

Travis Airmen stay ready with ...

TRAINING

PAGES 16-17



Travis AFB commander reflects on past year

Welcome back and Happy New Year. We hope you all had a chance to relax and recharge over the holidays.

Before we press into 2018, we'd like to take a moment to reflect on what you accomplished across the wing in 2017. We had a very engaging year and made a big impact both locally and globally. Here is just a sampling of the many great accomplishments across the wing:

The Operations Group stayed readily engaged in 2017 with multiple major exercises coupled with heavy real-world demands. Our KC-10 Extender squadrons participated in Exercise Ultimate Reach and Exercise Talisman Sabre, large-scale international exercises that involved over 33,000 participants from four different nations.

In the wake of multiple, back-to-back natural disasters, the OG supported over 50 humanitarian missions, delivering 2 million pounds of cargo and hundreds of first responders to Texas, Florida, Puerto Rico, Mexico City and various Caribbean islands. The 60th Operations Support Squadron Radar Approach Control Airmen provided vital air traffic separation during wildfire breakouts affecting Northern California. They seamlessly protected 236 California tanker operations and enforced temporary flight restriction areas covering 813 square miles.

Despite the large demand that these additional exercises and humanitarian relief efforts placed upon our wing, our Maintenance Group was able to surge forward with innovation and continue to meet daily requirements. Aircraft



Commentary
by Col.
John Klein

60TH AIR MOBILITY
WING COMMANDER

Structural Maintenance has been selected as the Air Force's first test-bed for a new laser paint removal process and Travis will be one of three locations set to test a new Metal Wire Arc Sprayer. All told, the two processes will save 837 hours annually and prevent corrosion on aircraft structures for up to 25 years.

The 660th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron also began utilizing iPads as a supplement for their eTool program, a modernization that will save maintenance personnel more than 400 hours a year. The Aerial Port Squadron, the Department of Defense's premier West Coast port, pushed 48,000 tons of cargo, prepared 35,000 passengers and supported 7,300 missions to fuel rapid global mobility.

While healing, protecting, and training heroes, the 60th Medical Group at David Grant USAF Medical Center was once again recognized by the American College of Surgeons as a Meritorious Performing Hospital. This is the second year in a row that DGMC has received this recognition and is the first DOD facility to achieve this prestigious distinction twice.

Paramount to many of the Medical Group's achievements were the 14 successful open-heart surgeries that were performed. Open-heart surgery, similar to repairing an engine while it's running, requires the expertise of over 50 medical Air Force Specialty Codes. In addition, our Airmen medics continued to demonstrate education as a priority by graduating 338 Airmen from nine enlisted Phase programs and 61 officers from 11 graduate medical professions.



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

U.S. Air Force 1st Lt. Zach Gilbert, 21st Airlift Squadron C-17 pilot, helps load humanitarian aid onto a C-17 Globemaster III aircraft from Travis Air Force Base, Calif., Sept. 22, 2017, at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland Kelly Field, Texas. The humanitarian aid was delivered to St. Croix, Virgin Islands, after the island sustained damage from Hurricane Maria.

Commander's Commentary

Moreover, the Medical Group conducted a pilot study for rheumatoid arthritis that solidified treatment for 60 percent of patients. When this study closes, hyperbaric oxygen therapy may be indicated as a therapy to treat thousands of patients suffering from RA nationwide. Finally, the Med Group also had a hand in disaster relief efforts, deploying 38 medics to Houston, St. Croix and Florida to assist with treatment and evacuation.

During 2017, the Mission Support Group improved processes and the wing infrastructure while garnering multiple high-level awards. The 60th Security Forces Squadron created the Home Station Training Initiative, which was elevated to Headquarters Air Mobility Command for potential command-wide adoption. This initiative will result in an overall 40 percent manning reduction.

Additionally, the squadron swept the SF Airmen categories for AMC annual awards by garnering flight NCO, Raven team leader, staff airman and flight

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On the cover

Medical personnel from David Grant USAF Medical Center prepare patients for quarantine during an exercise Dec. 7, 2017, at Travis Air Force Base, Calif.

U.S. Air Force photo/Heide Couch

Travis' unforgettable display of readiness

The month of August in Northern California is when summer begins to wind to a close, the days are long and beautiful and the 12,000 total force Airmen at Travis Air Force Base, California, are gearing up for an engaging fall season.

Little did we know just how engaging this past August would prove to be.

In the late days of the month, I watched Hurricane Harvey form and head straight for the Texas coast. On Aug. 25, 2017, and in the five following days, most of the nation could only sit back and watch it unleash havoc; affecting more than 700,000 people, killing more than 80 and causing a span of damage second only to Hurricane Katrina.

Catastrophic times like these, though difficult, are also the times I am most in awe of our Airmen.

In the days leading up to Hurricane Harvey's devastating landfall, Travis began posturing for a major humanitarian relief effort. If and when we got the call from the Federal Emergency Management Agency to assist, we would be ready. Maintenance personnel prepared aircraft to be in constant alert status; medical and aircrew teams assembled; mission support personnel prepared essential gear and ensured



Commentary
by Col.
John Klein

60TH AIR MOBILITY
WING COMMANDER

families were cared for in case those teams left on short notice. Much of the base engaged in 24-hour operations to make sure we were prepared to meet the needs of the 700,000 people who had requested aid.

On Aug. 31, the call came from FEMA for additional support and the base sprang into action. Within 24 hours, one C-17 Globemaster III diverted on its way to Africa to provide presidential support airlift to Texas and six critical care air transport team members traveled to Arkansas, where they staged with additional aeromedical evacuation teams to care for victims.

Little did we know, this was just the beginning. In the three months that followed, the call came five additional times. With each call, within 24 hours, Team Travis came to help.

In the wake of Hurricane Irma and then Hurricane Maria in September, additional medical and contingency response personnel and equipment flowed to southern Florida, the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico. Our fleet of C-17s and C-5M Super Galaxy aircraft rapidly transported more than 500,000 pounds of water, Meals-Ready-to-Eat, medical supplies and search-and-rescue teams. Our aerial port, the largest on the West Coast, certified and

Commander's Commentary

processed the cargo for airlift – at one point processing an entire mobile air traffic control center and later a 45,000-pound generator that provided air fidelity in St. Thomas and Puerto Rico.

After a magnitude 7.1 earthquake struck Mexico City Sept. 19, two C-17s delivered more than 220,000 pounds of medical supplies, hygiene items and food and water, as well as a 60-member U.S. Agency for International Development elite disaster team from the Los Angeles County Fire Department Urban Search and Rescue Team.

From a deluge of water in September in the south, closer to home, we saw the tragic effects of our dry summer. During the series of 250 wildfires that burned in Northern California in early October, Travis was designated a federal staging base for FEMA, housing 120 ambulances and more than 200 personnel. At the same time, fire and civil engineer teams assisted local authorities in firefighting and relief efforts across the area.

Finally, when the A.R.A. San Juan Argentine navy submarine went missing in the southern Atlantic Ocean Nov. 15, a C-5M delivered U.S. Navy undersea rescue capabilities to Argentina to assist in the search.

Through each of these



U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Charles Rivezzo

Equipment and supplies are uploaded onto a C-17 Globemaster III Sept. 9, 2017, at Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Fort Worth, Texas.

disasters, our Airmen willingly sacrificed time with their families, sleep and normal comforts to deliver hope to those who desperately needed it. These missions directly and immediately provided relief and reassurance to our international partners, our fellow Americans and, in some cases, our family members and friends. They hit a nerve in each of us. It could have been any one of us who had just lost our home in a hurricane or who was separated from our family after an earthquake or was anxiously wondering if our loved one was OK and alive somewhere in the Atlantic Ocean.

In each of these missions, our Airmen reminded me why we do what we do. We can never lose sight of their fierce resolve to deliver rapid global mobility, to project American power and to bring hope and relief whenever and wherever needed. They lived out the service they promised they would give to their country. In this season and every day, they make me unwaveringly proud to serve in their ranks.

We operate on the pinnacle of readiness. I see our Airmen work hard every single day,

Tailwind



Travis AFB, Calif.
60th Air Mobility Wing

Air Force
Col. John Klein

60th Air Mobility Wing commander

Staff Sgt. Nicole Leidholm
NCOIC of command information

Airman 1st Class
Jonathon D. A. Carnell
Command information staff writer

Airman 1st Class
Christian Conrad
Command information staff writer

Daily Republic
Nick DeCicco

Tailwind editor

Todd R. Hansen
Copy editor

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U.S. Air Force photo/Lan Kim

WARRIOR OF THE WEEK

Name:
Tech. Sgt. Nate Harris.

Unit:
6th Air Refueling Squadron.

Duty title:
NCO in charge of wing electronic flight bag office and flight engineer.

Hometown:
Durango, Colorado.

Time in service:
16 years.

Family:
Spouse, Lauren; two daughters.

What are your goals?
I will finish my Certified Flight Instructor rating next month before my deployment and then I would like to attend Flight Engineer Instructor upgrade

when I return.

What are your hobbies?
I like to work with my hands and spend time outside with my family camping, hiking, running and backpacking.

What is your greatest achievement?
Raising my two beautiful daughters will be my legacy.

Commentary

Commit to fresh trials in new year

This time of year is a time of reflection for many. It could be where you traveled, who you saw and what you did in 2017. Some of your accomplishments may be personal, some professional and others related to family. Examples range from buying a car, earning a degree or getting married.



Commentary by Col. David Hammerschmidt

60TH MAINTENANCE GROUP

Whatever your goals were for 2017, I hope your reflection gives you satisfaction in having achieved the goals. Congratulations and thank you. Your hard work has made you, your family, your peers and our service better. As we look to the new year, I ask that you continue to challenge yourself by setting new goals for 2018, then make a plan and share your plan with someone who will encourage you to get after it.

Undirected diligence isn't very efficient; therefore an element of planning must go into hard work.

— John Wooden, 10-time national basketball championship coach for University of California, Los Angeles

Making a resolution is identifying what we want to achieve. Tying a plan to that resolution lays out how we're going to get there. A plan also

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U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Paul Labbe

Two A-10 Thunderbolt IIs depart to continue a mission Dec. 1, 2017, after receiving fuel from a KC-135 Stratotanker assigned to the 447th Air Expeditionary Group over Syria. A-10s have been involved in fighting from Mosul to Raqqa and are currently used in the fight against the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria in countries such as Iraq, Syria and Afghanistan.

A-10s fight against ISIS

Staff Sgt. Trevor Rhynes
AIR FORCE CENTRAL COMMAND
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

INCIRILIK AIR BASE, Turkey — The 74th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron is wrapping up a deployment that saw heavy involvement in the fight against the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria.

Upon arrival, their efforts were focused on Raqqa for approximately three months. During that time A-10 Thunderbolt IIs participated in an urban close air support role. Pilots focused on protecting friendly forces as they maneuvered in the city between very large buildings in which the enemy hid and used as fighting positions.

"It was a difficult location to work in and we faced some situations that we have not dealt with before we arrived here," said Maj. Matthew Cichowski, 74th EFS

assistant director of operations. "Our weapons and tactics planners have done an excellent job preparing us for the variety of tactics and locations that we use and operate in."

Adapting the squadron to the new location and varied tactical situations fell to the squadron's weapons tactics planners.

"When we showed up we got thrown into this fight essentially on day one," said Lt. Col. Craig Morash, 74th EFS commander. "The fight itself was within the urban complex of Raqqa and the pilots had to get creative to figure out ways to strike targets at the bottom of these five-story buildings. There was a lot of learning as this wasn't something we traditionally trained to when we arrived. We reached out to different communities to see what we could learn from them.

"Everyone jumped on board trying to figure out solutions to the problems we faced even though we had long days and a mountain of work to accomplish," Morash said. "Our intel shop processed an unbelievable amount of expenditure reports to make sure (U.S. Air Forces Central Command) had an accurate picture for what we were doing. Our life support troops were generating equipment and doing it perfectly every single time."

The squadron's intelligence Airmen also provide vital information to pilots before their missions, enabling those pilots to adapt to threats and challenges on the fly.

"We're trained on what the capabilities of the aircraft are, which allows us to give threat perspectives to pilots with what's going on in the area of operations and how that affects the aircraft

and pilots," said Senior Airman Jake Owens, 74th EFS intelligence analyst. "We brief pilots on possible threats they may face while flying missions and we're also tied into the intelligence reporting, where we report targets struck to higher headquarters. There's a lot of battle tracking and predictive analysis."

According to the squadron's weapons and tactics chief, one of the most difficult aspects of close air support isn't physically dropping the bomb, it's making sure the rest of the process has been done correctly. The pilots assigned to the 74th EFS are trained to work through that process correctly, making sure friendly positions are confirmed, any attack restrictions make sense and are adhered to, and they are flying above or

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Actions have consequences

60th Air Mobility Wing
Judge Advocate

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

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

During the month of December 2017, three Airmen received final review of nonjudicial punishment under Article 15, Uniform Code of Military Justice and five Airmen were involuntarily separated.

The following are tools used by commanders as a means of punishment, rehabilitation and maintaining unit good order and discipline.

Nonjudicial Punishment (Article 15s)

60th Civil Engineer Squadron
A senior airman received an Article 15 for two specifications of failure to go, a violation of



Law and Order

Article 86, UCMJ. Punishment consisted of a reduction to the grade of airman first class and a reprimand.

60th Security Forces Squadron

A senior airman received an Article 15 for one specification of wrongful use of marijuana, a violation of Article 112a, UCMJ. Punishment consisted of a reduction to the grade of airman basic, forfeiture of \$799 pay and a reprimand.

60th Diagnostics and Therapeutics Squadron

A senior airman received

See LAW Page 21

Trump inks order extending benefits

Terri Moon Cronk
DEFENSE MEDIA ACTIVITY

WASHINGTON — Transitioning service members and veterans can now receive up to a year of mental health care from the Veterans Affairs Department after discharge from the service, according to an executive order President Donald J. Trump signed Jan. 9.

The order, "Supporting Our Veterans During Their Transition From Uniformed Service to Civilian Life," directs the Defense, Veterans Affairs and Homeland Security departments to develop a joint action plan to ensure the 60 percent of new veterans who now do not

qualify for enrollment in health care — primarily because of a lack of verified service connection related to the medical issue at hand — will receive treatment and access to services for mental health care for one year following their separation from service.

"We look forward to continuing our partnership with the VA to ensure veterans who have served our country continue to receive the important mental health care and services they need and deserve," said Defense Secretary James N. Mattis.

"We want them to get the highest care and the care that they so richly deserve, and I've

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Followers become leaders

Chief's Commentary



Commentary by Chief Master Sgt. Jason Morehouse
60TH MAINTENANCE GROUP

The frontline supervisor and subordinate relationship is not just one of the most important relationships, it's the foundation on which our subordinates' development starts. How we catch and care for our Airmen, in my opinion, is the most critical step in their professional development.

Yes, I said our Airmen. America's moms and dads give their sons and daughters to us; they give them with the expectation that we, the U.S. Air Force, will care for them. A key part of that care-plan should be intentional professional development. We do a good job training and developing great maintainers, medics and cooks, but do we, as supervisors, do a good

job developing professional Airmen who are also great maintainers, medics and cooks? Bottom line, the frontline supervisor has two jobs: develop subordinates into professional Airmen and develop these professional Airmen to be great at their craft.

The frontline supervisor and subordinate relationship is much like the parent and child relationship. Most people remember their parents or guardians who impacted their childhood much like most of us remember our very first Air Force supervisor.

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Aiming high key to keeping warm

On Jan. 10, 2017, on a snowy morning in Knoxville, Tennessee, I was jostling through a crowd of young men who, like me, were being herded onto buses making their way to the



Commentary by Airman 1st Class Christian Conrad

60TH AIR MOBILITY WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

airport to be flown to San Antonio for basic military training. I remember pushing my way to the back of the group so I could kiss my girlfriend one last time. The way I saw it and the reason I kept shouting back at the sergeant

yelling at me to get back in line was, "It's cold out there,

Commentary

sir. I'm going to be needing just a little bit more warmth to weather it."

It's not by accident that we all know what to say after "aim high." It's what we're here for. It's what a 30-year-long career can be summarized by. Say it like a prayer, say it because your leadership told you to, say it because people have died in the act of doing it. We're kept alive by those words and we're kept together as a unit through them.

In BMT, you don't get a lesson in what winning looks like. In BMT, the words "fly, fight, win," meant for me, flying back home, fighting anyone who gets in my way and winning my freedom."

But this year has tempered

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

Reservists from the 41st Aerial Port Squadron and other service members prepare to load a CH-47 Chinook helicopter onto a C-5M Super Galaxy from the 709th Airlift Squadron Jan. 6 at the Gulfport Combat Readiness Training Center – Battlefield Airman Center, Miss.

Services unite for training

Tech. Sgt. Ryan Labadens
403RD WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE, Miss. — Members of the 41st Aerial Port Squadron and other Air Force, Army and Navy units teamed up for a joint training scenario called GRIP III Breaking Barriers Jan. 5-7 at Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi and at the Gulfport Combat Readiness Training Center – Battlefield Airman Center.

Reservists, guardsmen, civilians and active-duty members from the three military branches worked side by side during this event, highlighting the joint effort of this training

opportunity. Members of 1108th Theater Aviation Sustainment Maintenance Group, Gulfport CRTC, provided UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters to ferry personnel from Keesler AFB, to the CRTC, simulating transportation of personnel from one forward operating base to another.

Master Sgt. Steve Martin, 41st APS ramp assistant supervisor, said the primary goal of this training was to give reservists and other military members the opportunity to train with aircraft, personnel and equipment they normally don't get to encounter in their everyday training environments.

"When we deploy, we never know who we're going to have to support. It could be an Army unit with 40 pieces of equipment that's got to be airlifted, it could be a Navy unit coming to us that needs to be shipped out, or somebody coming in that needs to go back to the states," said Martin. "So our guys need this kind of training to give them the chance to mimic what they might encounter downrange."

While at the CRTC, members performed joint inspections of several vehicles, including a CH-47 Chinook helicopter, light mobile tactical vehicles, Humvees and mine-resistant, ambush-protected vehicles. The Navy Special Boat Team 22 from John C. Stennis Space Center, Mississippi, provided a riverine command boat and rigid inflatable boat and trailers for the APS members to practice loading and offloading as well.

While at the Gulfport CRTC, reservists from the 41st APS worked alongside Air National Guardsmen from the 186th APS, Key Field Air

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Invisible Wounds seeks interviewees

Merrie Schilter-Lowe

60TH AIR MOBILITY WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Air Force is seeking volunteers, including commanders at every level, to participate in interviews that will be used to develop a strategy to provide better care and support for Airmen and their families struggling with invisible wounds such as post-traumatic stress, traumatic brain injury and major depression.

A Booz Allen Hamilton culture assessment team will visit Travis Air Force Base, California, Jan. 22 to 26 to interview active duty and reserve members, civilians and military spouses as part of the Invisible Wounds Initiative.

"The aim of the interviews is to discover the values,

beliefs, attitudes and behaviors surrounding invisible wounds and understand the benefits of seeking care," said Michelle Padgett, Warrior Wellness and Policy Integration director.

Those interviewed will remain anonymous and are not required to have personal knowledge of or experience with invisible wounds associated with deployments, said Padgett.

The information provided during each 60-minute session will be summarized with input from other interviews so comments cannot be attributed to any individual.

"Interview participants will be assigned an identification number and no personal information will be recorded

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U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Justine Rho

Airman Shawn Bragg, 100th Maintenance Squadron aircraft fuel systems apprentice, secures bolts inside the confined-space trainer Dec. 15, 2017, at Royal Air Force Mildenhall, England.

Confined-space trainer redefines preparation

Senior Airman Justine Rho

100TH AIR REFUELING WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

ROYAL AIR FORCE MILDENHALL, England — The access point into the wing fuel tanks of a KC-135 Stratotanker is a hatch that is about the size of a commercial aircraft viewing window. After

twisting and turning into that small opening, an Airman is immediately enveloped by the smell of jet fuel and complete darkness.

Aircraft fuels systems Airmen assigned to the 100th Maintenance Squadron have to become familiar with claustrophobic work spaces, such as

the fuel tanks within the wings of an aircraft, in order to do their jobs. A team of Airmen within the 100th MXG, each contributing from their different sections and line of expertise, addressed the need to better prepare their personnel by creating a standalone

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Airman receives Purple Heart

Airman 1st Class Breanna Carter

90TH MISSILE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

F.E. WARREN AIR FORCE BASE, Wyo. — More than 10 years after his injury, Tech. Sgt. Douglas Smits, 90th Civil Engineer Squadron explosive ordnance disposal team leader, received a Purple Heart medal at F.E. Warren Air Force Base, Wyoming, Jan. 5, 2018.

The Purple Heart medal is one of the military's oldest

commendations, dating back to 1782. It recognizes military members who were wounded or killed in combat.

In 2007, then-Senior Airman Smits went on a six-month deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Achilles, one of NATO's largest ground operations at the time.

"I was deployed out of Kandahar, and we were going into the Ghorak Valley to root out the Taliban, but as we were driving to one of our rally

points, we hit an improvised explosive device," Smits said.

Upon hitting the anti-tank mine, which contained more than 30 pounds of explosives, the 51,000-pound vehicle was blown up, and resulted in Smits suffering a traumatic brain injury.

"It was like riding lightning, and it sent a shockwave through my body," Smits said. "My ears were ringing, and I remember looking up and

See PURPLE HEART Page 23



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Joseph Pick

Air Force Junior ROTC cadets take a familiarization flight in a 1st Special Operations Wing aircraft June 27, 2017, at Hurlburt Field, Fla.

Flight Academy program launches

Phil Berube

MAXWELL PUBLIC AFFAIRS

MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE, Ala. — Headquarters Air Force Junior ROTC has launched a program aimed at potentially putting more pilots in the cockpits of military aircraft to help address the Air Force's ongoing aircrew shortage.

Beginning in the summer of 2018, select AFJROTC cadets who applied for a new Flight Academy scholarship will attend an accredited aviation program at one of six partnering universities to get a private pilot license.

The competitive application process started in fall 2017. The names of the initial 120 scholarship recipients from the more than 800 who applied will be released in early 2018.

"The number of applicants and the demographics of the applicant pool have turned out to be beyond any we could have hoped for. It is exciting to know we can concurrently answer the number and demographic issues of the aircrew crisis," said Todd Taylor, AFJROTC Region 1 director and Flight Academy program acting director.

AFJROTC's Flight Academy supports the Air Force

"... Young people electing to enter commercial aviation will have a positive impact on the overall national crisis."

— Brig. Gen. Michael Koscheski

Aircrew Crisis Task Force. The task force was tasked by the Air Force chief of staff to come up with new and innovative ways to address the service's shortage of experienced aircrews. The ACTF is tackling the problem along seven lines of effort: requirements, accessions, production, absorption, retention, sortie production and industry collaboration.

The AFJROTC Flight Academy scholarship program is an initiative born of a joint military-industry working group within the industry collaboration line of effort that is responsible for "increasing intake." The working group is charged with leveraging Civil Air Patrol,

AFJROTC and general civil aviation to bring back the "luster of aviation" to high school students and to increase diversity in aviation fields.

"The Flight Academy initiative accomplishes two important tasks simultaneously: it helps 'get the word out' regarding the opportunities in the aviation community and it addresses the issue of diversity throughout the aviation community," said Scotty Lewis, AFJROTC deputy director and the Increasing Intake Working Group military lead.

Of AFJROTC's approximately 120,000 cadets, 58 percent are minority and 40 percent are female. Flight Academy scholarship applications mirror the demographic: 55 percent of those applying for the 2018 scholarships are female or minority cadets.

AFJROTC leaders plan on collaborating with civilian aviation organizations, industry and others to provide partial funding for future Flight Academy scholarships. The scholarships pay for transportation, room and board, academics and flight hours required to potentially earn a private pilot license. The in-residence training

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Pharmacy copayments set to increase Feb. 1

60th Air Mobility Wing Public Affairs

TRICARE has announced that pharmacy copayments will increase for prescription drugs Feb. 1 for all beneficiaries except active duty service members.

The increase is mandated by the 2018 National Defense Authorization Act and applies only to medications obtained from retail pharmacies and TRICARE home delivery services. Prescriptions filled at military pharmacies remain at no cost. Also, some survivors of active duty members may be eligible for lower cost-sharing amounts for medications.

TRICARE groups medications into three categories: generic, brand name and non-formulary, which are drugs not approved by the health care plan and must be declared medically necessary by the health care provider.

Retail pharmacy copayments for a 30-day supply will increase from \$10 to \$11 for generic drugs, from \$24 to \$28

for brand-name drugs and from \$50 to \$53 for non-formulary drugs.

Home delivery copayments for a 90-day supply of medicine will increase from no cost to \$7 for generic drugs, from \$20 to \$24 for brand-name drugs and from \$49 to \$53 for non-formulary drugs.

TRICARE will ship non-refrigerated medications to any address in the United States, U.S. territories or overseas military installation, except in Germany.

"Military pharmacies and TRICARE Pharmacy Home Delivery will remain the lowest cost option for beneficiaries," said Lt. Col. Ann McManis, Defense Health Agency Pharmacy Operations Division.

To sign up for home delivery service, visit: <https://www.express-scripts.com/TRICARE/index.shtml>.

For more information on prescription costs, visit: <https://www.tricare.mil/pharmacycosts>.

Scott Orthodontics
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Two Air Force careers reunited after 21 years



Maj. Nick Hardeman, left, 379th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron distribution flight commander, and Chief Master Sgt. Nathan McCoy, 379th ELRS chief enlisted manager, stand in front of their painted squadron barrier Nov. 10, 2017, at Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar.

U.S. Air National Guard photo/Master Sgt. Phil Speck

Master Sgt. Phil Speck
379TH AIR EXPEDITIONARY WING

AL UDEID AIRBASE, Qatar — It all started in 1996. One kid from Prattville, Alabama, and another from Baton Rouge, Louisiana, took a bus to Lackland Air Force Base, Texas. They were both a little scared and excited to become the U.S. Air Force's newest Airmen. Though they grew up about 400 miles apart and spent six weeks together in the same flight at Basic Military Training, their Air Force journeys separated them after graduation by thousands of miles and trips around the world.

Twenty-one years later, the Air Force brought them together again at the 379th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron.

Maj. Nick Hardeman, the distribution flight commander, and Chief Master Sgt. Nathan McCoy, the chief enlisted manager, currently work together at Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar.

Hardeman vividly remembers sitting in the day room on their first day of BMT with his flight mates as the military training instructors asked for volunteers for dorm chief and element leaders. Most trainees are too scared to speak up at first as they were told, "don't volunteer for anything," before leaving for BMT.

"What I remember about Nate is that he was the first one, raised his hand, stood proud, stood tall and said he was the team captain for his basketball team," Hardeman said. "Since day one, he's always been the one to stand up and take the lead."

Their flight was affectionately called the Bad News Bears and the two agreed they were out of the running of being honor flight graduates within the first week.

"The big reason I joined the Air Force was I didn't have a whole lot of other options, and I thought 'Hey this might be cool,'" said Hardman. "I was

See REUNITED Page 22

Evaluations after first year no longer required

**Secretary of the Air Force
Public Affairs**

WASHINGTON — Air Force officials announced Jan. 4 that Enlisted Performance Reports are no longer required for regular Air Force Airmen in the grade of airman first class and below with less than 36 months' Time-In-Service or Air Reserve Component Airmen below the grade of senior airman.

This policy change supports Air Force senior leaders' focus on revitalizing the squadron and saving Airmen time. It is intended to eliminate an unnecessary administrative requirement and empower frontline supervisors, raters and commanders to frequently engage with their Airmen face-to-face, said Lt. Gen. Gina Grosso, deputy chief of staff for Manpower, Personnel and Services.

"While the Air Force values the contributions of all enlisted personnel, the requirement to document performance in a formal evaluation prior to the grade of senior airman is not necessary," said Grosso.

Instead, the Air Force has additional means available to document an Airman's performance and to ensure he or she is meeting the training, developmental and experiential skills required to perform as professional Airmen.

Performance feedback and Airmen Comprehensive Assessments will still be required. Initial feedback sessions will occur within 60 days of raters taking over as supervisors and then every 180 days until an EPR occurs.

The removal of EPRs prior to promotion to senior airman will allow Airmen more time to learn their primary skills and missions before their performance is documented on an EPR, Grosso said.

All active-duty enlisted Airmen will receive their initial evaluation upon reaching their first March 31 Static Close-out Date after either promotion to senior airman, or after completion of a minimum of 36 months' time-in-service, regardless of grade, whichever occurs first. All Air Force Reserve Component enlisted Airmen will receive initial evaluations upon

See EVALUATIONS Page 25



U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Franklin R. Ramos

Staff Sgt. Cassidy McCurdy, 51st Medical Group independent duty medical technician, poses for a photo Dec. 21, 2017, at Osan Air Base, South Korea.

Medic helps on flight

Staff Sgt. Franklin R. Ramos
51ST FIGHTER WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

OSAN AIR BASE, South Korea — While returning from leave, an Osan Air Base Airman sprang into action, saving the life of a fellow passenger midflight Nov. 11, 2017.

After visiting family in Santa Ana, California, Staff Sgt. Cassidy McCurdy, 51st Medical Group independent duty medical technician, was heading back from leave on a flight from San Francisco to Seattle, when things took an unexpected turn.

"I was taking a nap and there was some commotion going on in the back (of the aircraft)," said McCurdy. "Then the (flight attendants) asked if there was a doctor or emergency medical technician onboard."

McCurdy sprang to action to assess the situation onboard.

"I got up and there was a woman in cardiac arrest," said McCurdy. "There were no other medics around (at the moment) and she didn't have a pulse, so I started to do chest

compressions. I just completely reacted and did everything I've been trained to do through the emergency medicine protocols that we do. It was the first time I had to 100 percent rely on myself to know what to do (in a cardiac arrest situation)."

It took around two minutes of cardiopulmonary resuscitation for the victim to gain consciousness.

"She quickly gained consciousness. Then another gentleman moved her to the back where the flight attendants sit," said McCurdy. "So from there we just got her stable, she started vomiting and another nurse came back and assisted."

McCurdy has more than five years of experience through the USAF in the medical field, including two years as an IDMT.

"(As an IDMT) we're essentially physician extenders trained on anything in the hospital. We're able to see patients, prescribe medication, diagnose and treat them under a flight surgeon," said McCurdy. "We're supposed to be like a mini hospital ourselves,

so if we deploy, we can help take care of everything like dental, labs, pharmacy, public health, water testing, etc."

McCurdy had to apply what she learned throughout her military career to help aid the victim.

"We administered oxygen, maintained her vitals, obtained glucose readings and made sure she stayed stable," said McCurdy. "I was able to do a full neurological exam to rule out a couple of other things."

Once the aircraft landed, emergency responders from the ground transported the patient to the emergency room.

"I feel very grateful I was there. She truly was my reason for being on the plane that night. It has been more than a month since this happened and each day I have wondered if what I did was enough and how she is doing," said McCurdy. "I joined the medical field to help people, so it feels great knowing that the skill set the Air Force has taught me allowed me to do so in a moment's notice."

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TRAVIS
CREDIT UNION

Officer embraces uncharted path as amputee

Shireen Bedi

AIR FORCE SURGEON GENERAL
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Editor's note: This is part one of a series following an Airman through her cancer treatment and amputation. Part two appears on Page 13.

FALLS CHURCH, Va. — Maj. Stephanie Proelochs, a Medical Service Corps officer, was fighting cancer, overcoming the odds and set on returning to active duty. Unfortunately, just when the finish line was in sight, new challenges presented themselves.

After a year of treatment and the amputation of her left foot, Proelochs thought she was cancer-free in November 2017. She was not. Her cancer had spread, and will require additional treatment. Her drive to overcome cancer, her commitment to rejoin her fellow Airmen and her relentlessly sunny and positive attitude are all still present and stronger than ever.

The first part of her story showcases an Airman exhibiting strength and gratitude through the highs and lows of her treatment journey.

“Every journey begins with a single step,” read the



Department of Defense photo/Karina Luis

Maj. Stephanie Proelochs relies on her wheelchair as she heads in to her daily physical therapy session Nov. 8, 2017, at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center.

Facebook caption under a picture of Proelochs walking on a treadmill with a smile from ear-to-ear.

Most Airmen are not excited about exercising on a treadmill, but Proelochs is not your average Airman. As a recent amputee, this single step marked an important milestone on her road to recovery. Her journey has highlighted how patient-centered principles of trusted

care help wounded, ill and injured Airmen at all levels of care.

For Proelochs, who has served for 10 years, it all started in late 2015 with unbearable pain in her left foot. That began a yearlong quest to find the root cause of her pain, a journey that drastically changed her life.

“I started seeing doctors, being referred to specialists and tests,” said Proelochs. “My health care team was determined to find answers to the cause of my pain and get me back to work.”

Her quest for answers led her to an orthopedic oncologist at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in November 2016.

“The first thing he said to me was, ‘You have a tumor in your foot and the next time I talk to you, I will be taking it

her tumor was metastatic and had spread from her foot.

“It was at that point I said, ‘Take the foot,’” said Proelochs. “When I found out it was on the move, it was time for the foot to go.”

For anyone, an amputation of a limb is a life-altering experience that nobody is prepared for. Fortunately, Proelochs’ husband and his experience working with amputees made the upcoming transition a bit easier.

“My husband, John, volunteers for a nonprofit organization that is focused on working with wounded veterans who have disabilities like amputations,” said Proelochs. “He was familiar with life after amputations and conversations about what life would be like was common in our household. With the help of my husband and his experience, I felt prepared for it. And now he got his own amputee.”

Knowing life as an amputee would be different, Proelochs wanted to have one last “tour” with all 10 of her toes. This motivated her to plan a “Farewell to Foot Tour” with her family.

“I wanted to put both of my feet in the sand one more time. My family, friends and I planned a vacation to commemorate the last time I would be able to do this with my left foot. We all met up and took pictures of my 10 toes in the sand and two feet in the water for the last time.”

In September 2017, Proelochs underwent surgery to amputate her foot at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Maryland. The procedure was a below-the-knee, trans-tibia amputation on her left leg. This type of procedure will give her a strong chance at regaining a functional limb, and enable her to return to an active lifestyle.

“After speaking with my health care team at Walter Reed, I felt comfortable moving forward with the amputation,” said Proelochs. “The team here has such an amazing reputation, so I knew I was in good hands.”

out,” said Proelochs. “They removed the tumor in December 2016.”

While most would be shocked at the thought of a tumor, Proelochs had some prior experience with a benign tumor in the same foot. She assumed once doctors removed the tumor, her ordeal would be over.

However, in January 2017 she learned that her tumor was malignant and her foot needed to be amputated. Insisting on holding off on such a life-changing operation, Proelochs opted to undergo months of radiation therapy instead. By June, Proelochs thought she was healed and ready to go back to work.

Unfortunately, not long after she was back in combat boots, she noticed lumps in her upper thigh. In June, she discovered

Major takes steps to walk after surgery

Shireen Bedi

AIR FORCE SURGEON GENERAL
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Editor's note: This is part two of a series following an Airman through her cancer treatment and amputation. Part one appears on Page 12.

FALLS CHURCH, Va. — Maj. Stephanie Proelochs, a recent amputee, gazes up at the rock-climbing wall at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center’s physical therapy center in Bethesda, Maryland. She recalled the time she witnessed a service member who had lost his arm effortlessly climb his way to the top.

“Yeah, I’m climbing that wall soon. Just watch,” said Proelochs, a Medical Service Corps officer.

On the surface, this physical therapy center looks like a normal gym with its energetic music, exercise equipment, and rock-climbing wall, all surrounded by a running track. Look closer and you see service members recovering from amputations, overcoming challenges and making remarkable progress as they return to duty.

Proelochs is one of those patients taking her first steps with her prosthesis on the road to recovery.

Proelochs spent months receiving treatment for a cancer diagnosis that culminated in the amputation of her left foot in September 2017. Now learning to walk with her prosthesis, Proelochs shows a resilience that has been with her throughout all the phases of her diagnosis, treatment and beginning of her recovery journey. Equipped with a daring sense of humor and support from her family, she demonstrates internal strength and resilience that are so critical to recovery.

That attitude was on full display right before she took her first steps. Proelochs and her husband, John, decided to spend Halloween at Walter Reed with other patients, physicians and physical therapists.

“Halloween here is on another level,” said Proelochs. “Former patients even come back

because everyone gets really excited about it and takes the costume contest seriously.”

Proelochs was no exception. She won the costume contest with her amputation creatively dressed up as the iconic alien from the film “E.T.” and her wheelchair fashioned to look like the familiar bicycle with a basket over the handlebars.

“Stephanie manages to make me laugh at every appointment,” said Kyla Dunlavey, a physical therapist working with amputee patients at Walter Reed. “Her ‘E.T.’ costume is just one example of her humor. It was the best I had seen in my 14 years here.”

Proelochs embraced all these challenges with a smile. Her attitude and appreciation for the support she has received helped her build meaningful relationships with her physical therapists and other patients. These connections have helped her cope and prepare for what to expect when taking these crucial first steps in a prosthesis.

“I was told that it’s the little things that you don’t think of that you take for granted,” said Proelochs. “For example, you can’t feel the ground so you need to rethink about foot placement. Some other amputees have said that no matter how well you



Department of Defense photo/Karina Luis

Maj. Stephanie Proelochs, a Medical Service Corps officer and recent amputee, takes some of her first steps in her new prosthesis, Nov. 15, 2017.

think you’ve got it down, you will never pick your foot up high enough.”

Despite a minor setback that delayed her from receiving her prosthesis sooner, Proelochs was ready to take her first steps

on Nov. 10, 2017.

“The moment I stood up I felt total elation. I can’t begin to describe it but it was a very emotional moment,” said Proelochs. “My husband and I were both brought to tears and we could not

even look at each other when I first stood up.”

That total elation is plain to anyone who sees Proelochs walking on her new prosthesis. It is easy to see how eager she is to

See STEPS Page 24

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See AMPUTEE Page 22

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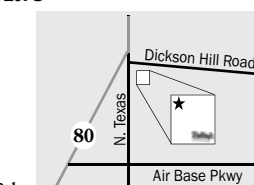


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Courtesy photo

More than 1,700 family members and mentors gathered for the Snowball Express balloon release Dec. 9, 2017, in Dallas, Texas.

Snowball Express cares for children

**Airman 1st Class
Alexis Christian**

21ST SPACE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — She felt exhausted, mentally, physically, and emotionally.

Seeing what these children went through on a daily basis was enough to break

her heart. To her they were so strong, and being able to give them a safe place to be vulnerable was an amazing opportunity. All she wanted to do was to hug them and take away their pain.

Tech. Sgt. Rebecca Place, 21st Medical Squadron primary care element noncommissioned officer in charge,

and two other volunteers participated in Snowball Express in Dallas, Dec. 9-13, 2017.

Snowball Express is an all-expenses paid event for children of fallen military members. This event is meant to offer them five days of fun, hope, friendship and new memories during

the holiday season.

This is not the first volunteer event these volunteers have attended that caters to Gold Star families. This was the first Snowball Express for two of them, however, they have all volunteered with the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors.

See SNOWBALL Page 19

DOD to face audit

Jim Garamone
DEFENSE MEDIA ACTIVITY

WASHINGTON — A departmentwide audit is important for business reform, for Congress and for the taxpayer, the Defense Department's comptroller told the House Armed Services Committee Jan. 10.

The process has started for the first department-wide audit in DoD history, David L. Norquist said. Defense is the largest department in the executive branch and has assets around the world.

Defense Secretary James N. Mattis and Deputy Defense Secretary Patrick M. Shanahan are fully behind this effort, Norquist told the committee.

While the department has auditors looking at various contracts or processes, "this is the first time the department will undergo a full financial statement audit," he said. "A financial statement audit is comprehensive and occurs annually and it covers more than financial management."

Audit's purpose

This audit will verify the

See AUDIT Page 19



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Exercise keeps base ready



Airmen from the 60th Medical Group make preparations for setting up a point of dispensing as part of an exercise on Travis Air Force Base, Calif., Dec. 7, 2017. The POD setup trained Airmen in the execution of a disease containment plan in the event a real-world outbreak were to ever occur on base.

U.S. Air Force photos by Lan Kim



Puzzles

STR8TS No. 368 Medium Previous solution - Tough

SUDOKU No. 368 Medium Previous solution - Easy

Retiree Corner

New military retirement system takes effect
WASHINGTON — One of the most wide-reaching and significant changes to military pay and benefits over the past 70 years went into effect Jan. 1, with the implementation of the Uniformed Services Blended Retirement System.

the uniformed services on or after Jan. 1 will be enrolled in this new retirement system, Pentagon officials said. The uniformed services are the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Public Health Service Commissioned Corps and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Officer Corps.

— Air Force News Service

News Notes

Information Protection office hours. The 60th AMW Information Protection office no longer offers walk-in fingerprint hours.

Scholarships for military children. Open to sons and daughters of active duty, reserve, Guard or retired military commissary customers.

L&D open house. The David Grant USAF Medical Center's labor and delivery unit will hold an open house from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Jan. 20 for the base community, including parents with small children.

Balfour Beatty Communities foundation scholarship program. Will begin accepting applications for the 2018-19 academic year Jan. 15.

Chapel programs

- Recurring events
Catholic
Twin Peaks Chapel
• Roman Catholic Mass: 9 a.m. and noon Sunday.

In the next week...

fri Building rededication. The 60th Maintenance Squadron is hosting a building re-dedication ceremony at 3 p.m. Jan. 12 at the 60th MXS Heritage Room.
mon Pharmacy closings. The main pharmacy in the David Grant USAF Medical Center and the pharmacy refill center in the base exchange mini mall will be closed Jan. 15 in observance of Martin Luther King Day.

- 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.

60th FSS

Events and information

- Huddle up for football. Did you know the Delta Breeze Club offers the NFL Ticket for free every Sunday, Monday and Thursday?
\$1 Bingo at Travis Bowl. Travis Bowl is now offering daily \$1 Bingo. Win up to \$200.
Online language courses. Mitchell Memorial Library is offering Mango Languages for free.

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.

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.

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.

Travis AFB Heritage Center Behind-the-Scenes Tour. 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Jan. 18. Donuts and coffee provided.

Sierra Inn dining facility closure. The DFAC, Sierra Inn, will close Jan. 15 for an extended time due to remodeling.

Sierra Inn dining facility closure. The DFAC, Sierra Inn, will close Jan. 15 for an extended time due to remodeling.

covered for active duty, reserves, some DOD and NAF folks. Family members welcome, but must cover own costs.

Professional Loadmaster Association. The Professional Loadmaster Association meets at 7 p.m. the first Tuesday of each month at the Delta Breeze Club.

Retiree Activities Office. Openings for volunteers. Customers are retired American service members and their family members.

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.

Travis Legal Office. Power of attorney and notaries are walk-ins 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday.

Voluntary Leave Transfer Program. The following Travis employees are approved as leave recipients through the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program:

Benicia Plein Air Gallery. Susan Street is January's featured artist, reception 3 to 5 p.m. Saturday, open 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday through Sunday.

The Corner Store Gallery. Open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, 320 Cernon St., Vacaville.

El Comalito Collective. Portraits and Landscapes from Xico Gonzalez, through Feb. 3, reception 5 to 9 p.m. Friday, open 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, 302 Georgia St., Vallejo.

REEL TIME Here are the showtimes for this weekend's movies at the Base Theater: Today 6:30 p.m. "Coco" (PG) 9 p.m. "Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri" (R) Saturday 7 p.m. "12 Strong" (R, free advanced screening) Sunday 2 p.m. "Ferdinand" (PG)

THE FLIP SIDE

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.

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Local events

Art exhibits

Artiszen Cultural Arts Center. Gallery open 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday, noon to 6 p.m. Friday, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, 337 Georgia St., Vallejo.
ArtPhit. Open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday, 726 Texas St., Fairfield.
Arts Benicia. "Art of Community," Jan. 27 through Feb. 25; open noon to 5 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday during exhibitions, 991 Taylor St., Suite 114, Benicia.
Benicia Plein Air Gallery. Susan Street is January's featured artist, reception 3 to 5 p.m. Saturday, open 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday through Sunday, 307 First St., Benicia.
The Corner Store Gallery. Open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, 320 Cernon St., Vacaville.
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Department of Defense photo/Army Sgt. Amber I. Smith

Under Secretary of Defense David L. Norquist, comptroller, provides testimony on the Fiscal Year 2018 National Defense Authorization Budget Request from the Department of Defense to members of the Senate Committee on Armed Services Dirksen Senate Office Building June 13, 2017, in Washington, D.C.

Audit

From Page 14

count, location and condition of military equipment and real property. “It tests the vulnerability of our security systems and it validates the accuracy of personnel records and actions,” Norquist said.

The department will have 1,200 financial statement auditors assessing the books and records to develop a true account of the state of the department, the comptroller said. It will take time to pass all the process and system changes necessary to pass the audit and get a so-called “clean opinion,” he said. He noted that it took the Department of Homeland Security – a much smaller and newer agency – 10 years to get a clean audit.

“But we don’t have to wait to see the benefits of a clean opinion,” Norquist said. “The financial statement audit helps drive enterprise improvements to standardize our business practices and improve the quality of our data.”

The audit will provide information and accountability to the American people. “The taxpayers deserve the same level of confidence as a shareholder that DoD’s financial statement presents a true and accurate picture of its financial condition and operations,” he said. “Transparency, accountability

and business process reform are some of the benefits of a financial statement audit.”

An audit will improve accountability, the comptroller said, noting that, for example, an initial Army audit found that 39 UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters were not properly recorded in the property system. “The Air Force identified 478 structures and buildings at 12 installations that were not in its real property system,” he said.

The audit should cost about \$367 million in 2018, Norquist said, which is about the same percentage of the overall budget that large firms like Proctor and Gamble or IBM spend on their audits. “We also anticipate spending about \$551 million in 2018 fixing problems identified by the auditors,” he said.

Finding better ways to do business will allow DoD to invest in greater lethality for the force, the comptroller said.

Snowball

From Page 14

TAPS is a support program for anyone who has lost a loved one in the military. They offer seminars, camps, retreats and online chat groups so families never have to feel alone.

These programs are meant to provide emotional support and healing for families who have lost military family members. They also give these families a chance to meet each other and form new bonds with others who have gone through similar situations.

“These kids’ worlds have been turned upside down by a loss, then a secondary loss when they were disconnected from their military communities,” said Marnie Herbert, 21st Medical Squadron mental health technician. “They are reconnecting with others just like them. They support each other during the grief process and help each other not to feel so alone.”

These events give military members a chance to see the impact they have on the families of the fallen. Place started her journey with the TAPS program back in 2001. At the time, she was stationed in Washington, D.C., as a member of the United States Air Force Honor Guard. After spending months performing funeral ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery, she realized that she didn’t really get to interact with the families as much as she had hoped.

“Once I volunteered at my first TAPS Nationals over Memorial Day weekend, I was hooked,” Herbert said. “This was a way to give back to these families and let them keep their military connection.”

TAPS events are meant to give grieving families a safe space and the tools to help them heal, and to connect them with other families that understand what they are going through. These events are powerful and emotional, and not just for the families involved, but also for the mentors. The staff makes sure that mentors are also getting proper self-care and support.

During these events some mentors can feel overwhelmed, or find themselves reliving past griefs. For these instances, chaplains are always available for the mentors to speak to, or they can step out and take a break before returning to their mentee.

“I think there’s something very powerful and humbling about being a support for a hurting child,” said Herbert. “So many military members have also experienced loss themselves and I’ve seen healing during the mentor’s journey by drawing on the strength of the kids.”

Herbert explained how volunteering at these events can really help military members see how they are part of a big community. For some, it offers comfort knowing that should something happen to them, there are people who are going to make sure their families are taken care of.

“TAPS really piqued my interest as I work in mental health, but I’m also a military spouse and have young kids whose identity is framed around being raised in the military lifestyle,” said Herbert. “It was so touching to watch kids who have attended before reach out to the first time attendees and show them the ropes.”

At the end of these events, mentors are encouraged to continue their relationship

with their mentee, in hopes that when they attend another event they will be paired again. This helps create a level of comfort for the child to help continue their journey with someone who already has an understanding of their situation.

“The bonds that you form with these kids are incredible,” said Place. “I’ve kept in contact with many of my ‘kids’ over the years and have watched them grow into amazing young men and women who are now doing great things in the world.”

It might seem difficult to imagine discussing grief with a child. Place said there can be a fear that the child won’t like you and that you might say something wrong. She said that if you just follow the child’s lead, then everything will be OK.

The very first event that Herbert attended was a TAPS Suicide Survivor Seminar. She was nervous about the heaviness of the event, and that the connection with her child wouldn’t be as organic as everyone said it would be.

“Here I am, a 33-year-old adult, worried that this kid wouldn’t like me,” said Herbert. “Just the opposite happened – we were perfect for each other.”

Herbert continued by explaining, these kids really look up to the mentors that volunteer at these events. They provide a level of support that influences them greatly.

“I kept hearing different survivors during Snowball Express saying that once they saw a TAPS person, they knew they would be OK,” said Place. “They have a level of trust in us that we can help them with anything. You form bonds with them that you didn’t think you could.”

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Benefits

From Page 5

been working very hard on that with (VA Secretary David J. Shulkin) and with everybody. It's something that is a top priority," the president said. "We will not rest until all of America's great veterans receive the care they've earned through their incredible service and sacrifice to our country."

Shulkin noted that as

service members transition to veteran status, they face higher risk of suicide and mental health difficulties.

"The Department of Homeland Security is where many veterans find a second opportunity to serve their country - nearly 28 percent of our workforce has served in the armed forces, in addition to the 49,000 active-duty members of the United States Coast Guard," said Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen M. Nielsen.

Law

From Page 5

an Article 15 for one specification of misuse of his Government Travel Card by making purchases not related to official travel, a violation of Article 92, UCMJ, and for making a false official statement, a violation of Article 107, UCMJ. Punishment consisted of a suspended reduction to the grade of airman 1st class, 30 days extra duty and a reprimand.

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60th Surgical Operations Squadron

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60th Security Forces Squadron

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Amputee

From Page 12

Proellochs' strength, positive outlook and, most of all, gratitude after amputation are impossible to ignore and help drive her recovery.

"I have the 'paper cut' of amputations. I only lost my left leg, so I can still drive," said Proellochs. "When you talk to other amputees with more severe injuries, it puts it all in perspective. I have spoken with patients who are quadruple amputees, making

incredible recoveries. I look at my situation and think, 'This is nothing. I just have a paper cut.'"

Proellochs might describe her amputation as "just a paper cut," but facing such a life-changing event like this is a sign of her strength and her ability to stay focused on her recovery.

The next part of her story brings to light her amazing support system, the impact this has had on her Air Force career and her ability to use humor to face the more challenging moments of her treatment.

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Courtesy photo

Maj. Nick Hardeman, center circled, 379th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron distribution flight commander, and Chief Master Sgt. Nathan McCoy, back row circled, 379th ELRS chief enlisted manager, are pictured in their basic training flight photo in 1996 at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas.

Reunited

From Page 10

that kind of kid ... still here after this many years later."

Both of them thought they would get out of the military after their initial enlistments, but their Air Force careers turned into adventures that developed them personally and professionally.

"The camaraderie, the people you meet in certain places, you don't get this in the civilian world. It's all corporate, it's all about the mighty dollar," said Hardeman. "But in the military, it's not about that. It's about relationships."

McCoy arrived at Al Udeid AB in June 2017 and Hardeman arrived a month later. However, it took a little time for the two prior flight mates to realize who each other was.

During McCoy's promotion ceremony recently, Lt. Col. Kellie Courtland, commander of the 379th ELRS, described the new chief's military career and mentioned him showing up to BMT in July 1996.

At that moment, Hardeman

flashed back to that summer of '96 and realized he knew McCoy from basic training. After the ceremony, he rushed back to his room and pulled up his BMT flight photo, confirming it was him.

"So he sent me the basic training photo, and he had himself and me circled," said McCoy.

McCoy felt proud to have known Hardeman, both back in basic and now that he is a commander.

As commander, Hardeman has overseen many projects, such as the new customs and immigration terminal. He also directs vehicle operations, the base's bus routes, aircrews that need to get out to their planes, the traffic management office that manages inbound and outbound cargo and making sure military members get transportation when being forward deployed to other bases around the U.S. Central Command's area of responsibility.

"The way they have done business over there is through the roof," McCoy said when talking about Hardeman's flight. "You kind of fall back into 'Wow, that's a guy I started

with 21 years ago."

McCoy has stayed busy with his many duties at Al Udeid AB as well. As the chief enlisted manager, he has to stay in tune with and support the enlisted Airmen. His job requires ensuring squadron members have everything they need, living quarters are in good condition and training deficiencies and morale issues are taken care of. He pushes younger Airmen to expand their professional development and take advantage of opportunities they have while deployed. He wants to pass on all of his knowledge to help mentor tomorrow's Airmen.

"I take enjoyment in the fact that I can give back. I can ensure that the next Airman McCoy is 10 times better than me. We have some bright kids in this Air Force now," McCoy said.

"The person you are seeing right now was the same person that I saw in basic training," Hardeman said. "The way he talks about pulling people together, being the cheerleader, he was that guy in our basic training flight. It's no surprise that he's a chief master sergeant."



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

Staff Sgt. Jim Cagle and Senior Airman Preston Spear, 41st Aerial Port Squadron air transportation technicians out of Keesler Air Force Base, Miss., check the clearance of a CH-47 Chinook helicopter to make sure it will fit into the cargo bay of the C-5M Super Galaxy aircraft Jan. 6, 2018, at the Gulfport Combat Readiness Training Center – Battlefield Airman Center, Miss.

Unite

From Page 6

National Guard Base, Mississippi, loading and offloading various vehicles on a C-5M Super Galaxy aircraft from the 709th Airlift Squadron, Dover AFB, Delaware. This allowed them to train jointly with other military members on these procedures, in addition to vehicle inspections, cargo sequencing, preparing the airframe for aeromedical evacuation and other scenarios related to the cargo and personnel this aircraft might deliver.

"My hope with this type of training is to expose them to the types of problems they might run into so that they can troubleshoot these different issues in a training environment. Then they can minimize the actual operational problems," said Martin.

Army National Guard Master Sgt. Vernon Dedeaux, 1108th Theater Aviation

Sustainment Maintenance Group helicopter mechanic supervisor, agreed with Martin, noting the importance of communication to the success of this type of training and to working together in a deployed environment.

"I think the big takeaway is—because it's a little bit more of a laid-back training environment—it's easier to correct a mistake, to talk it out and resolve it right then and there," said Dedeaux.

For many of the military members, this was their first time getting to work with a

C-5M Super Galaxy airframe and with many of the vehicles that were available for inspection, loading and offloading. That was the case for Senior Airman Heather Strang, 41st APS air transportation technician, who noted how beneficial this training was.

"As reservists we don't have a lot of hands-on experience with the bigger aircraft or loading larger equipment onto a bigger aircraft, so it's good to get the experience here in a relaxed location so that, when you do deploy, you know what you're doing," said Strang.

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Launches

From Page 9

typically lasts about seven to nine weeks.

The 120 AFJROTC cadets selected for the summer's Flight Academy and the 250 planned for 2019 are but a drop in the large commercial and military pilot shortage bucket. Civilian airline industry experts project a demand for 117,000 new commercial pilots over the next 20 years. The Air Force is currently short of at least 1,500 pilots to fulfill its requirements.

To help fill those voids down the road, AFJROTC leaders' end goal is to offer scholarships to 1 percent of its cadet corps, or 1,200 cadets, a year.

Leaders up and down the military chain are aware that

many of the cadets who do earn their private pilot license through Flight Academy probably won't have a career in military aviation in their sights, opting for the civilian airline industry instead. The cadets will not incur a military commitment after getting their private pilot license through Flight Academy, nor does getting the license guarantee acceptance into one of the Air Force's officer accessioning programs.

"We understand not all of the cadets graduating from the Flight Academy will elect to take a military track, but that's OK as those young people electing to enter commercial aviation will have a positive impact on the overall national crisis," said Brig. Gen. Michael Koscheski, Air Force Aircrew Crisis Task Force director.

Purple Heart

From Page 8

seeing pieces flying off of the vehicle and black smoke covering the crater. Although I was in significant pain, I did not request medical evacuation as I felt I could still function to contribute to our mission and continue with field treatments of injuries to other members of the team."

Senior Master Sgt. Alejandro Rodriguez, 509th Civil Engineer Squadron EOD flight chief, who was the team leader at the time, said they had to be tough and resourceful. The team was isolated for five days until recovery assets were sent.

"We strapped our equipment onto a stretcher and carried it throughout the battlefield from scene to scene clearing other detonation sites," Rodriguez said.

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A-10s

From Page 4

are laterally deconflicted with any artillery that may be firing, and avoiding any exposure to threats like anti-aircraft fire or other aircraft.

“Positive identification is extremely important and is something that takes a large team and a long amount of time to get right,” said Capt. Eric Calvey, 74th EFS chief of weapons and tactics. “Long before we show up there are individuals who use Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance assets to get an idea of what targets to strike and make sure that what we drop on is in fact a hostile target. We’re the last link in the chain and there’s a large amount of work done ahead of

time to prepare these targets for strike before we employ munitions on them. It’s amazing seeing the utmost care that is taken before we employ on these targets.”

Although the squadron’s deployment is coming to a close, Morash said they are still keen on supporting the ground forces, no matter where they are.

“Every single person in this squadron was and still is mission focused. They are looking at the bigger picture, seeing what solutions to problems could be and mitigating risk to ground forces every single day,” Morash said. “The way this team came together, operations and maintenance, to look after each other and to get things done made me proud to be an Airman.”

Steps

From Page 13

move to the next steps in her recovery.

“I know this might sound corny but this is my first step in my new life. There are all these things I want to start doing now,” Proelochs said. “I know that it will take time for me to get comfortable with my new leg before I start running, but I am excited.”

Proelochs’ determination has pushed her to be diligent in every exercise that will help her walk on her own. Despite still relying on a single crutch, she has been able to outpace her therapist while walking around the track in the physical therapy area.

“I am excited, but this new leg definitely takes some getting used to,” said Proelochs. “If it rubs or gets unbearably uncomfortable, then I work with the physical therapist to make sure that my gait is correct and physically doing what

I am supposed to be doing.”

Proelochs takes advantage of every moment with her prosthesis. As soon as her physical therapist helps her stand, she is ready to tackle that day’s exercises. She eagerly races around the track to the parallel bars for her next exercise. She fearlessly transitions from her one crutch to walking on her own, minimally relying on the bars for support. Her smile and confidence make it look like she has done this a million times before. It can be easy to forget that she has only recently received her prosthesis.

Her health care team is a significant factor for her safely walking in her prosthesis and back to her active lifestyle. The team-based approach between her oncologist, surgeons, therapists and her prosthetists has been vital to her recovery. They work together to ensure she is receiving the best care, a classic example of Air Force Medical Service Trusted Care principles.

“My entire health care team is aware of and invested in every

step of this journey,” said Proelochs. “My therapist takes note of any discomfort I have during each session and the prosthetist actually takes my leg to make adjustments. I often see the surgeon who did my amputation come here to check in on his patients and speak with the therapists here. They really work together as a team and make me feel supported and engaged in my care.”

Proelochs jokingly admits she sometimes struggles saying the word “prosthetists,” but she has never had trouble facing new challenges. Talking with her health care team and other amputees recovering at Walter Reed, she is able to put her journey in perspective while finding solace through every step of her journey.

“People might not understand this, but it was liberating seeing the world from a wheelchair,” said Proelochs. “I have gained a new perspective and appreciation to just be able to stand and walk again.”

Conrad

From Page 6

me; made me rethink what it means to be here.

I’m not cut from the standard military cloth and I will admit, I scoffed when I first heard the Air Force motto. I thought, “How can an organization that deals in war be said to ‘win’ when war is just a measure of who loses less?”

I thought, “Losing a limb isn’t winning. Losing your friend isn’t winning. Winning is probably pretty far from the thoughts of the veteran who comes back and has to ask neighborhood kids to please not shoot off fireworks near her house because they remind her of the time her Humvee was ripped apart by machine-gun fire.”

And then I met that veteran.

On her lawn outside her home was a sign that said, “Combat veteran lives here – please be courteous with fireworks.”

Inside, she offered me a coffee made in a plastic cup, poured the sugar with a rubber-lined spoon. She said her last panic attack was when her dog accidentally knocked over

a glass vase from an end table. The shatter sent her to the floor and she spent the next hour with her knees to her chest, sobbing.

“My survival can look a little bit like death sometimes,” she said. “But I’m surviving.”

I sat with her on a sofa and asked her what she thinks “winning” means. She paused for a long time and pat her dog, a Saint Bernard named Viva. She looked down and said, “This. We’ve all got a reason for why we serve. And we all have opinions on the why of what we’re serving for. But I served so I can afford to buy her top-line dog chow. She’s an old woman now and my service makes it so that she can live well for the rest of the time she has left. I owe the military for her big, goofy grin.”

Viva, as though in agreement, began to lick my hand.

“Winning” is an abstract concept. It’s up to us to ascribe meaning to it and to apply the metric by which it’s measured. For some, winning can be a degree. For others, it can mean honoring a family legacy or providing aid to those who need it. For others still, winning is coming back from a deployment to the big, goofy grin

of a dog.

The Air Force is a family, but a family is made up of individuals. We’re kept alive by our family, but we excel by the strength of the individual. It’s the fight of every individual Airman to enforce and perpetuate the values they want tomorrow’s Air Force to be built on.

Our groupthink does not extend to our own personal motivations, so find meaning in our motto. Bring your personal struggle to the fight – don’t tune it out. We’re the world’s greatest Air Force because of your individual victories; because we bring every ounce of ourselves to whatever arena we choose to win in. That’s how the Air Force works and that’s why we succeed.

Two days ago, it became one year since that snowy morning in Knoxville. I’ve grown a lot in that time. I’ve seen a lot, experienced much, made friends, lost friends and when I hear “aim high,” I answer. I am proud to be in the Air Force for the reasons I work to enforce. Humanity and individuality will not make us weak. It will keep us warm. And we need a little bit more of that warmth to weather the cold.

Evaluations

From Page 11

the first March 31 SCOD as a senior airman.

Commanders still retain the

Trainer

From Page 8

confined-space trainer.

“We had a large influx of new Airmen and to get them spun up and ready to do fuels systems maintenance it would take about three months until they can do their first job,” said Staff Sgt. Joshua Goins, 100th Maintenance Group aircraft fuel systems craftsman. “The confined-space trainer allows us to work with Airmen in a safe and controlled environment; instead of pulling an aircraft from the flightline, we can do training readily in the shop.”

Some priorities to the design of the trainer included

option to complete a Directed By Commander evaluation to document standard performance for those airmen first class and below any time after an Airman reaches 20 months’ Time-In-Service. If a Directed

authenticity and a design that allows instructors to easily observe and give instructions to Airmen inside the trainer. With the specifications in mind, the next step was to construct a unit that best simulated the conditions of an aircraft.

“Being in structural maintenance kind of centers around building parts for the aircraft,” said Staff Sgt. Scott Trombley, 100th MXG aircraft structural maintenance craftsman. “I took a personal interest in the project because it’s not something we normally get to do and it gave me the opportunity to be creative. It was mutually beneficial for my section because we recruited (Airmen still in training) to assist in construction, which gave them upgrade training in our career field.”

By Commander evaluation is written, the Airman will receive a subsequent evaluation the following March 31 SCOD.

More information about the policy change is available at myPers.

To further the realism of the training unit, the team looked to the metals technology section to help fabricate a fuel tank hatch.

“They needed a door that closely simulated an aircraft fuel tank hatch, for entry and exit procedures, to help get their newer Airmen trained properly,” said Staff Sgt. Montana Engelking, 100th MXG metals technology craftsman. “They procured us a door from the wing fuel tank of a Stratotanker. We then took precision measurements and basically reverse engineered the existing door geometry to cut out a door without having to buy a new one.”

“A wing section to use as a trainer would have cost about \$500,000,” Goins said.

perceived barriers to care and treat Airmen suffering with invisible wounds with dignity throughout the recovery process.

Travis AFB is one of only three Air Force units selected for phase one of the program.

Langley AFB, Virginia, and Kentucky Air National Guard, with headquarters in Louisville, also were selected.

For more information, contact the assessment team at IWICultureResearch@bah.com or 703-377-4111.

Interviewees

From Page 8

during interviews or used during the analysis process,” said Padgett. “Registration information and interview data will never be merged, connected or attributed.”

Contact information such as name, phone number and email address is required to schedule an appointment. This information will be permanently deleted once the team completes its visit at Travis, said Padgett.

Individuals will receive a specific interview location from the team and may bring a support person to the interview; however, children under age 18 cannot be present due to the nature of the conversations.

To register for an interview, visit: <https://iwiculturesearch.acuityscheduling.com>.

The IW1 was created in 2016 to help Air Force senior leadership develop an expected environment of understanding, trust and open discourse among Airmen and their families, peers and leadership. The goal is to eliminate real and

Klein

From Page 2

Airmen. The Force Support Squadron brought home the Lemay Trophy for AMC’s best FSS and the Communications Squadron executed the daunting task of deploying over 10,000 Windows 10 workstations across Travis AFB.

The Logistics Readiness Squadron demonstrated exceptional performance supporting Travis AFB’s commitment to AMC’s Mobility Guardian. The LRS guided the deployment of 254 passengers and 372 short tons of cargo for the 3,000-member multinational exercise.

Finally, the Contracting Squadron paced the year with bold innovation awarding \$14 million in programs. They expertly executed the \$450,000 Wings Over Solano air show budget and contracted more than \$12 million in infrastructure and dormitory upgrades.

In all of these efforts, despite significant levels of fatigue and risk, the wing worked tirelessly to mitigate many obstacles in order to successfully complete the

mission when others needed it most.

As 2017 ends, we can reflect upon our full and active year with pride. We played a critical role in natural disaster relief. We stood up the Phoenix Spark Innovation lab – the first of its kind on an Air Force installation. We weathered an onslaught of challenges while continuing to perform our daily demands with professionalism.

However, our work is never done and we must look ahead to what opportunities 2018 – the year of Travis Air Force Base’s 75th Anniversary – may bring.

We recently developed a strategic plan to guide our wing thoughtfully and purposefully into the future. Armed with our mission, vision, priorities and new objectives, we can posture Travis Air Force Base to be prepared for whatever our nation may ask of us.

As America’s premier power projection platform, 2018 promises to be a demanding year for Team Travis, and we are rising to meet the threats.

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Morehouse

From Page 5

Do you remember the name of yours? How did they impact your development?

Just like parenting, there are many books written on how to build and develop relationships, but there is no better way to learn than to get busy doing it. Don't be afraid to fail, and when you do, learn from your mistake, jump back in the ring and get busy.

Here are a couple of tips: be assigned as their sponsor and make contact with them before they arrive, meet them upon their arrival and make them feel welcome as this is one of the first steps in developing the team; get to know them and their family situation and find their niche and figure out

"Today's subordinates are tomorrow's leaders and they are counting on us to get it right today."

what motivates them. How can you use this to benefit the team and positively impact the mission? Give feedback often and set high, but achievable, expectations. Hold them accountable to these expectations and apply the appropriate corrective actions where and when needed. If nobody is dying, then there is plenty of time to get both sides of the story. Always think about training your replacement. Get intimately involved

in their qualification and upgrade training. Be approachable. If they are more comfortable going to visit with the first sergeant than with you, there might be a problem. Nobody knows it all, so keep an open mind and be open to the idea that you could learn from them and be receptive to their feedback.

Ultimately, you need to own it. Know and understand the enormous impact you have as a frontline supervisor. We can't afford to let day-to-day operations and continuous competing interests keep us from that responsibility. Your relationship and the deliberate development of your subordinate starts with you. We have to get this one right. Today's subordinates are tomorrow's leaders and they are counting on us to get it right today.

Colonel

From Page 4

helps keep us focused on our goals. It's this drive that pushes us to work hard to reach our potential. Tying a plan to a resolution also helps build small victories along the way to stay motivated as you progress. If you haven't made any resolutions for 2018, a good place to start is choosing goals that enhance your personal, professional and family priorities.

Personal: Maybe you have a goal to read more, increase your fitness test score or lose a few pounds that you "found" over the holidays. If you want to lose a few pounds then define it, set a timeline and be specific. Setting a goal to lose 15 pounds by April 1 is better than simply saying "I want to lose a few pounds." Fifteen pounds by April 1 means losing five pounds a month for the next three months or one pound per week for the next 15 weeks. Track your progress and reward yourself along the way. Build your plan and stick to it. You'll be in charge of your progress and hitting your goals before you know it.

Professional: If you have a goal to earn your Community College of the Air Force degree or get promoted this year, then build a plan to do so. Make a consistent investment of time to read and study your Air Force study guides along with your specialty knowledge test material. Studying isn't difficult, but that doesn't mean it's easy. It takes consistency to build a new habit pattern and, if you stick to your plan, it will set you on your way to achieving your goal.

Family: Maybe you have a goal to spend more quality time "unplugged" with family or save money for a trip to

Disneyland. No matter how much time or money you have, it never seems like it's enough. Sometimes small changes in daily habits can yield significant savings. Saving a few dollars can be achieved by making your own coffee or packing your own lunch each day. Use your money saved to set up a small automatic deposit to your vacation account that quietly grows for you and your family. Paying for your vacation beforehand makes for a more relaxing vacation than one you're still paying for months after your return.

As Airmen, we live by some simple core values. One is excellence in all we do. Excellence doesn't just happen. It takes focus and work to be better today than you were yesterday, and better tomorrow than you are today.

We don't all have to be superstars or win championships. ... All we have to do is to learn to rise to every occasion, give our best effort and make those around us better as we do it.

— Wooden

We don't have to be superstars, but if we put in the work and dedication to stick to a plan with some simple steps over time, we can achieve superstar results.

As you make your list of resolutions for 2018, I suggest you share your goals and your milestones with someone who will hold you accountable, such as a peer, spouse or a supervisor who will encourage you along the way.

This is how we motivate and inspire each other. I am amazed and inspired by you and our Air Force every day. I wish you all a Happy New Year. Now go make a plan to make 2018 your year.

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1 1) A Douglas C-124 Globemaster is displayed Jan. 10 at the Heritage Center at Travis Air Force Base, Calif. Capable of carrying 200 passengers or 68,500 pounds of cargo, when used, the C-124 Globemaster could move heavy equipment, troops and patients. The Heritage Center will host a Behind-the-Scenes Tour from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Jan. 18. Donuts and coffee provided. For more information on the free event, call the Heritage Center at 707-424-5883. U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Christian M. Conrad



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

2) Rick Shea, Travis Heritage Center curator, stands Dec. 15, 2017, in front of an SA-16 Albatross on display at the Travis Heritage Center at Travis Air Force Base, Calif. Shea became curator of the center in 2015. Anyone is welcome to visit the Heritage Center 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. Government ID cards are not required. 3) Jim Parvin, Travis Heritage Center docent, stands at the welcome desk Dec. 15, 2017, at Travis. Parvin has been a docent here since 2013, providing tours throughout the Heritage Center. Parvin also volunteers as a crew chief on the C-7 Caribou, keeping it clean, maintained and making minor repairs as needed, such as replacing the seal on the windows. 4) Richard Terp, Travis Heritage Center docent, stands Dec. 14, 2017, in front of a B-29 Superfortress static display named "Miss America 62" at Travis.



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