



At Cape Canaveral, Travis delivers ... **SATELLITE**

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Exchange to deliver holiday savings

Jaimee Dickerson
ARMY & AIR FORCE EXCHANGE
SERVICE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Travis Air Force Base Exchange will be closed Thanksgiving Day, but shoppers can still save on the season's hottest electronics, housewares and apparel from the comfort of their own homes starting at 10 p.m. Nov. 22.

The savings will continue starting at 10 p.m. Nov. 23, when the Exchange kicks off its online Black Friday sale. Airmen and families at Travis AFB can shop Black Friday deals in person beginning at 6 a.m. at the Travis Exchange.

"We can't wait for the Travis Exchange community to see these door-busting deals," said Flordeliza Payton, Exchange general manager. "Our team is ready to help the best customers in the world save on the holiday season's most in-demand gift items."

On Nov. 25, the Travis Exchange will open at its usual time of 9 a.m. for a special Saturday sale event. More online and in-store savings will follow Nov. 26-30.

Shoppers can get a sneak peek at sale items and pricing starting Nov. 17 by downloading the Exchange EXTRA app or picking up the Black Friday sale flyer at their local Exchange.

For more information, call the Travis Air Force Base Exchange at 707-437-4633.

Keep up to date with Travis online at **FACEBOOK.com/TravisAirForceBase**

Firefighters practice search-and-rescue tactics



Senior Airman DeJon Peirson and Staff Sgt. Benjamin Reed, 60th Civil Engineer Squadron firefighters, crawl through smoke in a simulated burning building Nov. 4 at Travis Air Force Base, Calif. Airmen from the 60th CES trained on search-and-rescue tactics with the use of personal protective equipment and various tools.

Follow-on option available after short tours

**Kat Bailey and
2nd Lt. Stephen Warren**
AIR FORCE'S PERSONNEL CENTER
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas — Airmen selected for a dependent-restricted short tour for their second or later assignments can voluntarily apply to participate in the Follow-On assignment program, providing them greater flexibility in the assignment process and greater stability for their families.

The Department of Defense designed the Follow-On assignment program to provide all service members, officers and enlisted, with family stability, as well as to decrease permanent change of station costs.

The application is a voluntary agreement with the Airman not to use PCS allowances in exchange for advance assignment consideration of a stateside assignment, before they leave on a dependent-restricted short-tour assignment. The Air Force processes follow-on assignments to overseas locations as an exception to policy.

"The Air Force has a placement rate of 70.8 percent for follow-on assignments for the enlisted force in 2017," said Chief Master Sgt. Jennifer Holton, superintendent of the Support Career Management branch at the Air Force's Personnel Center. "As long as Airmen are putting down realistic location choices based on authorizations that exist at the desired follow-on

locations, we've been successful at giving them what they want."

If an Airman chooses a follow-on, the family can stay at the current stateside location or elect to move to the location of their follow-on assignment, providing it, too, is stateside. The program provides stability to the family for work, residence and schooling, with the option to stay in place for another year or be in place at the new location a year or more early, prior to the end of the short tour.

"Instead of moving a family from say, Shaw (Air Force Base) to Mom's place in Boston for a year, and then to Tinker (AFB) and paying for two moves, the family can stay at Shaw (AFB) or go early to Tinker (AFB) while the Airman

is away on the short tour," said Bill Houston, AFPC Assignments Policy and Procedures branch.

However, moving the family to any other location other than the follow-on location at the expense of the Air Force invalidates the follow-on assignment. Airmen agree up-front not to use PCS allowances to relocate dependents and household goods temporarily to a place other than the follow-on location, or to store household goods at government expense.

Houston said if participating in the Follow-On program would cause a financial or personal hardship, Airmen are encouraged to use their PCS

See **OPTION Page 24**



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

Col. Theresa Weems, 60th Operations Group commander, speaks Nov. 14, to more than 200 Airmen and civilians from 33 bases, across seven major commands during the Graduate Training Integration Management System user conference for Air Mobility Command and the Mobility Air Force at Travis Air Force Base, Calif.

60th OG Airmen host GTIMS user conference

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

The 60th Operations Group hosted the Graduate Training Integration Management System user conference for Air Mobility Command and the Mobility Air Force, Nov. 14-16 at Travis Air Force Base, California.

The conference was open to active duty, Air Force Reserve Command and the Air National Guard units. More than 200 Airmen and civilians from 33 bases,

across seven major commands partnered to collectively learn, network and enhance GTIMS, making flight operations more effective.

"The open dialogue, collaboration and networking among the units, staff and technical experts tremendously helps us improve the way we employ GTIMS," said Capt. Steven Chandler, 21st Airlift Squadron assistant director of operations

See **GTIMS Page 25**

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Captain surveys homeland after natural disaster

Staff Sgt. Robert Hicks
621ST CONTINGENCY RESPONSE WING

ROOSEVELT ROADS, Puerto Rico — Growing up in Puerto Rico five miles from Roosevelt Roads, one Airman from Travis Air Force Base, California, knows all too well the dangers due to the location of the island.

“Since I was a child, my family would always stock pile food and water in preparation for the hurricane season,” said Capt. Christian Ocasio, 821st Contingency Response Support Squadron civil engineering officer. “There would always be a powerful storm heading straight toward us, but would change directions at the last minute.”

That’s exactly what Hurricane Irma did after devastating the U.S. Virgin Islands.

In the wake of Hurricane Irma, Ocasio and his team were sent to the Virgin Islands to perform an airfield assessment of airports in St. Thomas

and St. Croix.

After the assessments were complete, the team went to Puerto Rico to wait for a flight back to Travis AFB. While there, Hurricane Maria formed.

He spent several nights in Puerto Rico with his family tracking Hurricane Maria’s every move. As the storm grew to a category 4 hurricane and was on a direct path to hit the island, the assessment team received orders to move to MacDill AFB, Florida.

“Fear, anger, abandonment are a few things I felt when I had to leave Puerto Rico right before Hurricane Maria devastated the island,” he said. “I didn’t want to leave them behind. I felt like I abandoned them during one of the worse storms ever.”

According to Puerto Rican Gov. Ricardo Rossello, Puerto Rico has not experienced an event of this magnitude in their modern history. The hurricane struck the island with



U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Robert Hicks
Capt. Christian Ocasio, right, 821st Contingency Response Support Squadron civil engineering officer looks on as an Airman performs a pavement evaluation at Aguadilla, Puerto Rico.

winds up to 155 mph and left millions of people without water, power or telephone coverage.

The night the storm made landfall, Ocasio was in constant contact with his mother and sister until around 4 a.m. when they lost cell phone service.

“I didn’t sleep at all that night,” Ocasio said. “I was getting messages from my sister saying how the kids were scared, and how they had experienced nothing like this before. This was only the first hours of the storm, I knew they still had another eight

hours to go. it was terrifying.”

After Ocasio lost contact with his family, he attached himself to the news and social media, trying to get any information he could to paint a better picture of what was going on in Puerto Rico.

“My family lives in a low-lands area, and you see the videos of the massive flooding online and you immediately think, ‘They have to leave the house during the storm and fight the dangerous winds to get to higher ground,’” he said. “Then you start creating all these scenarios in your mind that could happen, but are

probably not.”

After Hurricane Maria passed, the assessment team was tasked to reassess the airfield in St. Thomas to ensure the runway was not damaged and could still support aircraft delivering relief supplies to the island.

“When they told me I was going to St. Thomas, it bothered me a little ... it had been several days after the hurricane and I still had not heard anything from my family, but I knew, just like I was responding to St. Thomas, my

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Airman delivers 3 pounds, 11 ounces of resiliency

Commentary by
Senior Airman Shelby R. Horn
349TH AIR MOBILITY WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

As military members we are constantly inundated with trainings and speeches about resiliency. We hear it so often that it can get dull and becomes just another checked box on your records, until the message gets personally delivered in a place you'd never expect.

In 2016, my husband and I found out I was pregnant with our second child and we were ecstatic. We had just bought our first home and the age gap between our first and second child would be three years, our "ideal" age gap. It was another girl, which is exactly what we were hoping for. We decided to name her Sadie Jean, after my husband's grandma. We were so excited for her to complete our family. We anxiously awaited her arrival, which was estimated as Dec. 29, 2016.

The pregnancy progressed smoothly, she was growing

beautifully, and everything was going great – until it wasn't.

Sadie Jean was born Oct. 21, 2016, a full 10 weeks before her due date. I was diagnosed with a placental abruption. There were no signs or symptoms. The start of my labor to her birth was a mere three hours. She was 3 pounds, 11 ounces and 17 inches long.

She was a few hours old when I first saw her, with an oxygen mask taped to her face, and wires, tubes, needle pricks, and bruises on seemingly every visible body part. She was 3 days old when I first got to hold her, for 30 minutes, with alarms going off and nurses watching my every move.

It was devastating the first time we got to sit with her neonatal intensive care unit doctor and learn the prognosis. She was going to have issues with her lungs and her eyes. She was going to be developmentally

delayed until preschool age, and need heavy physical therapy; she would never be able to breastfeed. Her NICU stay would be, at the very least, seven to eight weeks. My husband and I went home that night completely defeated.

The first few days of her stay were the hardest. My tiny baby would make one step forward and then two steps back. We believed the doctors were right with what they told us to expect. We prepared ourselves for months in the NICU, and then Sadie proved everyone wrong.

It started with the removal of her oxygen, which happened at only 8 days old. Next came the removal of her IV lines, at 14 days old. She was tolerating her feeds, and we cheered over every ounce gained. She was taken out of her incubator and moved to a regular crib at 18 days old. We were able to breastfeed, successfully, at 20 days old. Her "months long stay" began to look shorter and shorter. She was impressing every doctor

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U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Shelby R. Horn

Senior Airman Shelby Horn, 349th Air Mobility Wing photojournalist, poses for a portrait with her daughter Sadie, on Sept. 1 at their home in Suisun City, Calif. Sadie was born 10 weeks early and spent 30 days in a neonatal intensive care unit.

Local hospital recognizes veterans



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Christian Contra

Col. Michael J. Higgins, 60th Medical Group commander at Travis Air Force Base, Calif., addresses a crowd gathered for an event honoring veterans at the Kaiser Permanente Vallejo Medical Center in Vallejo, Calif. Higgins was joined by other veterans who are employed by the medical center in honoring the sacrifices veterans have made for the good of the country.

AF, Apple working to build efficiency

Tech. Sgt. Courtney Richardson
944TH FIGHTER WING

DAVIS-MONTHAN AIR FORCE BASE, Ariz. — Most people hear the word Apple and think either a fruit or an electronic device. But for the 924th Fighter Group, it means efficiency.

The 924th FG was chosen by Air Force Reserve Command as the test unit to work directly with Apple on the development of an Integrated Maintenance Database System application. This application aims at increasing productivity for Airmen who work on the flight line.

"Whenever we accomplish a maintenance task on an aircraft, it is documented on the aircraft form and in the database, and they both have to match," said Master Sgt. Scott Jenkins, 924th FG quality assurance lead.

Jenkins has been in contact with AFRC since early 2017 in

hopes of making the maintainer's jobs easier with the implementation of the app.

"Documentation is a very crucial part of our job because it accurately tracks everything we do on the aircraft," said Jenkins. "But when you have 60 Airmen all trying to use eight computers on a training weekend, that makes it hard and we don't want things to get missed."

The app will allow Airmen to document actions on the spot right next to the aircraft, instead of waiting until they return to the building at the end of the day, or whenever they can go inside.

"We maintainers used to have little blue books for our technical orders, then we switched over to tough books, and here recently we have moved to iPads," said Jenkins. "Although we had these devices, we have only been using them

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Travis Airmen receive cars as part of benevolence program



U.S. Air Force photos/Senior Airman Amber Carter

1) Senior Airman Khalil Hart, center, 349th Maintenance Group, and his family pose with their new car Nov. 10 at the Mike's Auto Body 17th annual Benevolence Program in Fairfield, Calif. 2) Senior Airman Kyle Forsyth, 60th Operation Support Squadron, and his family admire the gifts inside their new car. The program works with insurance companies to find a used car to fix and give to a deserving Airman in need. The families received a car filled with gifts and a year's worth of insurance.



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AF selects officers to advance careers

Kat Bailey
AIR FORCE'S PERSONNEL CENTER
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas — The Air Force has selected 335 officers to participate in advanced academic degree and career-broadening opportunities in 2018 as part of the force development construct.

Advanced Academic Degree and Special Experience Exchange Duty programs provide targeted developmental education and broadening developmental assignments for officers in eligible career fields, according to Maj. Melanie Huffman, Air Force's Personnel Center assignments officer.

See CAREERS Page 14

Mental health expands services, reaches more Airmen

Staff Sgt. William Banton
386TH AIR EXPEDITIONARY WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

SOUTHWEST ASIA — The 386th Expeditionary Medical Group, with support from the 386th Expeditionary Operation Group, expanded mental health services recently to Airmen at an undisclosed location supporting ongoing operations in Syria.

"This time of year, if there are going to be challenges with folks struggling it's because they are away from home (during) Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's," said Chief Master Sgt. Robert Johnson, 386th EOG superintendent. "Those are going to be the times when folks are most likely going to dip into dark places and need a mental health 'belly button' to reach out to and maybe just talk."

For Johnson, this "belly button" came in the form of Maj. Candee Berck, 386th EMDG mental health officer in charge and licensed clinical social

worker, deployed from Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado, and Senior Airman Brittany Edwards, noncommissioned officer in charge of mental health, deployed from the 96th Medical Operations Squadron, Eglin AFB, Florida.

The project began in September when the mental health office reached out to 386th Air Expeditionary Wing leadership with the hope of increasing services to Airmen stationed in remote locations across the area of responsibility. Their goal was to educate service members on the effects of trauma and its symptoms, while breaking the stigmas surrounding mental health and resiliency in deployed environments.

"The key is to build (relationships) so they have some faces to names and people know that we are not out to kill careers," Berck said. "Our job here in the AOR is to help get folks back into the mission, understanding that life still goes on back in the states. Life still happens,

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Courtesy photo

Maj. Candee Berck, 386th Expeditionary Medical Group mental health officer in charge and licensed clinical social worker, deployed from Peterson Air Force Base, Colo., and Senior Airman Brittany Edwards, 386th EMDG noncommissioned officer in charge of mental health, deployed from the 96th Medical Operations Squadron, Eglin AFB, Fla., pose for a photo Oct. 25 while visiting Airmen stationed at an undisclosed location in Southwest Asia.

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Airmen conduct long-range rescue of cruise passenger

Tech. Sgt. Lindsey Maurice
920TH RESCUE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

PATRICK AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. — Within two hours of the call, Airmen with the 920th Rescue Wing took to the skies bound for a cruise ship roughly 500 nautical miles off the Florida coastline carrying an elderly passenger suffering an acute condition and in need of medical evacuation Nov. 7, 2017.

The long-range mission, requiring two HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopters, Guardian Angel pararescue teams and an HC-130N King fixed-wing combat aerial refueler, lasted roughly eight hours and ended with the patient and his spouse being safely transported to Holmes Regional Medical Center in Melbourne, Florida.

The initial call went out to the Coast Guard District 5 which reached out to the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center at Tyndall Air Force Base, Florida late that morning.

“The RCC had already reached a conclusion before calling the 920th RQW that no other assets could reach the cruise ship in time due to the distance,” said Col. Michael LoForti, 920th Operations Group commander. “It wasn’t a matter if we would help, but could we



U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Lindsey Maurice

Two HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopter crews with the 301st Rescue Squadron, transporting four Guardian Angel Airmen, depart Nov. 7 from Patrick Air Force Base, Fla., for the long-range rescue of a cruise ship passenger who required medical evacuation approximately 500 nautical miles off the coast of Florida.

assist in the rescue effort.”

A meeting was called with the squadron commanders and maintenance to determine if the manpower and assets were available to accept the mission.

“It took less than a minute to make the call,” LoForti said. “We generated the aircrew, aircraft, pararescue teams and a mission plan, and were able to launch in a matter of hours.”

The plan entailed travelling hundreds of miles to the ship bound for Baltimore, lowering two pararescuemen onto the ship, hoisting the patient and his spouse onto the helicopter, and transporting them to the hospital.

“It was great seeing everyone come together from maintenance to the aircrew and Guardian Angel rescue teams to make

this thing happen,” said 1st Lt. Courtney McCallan, 301st Rescue Squadron HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopter pilot. “I’m glad we could help.”

McCallan piloted the lead aircraft during the mission, watching overhead in an offset position as the second helicopter team conducted the rescue. It was shortly after sunset when the special missions aviation

specialist aboard the second hovering Pave Hawk lowered two pararescuemen about 35-feet down onto the ship’s top deck, which sat about 100 feet above the water. After making contact with the patient’s doctor on the ship, the rescue specialists loaded the man into a Stokes basket, a litter made of metal, and hoisted him into the aircraft.

“Even with obstacles like limited visibility with our night vision goggles and having to hover over a moving vessel, they executed the mission flawlessly,” said McCallan.

Shortly after heading back to Florida, the 39th RQS HC-130N crew lowered fuel lines for one last air-to-air refueling before the crews dropped off their passengers and headed back to Patrick AFB. The HC-130N crew conducted a total of three air-to-air refuelings during the mission, supplying approximately 15,400 pounds of gas to the helicopters.

“We train for these types of missions often, but when you actually get to put those skills to work and save someone’s life, it’s a pretty fulfilling thing,” said Lt. Col. Bob Seitz, 39th RQS director of operations.

Both the HC-130N and HH-60 crews emphasized the key role maintenance played in the success of the mission, being able to generate all the aircraft necessary so quickly.

“When we hear real-world search and rescue then everything kicks into high gear and everyone pulls together to make it happen,” said Senior Master Sgt. Dennis Grant, 920th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron Helicopter Maintenance Unit superintendent. “We have extremely talented and dedicated individuals in our maintenance complex all with the same goal, and that is to provide the safest, most reliable aircraft for our operators we can. The advantage the Citizen Airmen bring is the experience on the various aircraft. We have individuals that have over 20 years on the airframes.”

LoForti said he is proud of the hard work put forth by the wing’s Citizen Airmen in yet another successful rescue.

Symposium delivers leadership experience

Dr. Wayne Clark,
Master Sgt. David Boydston
and Tech. Sgt. Ryan Crane
81ST TRAINING WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE, Miss. — Twenty-three civilian Airmen graduated from a first-of-its-kind crash course in leadership Nov. 3 at Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi.

The course, modeled after Airman Leadership School, is the only course in the Air Force to deliver leadership tools to civilians in this condensed format.

Nearly a year ago, the Keesler Airman Leadership School team developed an idea to facilitate increased professional development for civilian supervisors of active duty Airmen. Working in conjunction with the Civilian Personnel Office, Total Force Development Center and the Civilian Development Working Group, that idea has come to fruition as the first students accepted their certificates from Col. Debra Lovette, 81st Training Wing commander.

“Their success really determines our success,” said Master Sgt. David Boydston, ALS commandant. “Our civilians are leading Airmen and we need to be able to give them the tools to accomplish that mission, and I think this course has done that.”

This one-week course is designed to give civilian supervisors of active duty personnel an in-depth view of what it takes to lead and motivate Airmen. The curriculum blends key points from the Profession of Arms Center of Excellence, civilian personnel and enlisted professional military education to create a relevant, immediately applicable education base to foster growth within Airmen.

“This is not just theoretical,” Boydston said. “This is real time stuff they can take back to their units and start using tomorrow, I am really excited about it.”

Although the class is mostly comprised of civilians supervising Airmen, it also has students who work with Airmen



U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Ryan Crane

Master Sgt. David Boydston, Airman Leadership School commandant, leads a flight of Air Force civilians during a retreat ceremony as part of a civilian leadership symposium Nov. 3 at Keesler Air Force Base, Miss.

as well as civilians with great leadership potential, selected by their commanders to attend the course as part of their professional development.

“This course is a huge step forward for Keesler [AFB’s] civilian development program,” said Dr. Wayne Clark, 81st Mission Support Group deputy director. “Our civilian professional development program is designed to provide our civilians with the training and education they need to be better Airmen and to grow and develop as individuals.”

According to Clark, Keesler AFB’s civilian professional development is arming leaders

with the proper tools to affect significant change in all Airmen.

“While the opportunity exists for civilian personnel to attend Airman Leadership School, seating is limited as the ALS mission primarily focuses on the senior airman required to have the course for promotion to staff sergeant and advancement into their supervisory role,” said Boydston.

Additionally, Boydston explained ALS covers 24 academic days, making it difficult to release civilians for the duration of the course. With only two slots per ALS class available to civilians, the staff determined

only 14 civilians per year could even attend the course. With 220 civilians who supervise Airmen on Keesler AFB, that was not a viable solution.

Keesler AFB’s Civilian Symposium is a five-day course, which incorporates standard leadership topics such as bullet writing, feedback and airmanship, while also fostering an increased understanding of day-to-day activities like fitness, career development courses and professional growth through private organizations or developmental special duty.

“This is a great way to teach our civilians supervisory topics by the ALS staff who develops our enlisted supervisors every day,” said Boydston.

The staff, Tech. Sgts. Cassandra Cruz, Jennifer Anderson and James Weidman, used their combined 6,000 hours of teaching experience to merge multiple training platforms into a solid program laser-focused on civilian development.

The Keesler AFB ALS staff normally takes time in between classes to prepare for the next class, but instead, they spent five days developing these 23 civilians.

“Our civilians are an integral component of our Air Force team and their supervision of our active duty Airmen directly leads to mission success or failure,” Boydston said. “Just as we develop enlisted leaders through rigorous professional military education, our civilians deserve the same opportunity to fine-tune their supervisory skills, consider leadership alternatives and network with leaders throughout the installation.”

To help Boydston and his team, Clark and Aundra Moore, chief of civilian personnel, recruited several senior civilians from across the base to mentor the class. These mentors sat in the class with the students to help guide discussion, provide insight and show support for the civilians who enrolled in the course.

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From Page 10

These career-broadening opportunities are available through AAD programs such as the Air Force Institute of Technology, AFIT Faculty pipeline, U.S. Air Force Academy Faculty pipeline and National Reconnaissance Office.

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

From Page 11

Berck said research shows quick assessment and treatment of traumatic events can decrease the amount of time it

The implementation of this type of communication would not be possible without leadership's support, said Berck.

From Page 9

"The people who document the most using this form [are] the [airframe powerplant gen-



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22nd AS moves satellite



Nick DeCicco

60TH AIR MOBILITY WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Members of the 22nd Airlift Squadron at Travis Air Force Base, California, participated Oct. 31 in the delivery of a Geosynchronous Earth Orbit satellite Flight-4 to Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Florida.

Capt. Patterson Hill, 22nd AS pilot and aircraft commander, said the physical sensitivity of the cargo necessitated a smooth takeoff and landing for the Travis C-5M Super Galaxy.

"Contrary to popular belief, a good landing is normally very firm in order to expedite the braking process and allow the airplane to stop in a shorter distance," said Hill. "On this mission, however, a firm landing might have resulted in billions of dollars' worth of damage and delays."

Hill said prior to the flight, which departed from Moffett Field near the Lockheed Martin satellite integration facility in Sunnyvale, California, the Travis crews prepared for the landing by flying a training flight with approximately 80 tons of cargo and extra fuel on board to simulate the weight of the satellite.

The C-5 crew from the 22nd AS ensured the satellite was transported safely and according to the time-sensitive schedule. The security support provided by the California Air National Guard 129th Rescue Wing was essential to the success of the mission.

The mission was part of the the U.S. Air Force's Space Based Infrared System program. The SBIRS constellation is designed to replace the legacy Defense Support Program satellite constellation. SBIRS will continue to provide significantly enhanced capabilities to support missile warning, missile defenses, battlespace awareness and technical intelligence missions.

"The delivery, launch and successful operation of GEO Flight-4 will mark the fulfillment of the original SBIRS baseline constellation and reaffirm our commitment to provide our country,

warfighters and senior leaders with timely, reliable and accurate missile warning and infrared surveillance information," said Lt. Gen. John Thompson, SMC commander and Air Force program executive officer for space.

The delivery of GEO Flight-4 sets the path for final checkout of the space vehicle before launch. The satellite will be processed at the Payload Processing Facility located at Cape Canaveral AFS, Florida.

A combined government and contractor team is executing the final ground activities including a Launch Base Confidence Test to verify satellite integrity after shipment, an intersegment test to verify communication compatibility from the satellite to the on-orbit operations center and the final battery reconditioning for launch. Following these activities, the satellite will be fueled and prepared for integration with the Atlas V rocket.

"Finalizing the preparations for the fourth launch of a SBIRS GEO satellite is a big deal," said Col. Dennis Bythewood, Remote Sensing Systems Directorate director. "The entire team understands how significant this is and we're ready to make it happen."

The GEO Flight-4 satellite is scheduled to launch from Cape Canaveral in January 2018.

"The safety of the SBIRS satellite was entrusted to the very best, and we are appreciative of the transport and security services provided by the entire government and contractor team," said Thompson.

In addition to Hill, the Travis crews included Capt. Matthew Harmon, aircraft commander; Tech. Sgt. Ray Montanino and Tech. Sgt. Jose Gonzalez, flight engineers; Tech. Sgt. Brandon Sphar and Staff Sgt. Alex Griego, crew chiefs; and Master Sgt. John Zelonis, Master Sgt. John Glisson, Tech. Sgt. Muggy Blair, Staff Sgt. Oliver Broadbent, Senior Airman Cassandra Hickman and Senior Airman Michael Watson, loadmasters.

Space and Missile Systems Center contributed to this report.



U.S. Air Force photos/Matthew Jurgens

A C-5M Super Galaxy from Travis Air Force Base, Calif., is unloaded Oct. 31 at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Fla. A crew from the 22nd Airlift Squadron at Travis flew a Geosynchronous Earth Orbit satellite Flight-4 from Moffett Airfield near San Jose, Calif., to Cape Canaveral. The satellite was constructed at the Lockheed Martin satellite integration facility in Sunnyvale, Calif. It's scheduled to launch in January.

Puzzles

STR8TS

No. 360 Medium

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

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

Previous solution - Tough

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

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.

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SUDOKU

No. 360 Medium

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

Previous solution - Easy

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

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

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

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

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The solutions will be published here in the next issue.

Retiree Corner

Enroll now for 2018 TRICARE coverage

On Jan. 1, 2018, there are a number of changes coming to your TRICARE benefit.

This includes a change to the current TRICARE regions. The current three regions (North, South and West) will become two regions (East and West). There will be new regional contractors for the new East and West regions. Humana Military will manage the East and Health Net Federal Services, LLC will manage the West region. In preparation for this change, enrollments in TRICARE

health plans will be delayed while beneficiary files are transferred to the incoming regional contractors. The delay period, or an enrollment freeze, will begin on Dec. 1 and last approximately three weeks, or until the data transfer is complete.

Those wanting to switch to a different TRICARE health plan or enroll in a plan for the first time, take action before Nov. 20. You can enroll in certain TRICARE plans online, by phone or by mail. Learn about how to enroll in or purchase a health plan on the TRICARE website.

— TRICARE.mil Staff

News Notes

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.

Blue Eagles Booster Club 16th Annual Holiday Tree Festival and Auction. 5:30 p.m. silent auction, 6 p.m. start Nov. 30 at Bldg. 31 MXG atrium. Benefits Travis Fisher Houses. Open to all Travis AFB personnel. Acceptable donations include fully decorated artificial trees 6 feet and smaller, stockings filled with items, gift baskets, wreaths and quilts. For more information, call Camille Roland at 707-592-1120, Lori Canon at 707-365-2118 or email bebcmtreeauction@gmail.com.

Free Christmas Eve Dinner. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Dec. 24 at Veterans Memorial Building, 549 Merchant St., Vacaville.

Chapel programs

Recurring events
Catholic
Twin Peaks Chapel

- Roman Catholic Mass: 9 a.m. and noon Sunday.
- Children's Church: 10:15 a.m. Sunday.
- Sacrament of Reconciliation/Confession: 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Wednesday or upon appointment.
- Infant Baptism Prep Class: Two classes. Registration Required. 6 to 7 p.m., offered quarterly.
- Youth Choir: 1 p.m. Sunday.
- Children's Choir: 2 p.m. Sunday.
- Adult Choir: 4 p.m. Sunday.
- Women's Bible Study: 10 a.m. (at First Street Chapel).
- Catholic Women of the Chapel: 6 p.m. first Monday of every month, Annex.
- Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults: 6 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Annex.
- RE Classes: 10:15 to 11:30 a.m. Sunday, RE Wing.

- First Street Chapel**
 - Mom's Group: 9 to 11:30 a.m. Thursday and Friday.
- DGMC Chapel**
 - Roman Catholic Mass: Noon to 12:35 p.m. Monday through Thursday, except for federal holidays.

- The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints**
 - Sacrament Services: 9 and 11 a.m. Sunday at Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Fairfield Stake Center, 2700 Camrose Ave., Fairfield.

In the next week...

sat
The Hub. Family concert, 3 p.m. Nov. 18; Poetry by the Bay open mic, 6:30 p.m. second and fourth Thursdays, 350 Georgia St., Vallejo. www.thehubvallejo.com.

sun
Rancho Solano Holiday Boutique. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Nov. 19, Rancho Solano Clubhouse, 3250 Rancho Solano Parkway, Fairfield. 646-9006.

thu
Free Thanksgiving Day Dinner. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Nov. 23 at Veterans Memorial Building, 549 Merchant St., Vacaville.

want to work from home. From 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Nov. 13-16, they are offering training to become a child care provider. Child Care Providers choose their own rates and hours. Free. To register, call 707-424-4596.

Huddle up for football. Did you know the Delta Breeze Club offers the NFL Ticket for free every Sunday, Monday and Thursday? You could even win Super Bowl 2018 Tickets. For more information, call 707-437-3711.

\$1 Bingo at Travis Bowl. Travis Bowl is now offering daily \$1 Bingo. Win up to \$200. Each bingo card is \$1 and participants must be 18 to play. For more information, call 707-437-4737.

Online language courses. Mitchell Memorial Library is offering Mango Languages for free. Learn Dutch, Spanish, French, Korean, Japanese, Italian and more at your own pace. For more information, call the library at 707-424-3279.

Custom vacation packages. Leisure Travel located inside Outdoor Recreation books travel destinations like Hawaii, Mexico, Las Vegas and more. Options include rental car, lodging, excursions, airfare and cruises. For more information, call 707-424-5250.



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

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 707-424-3315 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. Angel 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/1yNBwV>.

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-batptsd@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



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

Today
• 6:30 p.m. "The Mountain Between Us" (PG-13)
• 9 p.m. "Daddy's Home 2" (PG-13, first run)
Saturday
• 6:30 p.m. "My Little Pony: The Movie" (PG)
• 9 p.m. "Happy Death Day" (PG-13)
Sunday
• 2 p.m. "Thor: Ragnarok" (PG-13, first run)

personnel must maintain emissions information with the Web-based ECARS system. For more information, call Xuyen Lieu at 707-424-5103.

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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.

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:

- 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

THE FLIP SIDE

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

Holiday Home Tour. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Dec. 9. Purchase tickets at the Vacaville Museum, 213 Buck Ave. 447-4513.

"Lunchtime Laughs." Noon the first Friday of each month, Vacaville Public Library-Town Square, 1 Town Square Place. Free. www.solanolibrary.com.

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

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

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

Music and dance

Barkissimo. Charlie Wade Duo, 4:30 p.m. Nov. 19; Morgan and Sheets, 4 p.m. Nov. 26; 600 Solano St., Suisun City. www.barkissimo.com.

City Sports Bar and Grill. Music begins at 9 p.m.: The Time Bandits, Nov. 17; Aqua Nett, Nov. 18; Two20Band, Nov. 25; Soulstice, Nov. 25; 155 Browns Valley Parkway, Vacaville.

455-7827, www.starsrecreation.com.

Downtown Theatre. Waterfront Ballet Company performs "The Nutcracker" and "Magic Toy Shop," 8 p.m. Nov. 24, 1 and 8 p.m. Nov. 25, 2 p.m. Nov. 26; 1035 Texas St., Fairfield. www.downtowntheatre.com.

Empress Theatre. Island Therapy featuring Eli Mac and Jordan T, 8 p.m. Nov. 18; The Killer Queens, 8 p.m. Nov. 24; Petty Theft, 8 p.m. Nov. 25; 330 Virginia St., Vallejo. 552-2400, www.empresstheatre.org.

First Street Cafe. Shelby, Texas, 8 p.m. Nov. 17; Open mic, 7 p.m. Nov. 18; Bryan Girard, 2 p.m. Nov. 19; Doug Houser, 8 p.m. Nov. 24; Jason Thompson, 8 p.m. Nov. 25; Carmen Gonzalo, 2 p.m. Nov. 26; 440 First St., Benicia. 745-1400, www.firststreetcafe.com.

Gordon's Music and Sound. Live music, 7:30 p.m. Fridays, 810 Texas St., Fairfield. 422-0313.

Messiah Chorus Rehearsals. 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Sundays, through Nov. 26; Bryan of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 311 Alamo Drive, Vacaville. 429-1329.

Rancho Flaubert. Trio Vinifera, 2 p.m. Nov. 19, 7058 Bucktown Lane, Vacaville. www.sites.google.com/view/cmarrf.

The Relik Tavern. Gumbostew, 9 p.m. Nov. 17; The Big Dreamers, 9 p.m. Nov. 18; Nate Lopez, 6 p.m. Nov. 22; Uncle Buck, 9 p.m. Nov. 24; Daklas, 8 p.m. Nov. 25; 726 First St., Benicia. 746-1137, www.thereliktavern.com.

Solano Symphony. Holiday Celebration, 7 p.m. Dec. 2, Downtown Theatre, 1035 Texas St., Fairfield, www.downtowntheatre.com; 3 p.m. Dec. 3, Vacaville Performing Arts Center, 1010 Ulatis Drive, www.vpat.net. www.solanosymphony.org.



MILITARY DAYS

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local worship services

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ASSEMBLY OF GOD

First Assembly Of God of Fairfield

Lead Pastor: C. Eric Lura

- 9:15 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL
- 10:30 AM * MORNING WORSHIP
- KID'z CHURCH Grades K-5th
- 10:00 AM WEDNESDAY SENIOR PRAYER
- 7:00 PM WEDNESDAY NIGHT Adult Bible Study
- Girl's Club
- Royal Rangers
- Revolution Youth
- *Nursery Care Provided

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www.1agff.org
email: info@1agff.org

BAPTIST

Worship With Us... St. Paul Baptist Church

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

BAPTIST



Southern Baptist Convention

401 W. Monte Vista Ave., Vacaville
707-448-5430
www.tbvacaville.com
Greg Davidson, Senior Pastor

Sunday:
Worship Service & Bible Study.....9:00 am
Worship Service & Bible Study..... 10:30 am
Evening Worship & Prayer.....6:00 pm

Wednesday:
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Captain

From Page 6

brothers-in-arms will be responding to Puerto Rico," he said.

Once the team was finished in St. Thomas, Ocasio was sent to Puerto Rico.

"As soon as I landed, I went to check on my family," he said. "When I drove up to my sister's house, she was outside trying to get leftover water from the pipes. She didn't

recognize me until I got out the car, and she immediately got emotional. Then my nephew came over and gave me a hug and started crying as well. It was just a total relief seeing them and knowing they were OK."

Once he knew his family was OK, he wanted to be hands-on with any type of operations assisting Puerto Rico back on its feet.

"My family was safe," Ocasio said as he smiled. "Now I just wanted to help, so I drove

to Roosevelt Roads where I knew there would be a contingency response element arriving in a couple days. I performed an airfield assessment and started creating relationships with the other agencies already on the ground."

When the contingency response element arrived from Travis AFB, Ocasio was the first person the team met.

"After all his family had just gone through with Hurricane Irma and Hurricane Maria devastating the island, he

"It was just a total relief seeing them and knowing they were OK."

— Capt. Christian Ocasio

was still here ready to complete the mission," said Lt. Col. John Berger, CRE commander at Roosevelt Roads. "He provided us with a detailed brief on the status of the airfield and then he served as

a translator and trusted advisor as we met with local airfield authorities."

Since arriving in Puerto Rico, Ocasio has traveled to Aguadilla and Ponce to perform airfield assessments to ensure humanitarian aid can continue to flow through Puerto Rico by aircraft.

"By performing assessments on three of the four major airports in Puerto Rico, Ocasio has done more for the relief effort on the island than anyone I've met," Berger said.

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Assist

From Page 3

who was distraught. While trying to figure out where the fire was, they determined what action to take.

The second day of the fires, he got a call from a friend with bad news.

“My buddy, he works in ambulances, told me, ‘Hey, I just got a radio call. The fire is coming over your ridge. You’ve got to pack your [things,] because it’s coming,’” Baglien said.

They immediately drove home to find their neighborhood in chaos.

“People were freaking out, which is just so unnecessary,” he described. “We were seeing fights at gas stations and over water.”

So, Baglien, his wife, and in-laws were evacuated. The Citizen Airman and his wife sent their family to Petaluma where they would be safe with other family members. However, the Reserve firefighter and his wife felt wrong about leaving.

“After we sent them down to Petaluma, my wife and I headed

to our evacuation center and just started helping, doing everything we can,” he said. “I told them I was a firefighter, and they said, ‘Hey, we can totally use you.’”

The scene was chaotic, he described. He ran around unloading ambulances, hooking people up to oxygen, scrambling to find extension cords, and passing out clothes.

“People were coming up to me saying, ‘I just want to go home,’” he said. “And you just had to look at them, smile and say, ‘We’ll figure this out.’”

In the midst of all the chaos, Baglien said he saw a lot of joy.

“The community really came together,” he said. “We saw a lot more smiles than frowns, which is truly beautiful.”

Baglien and his wife, a nursing student, devoted themselves to volunteering and doing everything they could to help people out. As an Air Force Reserve firefighter, he really wanted to help out in that way.

“Every day I would get up, put on my wildland gear, and go to either the nearest strike team or go to the evacuation center where they staged,” he said. “I’d



U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Daniel Phelps

Senior Airman Martin Baglien, 349th Civil Engineer Squadron firefighter, surveys the remains of his family's home Oct. 31 after the California wildfire in Santa Rosa, Calif. The recent wildfires consumed more than 15,000 homes and caused at least \$3 billion in damage. The city of Santa Rosa lost 5 percent of its housing.

get turned away, which is understandable. But, I'd tell them, 'I'll roll hoses, I'll cook, I'll clean,' because you got to look at the bigger picture.”

But, that didn't stop the Citizen Airman and his wife. Whenever he got turned down, the two would just find some other place to volunteer.

“You just give time,” he said. “Because it's all about your family, your friends, your community. It was really important to do whatever we could for those people in need.”

Even though he and his wife were working themselves to exhaustion every day, Baglien still felt something was missing.

“I was getting up and doing everything that I could,” he said. “But, it didn't feel like enough. I never had that fulfillment.”

Finally, he got a call from Travis to report to base. The Atlas fire was rapidly spreading in Solano County.

“I jumped at the chance to go to base,” the Citizen Airman said. “I was on standby, that's where you start to see the bigger picture. In the fire department, everyone wants to be on the fire line; fight the fire, do the job, and be a hero. But, at the same time, you have to know where your response is and where you are needed.”

The fires have since diminished, leaving desolation in their wake. Now, the recovery begins for thousands across California. Many have taken notice of what is truly important in their lives and have leaned on their community members for support.

“I think with all the destruction and chaos and horrible things we were seeing, a lot of people still got out with their skin,” Baglien said. “Seeing

people lose everything, but they still had those smiles, because they still had each other. And that's all that matters. They realized the things they lost were just [things.] It's really good for people to see this.”

Baglien credited his Air Force Reserve training for helping him to stay calm in such a stressful situation.

“The training we get with the 349th is wonderful and I truly love it,” he said. “We get very good training from everyone there. I could watch everything - combining the classes we've taken and the lectures - you start getting into it, and watching the fire and winds and understanding how hot it is. It really helped me to stay calm.”

Baglien's home still stands, though his in-laws' is gone. But, they are getting help.

“We are getting a lot of support from the community for our family,” he said. “Right now, they are living with us and various family members. Someone even just donated us a trailer to use for a while.”

“It's really beautiful to see the community come together, and definitely for the better,” the firefighter said with hope. “It's really important that we continue to overcome and we continue to push forward from this, because it really is just another day.”

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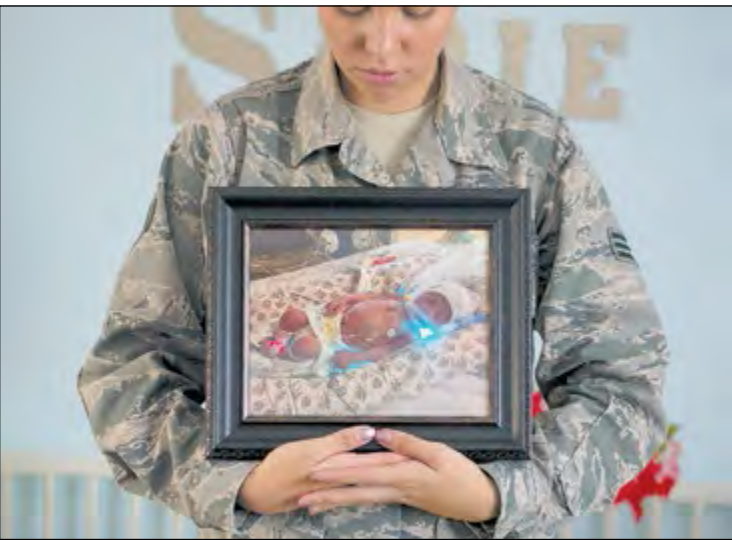
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U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Shelby R. Horn

Senior Airman Shelby Horn, 349th Air Mobility Wing photojournalist, poses with a portrait of her daughter, Sadie, on Sept. 1 at their home in Suisun City, Calif.

Horn

From Page 8

and nurse, and we all were so proud of her.

She was discharged from the NICU at 30 days old, the day before her one-month birthday. The doctors assured us we were not in the clear yet - She was still going to need eye exams, have development delays, and have issues putting on weight - and then she didn't.

Every single issue the doctors told us she would face, she has beaten. Sadie is 10 months old now, and is on par with babies her age. She is chunky, happy, and healthy; and she completed our family just like we knew she would.

It's important to know that Sadie's improvements didn't happen overnight. It was a slow process that we took day by day. We celebrated every milestone, which were as small as ounces gained or as big as IV lines being removed. When something came up that pushed us backwards, we reassessed and re-attacked. I look at my daughter and all that she was up against - the odds were certainly not in her favor, yet that tiny, 3-pound premature baby tackled every one of them.

The key point though, is Sadie had the help and support of trained doctors, nurses, developmental therapists, and more. As an infant, she wasn't able to ask for help. Others saw her issues and helped her overcome them. She couldn't have progressed

the way she did without the help of others, and I dread to think of where she would be if she hadn't received that help.

So why should I expect myself, or anyone else for that matter, to handle life's challenges and obstacles, whether physical, emotional, or mental, on their own? When we see someone struggling, why should we leave them to struggle alone? We have resources available to help us, such as family and friends, coworkers and supervisors, Military One Source and airman and family readiness, to name a few.

No one should ever feel alone when going through a difficult period in their life, no matter what that period may be. Whether it takes a team of people, or one or two close friends, it should never be looked down upon to ask for help, and it should never be looked at as a “quick fix.” Sadie had many setbacks during her time in the NICU, even with her team of help, and she may have more as she gets older - and that's okay. We will continue to monitor her health as she grows, and if something comes up in the future, we will get her the help she needs.

Although her recovery wasn't quick, and may still be ongoing, Sadie has shown she is resilient. Her resiliency has taught me more than she will ever know; thanks to her I will always strive to be the best I can be, for her, for my family, and for myself. If a 3-pound infant can overcome, then I can overcome, and so can you.

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Reay

From Page 2

us all to get the mission done. Spend the time to learn who the Gen-X and Millennials are, where they come from and where they want to go. Don't be afraid to ask questions because you think it's none of your business. Those generations are also tech savvy, so enlist their help and listen to their ideas. They just may have the answer you were looking for. When we take time to understand a person, it allows us the opportunity to create an environment that works for us all.

Option

From Page 4

allowances and not apply for the Follow-On program. "The advantage of applying for a follow-on and thus not waiting for a 'normal' assignment is that the Airman's next assignment would be forecast 14-18 months before their reporting date for their follow-on rather than much later in their short tour, which could increase flexibility or stability for the family," Houston said.

Follow-on assignments are also available and highly encouraged for rated officers.

"As we face a fighter pilot absorption challenge, the Follow-On program encourages experienced pilots to volunteer for what has proven to be hard-to-fill short, remote tours," said Maj. Craig Cude, Fighter Assignments chief at AFPC. "We project increases in retention and reductions in the number of pilots who decline such tours and are then required to separate from the Air Force."

According to the fighter assignment team, the follow-on assignment option is available for all fighter pilots, with the exception of new pilots on their way to their first operational assignment, or pilots wishing to compete for crossflow to the F-35. AFPC will consider follow-ons to formal training units on a case-by-case basis due to formal training availability and qualification requirements.

"For new pilots, the losing commander's input, based on

By taking care of our personal and professional family, we create a better, more enjoyable personal and professional environment. Start accepting change and the new and efficient processes created to make our jobs more streamlined. As we navigate through our careers, understanding what motivates people is an important step to accomplishing the Air Force mission. Remember, we are not guaranteed tomorrow, so let those who are important to you know that you care about them, and however you celebrate the holidays, stay safe and reach out – be a good wingman.

the pilot's performance and potential, is vital in determining where an inexperienced pilot goes after their first year in an operational assignment," Cude said.

During each Vulnerable to Move List cycle, the fighter assignment team will provide a realistic outlook of locations available to select following the remote assignment. Cude says eligible pilots should base their follow-on preferences from that list.

"There must be a balance between flexibility for the assignment matching process and our Airmen's family stability," Cude said. "To help with pilot retention, we are adding more weight to the latter."

In order to apply for follow-on consideration, Airmen need to submit their applications on the virtual Military Personnel Flight webpage within 15 days of receiving their assignment notification and more than 150 days prior to their departure date.

Cude encourages all Airmen to weigh the merits of the program in order to decide what works best for them and their families.

"We want to give Airmen a choice to take the follow-on, or not, but to at least understand their options and have a greater voice in their own assignment process," he said.

Find additional information about follow-on assignments on myPers. Select "Any" from the dropdown menu and search "Follow-On."

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

GTIMS

From Page 5

and chief of Travis AFB's GTIMS Center of Excellence. "We are advancing the way we train and operate, ultimately becoming more lethal."

GTIMS is a software and server platform that aggregates information across aircrew scheduling, management, training, evaluations, qualifications, resources, flight records and reporting, in order to facilitate high-fidelity planning, proactive risk management and decision making.

This enhances the warfighter's ability to accomplish the mission, said Chandler. Its purpose is to enable the ability to fly, fight and win through integrated training and mission execution at all levels of air operations.

"Currently, the Air Force utilizes many archaic flight management and information systems that are not necessarily postured to take the Air Force deep into the future," said Chandler. "GTIMS takes the place of many different disparate aircrew management and information systems by combining all of their functions into one single, aggregated software program and network. We are shaping the future of Air Force flight operations."

During the three-day conference, attendees engaged with system experts from Travis' GTIMS Center of Excellence, AMC and Air Education and Training Command staff policy makers, Northrup Grumman as well as GTIMS Enterprise Service Desk contractors to provide best practices in scheduling, training, aircrew resource management and standardization and evaluation.

Policy issues also were addressed, with attendees receiving training on new system modifications and

function-specific modules. "GTIMS is AMC's program of record," said Col. Theresa Weems, 60th Operations Group commander. "We decided here at Travis to go all in and stretch (GTIMS) to its limits, to try and see how to make it better and more user friendly."

To do that, Travis worked with AMC Resource and Requirements Division and GTIMS contractors to test the system for the past two years.

"Over the past two years, we've really dug into (GTIMS)' capabilities with scheduling, flight records and stan/eval functions," said Weems. "In there, we see where there's gaps and have come down with changes to make it more functional to the user."

Other focus areas for the conference included breakout sessions for squadron scheduling,

training, stan/eval, and SARM personnel to focus on a digital, end-to-end solution, for pre-mission, Go/No-Go and post-mission processes. Attendees also were provided a direct line to headquarters AMC and AETC to influence enhancements and policy changes to improve the system, making it more robust and efficient.

"This was an incredible avenue to improve the way we do business," said Capt Adam Cooper, 60th Operations Support Squadron and conference coordinator. "This service-wide collaboration effort allows us to continuously refine the way we operate. In doing so, we are able to strengthen our processes and be more prepared for tomorrow's fight."



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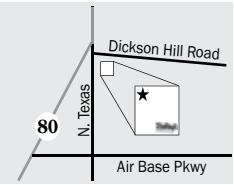
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0819 CHEVROLET



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0820 CHRYSLER

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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

Sun., Nov. 19th 2-6 p.m.
HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE
Vendors to include:
Damsel in Defense,
Origami Owl, Tupperware, Scentsy, Stamp-in Up, Mary Kay, Lu-LaRo, Amelia Dorthia Aprons, plus many w/handmade items. Raffles will be held! Casa Nova Clubhouse 2701 Martin Road

0602 AREA 2

Sat., Nov. 18th 10am-7pm
Sun., Nov. 19th 8:30am-3pm
OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL CATHOLIC CHURCH CRAFT FAIRE 2700 Dover Avenue

0606 AREA 6

Sat., & Sun. 9am-4pm
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0608 AREA 8

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0611 OTHER AREAS

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0824 FORD



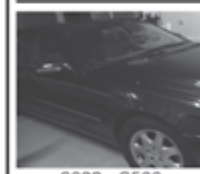
'92 Ford F350 Diesel Dump Truck Flat Bed A/C. Rear double wheel and gas tank. No Need for Smog Check. 80K \$6500 707-384-0116

0827 HONDA



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0838 MERCEDES BENZ



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- Avoid abbreviations. They can abbreviate your results. (The Tailwind uses only standard abbreviations and requires proper punctuation.)
- Include the price.
- Include your phone number and the best times to call.

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Cancellations: Deadlines for ad cancellations are the same as those for placing ads. You will be billed only for the days your ad actually runs, unless it is a special rate package.

Payment: All ads are accepted subject to credit approval. (Some classifications must be pre-paid). The Tailwind may require payment in full before accepting new ad copy or require cash with copy.

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To place, correct or cancel an ad. To ensure publication, the advertiser must meet the current deadline schedule. In the event of a holiday, special section, or unforeseen circumstances, advance deadlines may be in effect.

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Faxed Ads.....2 hours earlier than above deadline



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1) Col. Lance Clark leads Airmen assigned to the 60th Mission Support Group as they march Nov. 11 on Texas Street in Fairfield, Calif., for the Veterans Day parade. Thousands gathered to honor and remember our nation's heroes.



Travis takes part in event celebrating... VETERANS

U.S. Air Force photos by Airman 1st Class Jonathon D. A. Carnell



2) Airmen assigned to the 60th Mission Support Group march Nov. 11 on Texas Street in Fairfield, Calif., during the Veterans Day parade. The traditional Veterans Day commemoration consisted of a concert, ceremony and parade. 3) The U.S. Air Force Honor Guard from Travis present the colors Nov. 11 at the commemoration ceremony at the Downtown Theatre in Fairfield, Calif. 4) The U.S. Air Force Band of the Golden West performs during the parade.



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