



UNITED STATES
AIR FORCE

Travis part of response to regional ...

WILDFIRES

PAGES 16-17

Digging for one vet's story reflects on all

This is a brief and microscopic view of another person's service:

When I started military service in 1993, I was given an artifact with a story behind it. It was a Silver Star in an old, worn case. The story came from his relatives who said it belonged to an uncle, Roberto L. Lopez. The name was written on the back of the medal. They told me he served as a medic in World War II and died in battle somewhere in Europe. I knew of other stories of Filipino veterans in World War II, but this was the first I had heard of one in Europe. The fact that he was a medic interested me more since I was one, too.

The other artifact was a flag, which was draped over his



Commentary by Col. Erwin Gines
60TH INPATIENT SQUADRON

casket. He was buried in Europe, but the flag and medal were delivered to his family in the Philippines. They did not know where the flag was currently, but recalled seeing it in the past. There were no other documents or artifacts known.

As the story was told to them by Lopez's brother and sisters, they remembered that he was a college educated economist from a

poor, rural town and immigrated to the United States through California in search of work. It was not uncommon for his family members to go elsewhere for work. His brother-in-law, for example, spent six months in Hawaii working in pineapple fields. He sent his earnings back to his family. Lopez came from a fairly

Commander's Commentary

well-to-do family of civil engineers, but life was tough. His parents raised him and his siblings – one brother and two sisters – so males earn money and females attend to the household. Each had an important role to the welfare of their family.

I asked what life was like for Lopez and his siblings, but they would only answer that it was very hard. Even though they made more money than others in his community, their difficult life was worsened when World War II engulfed their town. I imagine it became much harder with the loss of Lopez. His siblings grew to old age. Their children grew to be parents themselves; many of them also served full careers

in the U.S. military. As time progressed, the story of Lopez began to fade as there were fewer people who knew him.

Searching for World War II veterans' records was difficult in the 1990s. Many of their records were lost in a fire in the early 1970s. My early attempts to seek records were met with unanswered mail. My search was hampered because I did not have his service number. As my own career progressed, I tried to learn as much as I could about him and the units he may have been assigned to. As quoted from the Steven Spielberg movie "Saving Private Ryan," it was like "finding a needle in a stack of needles." Life continued, wars started, I deployed a lot, I grew my own family and I still had his medal. I paused my efforts to search for his story.

When stationed at Landstuhl

Regional Medical Center, Germany, in 2012, I continued to search. This was not the first time in Germany for me. On deployment, I stopped through there many times. This was the first time I had time to research.

When I visited Normandy, I did not find his name on the cemetery roster. Later, I met a few great people who also searched for veterans and their stories. They noted that many records now available were on the internet via the National Archives and Records Administration. Additionally, they supplied me a contact at the American Battle Monuments Commission, an entity that manages the cemeteries where U.S. service members are buried. As chance would have it, I found only one Roberto L. Lopez in the record. I was astonished to see how close his

See GINES Page 24



Commentary by Chief Master Sgt. Justin Helin
60TH INPATIENT SQUADRON

Service, helping others can bring joy to life

Are you thriving? Seriously, are you? I believe one of the roads to personal joy is service.

There are many roads that lead to our service in the Air Force. Some of them selfish, some of them selfless. Whether you joined for college education assistance or to defend our country, we all wear the same uniform and chose to serve on this great Air Force base. I wish I could tell you that I joined because

Chief's Commentary

of a long family history of military service or because I was inspired by events like 9/11, but I can't. Maybe you can't either and that's OK.

Regardless of one's original intent leading themselves to service of any kind, the work of a leader is to seek out and find these core reasons in others and themselves.

Ultimately, leaders need to find a way to merge these ambitions into a pattern of service.

Whether it's a product or a service, personal satisfaction comes easy for people when they have tangible results. For the person who enjoyed the work, it is a pleasure. To the person who did not enjoy the journey, they can at least focus on the satisfaction of the final work because of the impact it brings.

Help yourself and others to see that both roads will eventually lead to an internal joy. Sometimes the work takes time and sacrifice, but the self-discipline to stay the course and not give into the need for microwaved instant gratification will ultimately be well worth the sacrifice. Things that come easy are rarely treasured anyway. Think about it.

See HELIN Page 21

Sergeant battles cancer with faith, support, hoops

Senior Airman Amber Carter
60TH AIR MOBILITY WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

While deployed to Kuwait in 2016, Staff Sgt. Cinnamon Kava, 60th Logistics Readiness Squadron unit training manager, discovered a solid knot on her collarbone.

"I was lying in bed and went to adjust my necklace when I felt it," said Kava. "I did what everyone does, I went online to research 'knots on neck.'"

When the online search returned information about the possibility of cancer, she couldn't believe what she was reading.

"When I mentioned the search to a couple people in my shop, they told me to stay off the Internet because I was just going to freak myself out," said Kava. "I went to the doctor soon after and they did an ultrasound, but they couldn't tell what it was."

She went from Kuwait to a U.S. Army base in the area that did a positron emission tomography scan. The PET scan led them to believe she needed a biopsy, so she was sent to Ramstein Air Base, Germany.

A PET scan is an imaging test that allows a doctor to check for diseases in the body.

The scan uses a special dye that has radioactive tracers. A biopsy is a sample of tissue taken from the body in order to examine it more closely.

"They said, 'we looked at your PET scan and it looks concerning as it could possibly be lymphoma,'" said Kava. "So, they sent me back to Travis Air Force Base, California, my home base, to get the biopsy."

From discovery of a knot to being medically evacuated as a possible cancer patient was a matter of a couple days.

"It all happened so fast," she said. "I was in Germany for maybe 12 hours before I was medevac'd. Luckily, my dad, John, and stepmom, Wendy, were able to meet me at Travis when I arrived."

She was biopsied upon arrival and then had to wait for her results. While her dad and stepmom were staying at the Fisher House on base, Kava went to the hospital for a separate appointment and, while there, was summoned into the office for her results.

"I was by myself when I got the news," said Kava. "My initial reaction was that it was all so surreal. The doctor handed

See BATTLES Page 25



U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Amber Carter
Staff Sgt. Cinnamon Kava, center, 60th Logistics Readiness Squadron unit training manager, poses for a photo Oct. 4 with Dr. Sareena Malhi, left, 60th Medical Operations Squadron physician, and Capt. Kendra Alanis, 60th MDOS clinical nurse, at David Grant USAF Medical Center Oncology unit. Malhi and Alanis were Kava's medical support system during her chemotherapy treatment.

Tailwind



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60th Air Mobility Wing

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60th Air Mobility Wing commander

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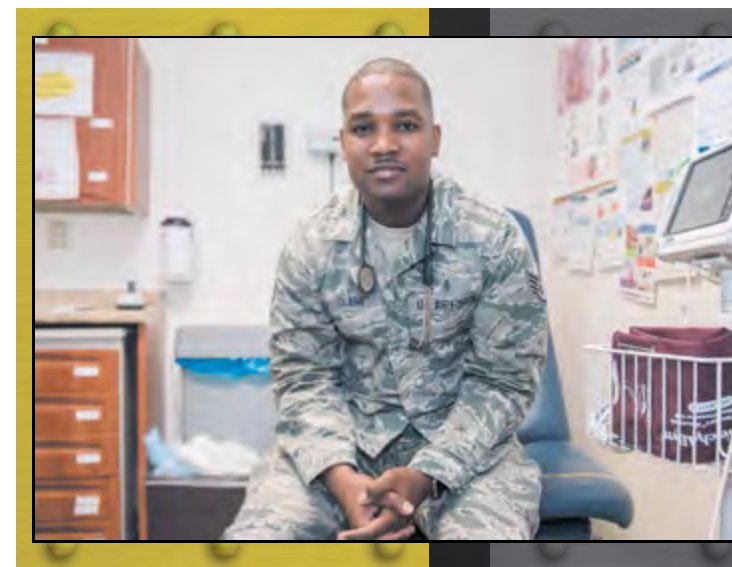
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On the cover

Firefighters and fire trucks from the 60th Civil Engineer Squadron at Travis Air Force Base, Calif., have been assisting first responders battle local wild fires, Oct. 11.

U.S. Air Force photo/Louis Briscose



U.S. Air Force photo/Hedra Couch

WARRIOR OF THE WEEK

Name:
Staff Sgt. Larin Clark.

Time in service:
Seven years.

What are your hobbies?
Fitness, basketball and football.

Unit:
60th Medical Operations Squadron.

Family:
None.

What is your greatest achievement?

Duty title:
Aerospace medicine technician.

What are your goals?
Community College of the Air Force, Independent Duty Medical Technician program, making technical sergeant and PA program.

Helped three victims of a suicide bomber receive a higher echelon of care within 36 hours of injury, crucial to their survival.

Congressman visits to see FEMA wildfire response



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Jonathon D. A. Carnell
U.S. Rep. John Garamendi, right, D-Calif., speaks with members of the Federal Emergency Management Agency Region 9 and Emergency Preparedness Liason Officers Oct. 17 at the 60th Aerial Port Squadron at Travis Air Force Base, Calif. Garamendi visited Travis to discuss the efforts given by multiple agencies coming together to provide relief after multiple wildfires in Northern California.

Retirement system training now available

Kat Bailey

AIR FORCE PERSONNEL CENTER
 PUBLIC AFFAIRS

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas — The Defense Department will implement the new Blended Retirement System next year. While no one needs to make a decision until Jan. 1, 2018, all

Airmen should take advantage of training and informational resources to research their options during the remainder of 2017.

Airmen eligible for the new Blended Retirement System began receiving email notifications in February from myPers to ensure they receive correct information regarding

their benefits to make the decision best suited for their individual needs.

The opt-in course is designed to provide sufficient information for eligible Airmen to make an educated decision about their retirement system.

However, Airmen are highly encouraged to discuss their situations with a personal

financial counselor at the Airman and Family Readiness Center. The Blended Retirement System opt-in training is available on Advanced Distributed Learning Service under the “Selected Force Training” drop down menu.

Only those active Airmen who, as of Dec. 31, have

See TRAINING Page 21

Units help Airman travel after Las Vegas shooting

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

“On (Oct. 2), a little after 8 o’clock in the morning, I received notice from my first sergeant that a family member of one of our troops had been shot in an ongoing active shooter event in Las Vegas, Nevada,” said Lt. Col. Shannon Caleb, 726th Air Mobility Squadron commander at Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany. “Immediately, I knew we had to get this Airman some help; with Spangdahlem AB just into our first hour of the duty day.”

Caleb coordinated with various agencies such as the Military Family Life Consultant and Chaplain to offer support to Senior Airman Parker Melanson, 89th OSS, Andrews AFB, Washington, D.C., deployed to the 726th AMS intelligence and tactics shop, since June, after learning that his mother and sister were shot Oct. 1 at the Route 91 Harvest Music Festival in Las Vegas.

“The Red Cross had stated they needed more information before opening a case issuing an emergency notice for travel,” said Caleb. “Simultaneously, I checked our daily seven-day Air-Trans Forecast and identified a C-17 (Globemaster III) mission departing here at (noon) local. I informed Parker that we could get him on the flight.”

Caleb directed Master Sgt. Ethan Glen, 726th AMS first sergeant, to coordinate emergency leave paperwork and commercial air travel and get Melanson to the passenger terminal to catch the flight on a C-17 to Travis Air Force Base, California.

Within four hours of

See TRAVEL Page 22

Blood drive pumps life into community



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Christian Conrad
Kathryn McClelland and John Lopez, Blood Centers of the Pacific phlebotomists, process blood donations into the organization’s database Oct. 18 on Travis Air Force Base, Calif. Lopez and McClelland are two phlebotomists who manned a blood mobile used to encourage Travis Airmen to donate blood for good causes.

Know risks of decorative contact lenses

Jaime Okamura, OD, FAAO
 TRAVIS AIR FORCE BASE OPTOMETRIST

Halloween is all about scary: scary costumes, scary decorations, scary pumpkins. But don’t let it include a scary eye infection.

Each year, people young and old are attracted by the appeal of cosmetic contact lenses which will change natural eye color into something scary. Perfect for Halloween, right? They can be, if users follow some basic tips.

Caleb directed Master Sgt. Ethan Glen, 726th AMS first sergeant, to coordinate emergency leave paperwork and commercial air travel and get Melanson to the passenger terminal to catch the flight on a C-17 to Travis Air Force Base, California.

Within four hours of

breaking the law.

Since one size does not fit all, an optometrist or ophthalmologist must properly fit these lenses and provide proper follow up care to avoid the potential for serious eye damage. People can safely buy the lenses from any seller that requires a prescription before allowing you to purchase them, whether online or in person.

The possible risks of not getting a proper fit and follow up can include scratched cornea, eye infection/pink eye, decreased vision and possibly blindness. Failure to properly clean, maintain and follow a wearing schedule can also lead to these problems.

How does someone know if they are having a problem? Some may experience any of the following symptoms: redness, pain in the eye that doesn’t go away after a short

while, discharge from the eye, and decreased vision. Those noticing any of these should see their optometrist or ophthalmologist. It’s important to know that a contact lens-related eye infection could lead to permanent vision loss, sometimes in less than 24 hours.

Here are some “do’s” for this Halloween season to keep eyes healthy and to prevent any eye problems: Get an eye exam, even if you don’t need glasses. Get a prescription. Follow the recommended wear and care schedule. Seek medical attention immediately and remove contact lenses at the first sign of symptoms. Most of all, have fun and scare friends and neighbors with those scary eyes.

Don’t let a few days of having the perfect costume outweigh the risk of vision loss. Additional information can be found at <http://bit.ly/2hOoDP7>.

Study abroad program available for students

Amy Christopherson
 DEFENSE MEDIA ACTIVITY

FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, Md. — The State Department’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs offers study abroad scholarships for high school students.

Students ages 15 to 18 are invited to apply to study abroad for one academic year through any of three programs.

The Congress Bundestag Youth Exchange Program is an opportunity for students to live with a host family in Germany, attending a local high school and learning the German language and culture. The application period is open through

Dec. 11 and 250 scholarships are available. For more information, visit <http://www.us-agermanyscholarship.org/>.

The Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange and Study Abroad offers merit-based scholarships for students to study in one of 13 countries in the Middle East, Africa, Asia and the Balkans. The application period is through Dec. 5 and 65 scholarships are available. For more information, visit <http://www.yes-abroad.org/>.

Study abroad opportunities offer a chance to create friendships around the globe, develop leadership and language skills and promote mutual understanding.

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Beale, local agencies fight California wildfires



A fire burns along a ridge during the California wildfires Oct. 12 in Rough and Ready, Calif. The 9th Civil Engineer Squadron sent a four-man team as a part of the initial response to work with local civil authorities to combat the fires.

**Airman 1st Class
Tristan D. Viglianco**
9TH RECONNAISSANCE WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

BEALE AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. — Firefighters from the 9th Civil Engineer Squadron at Beale Air Force Base, California, are partnering with state and local fire departments to fight fires in Butte, Yuba and Nevada counties.

The 9th CES sent a four-man team as a part of the initial response to work with local civil authorities Oct. 9 to combat the fires. The team assisted with battling the blazes throughout the week.

“We were dispatched early (Oct. 9) and worked for 60 hours on the Cascade fire,” said Airman 1st Class Thomas Rush, 9th CES firefighter. “Then we came back to base camp and took 12 hours off before going back to work on the Lobo fire for 12 hours. After that, we slept for a night and then worked another 24 hours on the Lobo fire.”

Having only been at Beale a year, Rush believes this experience will serve him and his team in the future when it comes to combating wildfires.

Additionally, Beale AFB sent a team to support the Grass Valley Interagency Air Attack Base. The base serves as a hub for fire protection aircraft and is located approximately 35 miles from Beale AFB.

“We have been supporting the aircraft that are going out and providing reconnaissance and dropping water and retardant on the fires,” said Airman 1st Class Alexander Herrera, 9th CES firefighter. “We are out here to make sure nothing goes wrong and respond if something does.”

According to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, there were 156 fire engines combatting four different fires in the counties close to Beale AFB. The fires have burned approximately 17,000 acres and displaced

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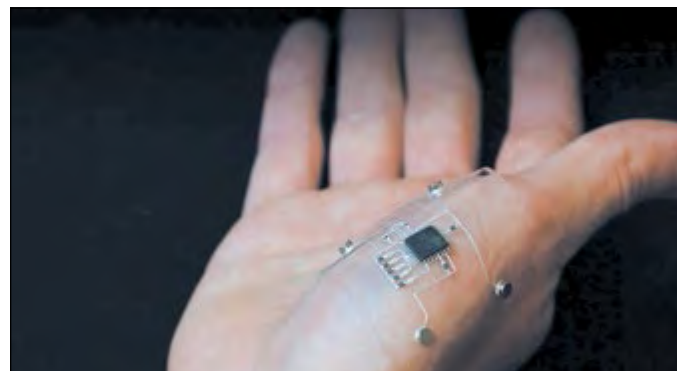
Air Force 'chips' in to invention

Marisa Alia-Novobilski
AIR FORCE RESEARCH LABORATORY

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio — It is often said that "two heads are better than one." For the Air Force, leveraging the expertise and insights of academia has led to advances in materials development and processing destined to be a game changer for the future fight.

A collaboration between scientists at the Air Force Research Laboratory and Harvard University's Wyss Institute for Biologically Inspired Engineering has resulted in a new method for digital design and printing of stretchable, flexible electronics. The process, called Hybrid 3-D printing, uses additive manufacturing to integrate soft, conductive inks with a material substrate to create stretchable, wearable electronic devices.

"This is the first time a 3-D printer has been shown, in a single process, to print stretchable sensors with



Courtesy photo

A technique called Hybrid 3-D printing, developed by Air Force Research Laboratory researchers in collaboration with the Wyss Institute at Harvard University, uses additive manufacturing to integrate soft, conductive inks with material substrates to create stretchable electronic devices.

integrated microelectronic components," said Dan Berrigan, a research scientist at the AFRL Materials and Manufacturing Directorate. "Starting from nothing, the printer builds an entire stretchable circuit that blends the mechanical durability of printed components with the robust performance of off-the-shelf electronics."

In this demonstration, a 3-D printer was used to print

even after being stretched by more than 30 percent from original size.

"This has a lot of potential for Air Force applications, particularly in the areas of rapid prototyping, wearable electronics, sensors and human performance monitoring," said Berrigan. "Skin-worn electronics have the potential to provide feedback on movement, body temperature, fatigue, hydration and other metrics crucial to understanding Airmen performance. However, while skin is inherently soft and stretchable, electronics and sensors are not.

"Additive manufacturing lets us custom design complex form factors that can enable electronics to be integrated into unique places. Repackaging high-performance electronics to be stretchable and tailored to an individual often begins with rethinking the materials and processes used to manufacture these devices."

When tested, the additively manufactured, hybrid-electronic devices were able to maintain function

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Air Force releases study guides

Marilyn Holliday
AIR EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMMAND
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-Randolph — Air Force officials have released the 2017 Air Force Handbook 1, Airman and the Enlisted Promotions Study Guides.

AFH-1 is available at <http://bit.ly/2xMDLTb> and also on every Airman's government computer desktop. To find AFH-1 on Air Force e-publishing, search for AFHandbook1.

Individual study guides for each enlisted grade, which are created from information within the handbook, are available for immediate download at www.studyguides.af.mil. These guides aid Airmen testing for promotion beginning with the February 2018 testing cycle. A .pdf file for each enlisted grade is available for downloading in preparation for the United States Air Force Supervisory Exam or Promotion Fitness Exam.

As reported previously, master sergeants testing for promotion in the 18E8 promotion cycle will still use the 2015 version of the senior master sergeant study guide as study reference material.

"The publishing of the new Air Force Handbook 1 is the first step toward revolutionizing this product for our Airmen," said Chief Master Sgt. Juliet Gudgel, Air Education and Training Command command chief. "As AETC moves forward with the Continuum of Learning, we need to look at how this product is delivered to the force. In order for our Airmen to be successful, we need to find a way to modularize AFH-1 so that it is portable from any device and from any location."

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Technician saves time, money with innovations

Staff Sgt. Benjamin Gonsier
455TH AIR EXPEDITIONARY WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan — The success of the Air Force isn't determined by those with stars on their shoulders, but by the Airmen on the frontlines who strive to create innovative new processes to execute the mission more effectively.

Senior Airman Christopher Caruso realized there was a much better way to test the functionality of a sniper pod and the electrical systems of an F-16 Fighting Falcon, so he pioneered a new way to detect problems and troubleshoot those systems.

Caruso, a native of Campton, New Hampshire, is an avionics technician with the maintenance unit attached to the 555th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron.

"As an avionics technician, I inspect the electrical and communication systems on the F-16," said Caruso. "This aircraft is a fly by wire, so it is a digital system sending signals everywhere. Without the wiring, and the Airmen who maintain them, this aircraft would literally be a sitting hunk of metal."

During his time deployed to Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, Caruso's two innovations were a digital video recorder tester and a sniper pod test stand. They may sound simple, but they're crucial in keeping the close air



U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Benjamin Gonsier

Senior Airman Christopher Caruso is an avionics technician assigned to the 555th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Unit. Caruso inspects the electrical and communication systems on the F-16 Fighting Falcon.

support mission moving.

"The DVR tester allows me to interface with the aircraft and bypass the digital video recorder head unit, which records all of the videos from the multifunction display," he said. "The multifunction display shows the pilot what is going on with the aircraft. It will also show radio frequencies, flight displays and other visual aids the pilot has while flying."

In order for this to work, Caruso bought a small television,

which he connects to the aircraft, and gives him a live view of what the pilot sees on their systems.

"Bypassing this system, I am able to view everything and troubleshoot down to a broken wire," said Caruso. "In the past, I would have to take a cartridge out of the head unit and bring it over to another section, which is usually not manned 24/7, to give it an ops check. With this method, we are able to see real-time if there is an

issue with the wiring or the head unit."

For maintenance, time is an essential commodity and a longer wait to troubleshoot a component means an aircraft may be grounded for an extended amount of time, putting a burden on other aircraft.

This time-saving mentality extends to another innovation Caruso devised, one which impacts the sniper pod.

The sniper pod is an advanced long-range target

detection/identification and continuous stabilized surveillance for all missions, including close air support of ground forces. The sniper pod enables aircrews to detect and identify weapon caches and individuals carrying armaments, all outside jet noise ranges.

"The sniper pod test stand allows us to troubleshoot a pod by performing maintenance on it and perform ops checks without physically mounting it to the aircraft," said Caruso.

While there are other apparatuses used to hold the sniper pod, they are designed in a way that blocks certain compartments, limiting the actual maintenance Airmen can do. The sniper pod stand, designed using computer-aided design software Caruso found online, was created to enable maintainers to conduct ops checks as if it was actually mounted to the aircraft, and make repairs.

"This innovation saves between two to three hours during sniper pod maintenance," said Chief Master Sgt. Wesley Ruuti, 455th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron F-16 maintenance superintendent. "That equates to around six to nine total man-hours, given pod maintenance is usually performed by two to three personnel."

One of the best benefits in a combat environment is the ability to do pod maintenance directly on the aircraft without

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Airman shows resilience countering life's jabs

Airman 1st Class Isaiah Randall, 23rd Equipment Maintenance Squadron aircraft structural maintenance apprentice, poses for a photo Oct. 2 at Moody Air Force Base, Ga. Among four months of turmoil, Randall came to understand the true concept of resiliency, leaning on the support from his family, both by blood and by service, and God to guide him through.

U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Daniel Snider



Senior Airman Lauren M. Sprunk
23RD WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

MOODY AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. — God. Family. Boxing.

That's all that matters to Airman 1st Class Isaiah Randall, 23rd Equipment Maintenance Squadron aircraft structural maintenance apprentice.

Life's unpredictable ups and downs often test people in ways that shake the foundations that give them peace though.

His father was shot, his aunt died and his grandmother was diagnosed with cancer. The rage, devastation and sorrow caused by family turmoil left him reeling. He looked for inner peace in his longtime passion, boxing, but a torn ligament left him staggering.

With nowhere to turn, Randall came to understand the true concept of resilience, leaning on the support from his family, both by blood and by

service, and God to guide him through.

"I kept wondering what I had done to deserve all of this," said Randall. "Then I remembered a phrase from my childhood: 'God only gives his toughest battles to his strongest soldiers.'"

However, among four months of turmoil, Randall learned for the first time that there was more to that phrase he always kept in the back of his mind and even the strongest soldiers need somewhere to lean.

This had been a foreign concept for the Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, native as he had always been supportive of his family, carrying them through a world of drugs and violence. Although he may have left home to serve, his role had not changed, as his family fled to him when tragedy struck.

Randall said his father was

See JABS Page 19

Phishing scams eye personal details

21st Security Force Squadron

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — Many of us believe we're too clever to fall for a phishing scam. However, scammers today have gotten good. Their tricks now go far beyond the "Nigerian prince" letter asking for money.

In general, scammers make it seem like they need personal information quickly – or something bad will happen. They might say your account will be frozen, you'll fail to get a tax refund, your boss will have you fired, that a family member will be hurt or that you will be arrested. They tell lies to get you to give them what they want.

Fraudsters often sound legitimate because they likely already have some of your personal information. They may rattle off your Social Security number or the last four digits of your credit card – possibly the result of a previous data breach from a retailer or other company. Many can be aggressive and downright nasty when they threaten jail time and demand money on the spot.

Today, as technical security defenses against electronic phishing have gotten better, criminals are now seeking to directly target individuals using a type of psychological manipulation known as "social engineering." It's a lucrative crime.

You don't need a skilled programmer to do social engineering – just someone who sounds convincing over the phone. On top of this, the growth of social media has played right into the criminals' hands.

A key part of social engineering is having information on your target. Criminals can get this from buying hacked data or by studying a victim's social media profile.

See PHISHING Page 22

McConnell completes KC-46 hangar

Airman 1st Class Erin McClellan
22ND AIR REFUELING WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

MCCONNELL AIR FORCE BASE, Kan. — Members of the McConnell Air Force Base, Kansas, community held a ribbon-cutting ceremony Oct. 16 for the new KC-46 Pegasus three-bay hangar.

Since 2014, the installation has underwent \$267 million of military construction to prepare for the airframe. Today, 14 of the 16 projects are completed and the base now stands ready to be the first to accept the new multi-role aircraft next year.

"The KC-46 will revolutionize air refueling," said Col. Josh Olson, 22nd Air Refueling Wing commander. "It is only appropriate that the home of air refueling take the lead with this new airframe, and that started with these 16 construction projects. They reflect years of hard work from individuals in our community who are literally laying the foundation for the future of our Air Force."

The construction on



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Erin McClellan

The sun rises over the KC-46 Pegasus three-bay hangar Oct. 12 at McConnell Air Force Base, Kansas. All KC-46 construction on McConnell has been completed, and the base now stands ready to be the first to accept the new aircraft.

McConnell has been giving back to the local community since it began. Local companies were awarded \$24 million in contracts, and \$25 million worth of Kansas steel was used for the three hangars, 79

percent of which was recycled.

In addition, out-of-town workers supported the economy through hotel and housing rentals and the purchase of food, fuel, internet services and construction material. When

workers were needed, the jobs were sourced to local laborers.

"Because of the mission, work and effort (done at McConnell) America is safer, more secure place," said U.S. Senator Jerry Moran of Kansas.

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Wilson awards Air Force Cross, medals to commandos

Senior Airman Ryan Conroy
24TH SPECIAL OPERATIONS WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

HURLBURT FIELD, Fla. — The team was trapped, outnumbered and bombarded by grenades and machine gun fire from elevated positions. Bullets ricocheted around them.

Ordnance from circling, friendly aircraft exploded meters from their position, shaking the ground, as smoke from an exploded cache smothered the village.

Their mission was originally to kill or capture high-value Taliban leaders that fateful night Nov. 2, 2016, in Kunduz Province, Afghanistan, but as the enemy closed in around them, they quickly realized their mission had changed: survive.



U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Ryan Conroy

Secretary of the Air Force Heather Wilson presents Distinguished Flying Crosses to five members of an AC-130U Spooky Gunship aircrew assigned to the 4th Special Operations Squadron Oct. 17 at Hurlburt Field, Fla.

SecAF commends Airmen for valor

Secretary of the Air Force Heather Wilson awarded 10 valorous medals, including the

Air Force Cross, to Air Force Special Operations Command air commandos in a ceremony Oct. 17 at Hurlburt Field.

“This mission was a perfect example of the power of our Special Tactics Airmen when teamed with American airpower and the nation’s elite ground forces,” said Wilson. “It reminds the world of what makes us who we are, and it reminds our enemies that there is no place to hide.”

Staff Sgt. Richard Hunter, a 23rd Special Tactics Squadron special tactics combat controller, was awarded the Air Force’s highest medal, the Air Force Cross, for gallantry against an armed enemy of the U.S. in combat.

Special Tactics Airmen are the Air Force’s ground special operations force, specializing in everything from precision strike to personnel recovery on the battlefield and during humanitarian crises.

Additionally, five members of Spooky 43, the AC-130U gunship aircrew that supported the ground special operations team during the same operation, were awarded Distinguished Flying Crosses and four received Air Medals with Valor.

The AC-130U “Spooky” gunship’s primary missions are close air support, air

interdiction and armed reconnaissance. Close air support missions include supporting troops in contact and providing convoy escort. The gunship is outfitted with 40 mm, 105 mm cannons and a 25 mm Gatling gun for precise and powerful strikes on the battlefield.

“This mission proved to be the ultimate test of our air commandos in air-to-ground integration on the battlefield,” said Lt. Gen. Brad Webb, AFSOC commander. “Hunter and Spooky 43’s precision strike capabilities were pushed to the limits under extreme fire to eliminate our enemies and defend our joint partners.”

The actions of Spooky 43 in the air and Hunter on the ground were credited with eliminating the enemy and saving the lives of the Army special forces team and 43 Afghan soldiers involved in the deadly ambush.

“What was truly extraordinary when I read this story was the amazing precision and professionalism of the team,” said Wilson. “When we need swift, precise violence, we call them. There is no better friend and no worse enemy than the United States special operations forces.”

Chaos on the ground, hate raining from above

Hunter was embedded with a Army special forces team and their Afghan partners when they were ambushed by heavy machine gun fire from an elevated position as they entered a village, Nov. 2, 2016, near Kunduz, Afghanistan.

“We came across a large, metal gate that had been closed prior to our arrival. I want you to imagine something 12-foot tall, about a quarter-inch thick steel, a pretty massive piece of metal in front of us,” said Hunter. “We found ourselves in a three-way ambush, 270 degrees all around us.”

Finding themselves trapped in the village and in a dire situation, Hunter and his team withstood an enemy ambush of grenades and machine gun fire, resulting in four friendly force injuries.

AFA seeks nominees for annual recognition

Staff Sgt. Alexx Pons
AIR FORCE PERSONNEL CENTER
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas — Air Force officials are seeking nominations for the 2018 Air Force Association Outstanding Air Force Civilian Employees of the Year Award.

Each year the AFA recognizes four Air Force civilian employees for outstanding achievement in four categories: civilian wage employee of the year; civilian program specialist, GS-1 through GS-11; civilian program manager, GS-12 and GS-13; and civilian senior manager, GS-14 and GS-15.

Nominations are evaluated on the nature of the achievement, development of techniques or procedures that significantly increased mission effectiveness and breadth of impact.

Organizations and base-level personnel must contact their major commands, combatant commands, field operating agencies, direct reporting units or MAJCOM-equivalent agency for applicable suspense date and additional information regarding nomination procedures. Each MAJCOM, COCOM, FOA and DRU may submit one nomination. All nomination packages are due to the Air Force’s Personnel Center no later than Jan. 5, 2018.

Specifics regarding the award are available via myPers. Select “any” from the dropdown menu and search “Special Trophies and Awards.”

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

Wilson

From Page 12

Hunter charged forward under enemy fire, leaving cover to drag a wounded teammate back with one hand, while using his free hand to call in suppressive fire through close air support from the Spooky 43 crew overhead.

“At this point, (the team) is dragging (casualties) down the alleyway while still returning fire and we’re using all of our weapons on the aircraft to destroy fighting positions and buildings ... all within about 12 meters of Staff Sgt. Hunter,” said Maj. Alexander Hill, Spooky 43 aircraft commander. “We told Hunter to put his head down and we fired closer than I think anyone’s ever fired an air-burst round.”

As the Spooky 43 crew received the calls from Hunter

on the ground for the firepower necessary to deter the enemy, they were required to exceed cooling requirements on the 105 mm Howitzer cannon, risking potential detonation inside the aircraft. With their expert skill and coordination, the crew was able to support the ground forces with the 40 mm cannon and at times forced to manually fire rounds called on by Hunter to defeat the enemy.

According to Hill, the crew actively fired every weapon available to them for 107 consecutive minutes during the battle.

“To see the teamwork in particular and how good and professional everyone was, when they absolutely had to be—I couldn’t be more proud to be a part of that,” said Hill.

With the smoke from the battle becoming too thick for the team to maneuver through the village, Hunter took direction from the aircraft overhead

as he continued to call in enemy positions. Hunter expended all AC-130U point-detonate 105 mm rounds, with only eight airburst rounds remaining. With the enemy element closing on the ground forces, the aircrew was able to stabilize the aircraft and fire an airburst round, typically used in open fields, at an unprecedented 12 meters from friendly forces, annihilating the insurgents.

Hunter and the Spooky 43 crew worked together to call in fire from AH-64 Apache helicopters, preparing medical helicopters to evacuate casualties and activating the quick reaction force needed to evacuate the friendly forces from the village.

“There was so much chaos on the ground, and everybody above us had our backs completely,” said Hunter. “It was a beautiful, beautiful thing, because as scared as we all were and as bad as the situation was,

at no point did I fear for my life and neither did my brothers because overhead we have these guys in the gunship raining all kinds of hate and taking care of us completely.”

The combined actions of Hunter and the Spooky 43 aircrew proved decisive on the battlefield and demonstrated the enormous impact of AF-SOC’s precision strike core mission. Precision strike provides ground forces with specialized capabilities to find, engage and assess targets. This synergy is credited for saving thousands of lives over the last 16 years of war.

“I am extremely proud of what our Airmen accomplished when they were tested on the battlefield,” said Webb. “They did what I know every Airman in this command would do when facing a relentless enemy. They overcame, adapted and pushed the boundaries of possible.”

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Travis stages FEMA, fights regional wildfires



60th Air Mobility Wing Public Affairs

At the request of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency, Travis was designated an installation support base during the response to the Atlas Fire, which has spread across Northern California since Oct. 8.

The base will house one bus, three tractor trailers with food, 15 ambulances and 30 personnel from FEMA, which are being transported via truck to the base. They began arriving at 11 a.m., Oct. 12 and are coordinating response efforts from Travis.

Twenty-two additional tractor trailers and 100 ambulances are expected to arrive by tomorrow morning.

Several organizations across Travis will support FEMA, including the 60th Aerial Port Squadron, which will provide the staging area and space necessary to assist with fire relief efforts.

Additionally, Travis is assisting civil authorities in firefighting and relief efforts across the Bay Area. Three Travis firetrucks and 10 fire personnel from the 60th Civil Engineer Squadron fire and emergency services flight were staged west of Fairfield, California, Oct. 10-11. The trucks aided local fire departments in defending properties, controlling the fire and refilling 15 to 25 other trucks with water. Their efforts assisted in structural protection across the area.

Five fire personnel and three firetrucks aided fire response efforts in the Rancho Solano area of Fairfield. Two firefighters responded with the base water tender to Dixon, California, in response to a three-alarm fire. Additional personnel and equipment remain on standby at the base.

Two 1.2-megawatt generators were transported to the Green Valley Water Treatment Plant Oct. 10 and remain at the plant to provide power. A team of 19 personnel from the 60th CES, the 60th Logistics Readiness Squadron and the Civil Engineer Maintenance Incident Response Team remains on standby if further assistance is needed.

Travis remains ready to respond to requests from civil authorities with additional personnel and resources.



1) Chris Anthony from California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection provides remarks Oct. 16 during a town hall meeting for family and service members of the 621st Contingency Response Wing at Travis Air Force Base, Calif. 2) Federal Emergency Management Agency assets arrived Oct. 12 at Travis Air Force Base, Calif.

3) Federal Emergency Management Agency assets arrived Oct. 13 at Travis Air Force Base, Calif. 4) FEMA assets arrived Oct. 12 at Travis Air Force Base, Calif. At the request of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Travis was designated as an installation support base during response to the Atlas Fire, which spread across Northern California beginning Oct. 8. 5) A firefighter from the 60th Civil Engineer Squadron fire and emergency services flight, puts on his wildland personal protective equipment Oct. 11 at Travis Air Force Base. 6) Firefighters and firetrucks from the 60th CES fire and emergency services flight at Travis have assisted fellow first responders battle local wildfires Oct. 11.

Jabs

From Page 10

shot with seven bullets and that his wounds left him on the brink of death. His family needed him, as they always had, but he was unsure how to respond. He tried praying, but he was losing faith and feeling like nothing could help him.

Normally, Randall would channel this anger and feeling of hopelessness into the boxing ring, a relief he has indulged in since he was 11 years old, and a passion he planned to later turn into a career. Unfortunately for him, two recent knee surgeries stripped him of this coping mechanism.

As fast as his defense was taken away, life continued to beat him down.

"Just when I thought things couldn't get any worse, several calls from my mother woke me and I knew right away that something was wrong," said Randall. "When I answered, she was crying hysterically and she said my aunt, my best friend growing up, had died. I lost it."

Without an escape, he found a saving grace where he least expected, in his Air Force family.

"Randall was broken," said Master Sgt. Justin Archer, Randall's section chief. "When he came in he couldn't talk. He just sat here crying. None of us really knew what to say so I just hugged him. He needed it. He was at a point where he needed a wingman, someone like a brother or father, to be there for him. I think that's when he learned how close knit not only the Air Force family, but our maintenance family is. We have a very demanding job. We work a lot of long hours and we're put under a lot of pressure, but that builds a cohesiveness among all of us. We bicker and fight but, just like family, we will always have each other's back."

For the first time in his life, he leaned on others to support the weight that his

circumstances were placing on him.

"When I went home, it was tempting for me to fall back into my old ways, but I didn't, and I owe that to my supervision," said Randall. "Any time my mind wandered and I came close to doing something I would regret, I got a message from one of my supervisors. Even if they just asked how my day was going, it was enough to screw my head on straight. I never would've expected that from them. A year ago, I looked at my leadership as just a lot of stripes on a uniform that gave me instructions every day. But today, they're part of my family, they helped save me."

With this new perspective of his Air Force family, Randall persevered through his time spent at home for his aunt's funeral and returned standing strong. Though he thought he had been through all he could handle, his battle grew tougher. His grandmother was diagnosed with a severe case of breast cancer and wasn't expected to live long.

"I hit my low and felt like giving up, but I knew no one was going to let me," said Randall. "I knew I had my family in my corner and then my mom reminded me of one more support I had begun to lose sight of: God."

Through advice from his family and leadership, coupled with scriptures sent from his mother daily, Randall made a breakthrough and changed his worldview.

"This past year has opened my eyes," said Randall. "Life is too short to be caught up in nonsense. You have to create a goal for yourself and spend every day working towards that goal until you achieve it. Life is too short to waste."

Living by his own advice, Randall set his eyes on his future. He took everything out of his room and hung a paper with three lines on it: God, family and boxing. He hung the paper above his bed so it'd be the first thing he sees every morning, reminding him what it is he's working for.



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Helin

From Page 2

I personally believe we were created with a nature to serve. It's funny to me when people are surprised about how good they feel after helping their fellow man or woman. A local food drive, mentorship of those in need or even something as simple as thanking someone for their service – these things should bring a smile to your face and theirs. Of course they do. When you help others, it brings joy into everyone's world.

What may start as selfish ambition can

be turned into selfless service with the right focus on how it changes you or others. I'm certain you are doing this on a daily basis if you stop and think about it. Think about that one time you made someone feel good. Don't you want to experience that again? You can.

I challenge you to encourage those in your scope of influence to service on scales small and big, even if it appears that they have selfish ambitions. Regardless of the motive, eventually the results of service will come around to benefit everyone, both the giver and the receiver. The joy of service is always well worth the effort.

Training

From Page 4

served fewer than 12 years, or reserve Airmen who have accrued fewer than 4,320 retirement points, will have the option of electing BRS or remaining in the legacy retirement system. These Airmen will be required to take the opt-in training and should provide a copy of the training certificate to their unit training manager upon completion.

The Air Force recommends BRS

training for all Airmen and encourages them to take the opt-in course. Many leaders may not be eligible to opt in to BRS themselves, but still need to be knowledgeable about the new system to understand what their junior Airmen should know as they prepare to make their decisions in 2018. The leader training course is also available to those without a Common Access Card, including family members, via an alternate website.

For more information about Air Force personnel programs, go to myPers.

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Travel

From Page 4

notification, Melanson was on his way home.

Meanwhile, Master Sgt. Matthew Cannon, 60th Aerial Port Squadron acting first sergeant, received a call from Caleb at 8 a.m. PDT, Oct. 2, which was 5 p.m. in Spanghalem.

“He informed Lt. Col. Daniel Hosler, 60th (APS) commander, that he had a deployed Airman whose mother and sister were victims at the (music festival) in Las Vegas the night before,” said Cannon.

Caleb coordinated with Hosler and passed copies of his emergency leave orders, flight information and a list of other earlier flights.

“Our part in this was to receive him once the aircraft landed, provide chaplain assistance and to transport him to San Francisco for his connecting flight to Las Vegas at (10 p.m.) later that night,” said Cannon. “Prior to the aircraft arrival, I coordinated with Chaplin (Capt.) Phillip Smith, 60th (Maintenance Group), for his assistance when I received the Airman at the aircraft.”

Cannon also solicited help from Chief Master Sgt. Reny Nunag, 60th MXG first sergeant, to assist with any first sergeant responsibilities and coordinated with the 60th APS

air terminal operations center to contact the U.S. Customs Office, inform them of the situation and request an expedited customs clearance at the aircraft.

At approximately 3:15 p.m., the C-17 landed at Travis.

“We boarded the aircraft and the Airman was using one of the loadmaster’s cellphone, talking to his father,” said Cannon. “After he hung up, we introduced ourselves and took him back to the 60th MXG so he could talk with Smith.”

While Smith talked with Melanson, Cannon called to coordinate an earlier flight to Las Vegas out of Sacramento, making his new arrival time in Las Vegas for 10 p.m.

With his new flight itinerary, they loaded up his bags and headed to Sacramento.

“During the ride, the Airman was trying to find out which hospital his mother was at,” said Cannon. “He still had no information where she was or her status.”

Caleb stayed in contact with the Melanson family and learned Paige, the second oldest sister, had been shot in the arm, eventually receiving eight stitches. She had been taken to Sunrise Medical Trauma Cen-

ter with a gunshot wound to her abdomen, missing most vital organs and was in critical, but in stable condition.

“That day we did not hit one bit of resistance from any person or organization,” said Cannon. “I dropped everything to help him and it was very fulfilling. We all came together to assist this young man and we were able to get him home sooner than expected. He showed so much courage and composition during a situation where he had every right to be angry and frustrated.”

In about 24 hours, from the time Melanson received the call from his brother, he traveled over 6,000 miles to be at his mother’s bed side.

“On this morning, with the help of the 52nd (Fighter Wing) and 60th APS, we were able to get this Airman home on very short notice thanks to a coincidental mission that was already scheduled to depart this location in just a few short hours,” said Caleb. “Fortunately, the airport in Las Vegas did not completely close to inbound flights, there were no deviations in flight plans due to weather or other unforeseen challenges. I was impressed with Melanson in how he managed his emotions through his professionalism in statements that he made (and) worried about his office and his fellow Airmen if he left Spanghalem AB. I’m humbled, relieved and happy that we were able to take care of one of our own.”

Phishing

From Page 11

An Airman stationed in California recently received a call from someone posing as a member of his bank’s fraud prevention team. The caller had likely researched the Airman’s Facebook profile and found posts about a recent trip to Hawaii.

The scammer told the Airman that they had found some unusual transactions from three high-end stores in Hawaii, but not to worry, the fraud team stopped the fraudulent transactions. However, because the account had been compromised, he needed to transfer his account balance into a new account they had set up in his name.

The caller was completely professional, knew his name, account number and about his recent travels to Hawaii. The Airman transferred his entire account balance over and none of it has been traced or recovered ever since.

This summer, an Airman on Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado, received a call from someone posing as an IRS employee. The caller told the Airman there was a serious issue with her taxes and that she would be arrested if she didn’t immediately purchase \$1,000 in iTunes gift cards and turn them over to the caller.

The Airman did as she was

instructed and once the caller verified the gift cards were legitimate, he immediately ended the call never to be heard of again.

This IRS scam has become so common that the Treasury Department posted an alert on their website about impersonators calling and demanding payments on iTunes gift cards, Green Dot Prepaid Cards, and other forms of prepaid credit cards.

The bottom line is that scammers today are clever.

If you receive a phone call from a name or number you do not recognize, be very skeptical. Don’t answer personal questions, don’t engage and if you must respond, consider answering with a question like, “Who is calling?”

If you believe that the call is not legitimate, hang up. If you feel the call might be legitimate, hang up and call back using a different phone from the one they called you on.

Remember, the IRS, your bank or any government agency will never call to demand immediate payment; demand that you pay money without giving you the opportunity to appeal; require you to use a specific payment method such as gift cards or prepaid debit cards; ask for credit or debit card numbers over the phone; threaten to bring in law enforcement to have you arrested for not paying.

Beale

From Page 6

hundreds of residents.

The overall support for the two teams’ actions has been positive.

“Everywhere we go people have been very appreciative,” said Rush. “Families have been thanking us, shaking our hands and waving to us.”

Cal Fire also appreciates the support Beale’s fire department has provided during the last week.

“The support from the military has been great,” said Tim Butolph, Cal Fire airtanker dispatcher. “We may have different missions, but in a time of need both departments come together and work together for the common good of the public.”

Technician

From Page 9

having to perform time-consuming reconfigurations, Ruuti added.

“Crews are now able to simply roll the new pod-mounted stand next to the aircraft to conduct any necessary troubleshooting,” he said. “If the mission dictates, they would be able to return the aircraft to combat ready status in less than 20 minutes.”

In order for Caruso’s innovations to come to fruition, support from his supervisor was monumental in turning an idea into something tangible.

“We have procedures in place to locally manufacture equipment and it usually starts with a specific idea in mind,” said Ruuti. “Chris had a vision and knew exactly what he needed. As supervisors, we simply listened and provided him the necessary guidance to see it through. Everyone was bought in to Chris’ idea, all the way up to the maintenance croup commander. This unit’s leadership team is not in the mindset of ‘it’s always been that way.’ They trust in the young minds and ideas of maintainers. That’s what helped make this project so successful.”

The metals tech shop was one unit that was pivotal in turning Caruso’s blueprints for the sniper pod stand into an actual working mechanism. Without their support and expertise, the stand would not be here today.

“Everyone has been so supportive since they all want



U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Benjamin Gonsler

Senior Airman Christopher Caruso, 555th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Unit avionics technician, inspects the electrical and communication systems on the F-16 Fighting Falcon.

something that can improve the overall performance of our processes and procedures,” said Caruso. “My supervision gave me the confidence and time to get this done. Everyone from the commanders to my direct supervision has shown interest, whether it’s pushing paper or supplies.

Caruso shares his accomplishments with the whole unit, who enabled him to put his innovations together. Knowing

that time and money are saved by these accomplishments, the team is able to generate aircraft with little delay and deliver combat airpower in Afghanistan.

“Chris is an outstanding Airman, driven to help others and refine processes,” said Ruuti. “His efforts improved the unit’s efficiency and ultimately had a profound impact on the entire Air Force – specifically, the F-16 community.”

Chips

From Page 8

As part of the study, the Harvard team printed sensors and placed microelectronics onto a spandex sleeve able to respond to the movement of the wearer’s arm. They also created a pressure sensor for shoes, able to sense and monitor gait.

AFRL researchers also tested the processes in the lab and are investigating the possibility of using the same methodologies to build antennas and sensors into structures.

“The use of 3-D printing allows us to fundamentally rethink how we package and design electronics for Air Force needs,” said Berrigan. “We are no longer limited to in-plane electronics manufacturing, which opens up opportunities to merge structure and electronic function.”

One challenge the team is focusing on for future work will address the powering of the devices, which would require a stretchable battery or other printed power source to be integrated into the manufacturing process.

“Integrating a robust, flexible and high energy-density battery has been difficult

because what makes a good battery does not necessarily make for a good, soft-material system,” said Michael Durstock, AFRL Soft Matter Materials Branch chief and a co-author of the study.

Though the materials and methodology are still in the early stages of development, the potential future application space is enormous.

“We have both broadened the palette of printable electronic materials and expanded our programmable, multi-material printing platform,” said Jennifer Lewis, a research collaborator from the Harvard Wyss Institute. “This is an important first step toward making customizable, wearable electronics that are lower-cost and mechanically robust.”

The paper is the first published collaborative effort between researchers at AFRL and Harvard in this area.

“This effort highlights our relationship with academia,” said Berrigan. “We can learn from their expertise and insight and make the connections to enable the technology and applications for Airmen as quickly as we can. Professor Lewis’ team has been invaluable to us, and we are looking forward to future collaborations.”

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Gines

From Page 2

record met the story given to me in 1993. He joined the Army on July 22, 1943, at Los Angeles, California, as a Filipino immigrant. For the first time, I had a serial number.

Citations of World War II veterans are also available online. Using his Army serial number, I found out more details that were similar to the original story.

Lopez's records indicated that he was a combat medic. He was assigned to Medical Detachment, 357th Infantry Regiment, 90th Infantry Division and was killed in action on Oct. 11, 1944, in France. He was awarded the Purple Heart and the Silver Star. His Silver Star citation is short, noting that it was awarded posthumously. I also found his gravesite though the ABMC. I looked as far as Normandy

before, but he was only 45 minutes away from Ramstein Air Base at Lorraine American Cemetery in St. Avold, France. I was amazed that he was so close.

In 2015, I visited his gravesite for the first time with my family. The online history of the 357th Infantry Regiment documents a 22-day battle on the town of Maiziere-Les-Metz between the dates of Oct. 7-29, 1944. It states a brutal house-to-house, day-and-night urban fighting against the German army. I have much more to learn from this battle as it may be the location where Lopez perished. It felt a little surreal to be at his gravesite and it now felt like the beginning of a new story.

I do hold some reservation as to whether these two people are the same. However, the majority of similarities between the stories as told to me by his relatives and the record are remarkable. The contradictions between his family story and the online record have plausible explanations.

Two differences were his occupation and education. The record states that his occupation was as a farm hand and his education was some high school. His 1940s college education and job in the Philippines would probably not have transferred well in the 1940s U.S. education system or culture. Filipino immigrants of that time would most likely have sought other work and daily farm labor was common.

I am more likely to determine the exact battle of his death than know what he was like as a person. I know that he came to the U.S. to help his family. Why did he join the Army? Was it for better money? Better possibilities? Did he feel a sense of duty? I may never know. I do know that he was missed and remembered by his family. I know this because Lopez was my grandmother's brother, a distant relative who I am trying to know more. Today, there is no one else alive in my family who knew him personally.

His story fades a little, but I continue on my journey of research and will continue to tell more about him.

Every Airman, every service member, has a story and a reason for serving. Whatever the reason – they serve. They join thousands of others in their storied legacy of service and valor. Learning more about them helps me understand where I came from and where we come from.

A casket-sized 48-star U.S. Flag was found in the Phillipine house where that Silver Star was originally kept. Now I have two artifacts. Just before I visited his grave for the first time in 2015, my family and I visited the Philippines and went to a beach he most likely enjoyed. I brought a few pebbles from that beach and my children put them on his white stone military grave marker.

Tell your stories, tell the stories of others.

Battles

From Page 3

me a packet of information telling me about the cancer. I took the packet with me to the car and I didn't even look at it. I called my dad and said, 'It's Hodgkin's Lymphoma.'

With no prior symptoms, Kava faced the reality that she had cancer. According to The American Cancer Society, Hodgkin Lymphoma is a cancer that starts in the white blood cells called lymphocytes. Lymphocytes are part of the body's immune system.

"I wasn't tired, I didn't feel sick, the knot just appeared," said Kava. "I am so thankful that the doctor in Germany sent me home, because trying to deal with that news while deployed and away from my family would've been a lot more difficult."

She started her four-month treatment, which included eight rounds of chemotherapy in November 2016.

"They would put the needle in my chest and hook me up to a machine where I would sit for two hours to get the four types of medicine for the treatment," she said. "Treatment in the oncology department (at David Grant USAF Medical Center) was amazing. I even became really good friends with my nurse, Kendra."

Capt. Kendra Alanis, 60th Medical Operations Squadron clinical nurse, provided Kava's chemotherapy during her four months of treatment.

"It is a heavy regimen and the chemo she got was intense," said Alanis. "I would ask if she felt any side effects and she would always say she was fine. She was a trooper from day one. She was so strong and stoic to the point that she was hard to read in the beginning of treatment. I quickly realized that she was just really strong."

Kava faced many adversities during her treatment, but one in particular was the toughest for her.

"My dad jokes that the only time I cried throughout this whole process was when my doctor, Dr. Malhi, sat me down to go over the chemo treatment and she said, 'you will lose your hair,'" she said. "After my last treatment, when it started falling out, I went through the whole cycle of 'do I shave it, do I cut it short, or just leave it and see what happens?'"

She ended up cutting her long hair, which had basically lost half of its thickness, and wearing it in a ponytail when she returned to work in March. The Air Force Instruction 36-2903 allows a ponytail for hair that cannot fit in a bun as long as it does not go below the bottom of the collar.

"I avoided pinning it in an



U.S. Air Force photo/Heide Couch

Senior Airman Cinnamon Kava, 60th Logistics Readiness Squadron decentralized supply support, poses for a photo in December 2014 at Travis Air Force Base, Calif.

upright clip, so it wouldn't look like a rooster tail," said Kava. "I wanted to ensure I was still in regs while I was healing."

Kava remained motivated and positive through her treatment due to her faith, her support system and basketball.

"Through this whole time, I had to convince myself that there was nothing I could do about this and have faith that whatever is supposed to happen, is going to happen," she said. "With that type of faith,

I didn't worry as much about what was going to happen. I tried to keep myself busy so I started volunteering with the Will C. Wood High School basketball team (in Vacaville, California)."

After helping at their basketball practices for a year, the school made her an assistant coach. This helped her stay in shape for the upcoming All-Air Force Training Camp in San Antonio, Texas, this month, where she will try out to be part of the team.

Kava has played basketball for most of her life, including participating in the Armed Forces championship, known as the Conseil International du Sport Militaire Women's World Basketball Championship in France in 2014 and 2015 as part of the All-Air Force team.

Her squadron supports her basketball goals and was a main source of support during her treatments.

"The hardest part for me was to let people be there for me," she said. "My squadron was so supportive. I couldn't do my treatment anywhere, but I chose to stay here because the hospital was amazing and my commander, Lt. Col. Traci Bowman, was so supportive."

"I feel like in the military, if you are going through hard times like that, it is important to let people care about you. It really helped at the end of the

day knowing that I had a big support system of people who wanted to help and who wanted to be there for me."

Kava completed her treatment in February, but will continue to receive PET scans for the next year. She knows that she will have a great support system of family, friends, co-workers, nurses and doctors to help as she continues on her journey of healing.

"She is an amazing Airman who never wanted cancer to define her," said Lt. Col. Traci Bowman, 60th LRS commander. "She handled it like any task – something to be completed to the best of her ability. She remained focused on the mission and when she couldn't play basketball, she watched. When she was able to get back on the court she played her heart out."

"We had the opportunity to get to know her family as they stayed in the Fisher House for most of her treatment and while you could see the love and concern for her, her family refused to treat her as a victim, instead they focused on her warrior ethos," she said. "I am honored to serve alongside of her. I just had the privilege of reenlisting her while her mom, Kim, FaceTimed. While Cinnamon wanted to keep the ceremony small, the room was full of people who love and care for her. She makes this squadron better."

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LOOK!
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ATTENTION!
INSTRUCTORS needed for DD adult day programs in Solano County. Call Karen: 707-448-2283

0501 HELP WANTED

The Daily Republic Sports Department is looking for part-time help on weeknights and Saturdays to take incoming calls; write stories; cover local sporting events, especially prep football in the fall; and to assist with design of the sports pages. Pay is minimum wage. Training will be provided, though knowledge of sports and typing skills are a must. For more information, contact sports editor Paul Farmer at 425-4646 ext. 264 or by email at pfarmer@dailyrepublic.net

Garage & Craft Sale Directory

To place your ad in Daily Republic's Garage and Craft Sale Directory, call (707) 427-6936 before 2 p.m. Mon - Fri. Deadlines may change due to holidays or unforeseen circumstances.

0601 AREA 1
Sat., & Sun. 8:30-4. Furn., hshld./kit. items, tools, frames, & more! 1308 Lexington Way

0608 AREA 8
John's Hauling Suisun Valley Antiques & Collectibles
HUGE TENT SALE
Fri. & Sat., 8a-8p
Sun., 8a-4p
"LIVE AUCTION" SUNDAY, 3-4pm
2525 Mankas Corner in the country
www.422haul.com

0603 AREA 3
Sat., Oct. 21st & Sun., Oct. 22nd. 8am-4pm.
Paradise Valley Master Association Garage Sale!
Multiple Families Participating!
Paradise Valley Dr. & Manuel Campos Parkway.

0606 AREA 6
Sat., & Sun. 9am-4pm
Halloween Costumes, Christmas decor., hshld. items, & misc.
24 Villa Ct.
Park on Claybank Street
No entrance on Villa Ct.

Need Directions?
Check out our virtual Garage Sale Map at
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Full time retail sales associate II position includes customer service, inventory control, ordering, product identification, shipping/receiving, and clerical functions in support of daily operations.

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CUSTOMER SERVICE / SALES REPRESENTATIVE

DESCRIPTION
The primary role of the Classified Customer Service Sales Representative is to work with clients both on the phone and in person, assisting them with placing advertising in print and online. Also responsible for outbound telesales to help the team meet and exceed sales goals.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

- Regularly and customarily engage in person with customers
- Drives customer retention through excellent customer service
- Develops new business by understanding customer needs and selling products and services that provide value to the customer
- Maintains the highest levels of personal and professional behavior in the workplace and in the market

POSITION REQUIREMENTS
Knowledge, Skills, Abilities:

- Highly motivated, self-starting individual with initiative and drive to succeed
- Eagerness to learn, continually seeking to improve skills
- Strong team player
- Ability to multi-task while working independently in a fast-paced sales environment
- Strong time management and follow up skills
- Organized with an attention for detail
- Computer and software experience
- Ability to prospect new business via cold calling
- Strong verbal and written communication skills

Experience:

- Prior telephone and general sales experience preferred.

DR
Send Resumes to:
bbarno@dailyrepublic.net

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110 Yosemite, 2/2, \$1,650, 55+ Vacaville
108 Walnut, 1/1, \$1,350, Vacaville
810 Spoonbill, 4/2, \$1,850, Suisun

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MULTIMEDIA SALES EXECUTIVE

DESCRIPTION
The primary role of the Multimedia Sales Executive is to increase print and digital advertising revenues by achieving or exceeding the revenue goal in their assigned territory. The Multimedia Sales Executive will develop and present audience based, multimedia sales campaigns to meet the diversified needs of our customers and maximize customer ROI.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

- Consistently meets/exceeds all print and digital revenue targets
- Develops and demonstrates expert knowledge and understanding of all McNaughton Media sales and marketing assets
- Regularly and customarily engage in person with customers
- Drives customer retention through excellent customer service
- Develops new business by understanding customer needs and selling products and services that provide value to the customer
- Maintains the highest levels of personal and professional behavior in the workplace and in the market

POSITION REQUIREMENTS
Knowledge, Skills, Abilities:

- Ability to prospect new business via cold calling and other prospecting techniques
- Highly motivated, self-starting individual with initiative and drive to succeed
- Ability to close new business and exceed sales targets
- Strong verbal and written communication skills
- Strong networking and community involvement skills
- Eagerness to learn, continually seeking to improve sales skills
- Strong time management and follow up skills
- Organized with an attention for detail
- Must possess a valid state driver's license and reliable transportation

Education & Experience:

- Prior experience in Sales, Marketing or Business needed.
- Minimum of one year sales experience, preferably in outside sales
- Prior experience in digital marketing sales highly desirable

DR Send Resumes to:
bbarno@dailyrepublic.net

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Quinterosautosales.com

0840 MITSUBISHI
'13 Lancer ES A/T, all pwr., great MPG. New tires/oils. Low mi., 44K Must See! \$7900 obo. DLR #42203.
(707)280-6816
Quinterosautosales.com

0819 SUVs - 4WD
'01 GMC Yukon XL 6.0L AWD, blk. Ithr., very clean in/out! New tires/oils/brakes, etc. 111K mi., moonroof. Must See! \$7900 obo. DLR #42203.
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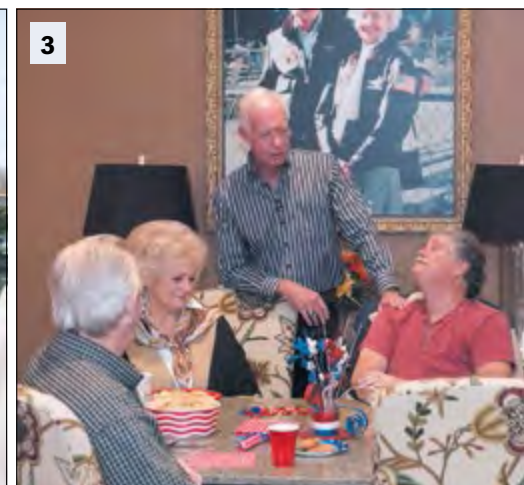
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1) Former airline pilot Chesley "Sully" Sullenberger III, left, and wife, Lorraine, second from left, made a visit to Fisher House Oct. 17 at Travis Air Force Base, Calif. The Sullenbergers met with Fisher House representatives to learn more about the Fisher House Foundation, started by Zachary and Elizabeth Fisher in 1991 to fulfill the need for temporary lodging facilities for families at major military medical centers. Sullenberger interacted with past and present residents at the facility and learned how they benefitted from the experience.

Travis Fisher House receives visit from ... HERO PILOT

U.S. Air Force photos by Heide Couch



2) Former airline pilot Chesley "Sully" Sullenberger III and his spouse, Lorraine, visited the Fisher House Oct. 17 at Travis Air Force Base, Calif. Sullenberger is a 1973 Air Force Academy graduate and is best known for successfully ditching a crippled airliner in the Hudson River, saving the lives of a 155 passengers in 2009. 3) Sullenberger answers questions from audience attendees during his Fisher House visit. 4) Lt. Col. Heidi Clark, 60th Diagnostic and Therapeutic Squadron Nutrition Medicine Flight commander, and Sullenberger share a laugh over a sign posted in a refrigerator during his visit.

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