



821st CRG stays ... **FOCUSED**

PAGES 16-17



Revitalizing units spurs staying prepared

This week kicked off the 75th anniversary celebration of the establishment of Travis Air Force Base, California.

Looking back 75 years, specifically on this day, Feb. 9, 1943, the Battle of Guadalcanal had been won and the Allies claimed their victory. When the U.S. Marines landed on the island in 1942, they commenced the first major Allied offensive against Japanese-held positions in the Pacific. Were those Marines ready?

They trained for months leading up to those combat operations, yet suffered heavy losses securing the island. While the United States' losses



Commentary by Col. Charles Henderson

621ST CONTINGENCY RESPONSE WING

did not compare to the tens of thousands of Japanese who were lost, they were still in the thousands. Were those American service members' families ready for the challenges that life had dealt them?

Our Air Force Chief of Staff has delivered a very clear message that hasn't wavered during his tenure: Revitalizing squadrons – they are the core

fighting unit of our Air Force, strengthening joint leaders and teams – it's critical to ensuring mission success throughout the spectrum of conflict and enhancing multi-domain command and control – the superiority we rely on can only

Commander's Commentary

be sustained by innovation in new and dramatically effective ways. He has challenged us to increase our full spectrum readiness and lethality in order to remain the world's pre-eminent air, space and cyberspace force.

For months now, you have been working overtime to ensure that your equipment is appropriate for your mission. You are versed and proficient in employing your equipment in the execution of your mission and you are a ready and agile force. You have ensured that you are personally ready – mentally, physically, socially and spiritually. Your mind,

body and spirit are in top shape and your unit is firing on all cylinders. What about your family? Have you thought about their readiness? Have you taken care of them, your fifth pillar and their individual four pillars?

We are accustomed to having our wills up to date as we head out on deployment. Keep in mind it is also imperative that you think more broadly about your family readiness as you prep yourself. Yes, updating your virtual record emergency data and will is important, but what about any singularly held bank or investment accounts, vehicle payments or other responsibilities? Does your spouse, significant other, parent or other designee know your passwords, have joint interest in any of your

belongings or assets or a power of attorney that gives them control? Do they know of your desires should you not return? These aspects of preparation are all part of maintaining a fully capable and ready force.

World War II was an important time as Fairfield-Suisun Army Air Base stood up and became the gateway to the Pacific, enabling combat operations in a critical theater during this time of conflict. Just as those Army Air Corps Airmen were ready, so, too, are you. I'm confident that we are the preeminent air, space and cyberspace force in the world thanks to you. I care about your readiness for conflict, your personal resiliency, your safe return and your families and loved ones. Enjoy your 75th, Team Travis.

Attitude is everything; resilience, optimism helps

Commentary by Chief Master Sgt. David M. Abell
621ST CONTINGENCY RESPONSE WING

Let's face it; every one of us has had a miserable day at some point. It is inevitable that there will be days in our lives where, by lunchtime, we just want to be left alone. The way we keep from running home and crawling back into bed is by developing a resilient, optimistic outlook.

It sounds easy for people who think that if you just smile and have happy

Chief's Commentary

thoughts, people will assume you have a positive attitude. However, the truth is that a positive attitude is all about control.

When I was a young Airman, I had what may be considered by some a hot temper. If I disagreed with someone or something, I would get mad and, for the rest of the day, I would be in a foul mood. What I didn't realize was that my actions not only made it harder to

build relationships, it caused me to give away control. I didn't want to give control away to anyone, let alone anything. I wanted to determine my own outcome. Hence, I learned that I was the one that determined my own actions.

"Watch your thoughts, for they become words. Watch your words, for they become actions. Watch your actions, for they become habits. Watch your habits, for they become character. Watch your character, for it becomes your destiny."

The original author of this quote is unclear, but the quote nonetheless

resonates with me. We learn as kids that bad habits are hard to break, but we often times don't know that we are creating them. We need to be deliberate about our outlook, knowing that the way we approach life will determine our attitude and ultimately our character. The fact is, life is going to present various challenges. It may be that you don't like your new assignment, you get selected for a temporary duty yonder or perhaps you don't see eye-to-eye with your new

See ABELL Page 26

Exercise acts as test of readiness for Travis Airmen

Airman 1st Class Jonathon D. A. Carnell
60TH AIR MOBILITY WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The 60th Air Mobility Wing wrapped up a weeklong exercise Feb. 2 that evaluated how Travis Air Force Base, California, executes base readiness and sustains rapid global mobility.

"The vision for the exercise was to validate readiness, identify any organize, train and equip requirements, develop tactics, techniques and procedures and highlight any wartime deficiencies to be corrected," said Maj. Grant "Nike" Behning, 60th Air Mobility Wing director of tactics. "We designed the exercise to maximize exposure to a chemical biological radiological nuclear environment while also validating our capabilities."

Squadrons from across the base were called upon to evaluate their readiness by operating in alarm red Mission-Oriented Protective Posture while accomplishing the mission such as, removing ice from an aircraft, protecting a vehicle from incoming attacks, C-5M Super Galaxy, C-17 Globemaster III and KC-10 Stratotanker aircraft operations and medical evacuation drills.

"Today's strategic environment requires that we operate at the pinnacle of readiness," said Col. John Klein, 60th AMW commander. "Generating exercises like this allows us to enhance and fine tune our readiness, which is important for executing today's mission while also investing in tomorrow."

The exercise provided learning experiences for all Travis Airmen. Airmen who were not selected for the exercise still played a part. Units were still expected to accomplish the mission while some of their Airmen participated in the exercise.

"Travis' ability to perform our daily



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

Members assigned to the 621st Contingency Response Wing secure a vehicle onto an aircraft in Mission-Oriented Protective Posture gear during an exercise Feb. 1 at Travis Air Force Base, Calif.

mission and exceed down-range simulation procedures ensures our readiness," said Chief Master Sgt. Steve Nichols, 60th AMW command chief. "All Airmen at Travis were involved and participated in some way during the exercise. This exercise was not easy. However, the professionalism and readiness Travis Airmen demonstrated inspires me to serve

with this amazing team."

There are many factors when exercises like these take place. This exercise gave Travis leadership feedback on where Travis needs improvement, but also where Travis performed well.

"It has been approximately five years since Travis has had a similar exercise," said Nichols. "Our Airmen performed

well, but still, as expected, faced challenges. Seeing how Airmen learned from their mistakes proved their competence and allegiance moving forward with the mission."

Developing a scenario which is realistic and challenging needed to be focused around operating in austere

See READINESS Page 23

Tailwind



Travis AFB, Calif.
60th Air Mobility Wing

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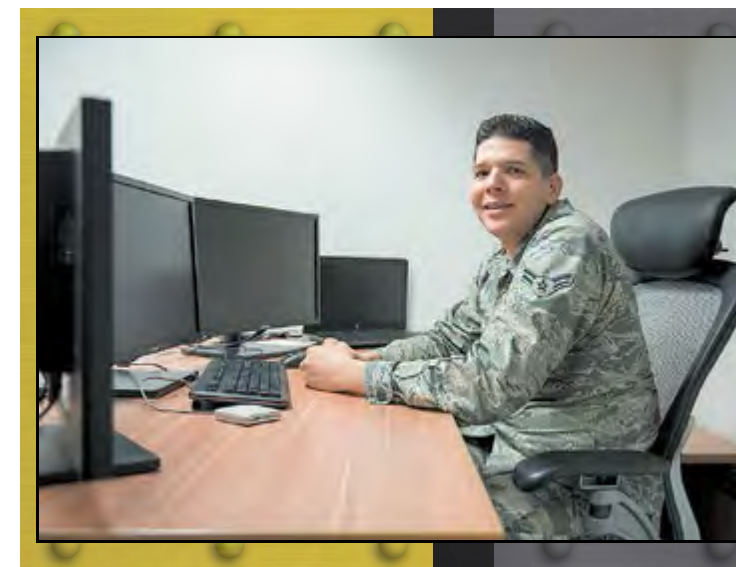
Table of contents

Commentaries	2
The Flip Side	15/18
Cover story	16-17
Worship services	20-21
Classifieds	27-29
Parting Shots	31

On the cover

Tech. Sgt. Brooke Williams, 821st Contingency Response Squadron Security Forces team chief, takes cover during a simulated attack while deployed Feb. 1 to Amedee Army Airfield, Calif., as part of a weeklong readiness exercise.

U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Liliana Moreno



U.S. Air Force photo/Lan Kim

WARRIOR OF THE WEEK

Name:
Airman 1st Class Cesar Torres.

Time in service:
One year.

What are your hobbies?
Researching software or programming languages and binge watching Netflix.

Unit:
60th Communications Squadron.

Family:
Spouse, Annette Torres.

What is your greatest achievement?
Learning how to write scripts in PowerShell in less than six months and getting married.

Duty title:
Network control center technician.

What are your goals?
To continue education and receive a Bachelor of Science degree in computer engineering and following up with a Bachelor of Arts in finance.

Hometown:
Los Angeles, California.

Airman remains recovered

Tech. Sgt. Louis Vega Jr.
386TH AIR EXPEDITIONARY WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

SOUTHWEST ASIA — An Airman who served with 555th Bombardment Squadron, 386th Bombardment Group, 9th Bomber Command, during World War II was accounted for Jan. 22.

Army Air Forces Staff Sgt. John H. Canty was one of eight crewmembers aboard a B-26 Maurader on a nighttime bombing mission from Easton Lodge-Essex, England, against targets near Caen, France. His B-26 was shot down between the villages of Baron-sur-Odon and Gavrus, France, on June 22, 1944.

According to the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, all eight crewmembers were killed in the incident. Because the location of the crash was in German-held territory, U.S. forces were unable to make a detailed search for the crew at the time of their loss.

“These service members have been missing for up to 75 years, in some cases,” said Sgt. 1st Class Kristen Duus, DPAA public affairs noncommissioned officer in charge. “We have spouses, children, nieces, nephews, grandchildren, who continue to hold out hope that their service member will be identified and can be returned with the full military honors they all deserve.”

DPAA is an agency within the Department of Defense whose mission is to recover missing personnel who are listed as POW or MIA, from all past wars and conflicts and from countries around the world.

“This mission is important because it is our obligation to fulfill our nation’s promise to provide the fullest possible accounting for our missing personnel to their families and the nation,” Duus said.

DPAA relies on partnerships

See **REMAINS** Page 23



U.S. Air National Guard photo/Staff Sgt. Patrick Evenson

U.S. Soldiers with Bravo Company, 244th Military Intelligence Battalion, Flight Detachment 16, board a C-17 Globemaster III, assigned to the 816th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron, Jan. 25 in Iraq. The C-17 transported troops and equipment to forward-operating locations throughout U.S. Central Command in support of Operation Freedom’s Sentinel and NATO Resolute Support missions.

C-17 crews help realign assets

Staff Sgt. Patrick Evenson
379TH AIR EXPEDITIONARY WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

AL UDEID AIR BASE, Qatar — Late in January, at an altitude of nearly 30,000 feet, a 174-foot-long aircraft cuts through the air with more than 40,000 pounds of thrust per engine. The equipment and personnel on board is needed to support ongoing operations in the U.S. Central Commands’ area of responsibility.

The aircraft, a C-17 Globemaster III assigned to the 816th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron, based at Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar, has its belly full of shipping containers and pallets of equipment belonging to the U.S. Army Bravo Company,

244th Military Intelligence Battalion. The load is moving from Iraq to Afghanistan, in support of Operation Freedom’s Sentinel and NATO Resolute Support missions.

Since the C-17 was operationally introduced to the Air Force in 1995, these are the type of missions that they were created to accomplish – rapid strategic delivery of troops and all types of cargo to forward operating bases throughout all areas of operation.

In 2016, the squadron flew more than 2,400 missions, moving nearly 102,000 tons of cargo and almost 120,000 passengers, including 116 aeromedical patients.

The C-17 is not only

proficient in the transportation of troops and cargo but can also perform tactical airlift and airdrop missions and transport ambulatory patients during aeromedical evacuations.

A couple of dozen Airmen assigned to the 577th Expeditionary Prime Base Engineer Emergency Force Squadron line the interior sides of the aircraft, with mere feet between them and the chained-down cargo.

They have been on the aircraft since it departed AUAB, some having just arrived in theater from the United States days prior. A handful of these forward-deploying Airmen disembarked the aircraft in Iraq, while the others stayed on board until reaching

Bagram Airfield in Afghanistan.

The Prime BEEF Squadron regularly forward deploys to help plan, design, and construct forward bases. Their mission for further development of Kandahar Airfield was to compensate for the influx of additional troops, assets and aircraft needed for the fight against the Taliban in the region.

A stark contrast to the 77 degrees when leaving AUAB, it was a single degree above freezing on the flight line of Bagram Airfield as the C-17 loadmasters and members of the 455th Expeditionary Aerial Port Squadron expeditiously off-loaded the equipment.

See **ASSETS** Page 23

Airmen team for exercise

Staff Sgt. Christopher Hubenthal
JOINT BASE CHARLESTON
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

NORTH AUXILIARY AIRFIELD, S.C. — Airmen assigned to the 437th Airlift Wing, Joint Base Charleston and 621st Contingency Response Wing, Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey, combined capabilities and shared assets during Exercise Crescent Moon Jan. 29 to Jan. 31.

The mobility exercise tested the airmen’s ability to operate in a chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear environment.

Lt. Col. Mike Durband, 321st Contingency Response Squadron commander, said North Auxiliary Airfield is an ideal location to conduct training like this, providing a quality environment and



U.S. Air Force photo

Airman Dalton Degeneffe, 321st Contingency Response Squadron, 621st Contingency Response Wing, Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J., participates Jan. 30 in Exercise Crescent Moon at Joint Base Charleston’s North Auxiliary Airfield near Orangeburg, S.C.

a chance to build upon partnerships.

“The Joint Base Charleston Airmen and CRW Airmen have worked together all over the world,” said Durband. “So Joint Base

Charleston is a natural location. It’s a place we’re used to and we like to come here to continue our relationship.”

The exercise tested Mobility and Contingency

See **EXERCISE** Page 26

Travis touts successes at planning workshop

Merrie Schilter-Lowe
60TH AIR MOBILITY WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

It wasn’t incompatibility issues that military representatives from Travis Air Force Base, California, brought Feb. 7 to the Community and Military Compatibility Planning Workshop, but examples of how a community and base can successfully work to resolve them.

The workshop, sponsored by the governor’s Office of Planning and Research and the Southwest Department of Defense Regional Coordination Team, brought together local planners, military representatives and key stakeholders interested in compatible land-use planning and continued support of the nation’s military, said Scott Morgan, OPR deputy director of administration and State Clearinghouse director in the invitation.

“I’ve attended a lot of these forums and I’ve found that we

are way ahead of many installations where the base leadership doesn’t have such close relationships with their elected officials and county planning staffs like we do,” said Gary Gottschall, 60th Operations Group civilian deputy.

The workshop took place at the Solano County Government Center in Fairfield, California. It is one of 14 that OPR is holding statewide to discuss compatible planning, coordination strategies and notification practices in the vicinity of military installations and operating areas.

California took a major hit in the last round of base realignment and closure actions. As a result, the state passed Senate Bill 1468 in 2002 requiring cities and counties to consider the impact of growth on military readiness activities when preparing or updating their general plans.

See **WORKSHOP** Page 24

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U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Joshua Magbanua

Participants in the Phoenix Raven Qualification Course practice tactics Jan. 29 at Ramstein Air Base, Germany. Raven instructors assigned to the 421st Combat Training Squadron at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J., formed a mobile training team to conduct the course at Ramstein.

Raven training at Ramstein AB

Senior Airman Joshua Magbanua
86TH AIRLIFT WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany — The gym echoed with sounds of bodies hitting the floor as instructors watched their students wrestle each other to the ground.

This is the Phoenix Raven Qualification Course, which is believed by some to be the most rigorous training program in the Air Force security forces world. The Air Mobility Command's Phoenix Raven program centers upon the concept of specially-trained security forces Airmen flying with and protecting AMC aircraft around the world.

"The (purpose of the Ravens) is to provide close-in security for aircraft and airfields that AMC has deemed as having inadequate security," said Staff Sgt. Joseph McGuire, 421st Combat Training Squadron Phoenix Raven Qualification Course instructor. "We guard the aircraft, protect the personnel, and whatever else is on board."

This particular class, however, is different: instead of taking place at the Raven program's training hub at Joint

Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst in New Jersey, it was conducted by a mobile training team sent to U.S. Air Forces in Europe-Air Forces Africa.

The Raven team came to Ramstein Air Base upon the request of the 86th Airlift Wing and USAFE-AFAFRICA leadership, said Master Sgt. Sean Cunningham, 421st CTS Phoenix Raven Qualification Course director.

While the pressure and stress the instructors push onto the students may seem harsh to some people, it all serves as preparation for the realities they will face during real-world operations, said Cunningham, who served as the team lead for the MTT which went to Ramstein.

"If they are unable to complete the tasks to pass here in training, it casts doubt on their ability to accomplish their duties when they're downrange, possibly tired and stressed with absolutely no one to help them out but themselves," he said.

The students in the course came from three squadrons in the Kaiserslautern Military Community: The 86th and 435th Security Forces Squadrons, and the 569th United

See **RAVEN** Page 25

Exchange, H&R Block offer discount on tax prep

Jessica Jones
ARMY & AIR FORCE EXCHANGE SERVICE
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Internal Revenue Service expects more than 155 million tax returns to be filed this tax season, with more than 70 percent of taxpayers receiving refunds.

To take the guesswork out of filing for military members and their families, the Army and Air Force Exchange at Travis Air Force Base, California, is teaming up with

H&R Block to provide tax preparation services at a 10 percent discount at Travis AFB.

"To make it even less taxing, if you file a 1040EZ form, the tax professionals will do it for free until Feb. 28," said Tonya Jones Travis AFB Exchange facility manager.

Filers who use H&R Block's services at the Travis AFB Exchange will receive complimentary access and support during tax season. Military shoppers will also receive

H&R Block's audit assistance to help prepare a response in the event of an audit.

H&R Block tax preparation at the Travis AFB Exchange also includes a free second-look review. Tax professionals will examine tax returns from the last three years to see whether filers are entitled to money that was not claimed.

The Travis AFB Exchange H&R Block office is located at 461 Skymaster Circle Bldg. 650, and is open 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Sunday.



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Travis signs teen dating proclamation



Col. Raymond A. Kozak, 349th Air Mobility Wing commander, Col. Matthew A. Leard, 60th Air Mobility Wing vice commander and Col. Ruth Meyer, 621st Contingency Response Wing individualized mobilization augmentee, pose for a photo with members of 60th Medical Operations Squadron Family Advocacy Clinic after signing a teen dating violence proclamation Feb. 7 at Travis Air Force Base, Calif.

Program trains in robotic surgery

Shireen Bedi
 AIR FORCE SURGEON GENERAL
 PUBLIC AFFAIRS

FALLS CHURCH, Va. — As the use of surgical robotics increases, the Air Force Medical Service is training its surgical teams in the latest technology, ensuring patients have access to the most advanced surgical procedures and best possible outcomes. To address the demand for training military healthcare providers, Maj. Joshua Tyler, director of robotics at Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi, helped to establish the Institute for Defense Robotic Surgical Education. The first of its kind in the Air Force, the facility trains Air Force, Army, Navy and Department of Veterans Affairs surgical teams to use state-of-the-art medical robotics. Access to this type of training was previously only available through private industry. “Robotic surgery is becoming the standard of care for

many specialties and procedures, but Air Force surgeons had limited opportunities to train with surgical robots,” said Tyler. “We needed a way to get surgeons trained without relying solely on the private sector. With the creation of InDoRSE we are able to do just that by using existing facilities and personnel.” The InDoRSE training site addresses challenges unique to military healthcare. The training also uses a team-based model, which helps overcome some of the challenges of implementing robotic surgery in military hospitals. “Between deployments, operational tempo, and varying surgical volumes at military facilities, it is important that whole teams are fully trained on surgical robotics,” explained Tyler. “Also training the nurses and medical technicians, in addition to the surgeon, ensures that everyone has tangible experience with the robot, and helps get surgical robotics up

and running much quicker.” Robotic surgeries have been shown to deliver better outcomes for patients than traditional surgery. Robotics offers increased mobility for the surgeon, allowing them to make smaller incisions, and gives them better visualization. This precision leads to more successful surgeries and quicker recovery times, which improves patient satisfaction and lowers costs. “The best outcomes I’ve ever given my patients came using robotics,” explained Tyler. “We see significant decreases in post-surgery pain, surgical site infection rates and length of hospital stay. That quicker recovery means patients get to return to their normal life more quickly.” The InDoRSE facility at Keesler AFB stood up in March 2017. There are already plans to double its training capacity soon. Soon after Keesler AFB’s facility opened,

See ROBOTIC Page 24

C-130s, Airmen deploy to Portugal

Staff Sgt. Andrew Park
 94TH AIRLIFT WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

MONTE REAL AIR BASE, Portugal — Approximately 50 Airmen and two C-130H3 Hercules assigned to the 94th Airlift Wing, Dobbins Air Reserve Base, Georgia, arrived at Monte Real Air Base, Portugal to participate in Real Thaw 18, a Portuguese-led exercise.

The annual two-week exercise includes armed forces from multiple nations participating in training missions aimed at merging and deploying different platforms toward a major objective, covering a vast range of activities including air-to-air and air-to-ground training, tactical air transport operations and close air support.

“It provides a unique training opportunity,” said Maj. Richard Konopczynski, 700th Airlift Squadron deputy mission commander. “We get to work with our coalition partners. We have other C-130 units here from different countries, and we get to not only compare our techniques, but also work in a deployed environment.”

This year’s exercise included 1,500 participants and 35 aircraft from Spain, Denmark, Netherlands, France, Portugal and the U.S.

The exercise also goes beyond the scope of flying missions to include support roles such as communications, security forces, maintenance and intelligence. The scenarios will integrate daily realistic interoperability tasks in the air and on the ground between multinational units.

“We set up a scenario that resembles a very specific situation in the world,” said Lt. Col. Joao Rosa, exercise coordinator and Portuguese air force fighter

See PORTUGAL Page 30

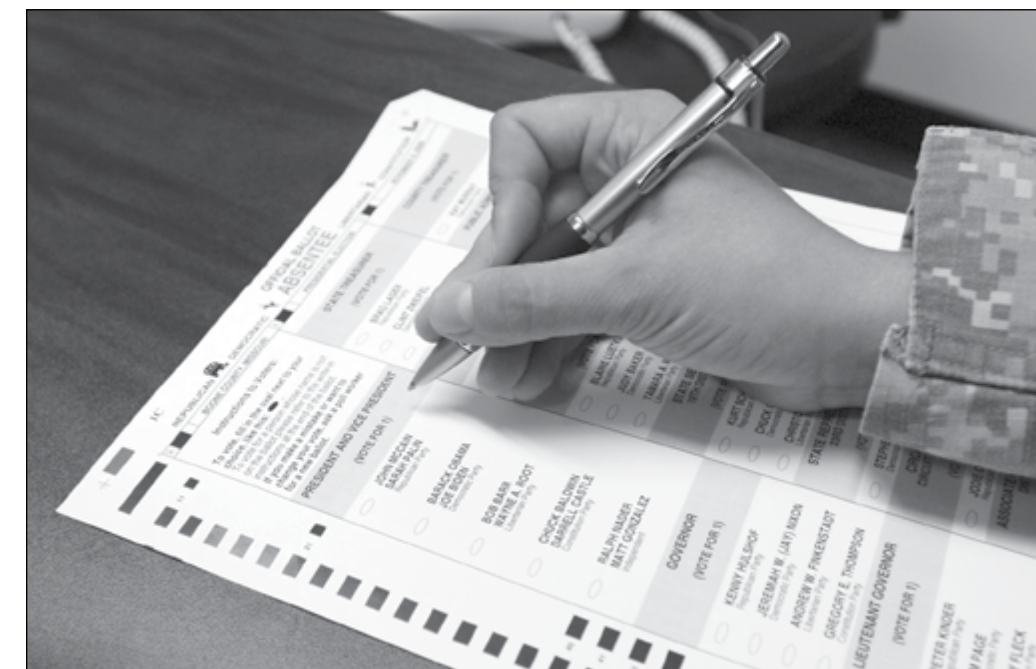
Air Force streamlines voting program

Richard Salomon
 AIR FORCE’S PERSONNEL CENTER
 PUBLIC AFFAIRS

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas — Air Force officials recently released guidance that streamlines the organizational structure and functions of the Air Force Voting Assistance Program.

A November 2017 Air Force guidance memorandum realigned the program under installation Airman and Family Readiness Centers, thereby eliminating voting assistance officers as an additional duty at Air Force units. The move is part of an Air Force-wide effort to reduce Airmen’s additional duties so they can more effectively focus on their core missions.

The Air Force Voting Assistance Program ensures Airmen, their eligible family members and overseas U.S. citizens are aware of their right to vote and have the necessary tools and resources to do so worldwide.



A Joint Task Force Guantanamo Trooper fills out an absentee ballot.

Program representatives assist with voter registration and absentee ballots, coordinate voting awareness campaigns and answer various voting questions.

“Having the Voting Assistance Program knowledge

base located at the Airman and Family Readiness Centers makes it more convenient for Airmen to get the information they need since they already attend mandatory arrival and departure briefings there,” said Kelly

Weakly, Air Force Voting Assistance Operations Program manager at the Air Force’s Personnel Center.

Airmen are also required to attend pre- and post-deployment briefings at their

See VOTING Page 25

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Airmen save missing child, sharpen interoperability



U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Joshua Dewberry

Tech Sgt. Douglas N. Spangler, 822nd Expeditionary Base Defense Squadron Security Forces squad leader, speaks Dec. 11, 2017, to children from a nearby village outside of Air Base 201, Niger.

Tech. Sgt. Nick Wilson

435TH AIR EXPEDITIONARY WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

AGADEZ, Niger — Recently, an 822nd Expeditionary Base Defense Squadron Security Forces patrol team collaborated with local military members to rescue a 2-year-old girl, after being notified by local villagers that she was lost near Nigerien Air Base 201.

“She simply wandered away from the village in the late evening hours,” said Chief Master Sgt. Rick A. Schlachter, 822nd EBDS Security Forces manager. “By village we’re literally talking mud and stick huts in the middle of the desert.”

The 822nd EBDS has complex and multi-layered duties in Africa. Sustaining positive relations with their host-nation partners is part of a unique mission that promotes regional stability and prosperity.

“Being available at the right time and the right place to help find their daughter was nothing short of a divine

intervention,” said Lt. Col. Julia Jefferson, 822nd Expeditionary Base Defense Squadron commander. “We are so thankful for the opportunity to help the child make it home safely into her mother’s arms. That is what neighbors do for each other.”

The patrol team consisted of 14 security forces members, all of whom were prepared to assist regardless of the situation.

“We all felt the urgency to help and we tried to put ourselves in the family’s shoes, so to speak, and use that emotion to put a search into action,” said Tech. Sgt. Douglas N. Spangler, 822nd EBDS Security Forces squad leader. “We have heard that a similar situation happened in the summer of 2017. However, the outcome was not as good. ... The child in that incident was found deceased.”

The patrol team’s linguist met with the villagers outside of the base, where they found evidence that could lead to

See CHILD Page 22

Airmen develop ‘Cargo City’ for operations



U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Louis Vega Jr.

Commercial aircraft taxi in the general vicinity of the Kuwait International Airport terminal expansion project and the current location of two Kuwait Air Force Bases and U.S. coalition forces in this Oct. 29, 2017, photo taken from the control tower.

Tech. Sgt. Louis Vega Jr.

386TH AIR EXPEDITIONARY WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

KUWAIT — Construction is underway to provide a work environment for U.S. coalition forces to continue aerial port operations in Kuwait City. The aerial port is a strategic logistics point to deliver passengers and cargo throughout the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility and its future was put in jeopardy due to a construction project timeline issue.

“If we didn’t fix this problem, we risked losing ‘the U.S. Central Command Gateway,’” said Col. Douglas Edwards, 387th Air Expeditionary Group commander. “There wasn’t a course of action we could have taken to relocate temporarily anywhere else in the AOR.”

The Abdullah Al-Mubarak Air Base, which is part of the Kuwait International Airport complex, serves as the headquarters for two Kuwait Air Force Bases and U.S. coalition forces. In May 2017, all three

organizations were given exactly one year to move and make room for an airport expansion project of a new commercial terminal.

“This is the busiest aerial port of debarkation in CENTCOM,” Edwards said. “When you compare it to all the other aerial ports in the world, we are the biggest.”

The original plan to construct a new West Mubarak Air Base for military operations at the international airport required a change of plans as construction of the new airport terminal quickly advanced. Planners came up with an alternate solution that involved the construction of a temporary cargo facility called Cargo City.

“We have come together and built a partnership with key stakeholders to build Cargo City,” said Edwards. “There are regular meetings with at least 50 people in the room from different parts of the Kuwait government and we discuss how we are going to make Cargo City

See CARGO CITY Page 30

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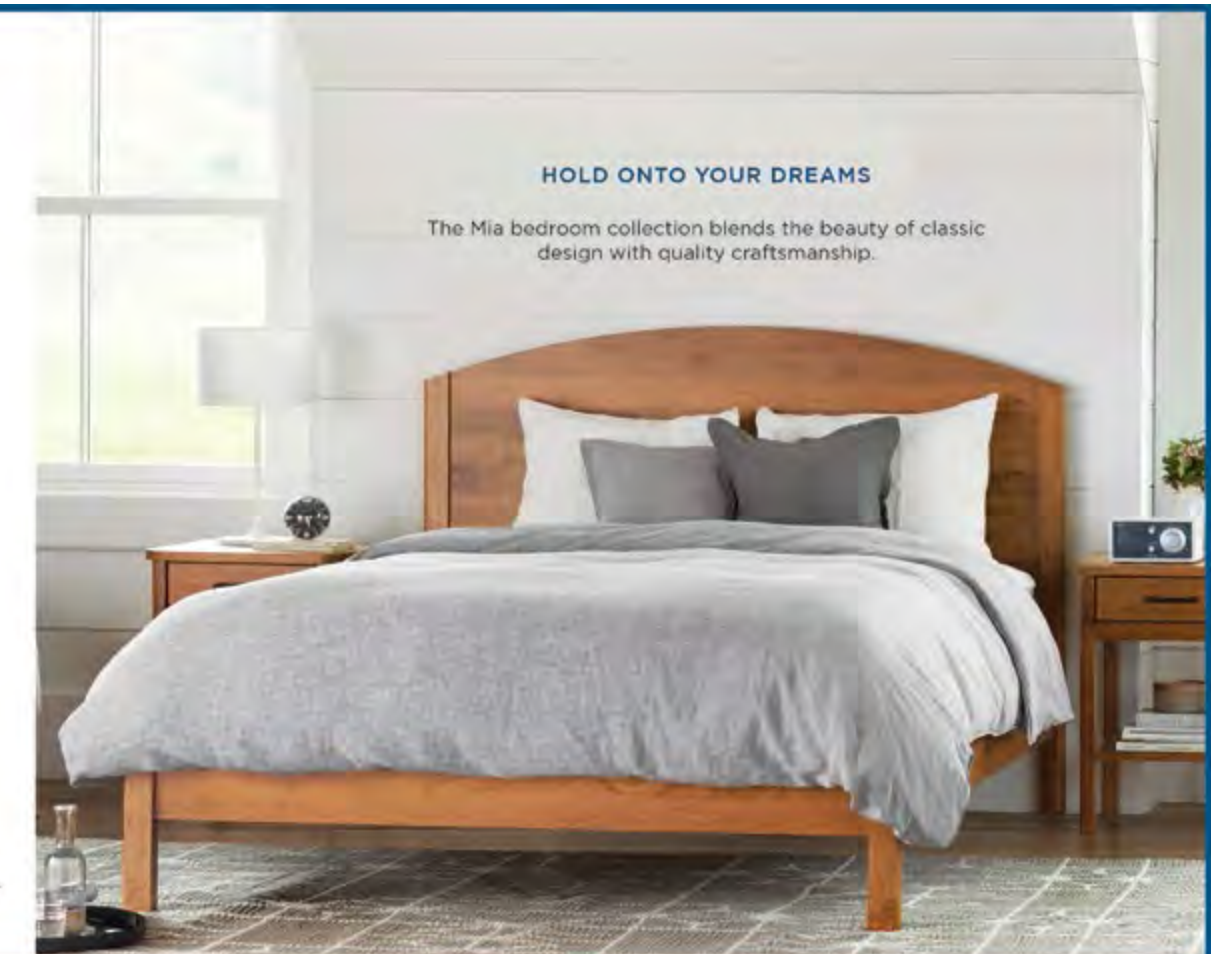
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Guard hosts Open Skies flight

Tech. Sgt. John Hillier
AIR NATIONAL GUARD PUBLIC AFFAIRS

ROSECRANS AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, Mo. — The Air National Guard's 139th Airlift Wing hosted members of partner military forces for joint training flights over the U.S. at Rosecrans Air National Guard Base here, Jan. 31 to Feb. 2.

The flights were in accordance with the Treaty on Open Skies, a multi-national arms control treaty designed to build confidence and security among participating nations. Under the terms of the agreement, each state party is allowed to conduct a specified number of flights over the various parties' territories.

The training flights were conducted on a Canadian CC-130J, a military aircraft similar to the U.S. C-130J Super Hercules, based at Canadian Forces Base Trenton, Canada.

Air National Guard Director Lt. Gen. L. Scott Rice



A Royal Canadian Air Force CC-130J aircraft taxis at Rosecrans Memorial Airport, St. Joseph, Mo. Feb. 1 after a training flight for the Treaty on Open Skies.

U.S. Air National Guard photo/Tech. Sgt. John Hillier

greeted delegations from the treaty partners and said he was proud to showcase guardsmen's capabilities in supporting the flight.

"It's the first time the Air National Guard has been at the table being an active part of something significantly bigger than ourselves

in the DoD," said Rice. "It's a great opportunity for us to show our professionalism and pride, to show our support." **See OPEN SKIES Page 22**

Workshop focuses on training

Ed Shannon
AIR FORCE INSTALLATION AND MISSION SUPPORT CENTER PUBLIC AFFAIRS

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-LACKLAND, Texas — Staff Sgt. Amber Gonzalez and Airman 1st Class Femke Vargas can't wait to return home to Holloman Air Force Base, New Mexico, from their trip this week to the 2018 Financial Services Air Force Workshop in San Antonio.

Motivated by the variety of training topics, instruction, and crosstalk with more than 300 peers from across the Air Force, Gonzalez and Vargas are returning to their team with a better understanding of financial services support.

"This workshop was super beneficial for me because I served six and a half years in the Guard," said Gonzalez, a quality examiner and first line supervisor who oversees eight Airmen who execute multiple financial support functions. "It was really helpful to put things together and understand how the active duty component does finance. I am excited about the programs and tools coming out in the future, best practices that were shared, and the lines of effort coming out."

Vargas, the Defense Travel System representative at Holloman AFB, said most of the people in her sections are one-deep.

"I took lots of notes this week knowing the issues our team struggles with, and I know the information I share with them will be very helpful," she said.

The Air Force Installation and Mission Support Center hosted the workshop in partnership with the Air Force Accounting and Finance Office and Defense Finance and Accounting Service with a focus on giving attendees the tools they need to provide the best financial customer service possible.

"Training is our number one focus area this week, and it's been a roaring success," said Monica Anders, director of

See TRAINING Page 20

Ohio chapel group embraces service before self

Jim Varhegyi
88TH AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio — When Hurricane Harvey bore down on the Houston area as a Category 4 hurricane and stalled for several days in late August 2017, it dropped a record amount of rain.

It was the second most costly storm in U.S. history, only behind Hurricane Katrina in 2005, according to a recently released report by the National Hurricane Center.

During its pause over the Houston area, Harvey dropped more than 60 inches of rain, spawned 57 tornadoes, left 68 people dead, and did more than \$125 billion in damage according to the report.

When word of Harvey's devastation reached Cheri Champagne, Catholic parish coordinator for the base chapel on Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, she knew she had to find a way to help the victims of the storm recover from its destruction. Having grown up in the Houston area, she still had family there and many were impacted by Harvey. Her brother and his family lost their home in the storm.

Champagne hatched an idea to see if she could get folks from the base chapel community to travel to Texas and help folks there recover from the storm. After hearing her idea Col. Ted Wilson, 88th Air Base Wing chaplain, was 100 percent

See CHAPEL Page 30

Members of the Wright-Patterson Air Force Base chapel community traveled to the Houston area for a week in January to help restore homes devastated by Hurricane Harvey, which hit the area in late August 2017.

U.S. Air Force courtesy photo



Modernized Move.mil aims to improve usage

Maj. David L. Dunn
U.S. TRANSPORTATION COMMAND

SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, Ill. — U.S. Transportation Command, in partnership with the Air Force Digital Service, recently launched a modernized version of the Move.mil website, the Department of Defense's official portal to prepare for service members'

upcoming household goods move.

The goal of the improved site is to provide a significantly better user experience to customers during relocations across the globe.

"Improvements to Move.mil are an important step in our efforts to build a more efficient and effective process

See MOVE.MIL Page 21

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821st CRG tests readiness during training exercise



1

1) Senior Airman Devante Jenkins, 821st Contingency Response Squadron aerial porter, dons Mission Oriented Protective Posture gear during a simulated attack while deployed Feb. 1 to Amedee Army Airfield, Calif., as part of a weeklong readiness exercise. 2) An aerial porter assigned to the 821st Contingency Response Group directs the positioning of a forklift to unload cargo from a C-5M Super Galaxy Jan. 31 at Amedee. 3) Airmen assigned to the 821st CRG set up the Joint Operations Center tent Jan. 31 while deployed to Amedee. 4) Airmen assigned to the 821st CRG board a C-5M en route to Amedee.



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3



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Story and photos by Tech. Sgt. Liliana Moreno
621ST CONTINGENCY RESPONSE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Members from the 821st Contingency Response Group partnered with the 60th Air Mobility Wing, during a readiness exercise at the Amedee Army Airfield, California, Jan. 31 to Feb. 2.

The exercise highlighted the importance of contingency response forces' ability to support combatant commanders around the world during contingency operations by establishing air mobility operations at austere locations or during rapidly developing crises.

"It facilitates our shared mobility mission here at Travis AFB. As a team, we can learn, practice, test and improve the very processes that we would execute in response to real-world events," said Lt. Col. Robert Kline, 821st Contingency Response Squadron operations officer. "The exercise also affords us the opportunity to train new CR Airmen and allow others to increase their proficiency and focus on full spectrum readiness as it pertains to future operating environments."

During the exercise, a 50-member contingency response element performed 24-hour operations to facilitate C-5M Super Galaxy and C-17 Globemaster III aircraft operations.

Airmen trained throughout the day on skills necessary to establish a forward operating base. The training focused on engine running offload for quick-turn cargo transfers, as well as night vision equipment operations.

"Ultimately, we are looking to prepare our Airmen and hone our mission effectiveness by executing specific scenarios that challenge our mental and physical toughness on the battlefield," Kline said. "This exercise will help us increase our individual and unit readiness to meet future challenges."

According to Air Mobility Command officials, the command is laser-focused on ensuring mobility Airmen are trained, prepared and ready for any contingency. Scenario-based training and mission-ready Airmen ensure a first-in, last-out capability to combatant commanders and extend the reach and persistence of joint forces in all environments.

"Environments tested in the exercise scenario will likely challenge the tactics, techniques and procedures that we have developed and become comfortable with during the last 16 years of conflict," Kline added. "It also provides us with a terrific venue to incorporate chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear defense scenarios and learn from added challenges inherent in these operating environments."



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5) Master Sgt. Larry Sowell, 821st Contingency Response Support Squadron maintenance crew chief, marshals a C-17 Globemaster III Feb. 1 at Amedee Army Airfield, Calif., as part of a weeklong readiness exercise. 6) A C-130 Hercules aircraft performs a touch-and-go landing Jan. 31 at Amedee. 7) A U.S. Air Force crew chief awaits the arrival of a forklift to unload cargo from a C-5M Super Galaxy Feb. 1 at Amedee. 8) Aerial porters assigned to the 821st Contingency Response Group unload cargo from a C-5M Jan. 31 at Amedee.

AF assembles team to explore electronic warfare

Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

WASHINGTON — The Air Force recently assembled a cross-functional group, known as an enterprise capability collaboration team, to explore how the service will continue to lead, operate and integrate electronic warfare throughout the electromagnetic spectrum.

Electronic warfare is defined as military action involving the use of electromagnetic and directed energy to control the electromagnetic spectrum or to attack the enemy.

In late 2017, the Air Force announced it would assemble a team to focus on this capability, as Vice Chief of Staff of the Air Force Gen. Stephen Wilson said, those who dominate the spectrum, win.

The team is led by Brig. Gen. David Gaedecke, Cyberspace Operations and Warfighting Integration director, Office of Information Dominance and chief information officer for the Air Force.

“The Air Force and our nation need to maintain superiority in the electromagnetic spectrum,” Gaedecke said. “The

spectrum is so broad, relied upon by all, and increasingly congested; so the first challenge of this effort is to scope the issue.”

To address a future congested spectrum, the team plans to convene a group of stakeholders from across major commands, joint partners, coalition and industry.

“There’s already tremendous expertise and research out there,” Gaedecke said. “We’ll draw not only from our experts in the military, but also previous scientific advisory boards, defense science

boards and industry professionals to form a cohesive and comprehensive electronic warfare and electromagnetic spectrum strategy.”

The team will spend 12 to 18 months researching and developing a strategy to deliver executable recommendations for the service to maintain competitive advantage in the spectrum.

“It’s those executable recommendations and how they will align and integrate into ongoing Air Force efforts like multi-domain command and control that are the ultimate

goal,” Gaedecke said.

“Superiority in the electromagnetic spectrum is fundamental to the new National Defense Strategy,” he said. “To be a lethal force of the future, we need to lead in research, technology and innovation. Superiority in the spectrum underpins all of these.”

Gaedecke will introduce the team to industry partners on Feb. 7, during an ongoing Air Force Strategic Development Planning & Experimentation meeting at the Gen. Jacob E. Smart Conference Center at Joint Base Andrews, Maryland.

AF connects ISR Airmen with leaders

Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

CHANTILLY, Va. — Air Force Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance leaders hosted an industry day Feb. 2 at the National Reconnaissance Office to discuss needs for future warfare.

Airmen analysts presented many of the needs themselves.

“This is about connecting our Airmen with industry,” said Lt. Gen. Veralinn Jamieson, deputy chief of staff for ISR. “Sharp senior airmen, lieutenants and field grade officers briefed industry experts directly because, in order to build the force of the future, we need inputs straight from the Airmen. It’s a paradigm shift.”

The industry day included presentations about threats, artificial intelligence and data aggregation, as well as briefs by Airmen and young officers from the field regarding operations and needs in cyber and analysis realms.

“The weapons that matter most are software and data,” said Col. Jason Brown, 480th ISR wing commander, explaining how Airmen are innovating for the future.

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Training

From Page 12

AFIMSC's Resource Management Directorate. "We brought together the right audience with the right instructors and subject matter experts for training and crosstalk that will enhance financial customer service support across the Air Force."

Linda Alcalá, AFIMSC Financial Services Division chief, said the goal of the workshop is to provide expertise attendees can

share with their financial customer service teams.

"We want to develop our financial customer service skills to make sure our Airmen can go out and do their jobs without any military pay problems that we can solve for them," Alcalá said.

The opportunity to network and discuss common issues was a popular feature of the workshop and benefitted Debra Adams, finance chief at Kirtland AFB, New Mexico.

"The workshop allowed us to meet face-to-face with people

we are often on the phone with - leaders in the Air Force financial world," Adams said.

Avis Hightower Rose, a budget analyst from Kirtland AFB, said learning about all of the updates and migrations of financial systems was extremely informative for her.

"A lot of the work we do is helping customers by phone," Hightower Rose said. "We saw a new update in DTS we had not seen before. The training this week will help us talk our customers through the DTS screens

as they file their vouchers."

As attendees participated in training, networked and heard from keynote speakers, a 15-person team participated in a Continuous Process Improvement event designed to address a concern submitted from field.

AFIMSC financial administrators received input for several potential improvement initiatives from installations worldwide and observed a consistent concern regarding an apparent gap between metrics, systems, and guidance from varying Air Force

levels. The CPI team analyzed the issue and developed courses of action for AFIMSC Resource Management officials to consider.

"We looked for the opportunities to improve the performance of the financial services operations by looking at all the processes and finding more effective and efficient ways to deliver entitlements and benefits to the Airmen," said Maj. David Collins, AFIMSC CPI director who facilitated the event with Master Sgt. Gloria Hofilena.

Move.mil

From Page 13

for relocating the Department of Defense's most precious resource, our military and civilian personnel and their families," said Army Col. Ralph A. Lounsborough, USTRANSCOM chief, personal property program. "Enhancing the customer experience is our top priority."

According to Lounsborough, Move.mil was built and designed in close collaboration

with military members, civilian employees, and their families to ensure the site provides the most up-to-date information and resources to assist with their moves.

"The new site features multiple new tools to help members and their families plan for their next move," said Lounsborough. "You can estimate the weight of your household goods to avoid overage charges, there is a personally procured or do-it-yourself move calculator to help families take advantage of

government incentives to plan your own move, current service-specific information, and a comprehensive list of top tips and answers to frequent questions from experienced movers."

These new tools are the first of many that will roll out onto the site throughout the rest of 2018.

Visit the website at www.move.mil/ for more information.

For more information, contact the USTRANSCOM Public Affairs Office at 618-220-4999 or transcom-pa@mail.mil.

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Open Skies

From Page 12

exceptional facilities and our ability to add value to something very important to our country: the safety, security and stability of how we operate in the world.”

Col. Edward Black, 139th Airlift Wing commander, said his Airmen were proud to be taking part in fulfilling America's treaty obligations, and for the opportunity to show off their city.

“The 139th Airlift Wing is

honored to be part of the Open Skies Treaty,” said Black. “Our role as host to the treaty nations further confirms our unit's commitment to building partnerships. We thank our civic leaders for their support, and look forward to this opportunity to bring more visitors to St. Joseph.”

The Treaty on Open Skies was ratified by the United States in 1992 and went into effect on Jan. 1, 2002. Since that time, the agreement has grown to cover 34 nations which have conducted more than 1,350 flights under its auspices.

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U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Joshua Dewberry

Staff Sgt. Daniel Contreras, 822nd Expeditionary Base Defense Squadron fire team leader, Airman 1st Class Alexander Dahlquist, 822nd EBDS fire team member, and Tech Sgt. Douglas N. Spangler, 822nd EBDS Security Forces squad leader, laugh with children from a nearby village Dec. 11, 2017, outside of Air Base 201, Niger.

Child

From Page 10

the child's whereabouts.

“The linguist was on patrol with security forces when we made contact with the locals,” Spangler said.

In the black of the night, hundreds of tiny footprints scattered throughout multiple directions across a span of roughly two miles.

“When we found the footprints, we knew we had a chance to find the missing girl,” Spangler explained. “The squad's feelings toward the possibility of finding the missing girl was to ensure we did everything we could to help the parents; we were just trying to help people in a time of need.”

The locals took the patrol team to the last known location of the footprints, where an organized search began.

“Much of the credit for finding the tracks and staying on course goes to our linguist,” Spangler said. “Without his help and knowledge, we wouldn't have been able to locate the girl as fast as we did, if at all.”

In addition to the host nation military members, more than 40 villagers from the local area accompanied the Airmen during the search.

“It's nice to be able to count on the host nation to support their local communities during times like these,” Spangler said. “The support they provided helps portray a positive image of the Forces Armées Nigériennes to local nationals.”

The Airmen finally found the child after two hours of rummaging through the night in sandy desert terrain. It was so dark that they could only use flashlights to search through hard packed sand, slate rock formations and gravel.

“Our first thoughts when finding the girl alive were feelings of joy and happiness, knowing that we were able to help the parents during their time of panic and need,” Spangler said.

Immediately, Spangler assessed the child for injuries, bites and wounds. The child appeared to be in good health when the team found her, but she was tired, scared and cold.

“She was dressed in just a T-Shirt and flip flops,” Spangler said. “When we found her, she was very dusty from the wind and appeared distraught.”

The temperature that night was somewhere around 50 degrees Fahrenheit. Spangler wrapped the girl in a blanket to keep her warm and prevent hypothermia.

“The potential for hypothermia existed because the girl had been missing for six hours before she was found,” Spangler said. “Fortunately, she sustained no injuries.”

Both parents shed tears when their daughter was returned.

“The parents stated, ‘the ultimate sign of friendship is dropping everything to help someone in need,’” Spangler said. “The villagers said they are very happy U.S. forces are in their country helping and they truly believe U.S. forces are here doing good things for the people in the local area.”

The Airmen not only showcased their capabilities that night, but also demonstrated the U.S. Air Force's effectiveness in working alongside host nation security forces to build interoperability as a team.

“If you can rapidly locate a small child hidden by the cover of darkness somewhere within three kilometers of your base security zone, then you can identify and intercept any threat approaching your installation,” Schlachter said. “By quickly finding and returning the child to her village, the security team cemented a trust and goodwill that extends well beyond the base perimeter for years to come.”



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

Airmen from the 60th Maintenance Group and 60th Operations Group evacuate the building after a simulated fire during a readiness exercise Jan. 30 at Travis Air Force Base, Calif. Travis Airmen participated in a weeklong exercise which evaluates the base's readiness to execute and sustain rapid global mobility around the world.

Readiness

From Page 3

environments with dynamic challenges, said Behning.

“Future exercises will be more robust in nature, but

the focus remains the same: full spectrum readiness,” said Behning. “We will continue to push the edge of our capabilities.”

Travis will engage with future exercises where Airmen take on new challenges. Travis

will adapt to whichever obstacle presents itself.

“Attitudes were phenomenal,” said Klein. “A lot of lessons were learned both in how we put the exercise together and how we executed it. Next time, we will raise our game more.”

Assets

From Page 4

After more transient soldiers and Airmen boarded the aircraft the following day, it was back in the air, heading home to AUAB in the early hours.

The 816 EAS is an important component flying a vital airframe in the fight against terrorism throughout the area of operations supporting of Operation Inherent Resolve and Operation Freedom's Sentinel. In the coming days, weeks, months and years it will continue providing a vital role wherever they fly.

Remains

From Page 4

with agencies around the world and utilizes their laboratories for identification. In cases where the agency conducts excavations, they take teams to locations to excavate crash and burial sites. This involves anthropologists, augmentees, medics, analysts and photographers to ensure every aspect of the excavation is properly conducted and documented. If remains are found, they are sent to the lab for DNA analysis, dental comparison and anthropological analysis.

“I have spoken with families after their loved ones have been identified and they have expressed an overwhelming sense of gratitude as well

as comfort,” concluded Duus.

Canty's name is recorded on the Tablets of the Missing at the Normandy American Cemetery, an American Battle Monuments Commission site. A rosette will be placed next to his name to indicate he has been accounted for.

Interment services are pending and more details will be released approximately 10 days prior to scheduled funeral services.

For more information about DPAA, visit www.dpaa.mil, or find them on social media at www.facebook.com/dodpaa, or call 703-699-1420.



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U.S. Air Force photo/Kemberly Groue

Col. Debra Lovette, 81st Training Wing commander, receives a briefing from 2nd Lt. Nina Hoskins, 81st Surgical Operations squadron room nurse, on robotics surgery capabilities inside the robotics surgery clinic June 16 at Keesler Medical Center, Miss.

Robotic

From Page 8

Wright-Patterson AFB in Ohio set up their own surgical robotics program. Travis AFB in California and Nellis AFB in Nevada are currently working on their surgical

robotics acquisition now.

“Use of robotics is increasing in many medical specialties,” said Tyler. “Providing opportunities for our whole surgical teams to receive training on this cutting edge technology is vital to the AFMS’s focus on continuously improving the patient experience.”

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Workshop

From Page 5

In 2004, Senate Bill 1462 expanded the requirements to notify military installations of proposed development and planning activities, refer general plans to the military and require developers to identify proposed projects to be located in proximity to an installation, under a military training route or special use airspace as well as provide the development application to the military service.

“Most communities appreciate their military installations but they don’t go to the length that Solano County does to take into account the training and readiness needs of Travis AFB,” said Gottschall.

The base has “a phenomenal relationship” with the Solano County Resource Management Department and the office of the Assistant County Attorney, said Gottschall.

“We’ve been doing this a long time. We might be able to provide some examples that will be helpful to other communities working through compatibility issues,” he said.

One example occurred in 2013 when the base opened the assault landing runway, aka ALZ, so Travis can conduct tactical training on base instead of flying to the ALZ at Moses Lake in Washington.

Travis leadership invited members of the board of

“We might be able to provide some examples that will be helpful to other communities ...”

— Gary Gottschall

supervisors and the county’s planning staff on a C-17 training flight to demonstrate the base’s training and readiness needs and showed them firsthand how the airspace would be used for tactical training on the new ALZ.

“At the end of the flight, the C-17 dropped down for a short low-level and landed on the ALZ demonstrating a modified tactical arrival to them,” said Gottschall.

The supervisors and planning staff gained greater insight into the base’s training and mission readiness needs thus helping them make more informed policy decisions, said Gottschall.

The board of supervisors called for a revision of the outdated Travis AFB Land Use Compatibility Plan maintained by the Airport Land Use Commission, which sets policy countywide regarding development and compatibility with the mission at Travis. This was an in-depth three-year effort to update the 2002 land use compatibility plan. Subject matter experts at Travis worked closely with the county planning staffs and ALUC throughout the process.

In October 2015, the Solano County Airport Land Use

Commission adopted the Travis AFB Land-Use Compatibility Plan, outlining standards for noise, safety, airspace protection, renewable energy development, height regulations, wildlife hazards and more. The plan ensures that future development in the vicinity of Travis AFB remains compatible with the base’s training and mission readiness requirements.

But the base’s collaborative efforts don’t end with the cities and county.

“It includes developers,” said Gottschall, who addressed this at the workshop.

For example, another developer had planned to construct 29 450-foot-tall wind turbines along the top of the ridgeline in Benicia, California, west of Interstate 680. This would have placed the wind turbines along the final instrument approach course for aircraft landing on runway zero three left at Travis.

A radar approach controller would have seen “a picket line of aircraft” on the radar scope perpendicular to where the aircraft were being vectored, said Gottschall.

“The county planners referred the developer to us,” he said. “We gave them a tour of the air traffic control tower and Radar Approach Control facility. During the tour we showed them what wind turbines look like on the radar.”

Gottschall said they asked the developer to consider relocating the wind turbines to the west side of the ridgeline so they would be below the radar’s line of sight.

“By sitting the wind turbines slightly to the west from their originally intended locations, the impact on Travis AFB was removed while still meeting the developer’s objectives,” said Gottschall. “We can’t always mitigate everything, but when we can, we try our best to support green energy development objectives while balancing and preserving the training and readiness needs of Travis AFB.”

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Master Sgt. Edward Mann, a student in a mobile Phoenix Raven Qualification Course on Ramstein Air Base, Germany, participates in a physical training session Jan. 30. While the Raven course usually takes place at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J., 86th Airlift Wing and U.S. Air Forces in Europe-Air Forces Africa leadership requested a mobile training team to conduct the course at Ramstein.

U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Class Joshua Magbanua



Raven

From Page 7

States Forces Police Squadron.

The course involves vigorous physical training sessions, Armament Systems and Procedures Baton training, use-of-force scenarios, combatives classes, and live-fire training, as well as 15 academic classes.

McGuire added that it is not uncommon for some students to fail the course and get sent home. A few have already washed out since they started on Jan. 22.

“It is extremely hard,” he

said. “You have to be mentally and physically tough. You have to have heart. You have to have dedication ... and mental tenacity. And you have to be able to make proper decisions while being in a stressful environment.”

Those that do make it through the course are rewarded with an illustrious career and a place among an elite group of security forces Airmen, McGuire added.

“For me personally it’s the most rewarding thing as a security forces member,” McGuire said. “They get to fly with senior government officials, they get to see the world, and...

be a part of something bigger than themselves.”

Students who graduate from the program receive the Raven tab which they may wear on their uniform, and also a coin with their Raven number—a number which stays with them for the rest of their career.

As for the students currently taking part in the Raven Qualification Course at Ramstein, they have more obstacles to overcome before they can even see that number. They still have about two more weeks of training before they can call themselves Ravens.

Until then, the instructors will continue to apply pressure.

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Voting

From Page 9

installation Airman and Family Readiness Centers if they are deploying for six months or more. Before deploying, voting assistance officers remind Airmen to update their temporary address (deployed location) and obtain an absentee ballot in case there is an election while deployed.

Deploying Airmen also receive a Federal Post Card Application that can be used to register to vote, request an absentee ballot and submit a change of address to local election officials. During their reintegration brief, voting assistance representatives remind Airmen to change their address back to their home address to ensure they receive their absentee ballots at the correct location.

In addition to deployments,

active-duty Airmen are also required to check into the centers when separating from the service or retiring.

“During each of these touchpoints, we provide Airmen voting forms and an information sheet to make the voting process as easy and convenient as possible,” Weakly said. “Our goal is to ensure our active-duty members and their families are fully informed and can exercise their right to vote.”

Visit AFPC’s Air Force Voting Assistance page or go to the Federal Voting Assistance Program’s web site at <https://www.fvap.gov/> for more information.

For more information about Air Force personnel programs, go to myPers. Eligible individuals who do not have a myPers account can request one by following these instructions.

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Abell

From Page 2

supervisor. No matter what challenges you face, if you approach it with an open mind and a positive outlook, you will control your own character and future.

Now, I'm not saying to smile all day and pretend that nothing affects you, that's unrealistic. It's all about controlling the impact of life's challenges. A purposeful and productive attitude can allow an individual to overcome life-changing events more quickly and efficiently

through maintaining control of their emotional reaction.

One of my mentors always said, "The days are long, but the years are short." He was absolutely right. Our time in the U.S. Air Force will go by in the blink of an eye, but the days may seem like they drag on forever. The way we choose to control our attitude will determine how those "long days" will define the successes throughout our careers. Continuously choosing to tackle challenges with a positive attitude to control the present moment can create waves to impact not only your future, but the future of those around you.

Exercise

From Page 5

Response Airmen's readiness to conduct mobility operations in a chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear environment. Participants were required to complete airfield tasks during Mission Oriented Protective Posture levels and while wearing personal protective equipment.

Aircrews from the 437th AW provided C-17 Globemaster III airlift support to add realism to the training experience for Airmen on the ground. Airmen were required to load cargo on-and-off a simulated contaminated aircraft safely while in MOPP level 4, a level where Airmen are required to wear all PPE.

"For the 621st CRW, we provided a realistic environment where a plane actually came in, assault landed quickly, exited the runway and opened up to receive an on-load," said 1st Lt. Dennis Parker, 14th Airlift Squadron

executive officer and exercise participant. "It was definitely a challenge for both teams to operate under the limited communication ability which is incurred in that environment. This allowed them to experience and know what they might be dealing with."

Staff Sgt. John Lee and Senior Airman Paul Chavis, both of the 628th Civil Engineer Squadron emergency management, set up a Contamination Control Area, providing Contingency Response Airmen an opportunity to get hands-on training. Lee and Chavis also provided instruction, if needed, and evaluated the Airmen's proficiency during the decontamination process.

"If they get 'dirty' in a contaminated environment the CCA is designed to help them get clean and safe," said Chavis. "Learning the best practices through this exercise is going to help them in the long run. This is very important in terms of the mission and making sure we're

doing it safely. This CCA helps them do their jobs safely and securely without being contaminated."

From transporting cargo to decontaminating themselves, Airmen of the 621st CRW sharpened their skills during Exercise Crescent Moon alongside aircrews from the 437th Airlift Wing.

"Other units have supported us and now it's our turn to give back and support them in their training," said Parker. "Now Airmen involved in both ground and air aspects of the fight know the difficulties and how to overcome them in these types of environments."

"Being able to operate in a simulated CBRN environment, the Airmen learn and reinforce their training," said Durband. "It really builds confidence. You can tell they're a little unsure in the beginning but, by the end, they're operating and doing their job. The CRW is proving it out here."

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U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Andrew Park

Portuguese paratroopers board a C-130H3 Hercules Jan. 29 at Monte Real Air Base, Portugal. The Hercules, from Dobbins Air Reserve Base, Ga., flew the paratroopers as part of exercise Real Thaw 18. Real Thaw 18 is an annual two-week exercise that invites forces from various countries to participate in training missions aimed at merging and deploying different platforms toward a major objective, covering a vast range of activities including air-to-air and air-to-ground training, tactical air transport operations and close air support.

Portugal

From Page 9

pilot. “We are simulating that we deployed a NATO force to a country. What we are going to do with all the types of aircraft we have, with all the army

forces and navy forces, is to protect that small country.”

“The goal is for participants to know each other on a more personal level to establish rapport and create lasting bonds,” said Rosa. “The exercise brings everyone together as much as possible, whether

it be flying, briefing or working together.”

These relationships have real-world consequences with much of the warfighting effort involving a number of allied forces from different countries working together now and in future contingency operations.

“It’s an opportunity to exercise a lot of our skills, tactics and procedures in a coalition environment,” said Konopczynski.

Dobbins ARB is participating for the first time in the exercise, which will last from through Feb. 9.

Chapel

From Page 13

supportive of the effort.

“The Air Force Chaplain Corps as a whole works to meet the needs of people still in distress and assist in humanitarian relief efforts wherever possible,” said Wilson.

This was a great opportunity to demonstrate faith through action and exercise the Chaplain Corps’ mission of helping others, he explained.

“This effort gave our community a chance to demonstrate God’s love to others,

to grow in their faith and to get out of their comfort zone. There’s something special about folks getting their hands dirty and showing their faith through work to meet people’s immediate needs in their homes,” said Wilson.

In total 17 people from across the base chapel community volunteered to make the trek to Houston.

“It was truly an ecumenical group comprised of people from the Catholic and Protestant groups on base,” said Maj. Rachel David, parish ministries branch chief, and one of two chaplains to make the trip.

“Our hearts were burdened with the storm affecting the lives of people in Houston and members of our local community. Not only was Cheri’s family affected, but several others in our community had family members who were impacted by the storm.”

The trip was certainly a success, explained David. “When we first arrived at our work site you could see the hopelessness and devastation. The needs of that area are still great, even though you no longer hear about it in the news,” she said.

Capt. Brenner Campbell,

88th Security Forces Squadron and 711th Human Performance Wing chaplain, was the second chaplain on the trip.

“We have a vested interest in humanity overall and in serving our communities,” said Campbell. “Our mission is to embrace service before self.”

This also was a way to get leadership training for younger folks, Campbell said. Trips such as these are similar to deployment preparation. They give those who have not deployed an opportunity to work in an austere environment, and learn how to hit the ground running, he said.

Cargo City

From Page 11

happen.”

Cargo City is the name of an undeveloped location adjacent to a vacant runway at the airport where both the Kuwait Air Force and U.S. military coalition will temporarily relocate before May until the new West Al-Mubarak Air Base is complete. Once complete, the total cantonment space at Cargo City will be 150,000 square meters with the U.S. using approximately 33,000 square meters of that.

“Typically what we try to do is tailor the space and infrastructure based on the mission,” said Capt. Kiet Chung, 387th Expeditionary Support Squadron Civil Engineer project engineer. “For this project we are tailoring the mission to the infrastructure.”

Chung is responsible for planning the entire temporary site and coordinating with more than 20 groups to solidify requirements. He also gave input into the design and was instrumental in procuring all the materials needed for the facility. Chung noted that a project like this would typically take a year to complete stateside.

The commitment of a network of entities in the U.S. and Kuwait to work together to make Cargo City a reality has sparked other opportunities for future collaborative efforts. The partnership and level of coordination has raised questions and stimulated a change of concept of how the host nation and the U.S. would like the new cargo facility to look.

Edwards expressed that the construction and the relocation process will not affect the mission in any way. The goal is to be able to continually operate without stopping the flow of cargo and passengers to the AOR.

“I am extremely proud of what this team has accomplished in six months. They came together from various skill sets and backgrounds and figured it out,” said Edwards.

Once the final move to the new West Mubarak Air Base is complete, Cargo City will become the permanent cargo holding area for the Kuwaiti airport, which was the original intent of the area.



Travis visited by Air Mobility Command... LEADERSHIP

U.S. Air Force photos by Louis Briscese



1) From left, Gen. Carlton D. Everhart II, Air Mobility Command commander, Command Chief Master Sgt. Shelina Frey, Air Mobility Command, get a briefing during a visit to the en route patient staging system Feb. 6 at Travis Air Force Base, Calif. Everhart and Frey stopped at Travis during a gas and go and visited the Phoenix Spark, a program chartered by Everhart to provide AMC Airmen at all levels avenues to be innovative in finding ways to modernize the Air Force. 2) Everhart and Frey walk with Chief Master Sgt. Steve Nichols, 60th Air Mobility Wing command chief, into the Delta Breeze Club Feb. 6 at Travis. 3) Everhart holds a piece of equipment Feb. 6 during a tour of Phoenix Spark at Travis. Phoenix Spark is a program chartered by Everhart, to provide AMC Airmen at all levels avenues to be innovative in finding ways to modernize the Air Force.

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