



FEMA rolls into Travis for ...

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FLOOD RELIEF

Follower, manager, leader all play part

Commentary by
Lt. Col. Chad Harris
21ST AIRLIFT SQUADRON
DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

Looking at roles come tomorrow morning from the point of view of a follower, manager, leader:

From the follower: I hope when I arrive at work tomorrow, my bosses know what needs to be done and do not waste my time with useless tasks that don't lead us anywhere.

I try to tell them all the time how we can do it just a little bit better, but I feel

like they either don't hear me or they purposely ignore me. Someday, when I am in charge, I will teach the people who work for me a better way and listen when they tell me I am missing something. I will give my all each and every day. I just want to make a difference.

From the manager: As I go to bed tonight, I think about the mile long list of things to get done tomorrow. Not all of it can be that important, but somehow all of it must be accomplished by lunch. I'm pushing my people to get it done as soon as possible, but I

Commander's Commentary

know it's impossible. My family will miss me at dinner again, but my boss said everything needs to be finished by the end of the day. I will do my best. I hope it's what he needs.

From the leader: I want our group to be the best and I want them to know how much I appreciate them without sounding cheesy. I want to work as hard as they do. I hope they can see that I don't work for myself, but for them. I know

I push them. Sometimes, it's a mission requirement and sometimes it's to help them see what is possible. What if I push too hard or at the wrong time? I'm still learning to be a better leader. I will be the best I can be today and try to be even better tomorrow morning.

My job as a leader is to ensure that "followers" know I heard you, "managers" know I am listening and future "leaders" know I will prepare you. As I've matured, things that used to look like a waste of time are often intended to prepare you for the next mission or level of responsibility.

Sometimes the difference between someone thinking their time is wasted and the job getting done is just conversation away.

I am a follower, a manager and a leader yesterday, today and tomorrow. I set the priorities and accept risk in areas where necessary. The commanders over me set their priorities and I adjust mine to meet their expectations.

Regardless of your level or rank, we all do this every day. When you wake up tomorrow, look in the mirror and ask yourself, "How will I be elite today?"

Mentorship opportunities found in air, on ground

Commentary by
Senior Master Sgt. Toby Thompson
21ST AIRLIFT SQUADRON

As we move quickly into the new year, I find myself reflecting over experiences of the past year.

Specifically, just how busy it can be between the months of August through the end of January. The cycle starts in September, with master sergeant enlisted performance reports. In November, it is technical sergeant EPRs. Come January, staff sergeant EPRs, quarterly awards, annual awards, major command level awards and the list goes on.

I ask myself, what, if anything was missed or overlooked during this time frame? The question that always comes to mind is "Did I take advantage of all

opportunities to mentor my Airmen?"

According to Air Force Instruction 36-2618, Enlisted Force Structure, senior NCOs are responsible for deliberately developing junior enlisted Airmen, NCOs and fellow senior NCOs into better followers, leaders and supervisors to obtain the highest levels of readiness and ensure mission success.

This sounds straightforward, right? As a career enlisted aviator, I sometimes have to look for creative ways to mentor my Airmen. Spending countless hours traveling from one side of the globe to another presents a rare opportunity to develop them at 39,000 feet.

I use this time to get to know my Airmen, to mentor them and to sharpen their technical skills. It is at these times where I have truly gained insight into their

Chief's Commentary

personalities, their personal and professional goals and what drives them to make the sacrifices only we, as Airmen, can relate to.

However, at this point in my career, I do not spend as much time in the air as I would like. In garrison, I often find myself fighting to meet a multitude of deadlines. Making time for my Airmen can be challenging.

Recognizing this, I bring our Airmen together three times a week to openly discuss important topics, to solicit feedback and focus on technical development. Additionally, I make a pointed

See THOMPSON Page 25



Courtesy photo/Senior Master Sgt. Toby Thompson

Travis backs FEMA in flood relief effort

Staff Sgt. Daniel Phelps
349TH AIR MOBILITY WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Due to historical rainfall and flooding across Northern California, Travis Air Force Base, California, is supporting an incident management assistance team from the Federal Emergency Management Agency with a staging area at the base.

In conjunction with FEMA, Air Forces Northern and U.S. Northern Command determined Travis was best suited to support a FEMA Incident Support Base to provide relief to communities affected by a potential Oroville Auxiliary Spillway failure, said Master Sgt. Joe Brockman, 60th Civil Engineer Squadron Readiness and Emergency Management superintendent.

With 44 trucks and approximately 30 personnel, the IMAT brought cots, drinking water, blankets, meals, medical equipment and supplies.

The team began arriving Feb. 13 at Travis.

"It was apparent there could be significant impacts," said Victor Inge, FEMA external affairs officer. "We were in touch with the state and deployed the

IMAT. During incidents such as this, we lean forward by pre-positioning commodities in the event there is a need."

Travis is supporting the ISB by providing space, safety, security and communications assistance, said Brockman.

"Once the order came down, every squadron in the 60th Mission Support Group collaborated, ensuring the ISB setup was smooth and efficient," said Brockman.

The 60th CES Emergency Management flight coordinated with wing leadership and regional emergency preparedness liaison officers to determine a suitable staging location for the ISB capable of supporting 300 tractor trailers and administrative space for FEMA personnel.

"The 60th Aerial Port Squadron provided a staging area for the ISB and kept wing leadership informed of the latest developments by monitoring and managing logistics requirements, the flow of personnel and requests for CES support," said Brockman. "Additionally, the 60th Communications Squadron ensured the IMAT

See FEMA Page 22



U.S. Air Force photo/Louis Briscose

Trucks and personnel from the Federal Emergency Management Agency arrive Feb. 16 at Travis Air Force Base, Calif. Travis is acting as a staging area for FEMA personnel, providing space for necessary equipment and supplies in case of the Oroville auxiliary spillway failure.

Tailwind

Travis AFB, Calif.
60th Air Mobility Wing

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

2nd Lt. Sarah Johnson
Chief of command information

Daily Republic
Nick DeCicco
Tailwind editor

Todd R. Hansen
Copy editor

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On the cover

Trucks and personnel from the Federal Emergency Management Agency arrive Feb. 16 at Travis Air Force Base, Calif. Travis is acting as a staging area for FEMA personnel, providing space for necessary equipment and supplies in case of the Oroville auxiliary spillway failure.

U.S. Air Force photo/Louis Briscose



U.S. Air Force photo/T.C. Perkins Jr.

WARRIOR OF THE WEEK

Name: Senior Airman Nick Evans.	Hometown: Acton, California.	aeronautics and make staff sergeant on the first time testing.
Unit: 60th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.	Time in service: Three years.	What are your hobbies? Outdoor activities.
Duty title: Aerospace propulsion journeyman.	Family: Spouse, Katie.	What is your greatest achievement? Earning my Community College of the Air Force degree.
	What are your goals? To finish bachelor's degree in	

Team surveys for potentially endangered species

Merrie Schilter-Lowe

60TH AIR MOBILITY WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

What do the western spadefoot toad, northwestern pond turtle and tricolored blackbird have in common? All could live on Travis Air Force Base, California, and all could become federally listed under the Endangered Species Act.

A project team from the Center for Integrated Research on the Environment at the University of Montana is surveying several areas on base for the toad, including the former aero club, Union Creek south of the Navy detachment and the Castle Terrace conservation area.

The team also is surveying areas where the turtle and blackbird were previously sited, said Kirsten Christopherson, wildlife biologist with the Air Force Civil Engineer Center Installation Support Team at Travis.

Through a cooperative agreement between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the CIRE, the Air Force awarded federally-listed species surveys at multiple bases nationwide, including Travis and Beale AFB, California.

"By doing habitat assessments and surveys for these species now, the Air Force is posturing to adjust to any new legal requirements associated with those species and thereby, minimize delays in the base's future construction projects," said Christopherson.

Christopherson explained that the Endangered Species Act requires federal agencies to consult with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or National Marine Fisheries Service to ensure any project "they approve, fund, or carry out will not jeopardize the continued existence of a listed species, or destroy or adversely modify designated critical habitats."

California already lists the western spadefoot toad and the northwestern pond turtle as species of concern. The state lists the tricolored blackbird as a "candidate" species, meaning it will be added to the state's threatened and endangered species list in the future.

The western spadefoot toad



U.S. Air Force photo/ Heide Couch

Alisa Wade, University of Montana, collects a sample from a vernal pond Feb. 13 at Travis Air Force Base, Calif. Wade, part of a two person team, is the project coordinator for a "habitat quality assessment" project to determine if Travis has a viable environment for the western spadefoot toad.

has been found in California's central valley and coastal ranges as well as the coastal lowlands from the San Francisco Bay south to Mexico. Although they are primarily terrestrial, they require aquatic habitats for breeding.

The pond turtle has been split into two subspecies, one that prefers the northern region – from the Bay Area into Washington – and one that is restricted to the central coast range – south of the Bay Area. Primarily an aquatic animal, the turtle requires terrestrial habitat in the winter and for reproduction.

The tricolored blackbird spends the winter in the Sacramento to San Joaquin River delta and along the coast. The largest population is located in the central valley and surrounding foothills though they have been

seen as far north as Oregon and as far east as Nevada.

"We want to find out where these species are, record their numbers and determine their habitat characteristics," said Winsor Lowe, CIRE project principal investigator and associate professor of amphibious reptiles. Lowe and two other project leads met with Air Force project managers at Travis in November 2016 to review the work plan and schedule survey dates.

When they visited in January, the team conducted aquatic surveys for the toad, which involved visual scans of pool surfaces for egg clusters. They also installed song meters at several locations, including the duck pond, to detect nighttime toad vocalizations.

The team returned Feb. 13 to download the song meter data

and collect water samples. The water will be filtered, dried and stored until funds are available for "species specific primers" that allow the toad's DNA to be detected and sequenced, said Penn Craig, 60th Civil Engineer Squadron biological scientist and natural and cultural resource manager.

"Currently, primers are not available for this species and species-specific primers are expensive," said Craig.

The team plans to return in April to set hoop traps for the pond turtle.

"A tube allows the turtle to enter (the trap) but a door shuts so it can't get out. Part of the submersible trap sticks out of the water so the turtles don't drown," said Brett Addis, team field coordinator.

In April, the team also will conduct blackbird surveys.

The birds breed from March to early August, said Craig. Although there can be as many as 200,000 blackbirds in a colony, fewer than 2,000 have been seen at Travis.

The project team is expected to complete all field work by May, according to Christopherson.

"We expect to receive a draft report in August and then finalize the report by December. The final results will then be incorporated into the next update of the Travis AFB Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan. Also, if any of these species are detected, their presence will be documented in a statewide database (California Natural Diversity Database) for future use by other scientists doing work in the region."

Travis is already home to the
See ENDANGERED Page 24



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

Staff Sgt. Saecho Kao Seng, 349th Force Support Squadron personnel specialist, aids Airmen 1st Class Justin Ferry and Samantha Bambino, 60th Force Support Squadron personnel specialists, in commissioning packages for Airmen assigned to the 349th Air Mobility Wing Feb. 15 at Travis Air Force Base, Calif. The 60th and 349th FSS units have been working together to become a seamless unit and Total Force Support Squadron in March.

349th FSS, 60th FSS combine

Staff Sgt. Daniel Phelps

349TH AIR MOBILITY WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The 349th and 60th Force Support Squadrons have always had a strong partnership, but coming March 6, the two units will form a union and join together in a shared location as the Travis Air Force Base Total Force Support Squadron.

This transition came about as a directive from Headquarters Air Force, said Maj. Melissa Johnson, TFSS action officer.

"The conditions are right for this really to work at Travis," said Maj. Naomi Henigin, 60th FSS commander. "This is a very natural progression for us."

Since receiving word that they would be among the latest TFSSes to launch, the two squadrons worked extensively to develop a transition strategy, complete with a memorandum of agreement and a master training plan, to ensure a seamless move, said Maj. Susan Labrecque, 349th FSS commander.

"This is transformational," Henigin added. "The future of the Air Force is Total Force – we can't afford to keep doing

things the same way. This is Travis on the leading edge, but this is hard. It is not easy, and we have been delayed by six months because we are doing it right. We are integrating more than any other TFSS and our documents are more thoughtful."

The 349th and 60th already had a great working relationship and had been conducting joint training before they heard about the transition, Henigin said.

This integration is
See COMBINE Page 23

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Blended Retirement System training now available for Airmen

Senior Airman Samantha Salopek

60TH AIR MOBILITY WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Department of Defense is scheduled to kick off a new military retirement program beginning Jan. 1, 2018.

The Blended Retirement System provides military members with matching government contributions to personal Thrift Savings Plans, the receipt of a continuation bonus at 12 years of service, and pension payment options, in exchange for a reduced retirement pension.

Those serving prior to Jan. 1, 2018, will be grandfathered in to the legacy retirement program. Members with less than 12 years of service or 4,320 retirement points as of Dec. 31 can opt to participate in the

BRS at any time between Jan. 1 and Dec. 31, 2018, without the initial 60 day waiting period. Individuals entering active duty service on or after Jan. 1, 2018, will be automatically enrolled in the BRS.

"The BRS provides a more diversified and portable retirement benefit for an estimated 85 percent of members," said Betsy Ratashak-Vogel, 60th Force Support Squadron personal financial readiness program manager and a certified financial planner. "Only about one in five members serve long enough to receive retirement benefits under the current legacy retirement system."

Service members who do not serve a full 20 years still have a benefit to take with them, said Ratashak-Vogel.

See TRAINING Page 25

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Fire services' new radios boost base's capability

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

The 60th Communications Squadron delivered 39 new radios to the 60th Civil Engineer Squadron Fire Emergency Services, to Fire Station One Feb. 7, 2017.

"These new radios have the ability to talk from one radio to all Solano County, Cal Fire, Napa, Yolo, Contra Costa, Sacramento and San Joaquin county fire departments," said John Speakman, 60th CES Travis FES chief. "The new radios are extremely durable with steel reinforcement rods inside, and have the ability to track each radios' position."

These radios increase TFES' capabilities by a factor of 10, said Kirby.

TFES has a mutual aid agreement with local fire departments in Solano County, allowing them to respond off base if assistance is needed or for local agencies to come on base if TFES needs assistance.

The new radios allow the firefighters to seamlessly communicate without having to change

radios or carry multiple ones.

"Prior to receiving these radios, TFES had to carry three different radios to communicate with Solano County firefighters, either when they respond on-base or when TFES responded off-base to support the community," said Speakman. "This is a huge safety increase not having to worry which agency uses which radio."

The new radios have been in the works for quite some time, said James Kirby, 60th CS.

"The need for these new radios was identified three years ago," said Kirby. "It took nine months to receive the funding."

The 60th CS worked with Fairfield and Vacaville, California fire departments to obtain permission to access their radio channels.

"When they finally arrived, we wrote the program for the radios and coordinated with local cities and integrated the new radios into the radio system," said Kirby. "This is the first time Travis AFB firefighters have the ability to access the Vacaville and Fairfield Radio Communications System directly."



Senior Airman Danny Thomas, left, 60th Civil Engineer Squadron, and Airman 1st Class Nicholas Shelley, 60th Civil Engineer Squadron, program new radios received from the 60th Communications Squadron Feb. 9 at Fire Station 1 at Travis Air Force Base, Calif.



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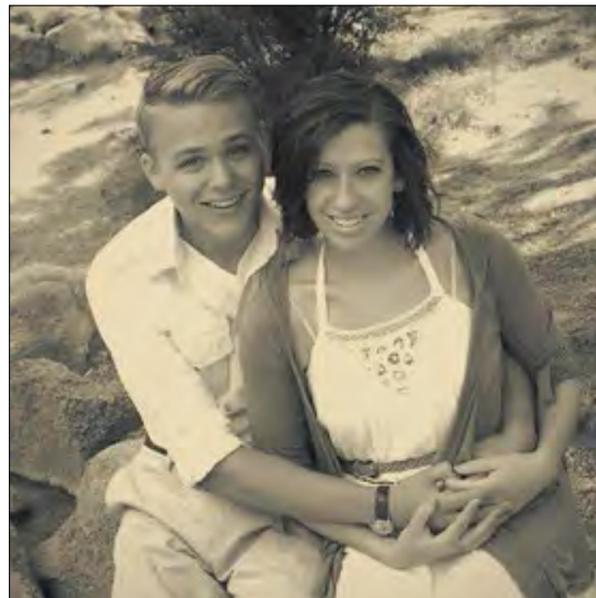
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Matthew Swartsfager, left, and Senior Airman Samantha Salopek, 60th Air Mobility Wing Public Affairs, pose for a photo.

Commentary by Senior Airman Samantha Salopek
60TH AIR MOBILITY WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Six years and four months ago, I married my husband. I was 19 and completely ignorant to the commitment I just made. Dual military marriages make up just over 11 percent of the Air Force population and, like many dual couples, we were stationed apart. Less than a year after requesting join-spouse orders, he was assigned 16 miles from me. “The Brady Bunch” did not prepare me for the big move. Melding lives together did not consist of soft voices and whimsical background music. The voices were loud and sometimes unfamiliar to our own and resolutions did not come quickly.

Our first argument was over the unsanctioned addition of tuna to macaroni and cheese. I am a food purist at heart and the defilement of my beloved macaroni was, at the time, a personal violation to me.

A few words and glares were exchanged. Then, the kettle of macaroni made its way out the front door and across the lawn. As it flew

Commentary

through the air, it spewed its contents like tears of cheesy sadness. This was not my proudest moment.

No one really talks about their arguments or maybe they do and I just never listened. Nobody mentioned staying away from food that you are passionate about unless you are willing to accept change.

I am naturally averse to change and a food enthusiast, so this advice would have been welcomed. The initial transition period, though painful at times, was merely a flash that we now look back on with joyful reminiscence.

By year three, we were weathering the turbulent storm of my husband’s active-duty separation. It was an easy process that we thought would make life simpler, but it only gave way to greater stress. We had to rediscover who we were as a couple when the biggest thing we had in common, being active-duty service members, was no longer a similarity.

Aside from a poor decision to buy and live on a large

See SALOPEK Page 23

AF, Navy team up for tower

Senior Airman Dustin Mullen
325TH FIGHTER WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

TYNDALL AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. — The Air Force is constantly looking for innovative ideas and solutions to save money and resources, and this effort recently paid off by utilizing a sister service asset to create a huge cost saving solution.

The 53rd Weapons Evaluation Group teamed up with the Naval Surface Warfare Center, Naval Support Activity Panama City, to utilize the Navy’s recently-built communications tower to replace the 53rd WEG’s unserviceable and outdated Gulf Range Drone Control System tower. These towers are essential for triangulating communications for controlling unmanned drones over the Gulf of Mexico.

This innovative investment took approximately one year to accomplish and will save hundreds of thousands of taxpayer dollars.

“We identified an impending shortfall and we sought innovative solutions,” said Col. Lance Wilkins, the 53rd Weapons Evaluation Group commander. “By doing that, instead of buying a new tower outright, we were able to take an innovative idea and free up time, money and resources that can be better utilized elsewhere.”

Constructing a new tower would have cost an estimated \$700,000, and leasing a commercial tower would cost approximately \$9,000 annually.

Due to good relationships with the Navy, the 53rd WEG was able to avoid a potential mission failure by using assets already in place.

“Our tower is over 50 years old,” said Capt. Katie Johnson, the 53rd Test Support Squadron director of engineering. “If anything were to happen to that tower or our antennas on it, we wouldn’t be able to conduct our critical Weapon System

See TOWER Page 21

New window to the world



U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Andrew Stephens, 60th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, replaces a window on a C-5M Super Galaxy Jan. 27 at Travis Air Force Base, Calif. Stephens is C-5M Super Galaxy crew chief.

Airman rebounding after aneurysm

Staff Sgt. Alexandre Montes
70TH INTELLIGENCE, SURVEILLANCE AND RECONNAISSANCE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Editor’s note: Last names are not included due to security reasons.

◆◆◆
FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, Md. — Early on Dec. 9, 2015, Staff Sgt. Rasheed, a 7th Intelligence Squadron signals intelligence analyst, experienced a cerebral aneurysm. From what he can recall, and what he has been told, a neighbor found him unresponsive in his Maryland apartment while his dog ran loose outside, door wide open.

Right away, Rasheed’s family was notified and they rushed to be by his side at the University of Maryland Medical Center’s Neurological Intensive Care Unit in Baltimore. When they left home, they were

uncertain what condition they would find him in when they arrived.

“I was getting ready to go to lunch and kept getting a recurring call,” Rasheed’s mother, Debra, said. “The police informed me first, so I called my husband, and we got right on the road with no hesitation.”

At the hospital, Rasheed remained in an unresponsive state for several hours, with no cerebral functions, and the neurosurgeons believed he might not survive the next few days.

Then, suddenly, five days later, Rasheed awoke and began to show responsiveness.

His recovery has been long, but his support system has been strong.

After three months at UMMC, and with the help of his mother and his squadron, Rasheed was transferred to

Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda for his recovery.

Because of the aneurysm, Rasheed is currently unable to perform his job, but that has not stopped him from working hard to return to the 7th IS.

“I haven’t been to work exactly, I still do rehab and many things throughout the day to get back on track,” Rasheed said.

During rehabilitation, Rasheed works on cognitive skills exercises, and goes to cooking classes, physical therapy and speech classes. Those are the things he will need to accomplish to get back to work, he said.

While he concentrates on his part, the Airmen of the 7th IS are working on their end to get the ‘morale monitor’ back to where he thrives, with them.

“The biggest thing for me

See ANEURYSM Page 22

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Training highlights teen dating violence

A teenager from Travis Air Force Base, Calif., participates Feb. 16 in a scenario-based training called "In Their Shoes." The training is designed to help participants talk about what dating is like for teens and to generate thoughtful discussion about what happens in unhealthy relationships.

U.S. Air Force photo/Louis Briscese



Sergeant turns personal tragedy into therapy

Master Sgt. Beth Anschutz
AIR RESERVE PERSONNEL CENTER
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

BUCKLEY AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — Following the unexpected death of her youngest son, Jeremiah, she became reckless. She was drinking daily and didn't care whether she lived or died.

It took a failed suicide attempt and court-ordered therapy for her life to change.

When Tech. Sgt. Amee Espinoza decided to end her feelings of hopelessness, she put her older son Isaiah to bed, kissed him, and then swallowed a handful of valium. At the moment before sliding into unconsciousness, she felt something other than helplessness — regret. The last thing she remembers is screaming.

When the survivor and now mother of two awoke, she was in a hospital bed. Espinoza told the nurses of her experience and was admitted into a mental institution. She spent two weeks in inpatient care and was court-ordered to seek outpatient therapy upon her release.

The court order saved her life and unearthed a calling in her to serve others through

therapy.

"I was depressed, hurt, and didn't want to be around anyone, especially a therapist," Espinoza said. "At that time, I was unsure if I was going to attempt suicide again. But, I knew deep down that I didn't want to die. I didn't want my son's last memory of me to be his mom being carried away in a stretcher."

According to Espinoza, it took several sessions for her to begin to "believe" in her therapy. After a couple months she started to look forward to her sessions and eventually her thoughts shifted to the positive. Once she was successfully discharged from the court-ordered therapy, Espinoza started attending support group meetings for bereaved parents. A year later, she was facilitating the group sessions and acting as a victim advocate.

She realized she had a greater purpose in life.

"I knew that my purpose was to use my experience to help others overcome trauma," she said. "I didn't feel lonely when I was surrounded by group members. It was an amazing experience, so I decided to enroll in

See **THERAPY** Page 22

US, UK work together to save stranded crew

Airman 1st Class Tenley Long
100TH AIR REFUELING WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

ROYAL AIR FORCE MILDENHALL, England — Imagine this: You're on a yacht traveling from country to country. Five days into traveling, a rogue wave hits the boat, dragging its mast into the water and snapping it; leaving you stranded at sea.

For 14 people this scenario was their reality Feb. 9 when the Clyde Challenger, a 60-foot racing yacht, was traveling from the Azores heading toward the U.K. when disaster struck. The yacht and those aboard were stranded hundreds of miles from land, awaiting rescue.

Her Majesty's Coastguard picked up the emergency beacon alert that was sent out by the crew of the stranded yacht. The HMS Dragon, a Royal Navy warship, was then diverted to the rescue.

"While working, I received notice from the command post controller, advising me that the U.K. coast guard was in search of assistance," said Tech. Sgt. Ryan Clauss, the 100th Operation Support Squadron NCO in charge of wing scheduling. "I received notice from leadership requesting our KC-135 Stratotankers to provide communications to relay from the vessel to the U.K. rescue."

This is the point where partnerships came into play. The tanker departed from Royal Air Force Mildenhall, joining the rescue efforts by providing overhead surveillance and communication support. Although CV-22 Ospreys from the 352nd Special Operations Wing were dispatched as a long-range rescue option, it wasn't possible due to the weather.

"After speaking with the KC-135 Stratotanker crew,

See **CREW** Page 13

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AMC achieves electronic flight bags milestone

Candy Knight

AIR MOBILITY COMMAND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, Ill. — Air Mobility Command recently achieved a milestone with its electronic flight bag initiative.

“All AMC wings are now approved to use electronic flight bags,” said Richard Quidgeon, AMC electronic flight bag requirements manager.

Electronic flight bags are portable electronic devices that consolidate nearly 120 pounds of paper products into a single tablet. The tablet contains electronic flight information publications such as navigational charts, and

also digital publications, such as Air Force instructions and technical orders.

The command’s EFB initiative, which began in 2010 for the purposes of improving the effectiveness and efficiency of AMC aircrews, takes advantage of current technology and saving the command nearly \$3.8 million per year.

“The initiative began as a way to save fuel,” Quidgeon said. “For every pound of weight removed from the aircraft, you save a certain amount of fuel on a given sortie. For instance if you remove 120 pounds of paper from every single sortie, we calculated

the command would save about \$780,000 per year in fuel cost within the mobility air forces.”

Quidgeon added that the command also saves about \$3.7 million in printing and distribution of paper.

Cost savings alone were not the only added value with using EFB. Increased safety and knowledge enhancement are also added benefits for aircrews and aircrew support, said James Williams, AMC EFB project management support.

“Using EFBs enhances the crews’ access to technical orders. When the Air Force transitioned from paper publications

to electronic publications, the crews didn’t have a viable means to review e-pubs when off-duty,” Williams said.

At one time it was a challenge for aircrews to study their publications and stay proficient during their off-duty time because they had to come to the squadron and use a government computer to review their flight manuals, Quidgeon said.

“We want to help crews remain proficient at all times,” he said. “Now, with the EFB, crews have an e-reader, and they can read and receive updates anytime they want.”

EFBs also enhance safety by allowing aircrews to access emergency checklists quicker; calculate aircraft performance for safer departures and arrivals; and accurately calculate aircraft weight and balance for loading planning purposes.

Quidgeon and his team also ensure another important safety aspect was taken into consideration when selecting the EFBs’ tablets – the tablets vulnerability

to hacking and virus.

“Working with the Defense Information Systems Agency’s security technical implementation guide, we know how to configure the tablet for government use, and how to configure each tablet to ensure it has the most secure cyber posture,” Quidgeon said. “We’ve applied those instructions to every tablet so that it’s locked down and there are certain things you can’t do on our tablets that you would normally be able to do on your personal tablet.”

The team stressed that although it took seven years to reach this milestone, the benefits and advantages EFBs gives AMC outweigh the challenges and obstacles they’ve faced.

AMC has been working toward this since 2010, Quidgeon said. We’ve overcome significant cyber security hurdles and naysayers, but the initiative is becoming a reality and we are working the next step in the process to keep the initiative current and up-to-date.

Red Tail legacy comes full circle

Master Sgt. Benjamin Wilson

407TH AIR EXPEDITIONARY GROUP
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

SOUTHWEST ASIA — Airmen assigned to the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing take great pride in the heritage created for them by the Tuskegee Airmen.

Today a key piece of the wing’s history has once again returned to its flightline.

The legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen was born in Montgomery, Alabama, when the Tuskegee Institute’s application to conduct civilian pilot training was approved by the Civil Aeronautics Administration in the fall of 1939.

About one year later President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s administration announced the Army Air Corps would begin training black military pilots, and the place to do it was Tuskegee, Alabama.

So began the storied history of the Tuskegee Airmen. Flying their P-51 Mustangs, with tails painted bright red, the Airmen fought valiantly through World War II under the crest of the 332nd Fighter Group.

Now more than 75 years later, a red-tailed fighter jet from Montgomery again flies with the 332nd.

The lineage of the Tuskegee



U.S. Air Force photo/Master Sgt. Benjamin Wilson

An F-16 Fighting Falcon from the Alabama Air National Guard flies a mission Dec. 13, 2016, with the 134th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron in Operation Inherent Resolve at the 407th Air Expeditionary Group.

Airmen has been passed to Alabama Air National Guard’s 187th Fighter Wing. An F-16 Fighting Falcon from the unit is currently flying with the 134th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron, which is one of the squadrons assigned to the 332nd AEW.

“It is well documented that our WWII bomber pilots would look out their windows and gain confidence from Red Tail fighters flying beside them. It has been stated they took comfort in knowing their chances for survival were higher with a Red

The mission of the unit is to support Operation Inherent Resolve in the fight against the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria by providing air-to-ground combat airpower at the request of the combined joint task force commander.

The 134th EFS has been heavily involved in the fight, flying more than 500 missions, delivering more than 800 weapons, and making significant contributions to the fight in Mosul, Iraq, and Raqqa, Syria.

“We are talking about liberating cities,” Lyons said. “That is something we haven’t talked about in this way since WWII.”

The Airmen of the 134th EFS flying the missions to liberate cities in Iraq and Syria are deployed from the Vermont Air National Guard.

The red tail was provided to the Vermont ANG along with F-16s from the New Jersey and Wisconsin ANGs to ensure the squadron had enough capable aircraft to meet the

See RED TAIL Page 21

Tail escort than from any other outfit in 12th and 15th Air Force,” said Col. David C. Lyons, the 407th Air Expeditionary Group commander. “Now we have one of those Red Tails on our flightline, once again flying with the 332nd and creating the next chapter of Red Tail history.”

Crew

From Page 11

they told me that they flew overhead of the distressed vessel and talked with them on the radio throughout the duration they were there,” Clauss said. “When they first arrived they were talking more often to the crew onboard the vessel, but due to limited battery life of the radio, they began communicating every 30 minutes.”

Other vessels made multiple attempts to rescue the stranded crew, however, the weather conditions prohibited a safe rescue. The crew was eventually rescued after the HMS Dragon arrived on scene Feb. 11, after traveling 20 hours through the raging seas. All 14 crewmembers were rescued and brought aboard the ship, given medical attention and food.

“Unexpected life-saving opportunities like this one illustrate the importance of partnership training and the relationships behind those activities,” said Col. Thomas Torkelson, the 100th Air Refueling Wing commander.

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60th Air Mobility Wing



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22nd Airlift Squadron
Airman



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Muriset**
60th Civil Engineer Squadron
Category I civilian



**Tech. Sgt.
Gabriel Reams**
21st Airlift Squadron
NCO



**Yolanda
Bartley**
60th Comptroller Squadron
Category II civilian



**Master Sgt.
Jennifer Michels**
60th Operations Support Squadron
Senior NCO



**Michael
White**
60th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
Category III civilian



**Master Sgt.
Justin Halterman**
60th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
First sergeant



**Amanda
Bell**
660th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
Key spouse



**Capt. Matthew
McGinnis**
60th Security Forces Squadron
Company-grade officer



**60th Medical
Group**
Clinical investigation facility
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**Senior Master Sgt.
Michael McCulley**
945th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
Senior NCO



**Master Sgt.
Campbell Thames**
349th Air Mobility Wing
Recruiter



**Senior Master
Sgt. Sharon
Vanderzwaag**
349th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
First sergeant



**Mollie
Teames**
349th Air Mobility Wing
Key spouse



**1st Lt.
Megan Stineman**
349th Operations Support Squadron
Company-grade officer



**Senior Airman
Steven Flynn**
945th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
Honor guard member



621st Contingency Response Wing



**Senior Airman
Laria Hatch**
621st Contingency Response Squadron
Airman



**Julia
Peabody**
621st Contingency Response Group
Category I civilian



**Staff Sgt.
Johnny Skyles**
921st Contingency Response Squadron
NCO



**Sarah
Dorsey**
621st Contingency Response Wing
Category II civilian



**Master Sgt.
Sebastian
DeAngelis**
321st Air Mobility Operations Squadron
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**Staff Sgt.
Maria Settanni**
821st Contingency Response Squadron
Volunteer



**Master Sgt.
Cassandra Doub**
821st Contingency Response Squadron
First sergeant



**Suzanne
Queen**
821st Contingency Response Squadron
Key spouse



**Capt.
Jacob Becker**
921st Contingency Response Squadron
Company grade officer



**Qayyarah West Air
Base Opening**
821st Contingency Response Group
Team



**Maj.
Michael Ellis**
571st Mobility Support Advisory Squadron
Field grade officer

Swap Ads

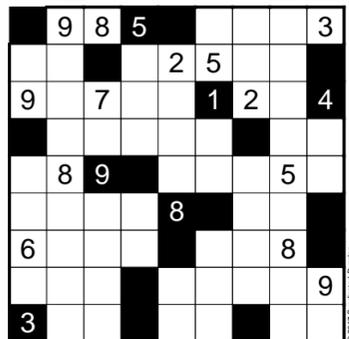
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Puzzles

STR8TS

No. 322 Medium



Previous solution - Easy

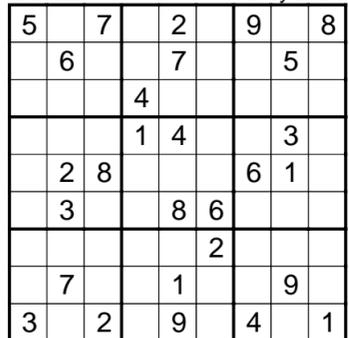


How to beat **Str8ts** – Like Sudoku, no single number can repeat in any row or column. But... rows and columns are divided by black squares into **compartment**s. These need to be filled in with numbers that complete a 'straight'. A straight is a set of numbers with no gaps but can be in any order.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

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

SUDOKU

No. 322 Very Hard



Previous solution - Tough



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

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

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

The solutions will be published here in the next issue.

Retiree Corner

Commissary agency unveils private-label goods

FORT LEE, Va. — The Defense Commissary Agency has chosen the names “Freedom’s Choice” and “HomeBase” for its private-label product assortment, announced Joseph H. Jeu, DeCA director and CEO.

Private label, also known

as store brands, will be appearing on commissary shelves in May.

“Commissary patrons have been telling us for quite some time that they want to take advantage of the value offered by store brands, but commissaries have not had their own brand until now,” Jeu said.

— **Air Force News Service**

News Notes

Recurring events and information

Air Force Office of Special Investigations.

To report a crime, get a foreign travel brief or request information on joining AFOSI, report to Bldg. 380B, second floor. Send documents to AFOSI Detachment 303, 510 Airlift CR, Travis AFB, 94535. For more information, call 707-424-3115 or DSN: 837-3115.

Air Force Sergeants Association “Walter E. Scott” Chapter 1320. General membership meetings are from 3:30 to 4:15 p.m. on the first Friday of every month at Wingman’s in the Delta Breeze Club. For more information, contact Master Sgt. Francisco Zamorano Jr.

Airmen’s Attic. The Airmen’s Attic is open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday and 4 to 6 p.m. Wednesday. 560 Hickam Ave. For more information, call 707-424-8740 or visit the Facebook page “The Attic at Travis AFB.”

Alzheimer’s Caregiver Support Group. Meetings take place from 1 to 2:30 p.m. the third Thursday of the month in the diabetic education classroom on the first floor in Internal Medicine at David Grant USAF Medical Center. For more information, call 707-423-7272.

Base emergency numbers. Mobile phone users must dial 707-424-4911 if they have an emergency on base. Those using government or home phones can call 911. For more information, call the Travis Air Force Base Fire Prevention Office at 707-424-3683.

Bunco. 6 p.m. every third Wednesday of the month at the USO Daedelon Room. For more information, visit www.esctravis.com.

Crisis text line. Free, confidential, 24/7 counseling for teens and young adults. Text 741-741 anywhere in the United States and a live, trained crisis counselor responds quickly.

Employee-Vehicle Certification and Reporting System. Civilian and military personnel must maintain emissions information with the Web-based ECARS system. For more information, call Xuyen Lieu at 707-424-5103.

Exceptional Family Member Program Sensory Play Group. This group meets from 2 to 4 p.m. the second and fourth Wednesdays at the Balfour Beatty Community Center. For more information, call 707-424-4342 or visit the Facebook page “EFMP Travis AFB.”

Fairfield/Vacaville Train Station Project. Located at Peabody Road and Vanden Road in Fairfield with a six-lane overpass. Construction is scheduled for completion in March 2017. For more information, visit <http://bit.ly/1yNIBwV>.

Family Advocacy Women’s support group. Weekly meeting from 10 a.m. to noon Wednesday for women with past or current domestic violence events in their lives. Meet at the David Grant USAF Medical Center’s Mental Health conference room. For more information, call Molly Martinez at 707-423-5158.

Government no-fee passports. All submissions of applications for government no-fee passports must now include: 1) A photocopy of Military Identification Card front and back; 2) Passport photo taken in the past six months; 3) Supporting document(s), proof of U.S. citizenship certified copy with state or county seal, if it involved a name change submit a court order or marriage

In the next week...



The Hub. Commedia Evo and the Curse of Valleydoon, 7:30 p.m. Feb. 24; Put Your Heart into Art exhibit, through Feb. 28; Poetry by the Bay open mic, 6:30 p.m. second and fourth Tuesdays, 350 Georgia St., Vallejo. www.thehubvallejo.com.

“Sounds of Suspense.” Radio broadcast, noon Feb. 24 and the fourth Friday of each month and Vacaville Public Library-Town Square, 1 Town Square Place. www.solanolibrary.org.

certificate. Passport application cannot be handwritten and printed back to back and must be completed online with 2D barcode at website <https://pfpform.state.gov> and/or <https://travel.state.gov>. For more information, call 707-424-5324.

Hometown News Releases. To submit a Hometown News Release, visit the new paperless website at <https://jhs.release.dma.mil/public> and fill out the information.

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

Mare Island Museum. Now a Blue Star Museum, which means active-duty military, reservists and their dependents are eligible for free admission from Memorial Day to Labor Day. 1100 Railroad Ave. on Mare Island in Vallejo. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. first and third weekends of the month. For more information, call 707-557-4646.

M-50 Gas Mask Fit Testing. Takes place from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. every Wednesday at Bldg. 791. All deployers are fit as necessary. For more information, call 707-424-2689.

Mitchell Memorial Library. Open 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and closed Sunday.

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

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

On-base child care. The Air Force requires

on-base residents to be licensed by the 60th Mission Support Group if they provide more than 10 hours of care per week in their homes. For more information, call 707-424-8104 or 707-424-4596 or stop by Bldg. 380B.

Photocopying of military identification. The prohibition in photocopying of U.S. government identification Common Access Card announced by the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense, dated Oct. 27, 2011, does not apply to medical establishments, applying for government-issued, no-fee passport and other U.S. government agencies in the performance of official government business. This requirement does not apply to minors ages 16 years or younger. However, it applies to sponsors. For more information, call 707-424-5324.

Professional Loadmaster Association. The Professional Loadmaster Association meets at 7 p.m. the first Tuesday of each month at the Delta Breeze Club. For more information, call Mark Raymond at 707-416-5331.

Retiree Activities Office. Openings for volunteers. Customers are retired American service members and their dependents. It is the RAO’s responsibility to maintain open communication and to ensure retirees receive the service and the respect that they deserve. If you would like to apply for a volunteer slot and have three hours or more to give, call 707-424-3905.

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

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

Solano/Napa Habitat for Humanity. This organization welcomes volunteers and supporters from all backgrounds. There are recurring events Tuesday through Saturday. For more information, email Staff Sgt. Mathew Clayton at clayton@us.af.mil.

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

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

Travis Heritage Center. The facility is looking to add to its historical collection. It is

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

Travis Legal Office. Power of attorney and notaries are walk-ins 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday. Legal assistance for active duty members and dependents are walk-ins from 2 to 3 p.m. Tuesday. For all wills and retiree legal assistance, call 707-424-3251 to make an appointment.

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

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

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

- Linda Claus, 60th Force Support Squadron.
- Peter Escobedo, 60th Logistics Readiness Squadron.
- Sabina Lopez, 349th Civil Engineer Squadron.
- Deirdre Mullin, 60th Medical Operations Squadron.
- Robert Simcox, 60th Comptroller Squadron.
- Frank Singson, 60th LRS.
- Donald Webb, 60th Communications Squadron.

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

What’s Cookin’ Wednesday. Free lunch served from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. each Wednesday at Bldg. 1348 in the dorms for active duty, Guard and reservists. Family area available with children’s TV programs.



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

Today
• 6:30 p.m. “Split” (PG-13)
• 9 p.m. “Underworld: Blood Wars” (R)
Saturday
• 6:30 p.m. “XXX: Return of Xander” (PG-13)
• 9 p.m. “Live by Night” (R)
Sunday
• 2 p.m. “Sing” (PG)

60th FSS

Upcoming events and information

Paint night with Frosty Friends. On Feb. 24, paint a pair of birds in a snowy scene from 6 to 9 p.m. at Arts and Crafts. All supplies are included and guests are welcome to refreshments and finger foods. Reservations required. \$20. For more information, call 707-424-2929.

Ski shuttles for single Airmen & RecOn. For just \$5, Outdoor Recreation is providing transportation to various ski resorts around Lake Tahoe. Don’t forget to head to the rentals area to get a ski or snowboard tune-up starting at \$20. Single Airmen and RecOn receive priority at the discounted rate. All others are welcome. For more information, call 707-424-0969 or visit www.travisfss.com.

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

Chapel programs

Recurring events

Catholic

Twin Peaks Chapel

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

First Street Chapel

Protestant

First Street Chapel

- Mom’s Group: 10 to 11:30 a.m. Monday.
- Protestant Community Service: 9 to 10:15 a.m. Sunday.
- Gospel Worship Service: 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Sunday.

- Children’s Ministry is provided for 6 months olds through fifth grade.
- Protestant Men of the Chapel: 8 to 9 a.m., first Saturday of every month.

Twin Peaks Chapel

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

Airmen’s Ministry Center

The Peak is open from 6 to 9 p.m. Monday through Friday at Bldg. 1348. Homecooked meal Tuesday’s at 6 p.m. followed by Bible study at 7 p.m.

David Grant Medical Center

Roman Catholic Mass: Noon to 12:35 p.m. Monday through Thursday (except for federal holidays).



For more information, call Twin Peaks Chapel at 707-424-3217.

Local events

Events

Downtown Art Walk. 5 to 10 p.m. second Friday of each month, downtown Vallejo. www.vallejoartwalk.com.

Red Carpet Gala. 6 p.m. March 4, Downtown Theatre, 1035 Texas St., Fairfield. www.downtowntheatre.com.

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

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

Music and dance

Downtown Theatre. The Sun Kings, presented by Jeff Trager, 8 p.m. Feb. 25; 1035 Texas St., Fairfield. www.downtowntheatre.com.

Empress Theatre. Golden Dragon Acrobats, 2 p.m. Feb. 25, 4 p.m. Feb. 26; Pro Jam with Chris Cain, 8 p.m. March 1; Academy Awards Party, 5:30 p.m. Feb. 26; 330 Virginia St., Vallejo. 552-2400, www.empresstheatre.org.

First Street Cafe. Americana Songbook, 7:30 p.m. Feb. 24; Open mic, 7 p.m. Feb. 25; Bryan Girard, 2 p.m. Feb. 26; According to Bazooka, 8 p.m. Feb. 24; Private Practice, 8 p.m. Feb. 25; Bryan Girard, 2 p.m. Feb. 26; 440 First St., Benicia. 745-1400, www.firststreetcafe.com.

Gordon’s Music and Sound. Live music at 7:30 p.m.: Honey Gold, Floral Jacket, Feb. 24; Open mic, Feb. 24; 810 Texas St., Fairfield. 422-0313.

Mankas Steakhouse. Live music at 6 p.m.: Alvon Johnson, March 2; 2522 Mankas Corner Road, Fairfield. 425-3207, www.mankassteakhouse.com.

The Relik Tavern. Running with Scissors, 9 p.m. Feb. 24; The Big Dreamers, 9 p.m. Feb. 25; Recovered Vinyl, 9 p.m. Feb. 24; Captain Paisley, 9 p.m. Feb. 25; 726 First St., Benicia. 746-1137, www.thereliktavern.com.

Solano Winds. “Our Pleasure,” 8 p.m. March 10, Downtown Theatre, 1035 Texas St., Fairfield. www.solanowinds.org.

Solano Symphony. World’s Greatest Classics, 3 p.m. March 26, Vacaville Performing Arts Theatre, 1010 Ulatis Drive. [www](http://www.wwww).

THE FLIP SIDE

solanosymphony.org.

Vacaville Performing Arts Theatre.

Radio Elementary Wind & Explore Ensemble Blues Festival, 6:30 and 7:30 p.m. Feb. 28; Emmet Cahill, 7:30 p.m. March 2; Fine Arts Festival, 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Feb. 25; 1010 Ulatis Drive. 469-4013, www.vpat.net.

Vallejo Symphony.

“Evening,” 3 p.m. March 12, Empress Theatre, 330 Virginia St., Vallejo. www.vallejosymphony.org.

Verismo Opera.

“Rigoletto,” 7:30 p.m. Feb. 25, March 4, March 11, March 18, 2 p.m. Feb. 26, March 5, March 12, 8 p.m. March 24; “Werther,” 8 p.m. March 3, March 10, March 17, 2 p.m. March 19, March 26, 7:30 p.m. March 25; Bay Area Stage Theater, 515 Broadway St., Vallejo. www.verismoopera.org.

Art exhibits

Artiszen Cultural Arts Center. Early Riser Band, 6 p.m. Feb. 24; Black History Month Jubilee, “The Man in the Mirror,” 2 to 6 p.m. Feb. 26; gallery open 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays, noon to 6 p.m. Fridays, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturdays, 337 Georgia St., Vallejo. www.artiszen.org.

Benicia. Art of Community, through Feb. 26; Creative Women Symposium, 2 p.m. March 11; open noon to 5 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday during exhibitions; 991 Taylor St., Suite 114, Benicia. Free. 747-0130, www.artisbenicia.org.

Benicia Plein Air Gallery. Terry Hughes and Marshall Lockman are February’s featured artists, reception 3 to 6 p.m. Feb. 25; open 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday through Sunday, 307 First St., Benicia. 495-2940, www.beniciaplein-air.com.

Coal Shed Studios. Open by appoint-

ment only, 153 Waterfront Ave., Mare Island. www.coalshedstudios.com.

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. 688-8889, www.thecornerstoregallery.com.

El Comalito Collective.

“A Day in the Life,” through March 5; open 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday and Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, 302 Georgia St., Vallejo. www.elcomalitocollective.com.

Fairfield-Suisun Visual Arts

Association Gallery. Student Art Show, through March 5; open 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday, Solano Town Center, 1350 Travis Blvd., Suite D8, Fairfield. 688-8889, www.fvaav-arts.org.

Gallery 621.

“Connecting,” paintings and sculpture from Nikki Basch-Davis, through March 5, open noon to 3 p.m. Thursday, noon to 6 p.m. Friday through Sunday, 309 First St., Benicia. www.gallery621.com.

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Children's Church: 11:30 a.m.
Tuesday
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Bible Study: 7:00-8:00 p.m.
Web Site: www.stpaulfairfield.com
Email: stpaulbcfairfield@comcast.net
Church Phone: 707-422-2003

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Bible Study.....9:00 am
Worship Service 10:30 am
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Wednesday Schedule:
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AWANA (Sept-May), Youth 6:00 pm
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Worship..... 11:00 am
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WEDNESDAY
Adult Studies.....2:00 pm
AWANA for Kids 6:15 pm
Adult & Youth Studies.....6:30 pm

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Red Tail

From Page 13

short-notice deployment to support OIR.

At least one Airman from the Vermont ANG takes a special amount of pride in seeing the red tail on the flightline with his unit.

During a formal dinner hosted by the Vermont ANG, Chief Master Sgt. Brian Senecal, of the 407th Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron, had the opportunity to host Col. Charles McGee. McGee is one of the Tuskegee Airmen and also holds an Air Force record for flying 409 combat missions in WWII, the Korean War and the Vietnam War.

Tower

From Page 8

Evaluation Programs, an Air Combat Command-directed mission. Also, due to changes in an environmental impact study, we were not able to build a replacement tower in that same area."

During the initial search for the tower location, 53rd TSS engineer Bill Camp and his wife came up with the idea to see if any local condos or businesses would be able to support adding an additional antenna on an existing tower. At the 53rd TSS morale picnic,

Bill and his wife spotted a tower that seemed to be in a great location on the Panama City beaches. After further investigation, they found that the tower belonged to the Navy. "The old tower was in an area that had a lot of interference that was cutting into the frequency we were using," Camp said. "The new tower is in prime location, with not only a better reach over the Gulf, but with lower noise levels as well."

After communicating with the Navy, the 53rd WEG and Navy representatives installed a temporary GRDCS antenna, ran initial tests and determined the antennas would work

perfect on their tower, Johnson said.

"We had a lot of people who helped us out with this," Johnson said. "From the teams at Eglin AFB, who helped coordinate the initial frequency tests, to the contractors here, as well as working directly with the Navy's program offices. There were a lot of organizations that needed to come together to make this happen."

The 53rd WEG is also providing the new tower with upgraded enhanced lightning protection, protecting not only their equipment, but all of the current naval equipment on the tower.

Aneurysm

From Page 9

has been watching the recovery," said Master Sgt. William, the 7th IS flight chief. "Step by step, watching him go from unresponsive to opening his eyes and finally talking again; he's got so much spirit, very funny, and an outgoing guy. The first week he was talking he was already cracking jokes with the nurses."

William has been with Rasheed and his family the entire

way, since the first day at the hospital, and he ensures they receive the medical and military support he needs to recover. William said he is glad that Rasheed is continuing the recovery process with a smile on his face.

Rasheed said his favorite part of the recovery process is the physical therapy because he has always been a people person.

"I like seeing how everyone is doing and what's going on in their life," Rasheed said. "It's all a big plus for me, being able

to grasp what's on the other side besides being cooped up. I was a people person before this happened, so being able to interact with others helps me out."

Rasheed's mother said she is proud of the strides her son has made, pushing himself to become independent. She currently lives with Rasheed, but said that even with her there, he likes to do everything himself.

Rasheed said he is very thankful for the support everyone has shown him, and he is

ready for his comeback.

"I have good people looking out for me ... my mom, my squadron." Rasheed said. "I want to be independent and on my own in the long run. I appreciate everything."

Rasheed said he looks forward to his new future.

"The future is a big plus for me," said Rasheed, and said his goal is to continue with his resilient spirit and pass it along to others through the Air Force Wounded Warrior Program at the National Reconnaissance Office.

FEMA

From Page 3

had wired and unhindered radio communications capabilities. The Travis Emergency Operations Center was also placed on alert to provide timely support to the ISB if needed."

Travis was selected because of its strategic location and logistics capabilities, Inge said.

An airlift base is inherently valuable for disaster support, especially if the disaster expands to a degree that enhanced defense support to civil authorities is required, said Brockman.

"Travis is an ideal location to support nearly any disaster nature can throw at us," he said.

The state of California was granted three different major federal disaster declarations Feb. 14. One was an emergency declaration, EM-3381-CA, which provides support for the Oroville Dam spillover, DR-4301-CA, is for public assistance for 34 counties and DR-4302-CA, is for public assistance for the Hoopa Valley Tribe, for damaged infrastructure repairs on their reservation.

prevention, as well as traffic safety and prevention.

Espinoza was notified by the Air Force Reserve Command in November of 2016 that she was selected as the AFRC nominee to represent the ANG.

"Throughout this entire process of working, going to school full time, and taking care of my family, there were so many times that I wanted to give up. Working more than 15 hours a day at times, all while trying to maintain my own family became stressful," she said.

alongside her continued bereavement counseling and victim advocacy. She also provided individual special needs behavior therapy for children diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder.

"When I started working with clients, I started to grasp my own counseling style and I loved it. I consider myself to be a trauma-informed counselor who just wants to assist and help people grow the strength to have a valuable quality of life," Espinoza said. "This work is so special to me

because it gives me a greater purpose. I enjoy doing it and I enjoy serving others."

Espinoza is an Air National Guard member assigned to the Air Reserve Personnel Center at Buckley Air Force Base, Colorado. Her leadership took notice of her work helping others and decided to nominate her for the GEICO Military Service Awards Program. The annual award spotlights contributions made by enlisted military members in specific areas: drug and alcohol prevention, fire safety and

Therapy

From Page 10

a master's degree program for Mental Health Counseling."

During her time in graduate school, Espinoza was required to perform 600 hours of direct and indirect counseling services. She worked with individual and group counselling services focused on driving under the influence and driving while intoxicated cases, addiction, domestic violence, conflict resolution, and anger management,

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Combine

From Page 5

important, Labrecque said. On the Reserve side, whenever Airmen are deployed, it takes time to get spun up on regular Air Force processes.

"This integration will help cut down on that time," she added. "These are the systems they will be working on when they deploy."

Both Reservists and active duty will learn the other's systems, Henigin continued.

"Our plan is for customers to have no idea whether they are being aided by a Reservist or active duty because that's irrelevant," Henigin said. "This will save time for our customers and increase proficiency for our Airmen."

The transition will also be helpful for those who find themselves with new coworkers.

"It's good for our active-duty Airmen to understand the differences between the statuses of Reservists," Henigin explained. "It allows for them to be better informed, and can enhance continuum of service for these Airmen if they decide to

separate from active duty."

A lot of Reservists have been in the Force Support career fields for a long time, said Johnson. They bring years of experience and knowledge on the systems and processes. There is stability that comes from having Citizen Airmen embedded with active duty because they create continuity, when there is turn over on the active duty side.

"They are the anchor for a quicker battle rhythm," she added.

The commanders expect that the traditional Reservist personnel specialists will benefit from jumping into this new environment on annual tour.

"I think the vitality of the young Airmen will invigorate the Reservists when they come in," Labrecque said. "We expect this to be a huge morale booster."

"It's like the first day of school: we're a little nervous, but mostly excited" Henigin commented.

The commanders wanted to make clear that neither unit would disappear. Squadron identities were not going away and chains of command will stay the same.

"We are still the 60th and

the 349th," Henigin said. "But, we are the Total Force Support Squadron."

Day-to-day operations would be together, and disciplinary actions would be under the prospective chain of command, Labrecque said.

The training plan for the move already began a few months ago, when Henigin sent a few 60th FSS personnelists to work at the 349th FSS to get familiar with their processes.

"Training will be the key factor in this," Labrecque said. "We have our MTP and will be going through that. The most important thing for people to know is that it will be okay."

The level of customer service will not change, just the location, the commanders stated.

Customers needing military personnel or DEERS/military ID services should head to the Customer Service Center in Bldg. 381.

The 349th FSS Airman and Family Readiness Center will collocate with the 60th A&FRC in Bldg. 660 on Travis Ave.

349th FSS Education and Training will collocate with the 60th FSS Education and Training Center in Bldg. 249 on Hickam Ave.

Salopek

From Page 8

sailboat years later, his separation was the biggest hurdle we faced in our marriage. In times of great change, a partnership gets redefined. Your best friend can quickly become a silent stranger if you give up trying to connect.

To our benefit, we are both stubborn and determined individuals. We made an effort to learn and participate in each other's lives outside the home and it revitalized our now flourishing relationship.

In 2013, my husband was attending a liberal arts college. He began reading to me every night. Often, it was a philosophy selection assigned for class. During dinner, we would read news articles we

found interesting or discuss evolving topics. This allowed us to highlight and participate in our individual interests together.

In the end, it was clear that we were not together because of our specific commonalities, but because we enjoyed experiencing each other. It was a simple revelation made in a critical time.

Like joining the military, marriage is a life altering commitment. It requires understanding that the relationship will continuously change and is in constant need of examination to succeed. Take solace in the Airmen who have steamed through these waves before you and those who are continuing with you.

For helpful relationship resources, call the Airman and Family Readiness Center at 707-424-2486.

Endangered

From Page 4

California tiger salamander, vernal pool fairy shrimp, vernal pool tadpole and the Contra Costa goldfield, an annual flower, that live in or near the more than 800 areas with vernal pool and wetland features on base. Those areas are off limits to most personnel.

No additional areas have been declared off-limits while the project team conducts surveys but people should not touch or remove any of their equipment, which is clearly marked with AFCEC's information, said Christopherson.

Anyone witnessing theft or

tampering with the equipment should call security forces at 707-424-2800.

"If the tricolored blackbird gets listed by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, we'll have the needed data to suggest conservation efforts and how to manage the species," said Christopherson. She said USFWS will make a final decision on each species by 2021 "depending on the priority of the species and existing scientific data."

At Travis, the CIRE is also providing a comprehensive plan for overall management of invasive species and a non-native species control plan for bird airstrike hazard reduction and storm water compliance.



A pacific chorus frog tadpole spends the first part of its life in an ephemeral vernal pool Feb. 13 at Travis Air Force Base, Calif. The frog will lay an egg mass in shallow temporary ponds which limit predators like fish and turtles. The tadpoles feed on periphyton, filamentous algae, diatoms and pollen in or on the surface of the water.

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Thompson

From Page 2

effort to step away from my desk to spend time with my Airmen in their workcenters. This time, though beneficial, can be less personable than the one-on-one time at 39,000 feet, but nonetheless, important.

I posed the question, "Did I take advantage of every opportunity to mentor my Airmen?" For the most part, I believe I did. Looking back though, I realize that I sometimes found myself so focused and on task that I failed to take in the world around me. Walking the halls with tunnel vision from work

center to work center, I may have appeared unapproachable. Maybe you can relate, maybe not, but for me, I have had some significant conversations in the hallways of the squadron.

It's vital that we make ourselves available to our Airmen, be it at the water cooler, the operations desk or passing in the hallway. When I walk out my door, I remind myself to relax, take a deep breath and take in the world around me.

My task will still be waiting at the destination. It is most important not to miss an opportunity to mentor my Airmen, even if it means mentoring them more than seven miles above Earth.

Training

From Page 5

The TSP, including all DoD contributions, are the separating member's to keep.

Additionally, individuals who retire with the BRS can choose a lump sum option where they collect partial payment upfront and receive the remainder of their pension in monthly installments.

When a new service member has served for 60 days, the DoD will begin matching investments by up to one percent of their base pay. After two years of service, the DoD will increase contributions by up to four percent of their base pay. The government will continue matching investments until the

member separates, retires or hits 26 years of service.

Eligible service members interested in enrolling in the BRS must first complete the Joint Knowledge Online Opt-in Course and the registration process through MyPay between Jan. 1 and Dec. 31, 2018. Once an individual is enrolled in the BRS, he or she cannot reverse the process.

The BRS is not retroactive. If a current TSP member chooses to participate, the DoD will begin matching TSP contributions the following pay period.

Those choosing to not participate in the BRS must still complete the JKO Opt-in Course.

For more information, visit the retirement section in MyPers at www.mypers.af.mil.

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- Include the price.
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Copy Acceptance • Cancellations Payment • Adjustments

Copy Acceptance: The Tailwind reserves the right to classify all advertisements, to delete objectionable words or phrases or to edit or refuse any advertisement. Classified advertisements are accepted in good faith and must specify a bonafide offer. The Tailwind accepts only standard abbreviations and requires proper punctuation. Better results will be secured from ads that are easily read and understood.

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

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

Adjustments: Please check your ad the first day it is published. If you find an error, please call 427-6936 so we can make a correction and, if necessary, adjust your bill.

Deadlines

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

Classified In-Column Ads

Tailwind (Friday).....Wednesday 5:00pm
Faxed Ads.....2 hours earlier than above deadline



Where To Find An Ad

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 100 - Announcements | 500 - Employment |
| 200 - Real Estate | 600 - Merchandise |
| 275 - Commercial Prop. | 675 - Pets, Farm & Garden |
| 300 - Rentals | 700 - Recreational Vehicles |
| 400 - Bus. Op. & Financial | 800 - Automotive |

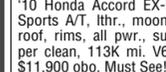
827 - HONDA



'09 Fit S. Sports pkg., A/T, all pwr., blk. on blk., clean low 157K mi. great MPG! Nice 1st car! \$5900 obo. DLR #42203. (707)280-6816 Quinterosautosales.com



'10 Honda Accord EX-L Sports A/T, lthr., moonroof, rims, all pwr., super clean, 113K mi. V6. \$11,900 obo. Must See! (707)280-6816 Quinterosautosales.com



'97 Civic Hatchback New starter, battery recent eng. valve, radiator work from dealer, have receipts. Good tires & brakes, A/C, clean, 224K mi., 5spd., \$1000 obo. 707-374-6269



830 - INFINITI



'08 Infiniti G37 Journey Sport, A/T, super clean! Low 128K mi., BBS rims, lthr., etc.! \$13,900 obo. DLR #42203. (707)280-6816 Quinterosautosales.com



'05 Nissan 350Z Touring trk. lthr. blk., A/T, sports pkg., clean stained blk. fast, clean 126K mi., new brakes/oils, etc. \$8900 obo. DLR #42203. (707)280-6816 Quinterosautosales.com



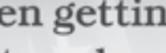
'09 Yaris. A/T, all pwr., great MPG! 175K mi., all fwy. 4 dr., runs great! SALE-\$4999. DLR #42203. (707)280-6816 Quinterosautosales.com



'96 Nissan 200 SX SE 5 spd., AC, all pwr., clean, great on gas! Low 115K mi. great for the kids \$2800 obo. DLR #42203. (707)280-6816 Quinterosautosales.com



'04 Toyota Camry XLE A/T, all pwr., clean, V6, 32 MPG! 186K mi. Must See! \$5500 obo. DLR #42203. (707)280-6816 Quinterosautosales.com



'94 Toyota Camry XLE A/T, all pwr., lthr., 4 cyl., moonroof, clean 183K mi. \$2900 obo. DLR #42203. (707)280-6816 Quinterosautosales.com



'96 Tercel DX Coupe. Ice cold AC, PS, A/T, great on gas, new tires, oils, etc., 178K mi. SALE-\$1999. DLR #42203. (707)280-6816 Quinterosautosales.com

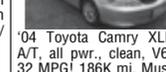
841 - NISSAN



'96 Nissan 200 SX SE 5 spd., AC, all pwr., clean, great on gas! Low 115K mi. great for the kids \$2800 obo. DLR #42203. (707)280-6816 Quinterosautosales.com



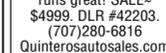
'04 Toyota Camry XLE A/T, all pwr., clean, V6, 32 MPG! 186K mi. Must See! \$5500 obo. DLR #42203. (707)280-6816 Quinterosautosales.com



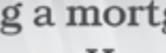
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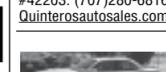


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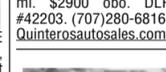
850 - TOYOTA



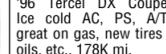
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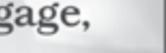
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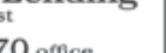
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1) A Travis youth basketball player passes the ball to his teammates during their first official game Feb. 10 at Travis Air Force Base, Calif.
2) A Travis youth basketball player shoots a free throw during the first official game of the season.



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

BASKETBALL

Swish! Season jumps into action for youth...



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Military Saves Week

27 Feb - 04 March

**SET A GOAL.
MAKE A PLAN.
SAVE AUTOMATICALLY.**



Sign-up online at <http://www.travisafrc.com/>

27 Feb. 1000-1100 Kick-off Event at TCU branch
Free Refreshments provided
by KUIC *Coffee Break*

27 Feb. 1130-1230 Organize Your Financial Records

28 Feb. 1130-1230 Psychology of Spending

1 Mar. 0900-1000 Investing Fundamentals
1130-1230 10 Steps to Financial Success

2 Mar. 0900-1200 Home Buying
1130-1330 Drive Away Happy: Car
Buying Decisions

3 Mar. 0900-1030 Retirement on Track

4 Mar. 1300-1330 Raffle for an Apple Watch®
and three \$20 gift cards

Winners do not have to be present in win.

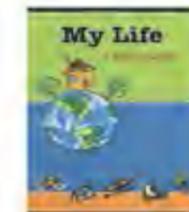
Additional classes will be offered by TAFB Airmen & Family Readiness Center please call (707) 424-2885 for more information.

PLEDGE AND GET A FREE CREDIT REPORT

Financial Freedom Classes at Base A & FRC
Join one of TCU's Financial Education classes at the TAFB Airmen & Family Readiness Center or stop-by our branch and enter to win an Apple Watch® and three gift cards.

27 Feb. - Youth Day

Travis Credit Union is hosting a free financial education story time with the children from the Base Child Development Center, where they'll receive:



- Small TCU gift bags with smash piggys
- Youth Accounts brochure
- Box of crayons and
- Financial education coloring books

 Stop by our TAFB Branch
659 Skymaster Drive

 **TRAVIS CREDIT UNION**

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