19

AF, Army partnership feeds warfighter

Tech. Sgt. Jonathan Hehnly

386TH AIR EXPEDITIONARY WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

SOUTHWEST ASIA — The 386th Air Expeditionary Wing plays a major logistical role in delivering critical supplies to the frontlines in the war against the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria. One of the ways the 386th AEW supports the Combined Joint Task Force-Operation Inherent Resolve mission is by conducting airdrops to move supplies downrange.

The airdrop missions flown by the 386th AEW's aircrews are the direct result of a working partnership between the Air Force and Army. At the heart of that partnership is the relationship between the Army parachute riggers and the Air Force loadmasters.

"Whether in theater or back in garrison, we are constantly working with different air wings from across the Air Force," said Army Staff Sgt. Justin Devaul, a parachute rigger assigned to an Army special operations forces group. "They are either flying to our station or we are going temporary duty to their station, and they are getting certified on different types of air bundles



U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Jonathan Hehnly

Army Sgt. Timothy Williams, a parachute rigger assigned to the 824th Quartermaster Company, and Army Staff Sgt. Justin Devaul, a parachute rigger assigned to an Army special operations forces unit, work together to build an airdrop bundle of meals, ready-to-eat for forward deployed troops at an undisclosed location Sept. 6 in Southwest Asia.

while we are staying proficient at our jobs. So it's never ending. We need the Air Force in order for any of this to happen."

The airdrop process begins with the Army parachute riggers who receive a supply

request from warfighters on the frontlines. The requests range from food and water to ammunition and special equipment. Whether it's a routine re-supply or an emergency re-supply, the riggers quickly get to work palletizing and rigging

up the materials. "Our process is very important because once we receive the request on what they need we have a limited time, so if we rig the wrong thing or rig a malfunction into an airdrop,

See FEEDS Page 22

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U.S. Air National Guard photo/Master Sgt. Paul Gorman

Master Sgt. Matt Hill, air transportation specialist with the Air National Guard's 133rd Airlift Wing in Minneapolis, Minn., directs the offload of food and supplies Sept. 15 at Cyril E. King Airport in St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands.

ANG Airmen provide response

Master Sgt. Paul Gorman
115TH FIGHTER WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

ST. THOMAS, U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS — Air National Guard units from three U.S. states combined assets,

manpower and expertise to provide critical control of military airlift to the heavily battered island of St. Thomas in the wake of Hurricane Irma.

Airmen from the 133rd Airlift Wing in Minneapolis,

Minnesota; 146th AW in Camarillo, California and 161st Air Refueling Wing in Phoenix demonstrated the real world capability of the airlift control flight Sept. 9 as they

See RESPONSE Page 21

MQ-9 pilot gives back

Airman 1st Class
James Thompson
432ND WING/432ND
AIR EXPEDITIONARY WING

CREECH AIR FORCE BASE, Nev. — Service is defined as unrelenting devotion to one's duty to his or her country. It's one of the core values instilled into every Airman. However, for one Airman, it also means giving back to his community.

For the last eight years, Capt. Victor, 17th Attack Squadron MQ-9 Reaper pilot, has spent most of his days off volunteering with science, technology, engineering and math programs centered on mentoring the youth and hopefully inspiring the next generation of scientists and engineers.

"The Great Minds in STEM organization is a very large engineering organization for Hispanics and they aim to do a lot of the same things that I am doing in the community, which is to inspire youth, especially underrepresented Latino youth to pursue engineering in math and science professionally and at the university level," said Victor.

Victor began his endeavor while he was in high school and has personally mentored hundreds of students. He's kept up his involvement throughout his time serving and his contributions have spanned across two Air Force duty assignments.

"More recently, the last four years, I have probably individually mentored around 70 or so students and reached dozens more in discussions," said Victor. "The individual mentorship is really where students succeed. That constant mentorship interaction and leadership can help mold them into the professionals we need for the future."

He was recently awarded the League of United Latin American Citizens Excellence and Service Award, Air Combat Command's National Public Service Award and the Great Minds in STEM Hispanic Engineering National Achievement Awards Conference Military Hero Award for his efforts.

"I went to a title one school and there were a group of people who were in this program called the National Hispanic Institute," said Victor. "NHI is a national organization and they identify (Hispanic) youth to teach them the basics of speech, debate, mock trials and public speaking and through that teach them the professional skills that will aid them through life."

Reflecting on the opportunities he had in high school, he wanted to use his own experiences as a lesson for young students who may be having second thoughts about pursuing higher education.

"Whenever I went to college, I was fortunate to be accepted to the Air Force Academy and while there, I saw that we had so many amazing resources at the university and what I wanted more than anything was to share that with the community," he said.

Although the organization helped shape Victor's professional development and outlook, the Houston native explained that despite being used to living and working in a drastically diverse environment, his experiences at the academy were culturally limited at the time.

"Whenever I went to college for the first time, I was somewhat aware that I was actually a minority. What I found was that many people weren't very well

See PILOT Page 24

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Staff sergeant shows resiliency in fight with cancer



1) Staff Sgt. Teresa Monteon, 60th Medical Group training manager, poses for a photo with her Reebok Spartan Race medals Sept. 22 outside David Grant USAF Medical Center at Travis Air Force Base, Calif.

Tech. Sgt. James Hodgman
60TH AIR MOBILITY WING

"You have stage two unfavorable Hodgkin's lymphoma."

Those were the words Staff Sgt. Teresa Monteon heard her doctor say on Oct. 19, 2015. The weight of those words hit her hard and she cried.

"I was scared," said Monteon. "My whole world just shifted. I was so excited to come to Travis and work in the intensive care unit. It was a great chance for me to be a medic and I was looking forward to testing my skills and facing new challenges. When the doctor said that, I felt like my whole world was pulled from me."

Monteon, a medic from San Jose, California, joined the Air Force in January 2010 and arrived at Travis Air Force Base, California in May 2015. She was assigned to work in the ICU at David Grant USAF Medical Center. However, she discovered a lump on the left side of her neck in August 2015 that would change everything.

"It was probably the size of a golf ball and egg combined, she said." "I thought it could be cancer."

One week later, Monteon was evaluated by her primary care manager, who referred her to a specialist in DGMC's general surgery office.

He thought it was probably a clogged lymph node and instructed Monteon to apply a warm compress to it and come back in a month, she said. A month later, she returned and the lump was the same size.

At that appointment Monteon was referred to the radiology clinic for a CT scan. After the CT scan was conducted, she said she knew something wasn't right after seeing the looks on the technicians' faces.

"I know that face, that 'something's wrong' face," she said. "All medics have it when we see something scary. I knew something was wrong."

The following week, Monteon was scheduled for a biopsy, a procedure where a sample of tissue is taken from the body to examine it more closely.

The results were shocking to hear. "The interventional radiology surgeon said, 'I hate to be the one to tell you this, but I'm 90 percent sure it's Hodgkin's lymphoma,'" said Monteon. "I was shocked. I didn't know how to process that information."

Hearing those words felt like being

slammed in the face, she said.

Additional testing confirmed Monteon had Hodgkin's lymphoma, a cancer of the lymphatic system, which is part of the immune system. This form of cancer causes cells to grow abnormally, which could lead to cancerous cells spreading to other parts of the body. As the disease progresses, it compromises the body's ability to fight infection.

Master Sgt. Jennifer Mitchell, now the 343rd Reconnaissance Squadron first sergeant at Offutt AFB, Nebraska, was working as the ICU flight chief on the day Monteon received her diagnosis.

"One of the nurses called me and said 'We need you to come downstairs right away,'" said Mitchell. "I ran down the stairs and Monteon was on the bed crying. The doctor confirmed she had Hodgkin's lymphoma. I know for her it was devastating, and I felt the same way. To see such a young person go through cancer knowing how difficult that would be...to know she was going to have to go through that just broke my heart."

Tests revealed cancerous tumors on the left side of Monteon's neck and chest above her heart. She began chemotherapy on Oct. 26, 2015. The treatments took a profound effect on her, both physically and mentally.

"I was extremely nauseous and tired instantly after the first treatment and I had treatments every two weeks," said Monteon. "That first week after two or three days, my body was really heavy, I had immense fatigue. It's not like you can sleep and be better. You're just always tired. I lost all energy. Even getting dressed was difficult."

Monteon also experienced blisters in her mouth, as well as severe bone and jaw pain.

An avid runner and hiker prior to her diagnosis, she shared what it felt like not being able to do the things she loved.

"I would get so winded just trying to walk around my apartment complex," she said. "I cried because I couldn't walk as far as I did before I got sick. It was so frustrating because I couldn't run or train."

At one point, Monteon wondered if she should even wear the Air Force uniform.

"When I was bald, people would

stare and I felt like people were taking pity on me and I hated that feeling because I didn't want pity," she said. "I have an image in my head of what it means to wear the (Air Force) uniform. It means you're doing well in life, you're healthy and able to contribute to the mission. I didn't feel like I should've been wearing (the uniform) because I was so sick."

"It was so hard for me to come into work and put a smile on my face because I felt like I didn't represent the image the Air Force should uphold," she said.

While Monteon battled through this difficult time, she said her friends and Air Force family supported her in several ways.

Mitchell attended every one of Monteon's chemo treatments, checked on her while she was hospitalized with an intestinal infection and even went grocery shopping for her.

"She needed support, physically and mentally, and she needed to know she wasn't alone," said Mitchell. "I'm a huge believer in people always come first. Her health and getting her through those difficult days was the No. 1 priority. Some days, I had to give some tough love and ensure she took in fluids and ate. Other times, I made her laugh or simply held her hand."

While Monteon was hospitalized for nine days due to neutropenic enterocolitis, an acute life-threatening condition, she was on a strict diet of clear fluids. Mitchell provided the staff sergeant with a reason to laugh.

Monteon was eating popsicles and she threw up after she ate a lot of them, said Mitchell.

"At least it smells good," said Mitchell with a smile. "It smelled like grape popsicles. Just making her laugh, holding her hand and just being there for her for whatever she needed was the most important thing. I wanted to take her pain away, but unfortunately, I couldn't."

Tech. Sgt. Krystal Foster, 60th Diagnostics and Therapeutics Squadron noncommissioned officer in charge of patient tray services and one of Monteon's friends, visited her often.

"I cooked for her, brought her food, played video games with her, joined her for walks and even spent the first night of her hospitalization with her," said Foster. "Whatever she needed, I was there."

Foster said she's proud of how her friend faced each day.

"She never gave up and she was always smiling," said Foster. "Even when she lost her hair, she didn't let anyone know that it bothered her. She had the strength to endure and push through everything."

Monteon underwent four months of chemotherapy receiving her last treatment on Feb. 16, 2016. She also underwent a month of proton therapy, a form of radiation treatment, in San Diego.

On April 25, 2016, her oncologist told her she was in remission, she said. While she is aware cancer could return to her body, Monteon is wasting no time living the life she loves.

In November 2016, she traveled to St. Lucia, an island nation in the eastern Caribbean Sea for six days. While there, she went zip-lining, kayaking, hiking, snorkeling and bathed in volcanic mud.

She also ran her first Reebok Spartan Race that month in Sacramento, California. Spartan races are endurance events ranging in distance from 3 to 14 miles. During a race, participants are required to overcome between 20 and 35 obstacles.

"Running is how I destress and relax," said Monteon. "Going from being barely able to go up my stairs to running 4.3 miles while overcoming obstacles and challenging myself again felt amazing."

Monteon has also completed Spartan races in Monterey and San Jose, California. She plans on completing her fourth race Sept. 30 and is planning trips to Australia and Italy.

She said her cancer battle taught her a valuable life lesson, one she wants to share with her fellow Airmen.

"The biggest take away for me is knowing there's going to be adversity and challenges in life, but what matters is getting yourself back up," she said. "Whatever challenge you're facing, it's likely for a very short period in your life and there's so much out there to experience."

"Airmen need to know there's always a light at the end of the tunnel. If you're stressed, get outside of your head and try something fun. Think positively. If you believe and say 'I'll get better,' you will. You have the power within yourself to make your life better."



U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. James Hodgman



Courtesy photo

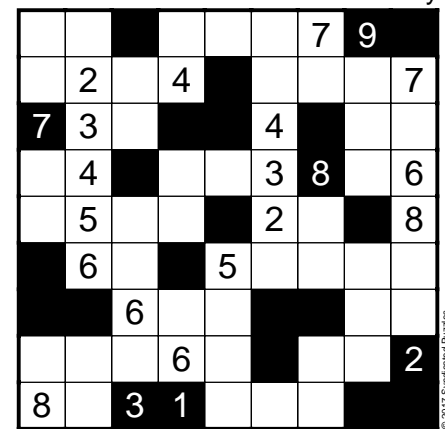
Courtesy photo

2) Staff Sgt. Teresa Monteon, 60th Medical Group training manager from San Jose, Calif., displays some of her Reebok Spartan Race medals Sept. 22 at Travis Air Force Base, Calif. After a five-month battle with cancer, Monteon completed three Spartan races. She plans on running her fourth Spartan race on Sept. 30 in Olympic Valley, Calif. 3) Monteon sits in her hospital bed during a nine-day hospitalization at DGMC in December 2016. Monteon was diagnosed with Hodgkin's lymphoma and is now in remission after undergoing five months of chemotherapy and one month of proton therapy. 4) Chemotherapy medication waits to be administered Feb. 16, 2016, to Monteon.

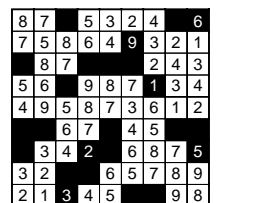
Puzzles

STR8TS

No. 353 Easy



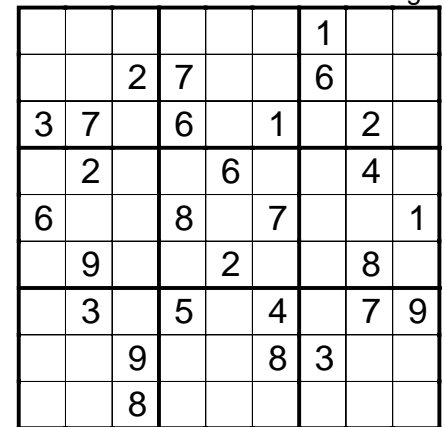
Previous solution - Medium



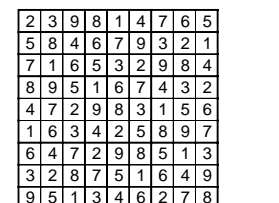
How to beat STR8TS – Like Sudoku, no single number can repeat in any row or column. But... rows and columns are divided by black squares into **compartments**. These need to be filled in with numbers that complete a 'straight'. A **straight** is a set of numbers with no gaps but can be in any order, 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.

SUDOKU

No. 353 Tough



Previous solution - Medium



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 from our store at www.str8ts.com

The solutions will be published here in the next issue.

News Notes

Road construction. Takes place at the intersection of Air Base Parkway at Clay Bank Road from 7 p.m. to 5 a.m. through Oct. 5. Expect delays in each direction, as lanes will be controlled down to one in each direction. Due to this work, Clay Bank Road will be shut down with limited access Sept. 14-16. East and westbound traffic on Air Base Parkway attempting to use Clay Bank Road will be detoured onto Dover Avenue and Peabody Road, respectively. Traffic control and detour sign will be in place to assist drivers.

Flu shots available. Influenza season is rapidly approaching. Active duty members can annual get flu shots beginning Monday at the David Grant USAF Medical Center at Travis Air Force Base, California. All other TRICARE beneficiaries can get immunized beginning Sept. 18. Flu shots are available in the Influenza Room, which is located on the first floor across from Internal Medicine. Flu shots are strongly recommended for high-risk populations, which includes children 5 years and younger, adults age 65 and older and pregnant women. For more information, call the Allergy and Immunization Clinic at 707-423-5107.

Passport service. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Oct. 1 at the Fairfield Post Office in Fairfield, Calif. Applications are taken on a walk-in basis. For information about required application forms or more information, call 877-487-2778 or email npic@state.gov.

Beautiful You Event. 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Oct. 13 at the Travis Family Homes Community Center. This is a free spa event for everyone on base to enjoy the many spa services.

Lace Up for Domestic Violence and Breast Cancer Awareness 5k Fun Run/Walk. 4:30 to 7 p.m. Oct. 18 at the Travis Family Homes Community Center. Registration begins at 4:30 p.m. and the event begins at 5 p.m. There will be guest speakers and prizes for the participants with the best purple outfit and pink outfit. Participants are encouraged to bring their families.

Hire G.I. event. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Oct. 19 at the Delta Breeze Club. Register at hiregi.com.

60th FSS

Events and information

Volunteer coaches. To volunteer, call 707-424-5392 or pickup your volunteer packet at the Youth Center.



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

Chapel programs

News and information

Position available. The following non-personal service position is open for bid: Catholic parish coordinator. Basic specifications and qualifications can be found in the Statement of Work. No demonstration of skills is required. This contract will be awarded based on the "best

value" to the government. Submit sealed bids by noon Nov. 2. Interested individuals should email Ch. Philip Smith to request a statement of work, application procedures letter, and basis of award letter. For more information contact Ch. Philip Smith at 424-3217 or philip.smith.31@us.af.mil

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.

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 travspcom-batpatsd@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://jhns.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 Gitsham 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 NAF 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.

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.

SGLI and vRED. The Record of Emergency Data, aka vRED, and the Servicemembers Group Life Insurance form are two of the most-critical documents a service member is responsible for maintaining throughout a military career. Commanders, Casualty Assistance personnel and Mortuary Affairs personnel rely heavily on these two documents as a vital source of information when a crisis occurs resulting in serious injury or death of the service member.

60th Air Mobility Wing Information Protection Office. The office has the following walk-in customer service window hours: 8 to 11 a.m. and 1 to 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday as well as window hours from 8 to 11 a.m. Friday. For emergencies, call 707-424-3114.

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.

Toastmasters. The Travis Toastmasters meets at noon on the first and third Tuesday of

the month in the USO Lounge. Toastmasters is an organization that helps people practice communication, as well as build on skills they already have. All are welcome to attend. For more information, call Nicole Culberhouse at 478-273-1760.

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

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

Travis Heritage Center. The facility is looking to add to its historical collection. It is missing the past 15 years of conflict in which Travis was involved. Do you have something special to donate for generations to appreciate? The center also seeks volunteers. The gift shop is open 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. For more information, call Rick Shea at 707-424-5598 or email richard.shea@us.af.mil.

Travis Legal Office. Power of attorney and notaries are walk-ins 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:

- Cheryl Brown, 60th Air Mobility Wing.
- Timothy Miller, 60th Medical Support Squadron.

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

Tuskegee Airman Lee A. Archer Chapter. Meets at 1 p.m. third Saturday of the month at Nut Tree Airport. For more information, call James Harris at 707-631-6361.

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

Local events

Events

Art, Wine & Chocolate Festival. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Oct. 7, Suisun City waterfront, Main and Solano Streets. Free admission. <http://suisunwaterfront.com>.

THE FLIP SIDE

Airmen complete FTAC



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

Congratulations to the latest Airmen to complete the First Term Airman Center course. Alphabetically: Airman 1st Class Mason Anderson, 921st Contingency Response Squadron; Airman Tanner Anderson, 60th Logistics Readiness Squadron; Airman 1st Class Enrico Aquino, 860th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron; Airman Gethyn Berner, 21st Airlift Squadron; Airman 1st Class Marcello Chavez, 60th Diagnostics and Therapeutics Squadron; Airman 1st Class Marcus Grant, 60th Civil Engineer Squadron; Airman 1st Class Ryan Gunn, 921st CRS; Airman Basic Te-Hee Han, 60th Force Support Squadron; Airman 1st Class Kenneth Hunt, 60th Operations Support Squadron; Airman 1st Class Lauren Jennings, 60th Communications Squadron; Airman Jeffrey Knudsen, 60th OSS; Airman 1st Class Nathan Kwineland, 60th CES; Airman 1st Class Jereny Manny, 60th Surgical Operations Squadron; Airman 1st Class Delanee Martin, 60th Medical Support Squadron; Airman Aimee Moore, 60th AMXS; Airman Sean Moore, 860th AMXS; Airman Basic Frieda Moreno, 60th Medical Operations Squadron; Airman Kaleb Neubarth, 21st AS; Airman 1st Class Nahama Nicolas, 60th LRS; Airman 1st Class Shameem Osborne, 21st AS; Airman 1st Class James Phan, 60th CS; Airman 1st Class Luis Reynolds, 60th CES; Airman 1st Class Kyle Rogers, 60th MDSS; Airman 1st Class Robin Sandate, 60th Maintenance Squadron; Airman Basic Alex Sisourath, 660th AMXS; Airman 1st Class Taylor Smith, 22nd AS; Airman Basic Owen Stenz, 660th AMXS; Airman 1st Class Chase Womack, 921st CRS; and Airman Cameron Young, 22nd AS.

Retiree Corner

Veterans Affairs releases suicide statistics by state

WASHINGTON — On Sept. 15, the Department of Veterans Affairs released findings from its analysis of veteran suicide data for 50 states, Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia.

The release is part of VA's comprehensive examination of more than 55 million records, dated 1979 to 2014, which will be used to develop and evaluate suicide prevention programs across every state.

The new data include veteran suicide rates and overall suicide rates by state, age group and gender, and list the

most common suicide methods. Analysis of this information will help the VA gain insight into high-risk populations and share that information with community-based health care providers and partners, continuing to expand the network of support for veterans.

Veterans who are in crisis or having thoughts of suicide and those who know a veteran in crisis, can call the Veterans Crisis Line for confidential support 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. Call 800-273-8255 and press 1, chat online at VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat, or text to 838255.

— Air Force News Service

Need

From Page 13

the definition of ‘family member.’ However, if the sibling is terminally ill, we’ll look at the request as an exception to policy.”

In a case that requires a long-term solution, an Airman would have to look at other options, she said.

“The Humanitarian Program is a temporary solution to a short-term problem and the Air Force is unable to consider a permanent or prolonged deferment.”

The comptroller general has ruled that the Air Force cannot make moves at government expense based solely on humanitarian reasons. The reassignment or deferment must be to meet Air Force mission needs in addition to helping the Airman. Therefore, a valid vacancy must exist at the gaining base and the Airman must meet retainability requirements for a permanent change of station.

Schuler’s team in AFPC’s Military Assignment Programs Branch, along with a team of six case managers in the Assignment Support Section and 11 Total Force Service Center Assignment technicians processes approximately 1,000 requests annually to expedite assistance to Airmen in need.

Humanitarian reassignment or deferment is not limited to a single reason. Circumstances can include the terminal illness of a family member, the death of an Airman’s spouse or child, the sexual assault of the Airman’s spouse or child, or issues involving a serious financial impact such as the loss of property through fire or natural disaster.

“The reason doesn’t have to fit into a box,” Schuler said.

In each situation, the AFPC Medical Review Board or the AFPC Administrative Law Office reviews requests for verification of clinical data submitted with an application or for the verification of legal documentation. Careful consideration goes into the adjudication of each request, as these Airmen are normally in a crisis and deserve the most compassionate eyes possible on their situation.

“It’s not just personnelists making the decision,” Schuler said. “It’s a whole system of



U.S. Air Force graphic/Kat Bailey

No single reason exists why a humanitarian reassignment or deferment might be approved. It might be a terminal illness, death of a spouse or sexual assault of the Airman’s child. The Air Force’s Personnel Center views each request with compassion and empathy, giving it careful consideration.

checks and balances. The entire team looks at the whole-person concept. We look at each situation as if we were in that Airman’s shoes and view the circumstances with empathy and kindness.”

Missing documentation can delay the process, which is normally about two to four weeks. Schuler said the more supporting documentation the Airman can provide about every aspect of the situation, the better, as it paints a clearer picture of the scope of the problem. Burden of proof is on the member to prove that their situation is more than what an average Airman is going through.

“Everyone has a tipping point, so we weigh everything – everything – happening in that Airman’s life to determine the best course of action,” she said.

Currently, 2,916 Airmen are directly benefiting from humanitarian assignments at bases across the Air Force. However, if the Airman’s application does not meet the threshold for an approval under the Humanitarian Program, the case managers take the extra step to research if the Airman may be eligible for another alternative assignment option.

“Perhaps the Airman can

apply for a Base of Preference or a follow-on assignment,” Schuler said. “Or maybe they don’t meet the requirements right now, but if something changes, they can reapply. We try to manage their expectations and provide resources instead of just simply saying, ‘Denied.’”

Schuler’s team is also working on improvements to the application process to make it more intuitive. Two efficiencies they would like to implement include a “delivery” status bar, visible to customers in the virtual Military Personnel Flight, and a defined set of statuses with detailed explanations of the application process.

To help Airmen navigate those resources, Schuler’s team hosts recurring webcasts on the Humanitarian Reassignment and Deferment Program.

Additionally, Airmen can chat with a personnel specialist live on myPers about the humanitarian program between the hours of 5 a.m. to 3 p.m. PDT. To access the chat feature, click on the Humanitarian/EFMP link under “Assignment Programs” on the active-duty myPers Assignment landing page, hover the mouse cursor for 30 seconds and a chat window will appear.

Operations

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a warfighting domain, the Air Force is adjusting their strategy to ensure our nation is prepared to fight and win.

“Like the Air Force chief of staff said earlier, space superiority is no longer a birth right,” said Raymond. “In the future we may have to fight for that space superiority if we get into a high-end fight.”

Members of the panel highlighted key space capabilities, in addition to GPS, that are key to the nation’s defense, such as military satellite communications and the early warning mission to detect ballistic missile launches.

“Today we are approaching 20 different nations with ballistic missile capability and dozens of different missile types,” said Col. David Miller, 460th Space Wing commander at Buckley Air Force Base, Colorado. “With

that, you get a sense of just how important the (missile warning) responsibility we have is.”

To meet the threat, the Air Force is leading the modernization of space systems; transforming the way Airmen train, develop and employ space forces and evolving operations centers. It’s also working to streamline acquisition processes, to ensure the combatant commanders have the space capabilities needed to win today’s and tomorrow’s fight.

Though the service is undoubtedly ready to defend space, it’s not looking for a fight.

“I want to stress that we don’t want (a space) conflict, we are all about deterring that conflict, but being prepared for that conflict,” said Raymond. “We are focused on getting ready so we can deter a fight in space because, in my opinion, nobody wins that fight, and that’s why we come to work everyday.”

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Response

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began to manage 24-hour flight operations at the Cyril E. King International Airport in St. Thomas.

"Stepping off the airplane we met a (Federal Emergency Management Agency) logistics representative who said that he was quickly becoming overwhelmed, was glad we were here and that the airfield was ours," said Lt. Col. Jared Miller, 146th Airlift Control Flight operations officer. "He provided us with some real estate, we set up our

(command and control) trailer, our billeting and we went to work."

An airlift control flight is a compact force capable of short notice worldwide deployment to any airfield to set up mobile command and control of contingency, humanitarian or exercise missions.

Airmen selected to staff or support the function are trained in such specialties as logistics, air transportation, operations, communications, weather, security and equipment maintenance.

Like many airlift control flight members, air transportation specialist Tech. Sgt. Michael Gunderson is a traditional guardsmen, and was required to leave

his civilian employment to support the recovery efforts in St. Thomas. As the manager of a youth sports program, the timing and short notice were difficult to accommodate, but worth the sacrifice.

"This is why we do what we do," Gunderson said. "It's an opportunity to help people who need help, and I think it's why most of us serve in the National Guard."

Since their arrival, the Airmen supporting the airlift control flight have been instrumental in the movement of 440 Defense Department personnel and 712 short tons of military cargo, as well as thousands of tons of cargo arriving

via contract air carriers.

In addition to servicing aircraft from every U.S. service branch, they tended to other government entities and commercial companies such as the U.S. Border Patrol, FBI, U.S. Mail, Civil Air Patrol, Swift Air, IFE Cargo and multiple private security companies.

According to Lt. Col. Kurt Amundson, 133rd Airlift Control Flight commander, the Airmen selected to support the airlift control flight are often chosen for their experience level and dedication. Thus far, Amundson said the Airmen's performance was nothing short of absolutely phenomenal.

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Aircrew

From Page 11

methods of aviator training and requirement initiatives that adjust crew ratios and balance instructor pilot numbers.

Increasing assignment process transparency and career predictability for Airmen were frequent themes at the summit's retention discussions. Although the majority of proposals discussed were designed specifically to address the aircrew crisis, Air Force leaders also discussed the need to expand initiatives to take care of non-rated Airmen and families as well.

"Changing how we manage an all-volunteer force won't be a quick process, but we must make those first changes so we can gain momentum," said Lt. Gen. Dash Jamieson, Deputy Chief of Staff for Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance. "Our Airmen get a vote, and they need to

know we're listening to them and acting on their feedback."

The challenge of retaining qualified aircrew is compounded by limitations on the Air Force's ability to train sufficient numbers of pilots each year, making it more critical to retain each individual.

Participants also discussed various options for increasing pilot production through contract support or additional aircraft, which would enable the Air Force to train more pilots. Additionally, briefers presented options for limiting staff positions and lengthy deployments for fighter pilots, which currently account for the majority of the service's pilot shortage.

"This is a wicked problem," Koscheski said, referring to the critical pilot shortage and proposed solutions to improve retention. "The problem is not only ever-changing, it fights back. You can't just fix one aspect. They're interrelated."

Feeds

From Page 13

that could hurt the ground troop," said Devaul. "If they are in a serious situation where they need ammo and we send the wrong ammo, that could really hinder their performance. Without the attention to detail from both the Army and the Air Force, the ground personnel would really be struggling."

Devaul's prior experience on the ground brings a real sense of urgency to him and his fellow riggers to fill re-supply requests as quickly as possible.

"Seeing things from both points of view, it is definitely beneficial, because when we receive an emergency request here, you know what those guys are feeling on the ground," said Devaul. "Being on the ground and having that emergency come up, you really need to have the riggers back here or wherever it is to really be on top of their game. They're going to drop you ammo or whatever special items that you're going to need to continue on with the fight, and it can really change the outcome."

Once the items are rigged up, the Army riggers work with the Air Force to get the items onto a plane and airdropped to the target location.

The day of the drop, the planes are loaded and the Army riggers board to attach static lines to the airdrop bundles. Airdrop bundles are rigged within specific guidelines to ensure the cargo properly exits the aircraft, the parachute properly deploys, and the



U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Jonathan Hehny

Army Sgt. Timothy Williams, 824th Quartermaster Company parachute rigger, pulls a strap to tighten an airdrop bundle at an undisclosed location Sept. 6 in Southwest Asia. Airdrop bundles are rigged within specific guidelines to ensure the cargo properly exits the aircraft, the parachute properly deploys and the bundle lands intact on its target.

bundle lands intact on its target.

It is the responsibility of the joint airdrop inspectors to ensure all the airdrop bundles are properly rigged before the airplane takes off. An Air Force JAI-certified loadmaster and an Army rigger work together to conduct the inspection of each bundle.

"The Air Force loadmaster and the Army rigger are going through to make sure nothing is cut or frayed on the load itself, making sure the correct parachute is attached, the static line is attached correctly and everything is working properly," said Devaul.

"There are quite a bit of things involved in rigging an airdrop," said Air Force Master Sgt. Jim Harper, a loadmaster with the 737th Expeditionary

Airlift Squadron. "It's a lot more complicated than just loading the bundles and kicking them out. Depending if it's heavy equipment or low-cost low-altitude small stuff, or if it's a bigger containerized deliver system drop, they all have different types of chutes, all have different types of rigging so it's important to know everything that you are looking for."

Devaul and Harper agree that attention to detail by both the Army and Air Force is essential to ensuring success of these high priority missions.

"The inspection itself is very vital," said Harper. "If that inspection isn't done properly you could have a load that would go out of the airplane wrong, fail in flight or not get to the end user."

The riggers and loadmasters understand that their rigging and inspections directly impact the troops on the ground, especially if it's an emergency request where there are troops in contact who are counting on that pallet full of ammunition.

"It's a big sense of pride because you know that without the work that both the Army and the Air Force are doing, those guys wouldn't be able to continue fighting," said Devaul. "Thank God they are trained at what they do and they are great at what they do on the ground, but they wouldn't be able to do that if we weren't sending them things from the sky. We send them everything they need so there is a lot of pride in our work."



U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Veronica Pierce

A U.S. Air Force C-17 loadmaster assigned to Joint Base Charleston, S.C., prepares two Afghan Air Force UH-60 helicopters for off loading Sept. 18 at Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan.

UH-60s

From Page 12

Wing and Train, Advise, Assist Command-Air. "While the Mi-17 is one of the AAF's most advanced programs when it comes to aircrew and maintenance capabilities, the program cannot be continued indefinitely. The Mi-17s are expensive to maintain, difficult to sustain and experiencing higher than expected attrition rates."

Earlier in this year, the U.S. committed more than \$814 million for fiscal year 2017, funded by the U.S. Contingency Operations Afghan Security Forces Fund.

The funding will be used to shape and modernize the Afghan fleet over the next several years by procuring UH-60s, with refurbishment and modification of the first 18; additional armed MD-530F helicopters, A-29 attack aircraft and AC-208s aircraft, which will provide Afghan National Defense and Security Forces an advantage on its domestic battlefields.

The planning involves seven different weapon systems, 14 program offices and more than 20 major contracts. As the UH-60s arrive, contract

maintenance experts will establish initial program stability, while Train, Advise, Assist Command-Air advisers conduct training classes and on-the-job training or Afghan pilots and maintainers.

"The UH-60 training will involve a blend of contractors, military and Afghan pilots," Stewart said. "The Afghan air force will begin by transitioning Mi-17 pilots and maintainers as we expect they will adapt faster to the Blackhawk."

Once the Afghans aviators graduate and become mission ready, combat missions will be planned and conducted by AAF crews independent of coalition forces.

"Growing an air force takes time, it takes many years of training and planning during peace time and the Afghans are doing this during war," Fiterre

said. "It is a herculean effort for the Afghans, and frankly, they are knocking this achievement out of the park."

The primary purpose of the UH-60 will be for troop and cargo transport, including casualty evacuation.

However, in addition to the 61 base model UH-60s, the AAF will also receive 58 UH-60 models with fixed forward-fire capabilities. According to TAAC-Air advisers, these numbers are based on the final forecasted end strength, assuming no attrition.

"The mission of TAAC-Air is to help our Afghan partners build a professional, capable and sustainable air force," Stewart said. "We stand ready to give our Afghan counterparts the best training and assistance possible, regardless of what aircraft they are flying."

Repair

From Page 9

the interior of the motor were damaged and a new engine needed to be installed."

After hours of examining the helicopter and scoping out the area for future teams, the mid shift crew was met by two HH-60Gs. The day shift team arrived and brought with them the engine that would replace the damaged unit in the helicopter.

"We ended up determining that we were not going to be able to get a ground vehicle into the area," said Tech. Sgt. Jesse Rivas, 55th HMU lead tech for crew chiefs. "We decided to airship the replacement engine and maintenance crane, along with the six personnel chosen for the swap, to the site."

Once the day team relieved the mid shift crew maintainers, the day team began to unload the replacement engine. Because the swap was being done with limited equipment, the engine had to be lifted out of the helicopter by hand.

"It took all six of us to download the engine onto a

cart," said Senior Airman Casey Lafond, 55th HMU helicopter crew chief. "Once we loaded it up, we had to transport it across a rocky landscape to the aircraft, which was about 15 feet away."

After setting up the crane used for the exchange, the determined crew immediately got to work and swapped out the engines.

After the day team's shift was over, another HH-60G arrived with the swing shift crew. After passing off the information needed to complete the job, the day team flew back to the base. Shortly after, the engine was successfully installed and the helicopter was ready to return to Davis-Monthan Air Force Base.

The 55th HMU team members successfully completed an engine swap in a mountainous landscape in less than 48 hours, a feat that is not easily accomplished.

"These are the kind of moments that make you proud," Rivas said. "Knowing that these guys have the knowledge, capability and will to do this and sustain it and make it happen, lives up to our motto - 'These things we do, that others may live.'"



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Calling

From Page 10

of a multitude of targeted programs and activities, as well as resiliency skills taught to enable Airmen to make sound choices. The CAF model stresses the importance of mental, physical, social and spiritual fitness as a means of creating resilient Airmen capable of winning the nation's wars.

"The four pillars of the CAF model are like magic," said Enoh. "If you put that into practice, life will be easier. For the most part we've listened to it so much that sometimes you tune it out, but it is

something I believe in. Chaplains are in the business of taking care of people, but you first have to take care of yourself."

Through the use of the CAF pillars, Enoh has been able to tend to his own needs. By taking care of himself, he has been able to affirm that his ministry, his dedication, and the journey on his road, have been able to make a difference.

"I'm always asking myself if I gave my all, and if I really helped that person," said Enoh. "A few times I've run into someone who came to me for help and been told, 'thank you chaplain for being there for me'. That changes my life every time I hear it."

Pilot

From Page 14

versed in the other cultures," Victor said.

Victor explained that he, initially, felt as if there were multiple Americas that he was living in, one being the America where people spoke Spanish, watched Spanish television, listened to Spanish music and understood the culture. The other was a place where certain individuals thought the Spanish influence wasn't even a part of America.

"People thought that I was foreign, but I am sixth-generation Texan and my grandfather

fought in World War II," said Victor. "We've been in the United States a long time and I think that many different ethnic groups, for whatever reason, have been segregated throughout American history."

Despite his early experiences, Victor hopes that by targeting the next generation of thinkers and filling the culture gap, he can expand on diversity within the STEM professional fields.

"Victor has definitely pushed me out of my comfort zone by making me apply for scholarships, volunteering and doing things that I wouldn't normally do," said Chiara Crawford, student mentor and member of a local robotics team.

Innovator

From Page 5

the project, his intention was to assist with training opportunities.

"Initially, the goal was to increase pre-deployment training capabilities, but it quickly became apparent that streamlining equipment would ease accountability issues, expanding our ability to learn and become familiar with advancing technologies and incorporate commercial, off-the-shelf technology into our training, allowing us to become better, more capable and flexible operators," Christopher said.

He also wanted to make things better for the next generation of tactical systems operators.

"This innovation has primed the unit to provide the best training available, with the newest systems available, while also evaluating those new systems and providing valuable feedback, along with possible fixes, to vendors," he said.

This noncommissioned officer's unique idea may seem technical and complicated to most, but to the Airmen using the systems, his improvements are invaluable.

Christopher's innovation became the backbone of the enhanced technology capabilities available at the different test ranges at Eglin Air Force Base, Florida, where he is stationed, as noted in his award citation. He also contributed to reducing range manpower and played a critical intelligence role in the Air Force Special Operations Command's Emerald Warrior exercise, delivering the most realistic signals environment to date.

Innovations by this Airman,

and others like him, help accomplish unit, wing, service and Defense Department missions.

"The team of professional Airmen working in the Research and Development section are extremely innovative in pioneering new ways to simultaneously increase efficacy and efficiency in the way we train to fight," said Lt. Col. Mathew Norton, 25th IS commander. "Tech. Sgt. Christopher has led this team to do just that! His knowledge and expertise have enabled him and his staff to acquire both equipment and technology to improve training processes across the board for the entire unit. Their streamlining of equipment has incorporated advanced training techniques, increased training realism and improved operational security.

"His leadership efforts have saved the squadron and the Air Force more than \$2 million and will decrease future manpower requirements and constraints by approximately 85 percent in order to afford personnel the opportunity to better train and fight downrange," Norton said.

The advancements Christopher and his teammates made will help other Airmen efficiently and effectively accomplish their mission, his supervisor said.

The gains the Logistic Support, Research and Development section at the 25th IS have made to tackle issues are a direct reflection of the creative thinking of the Airmen and NCOs, and their outside-the-box thinking, Joshua said.

"For the past few years, we have recognized that between deployments, manpower crunches, turnover rates and the constantly evolving technological arena that we operate within, innovation is a useful driver to become more

efficient at what we do," Joshua said. "The work Christopher has done could have been done by other Airmen, but no one thought of doing it."

Because of his motivation and effort to improve capabilities, Christopher was recently recognized by his wing commander, Col. Jonathan Rice IV, who presented him the Air Force Achievement Medal.

A humble Christopher said he is not a big fan of recognition though.

"I've never been one to seek out recognition or put myself in for awards," he said, adding that much of the innovation that happens within his section is due to the Airmen assigned there. "I have some smart people working for me, and I've also had the support of my (chain of command) to think outside of the box and make things happen."

Norton said Christopher and the entire team's ability to brainstorm new innovative techniques never ceases to amaze him.

"I'm extremely excited to continue supporting and encouraging their new ideas, concepts and theories ... all they need is for leadership to block and tackle for them, recognize their potential and enable their success," he said. "This team is the future of better quality training for our members and their more recent recognized accomplishments are a testament to that."

The 25th Intelligence Squadron falls under the 361st Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Group, 363rd ISR Wing, 25th Air Force. The units of the 361st ISRG provide direct support to Air Force Special Operations Command, and strengthen analytical and targeting support to the rest of the Air Force. The group and subordinate units conduct cultural and network studies to enhance tactics, techniques and procedures to ensure interoperability within the special operations forces, and they conduct research and development of commercial and government-acquired communications suites.

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Gould

From Page 2

so different than we were during my time." Fortunately, we are. When an Airman asks, "Why," "How come," or "What if," it's not to question authority; it's to understand the process and make it better. Airmen want to contribute and need only two things to excel: a goal and an opportunity. We do not require, or desire, micromanagement. Once provided a goal, we repeatedly

demonstrate our resourcefulness and innovation and those attributes directly relate to our diversity and experiences.

In the Air Force, failure is not part of our culture. From our earliest training, we pledge against its acceptance. Just recite the last line of our Airman's Creed and you will understand the truth of this premise. One of our safeguards against failure is maximizing our resources and personnel and is only feasible by embracing the diversity and strengths of our Airmen.



U.S. Air Force photo/Master Sgt. Joseph Swafford

1st Lt. Zach Gilbert, 21st Airlift Squadron C-17 Globemaster III pilot, talks to other crew members over the radio Sept. 21 while flying a 67-person U.S. Agency for International Development elite disaster team and their equipment into Mexico City International Airport.

Mexico City

From Page 5

Gremillion. "Our loadmaster had to deal with a non-standard cargo load and unloading in an unfamiliar location and did an outstanding job. The quicker the USAR team was able to get to Mexico, the quicker they could start to assist in SAR operations."

After completing the mission to Mexico City, the C-17 crew left Friday for St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands to deliver 114,000 pounds of hurricane relief supplies.

As of Friday morning USAID reports, the teams have worked into the night to search five buildings side-by-side with Mexican USAR teams and will continue to assess buildings for earthquake damage.




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St. Croix

From Page 3

said Capt. Whit Gremillion, 21st AS C-17 pilot and mission aircraft commander. "We have to prepare for the worst situations and hope for the best."

Capt. Kyle Brackett, 21st AS instructor pilot, echoed Gremillion's statement and added, "when changes come up, we deal with them because all of us know how important missions like these are."

Another critical component of bringing the needed humanitarian aid to those suffering is teamwork.

"The crew working together is essential to mission completion," said Senior Airman Austin Whisler, 21st AS C-17 loadmaster. "Missions have so many moving pieces. If everyone is not doing their part, it can become chaotic."

"The mission moves because of our ability to interface as a crew and with agencies on the ground," said Gremillion. "Without it, we probably would have never gotten out of Travis in the first place."

Utilizing flexibility and teamwork, the aircrew successfully and efficiently brought 105,000 pounds of needed food and water to the residents of the island.



U.S. Air Force photo/Master Sgt. Joseph Swafford

The view of hurricane-damaged St. Croix, Virgin Islands is seen Sept. 23 from a C-17 Globemaster III assigned to the 21st Airlift Squadron, Travis Air Force Base, Calif. The C-17 delivered 105,000 pounds and 18 pallets of water and Meals Ready to Eat to the island after it sustained damage from Hurricane Maria.

"It feels good knowing that the cargo we delivered will have such a positive impact on the people of St. Croix," said Costello. "Having been through several severe hurricanes while I was growing up, I certainly understand how the people of St. Croix feel."

The successful delivery of the USAID team to Mexico

and the humanitarian aid to St. Croix, are just a couple of the humanitarian relief missions currently being delivered out of Travis AFB throughout the world.

"It feels incredible to be able to directly impact the lives of so many, missions like this is why I wanted to be a Loadmaster," said Whisler.

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- Must know how to visually cover a variety of assignments such as sports, spot news, general news and portraits.
- Technical skills. Must know how to operate a DSLR camera, use Photoshop, photo editing software (Adobe Bridge and/or Photo Mechanic) and WordPress.
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Location: Travis AFB-Base Supply Store

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OF SOLANO COUNTY
WDB Regional Career Fair
Thursday, October 5, 2017
10:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.
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Workforce Development Board
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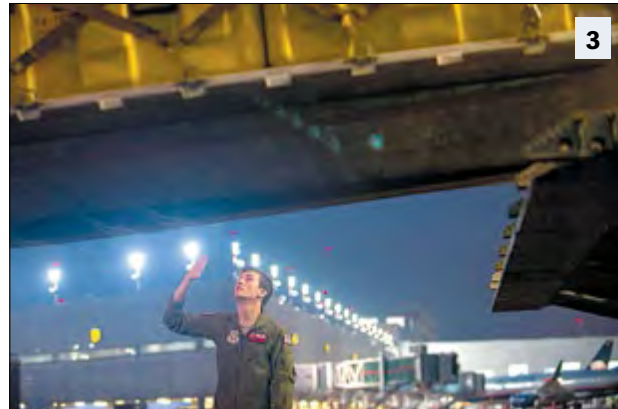
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1) Members of an U.S. Agency for International Development elite disaster team gather their gear after flying Sept. 21 on a Travis Air Force Base C-17 Globemaster III to Mexico City International Airport. The team was headed for Mexico to support search and rescue efforts after a 7.1 magnitude earthquake struck the country.

Travis travels to Mexico for quake ... RESPONSE

U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Joseph Swafford



2) Stephen Jones, a member of the Los Angeles County Fire Department and a U.S. Agency for International Development elite disaster team member, offloads luggage from a Travis Air Force Base, Calif., C-17 Globemaster III Sept. 21 at the Mexico City International Airport. 3) Senior Airman John Sarcia, 21st Airlift Squadron C-17 loadmaster, guides a forklift unloading medical supplies and equipment belonging to a U.S. Agency for International Development elite disaster team Sept. 21 at the Mexico City International Airport. 4) Sarcia guides a forklift unloading medical supplies Sept. 21 at the Mexico City International Airport.



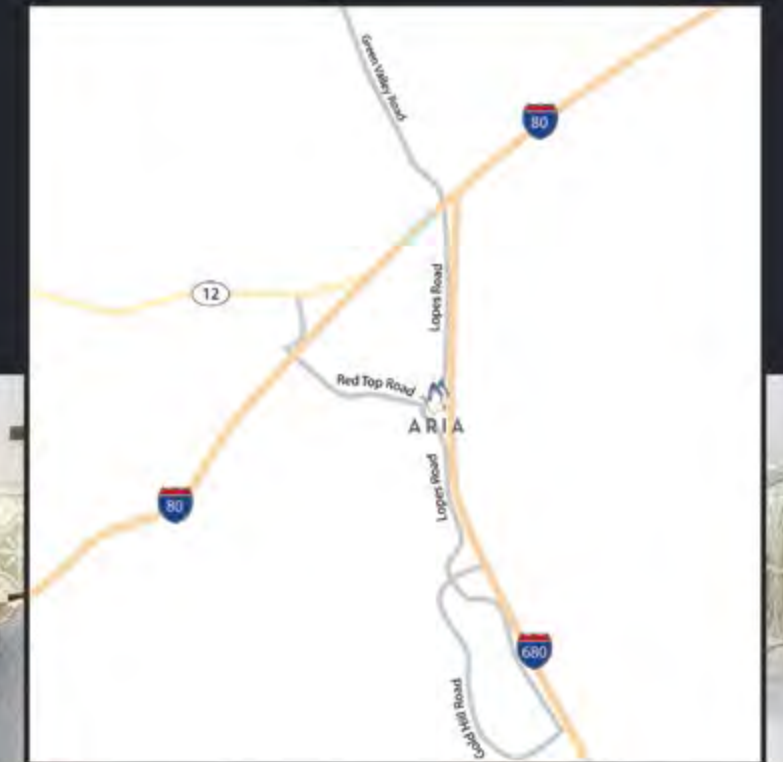
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