



18th AF commander visits ...

TRAVIS

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Mentor-mentee relationship sows seeds

For the past five to 10 years, the term mentorship has been an item of emphasis for senior Air Force leaders.

It's a concept that has been embraced by the public and private sector alike in developing strong leaders and managers in large organizations.

Recently, as I passed my 25-year mark in the Air Force, I took a moment to reflect on how fortunate I've been to have great mentors who were willing to set aside time for me and provide meaningful advice throughout my career. These mentors have not only helped me understand what is important, both personally and professionally, they've also given



Commentary by Lt. Col. Daniel Hosler
60TH AERIAL PORT SQUADRON COMMANDER

me several big breaks along the way that have shaped my career.

Before we explore the concept of mentorship, let's start by defining it. It's a bit of an abstract term, so what exactly is mentorship? According to Webster's, mentorship is defined as a relationship in which a more experienced or more knowledgeable person helps to guide a less experienced or less knowledgeable person. Ultimately, a mentor may be older or younger than the person being mentored, but he or she must have a certain area of expertise or position of authority. Although the definition of mentorship provides you a framework, there is some additional context that's

needed to fully leverage these relationships. First and foremost, you have to truly appreciate just how important mentorship is to your career. No one does it alone in his or her occupation or in life. It is my humble opinion that the mentor and mentee relationship is equally important to an individual's development as any advanced degree or functional area licensures. Don't get me wrong, degrees and licensure requirements are important. They are key credentials that are often established minimum standards for advancement regardless of career field or specialty. However, effective mentorship can

Commander's Commentary

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Don't get me wrong, degrees and licensure requirements are important. They are key credentials that are often established minimum standards for advancement regardless of career field or specialty. However, effective mentorship can

take that a step further. A mentor can help you harness your education, refine your experience and put you in the right positions for long-term professional and personal growth. Otherwise, you may top out early and ultimately not reach your intended goals.

Second, initiative is important on both sides. In other words, young officers and non-commissioned officers must actively seek out mentorship because it will not happen on its own. Much like any other relationship in our lives the mentor and mentee relationships require commitment and effort. Therefore, do not be afraid to seek out or approach senior leaders directly concerning formal mentorship. However, be aware of what senior leaders are looking for when choosing a mentee. They are looking

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for Airmen, noncommissioned officers and officers who bring solutions and innovation to tough challenges and who demonstrate the ability to execute tough tasks and projects with minimal direction. That's the type of individuals senior officers and enlisted leaders want to invest their time in. As the mentee, you have to make sure you're one of those Airmen regardless of what organization, squadron or directorate you reside in.

Lastly, learn what the Air Force is looking for in regards to your career and tie that to your mentorship relationships. Each Air Force specialty typically has a baseline path or "pyramid" that maps out your career path. Learn the nuances of your career path and cultivate advice or assistance from



Commentary by Chief Master Sgt. Ricky Smith
60TH AERIAL PORT SQUADRON

Did you learn anything? Mistakes teach us

Some of my best memories growing up came from spending time on my grandparents' farm in rural Indiana.

In my eyes, my grandfather was the smartest guy on the planet. He could always explain how things worked and had the capability to fix or build anything. As a boy, whatever my grandfather was working on, I wanted to be there next to him doing the same thing.

Chief's Commentary

During one particular routine construction project, I got a chance to wield a hammer for the first time.

As you would imagine, my grandfather's extensive experience led to a near flawless demonstration of how to nail two boards together – a couple taps of his

hammer on the nail between his fingers to get it started, followed by three large swings and he was done.

My turn. After five or six little starter taps of my own, I swung the hammer right onto my thumb. Without missing a beat, my grandfather says "Did you learn anything?" Keep in mind my concept of learning at this young age came only from a classroom in

grade school so I, while clutching my throbbing thumb, quickly responded, "Not really." His response rings in my brain to this day: "Too bad. That's a lot of pain to go through for nothing."

Time and time again, as I grew up and made mistakes, I was asked that same sarcastic question. I got smarter, though. I quickly learned to reply "yes," to which my

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Tailwind



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On the cover

Lt. Gen. GI Tuck, 18th Air Force commander, speaks Feb. 14 at an all-call during a tour of Travis Air Force Base, Calif. Tuck spent five days touring Travis, visiting several units and meeting with Airmen.

U.S. Air Force photo/Louis Briscose

Travis leads way with Phoenix Spark

Airman 1st Class
Christian Conrad

60TH AIR MOBILITY WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Over the past year, Airmen from Travis Air Force Base, California, played an integral part in facilitating innovative efforts by the U.S. Air Force through their involvement in the newly developed AFWERX program.

Since 1947, The U.S. Air Force has structured itself as the most formidable air, space and cyberspace fighting force through both its enabling and creating of innovative Airmen to seek improvements to established force structures.

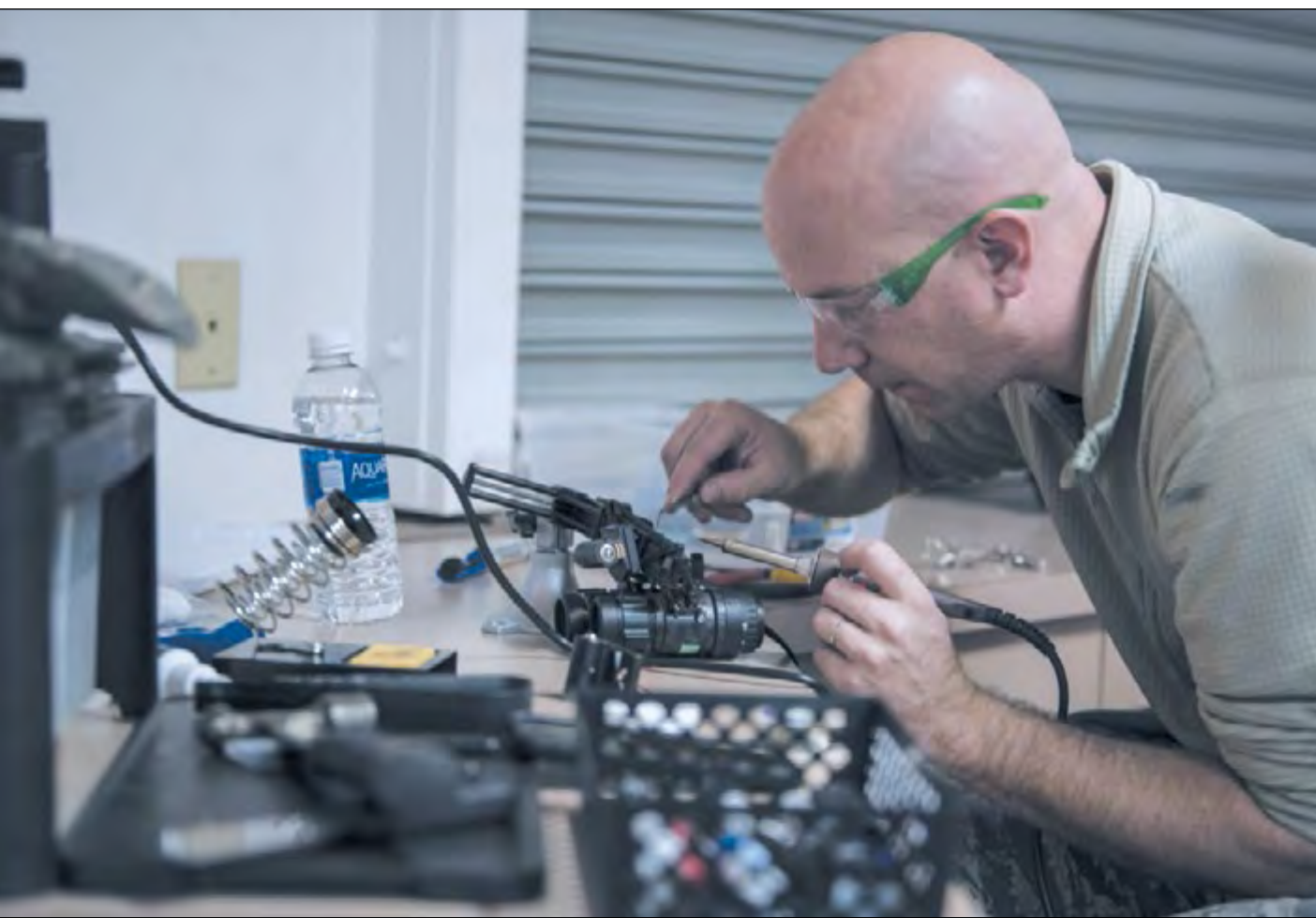
As the Air Force looks toward the future, it must navigate an ever-evolving technological landscape that gives opportunity to Airmen from all ranks to contribute to the cutting edge of American power.

According to Capt. Ryan McGuire, 9th Air Refueling Squadron Phoenix Spark director, AFWERX is meant to provide Airmen the means to do just that.

"AFWERX is changing the construct of how the Air Force approaches innovation," said McGuire. "Instead of top-down programs, AFWERX fosters grassroots innovation, creating tools for the warfighter, designed by the warfighter. The users' needs and wants are placed first. The focus of the program in the AFWERX model is to solve the warfighter's pain points, and AFWERX supports those efforts from the highest levels of leadership."

Secretary of the Air Force Dr. Heather Wilson, who green-lighted the program in the fall of 2017, has been vocal in her support of AFWERX's significance to the future of the Air Force.

"All of us know the pace of change



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Jonathon D. A. Carnell

Tech Sgt. Matthew Heise, 60th Maintenance Group qualification training package instructor, sodders a pair of night vision goggles, an action that requires focus and a steady hand, Jan. 19, 2017, at Travis Air Force Base, Calif. Heise is a member of the Phoenix Spark program and passionately undertakes any project with which he tasks himself.

is accelerating and the Air Force has to engage the next generation of innovators, young scientists, engineers and smart businesses to take us into the future," said Wilson. "The Air Force has to engage with those innovators who

want to help the warfighter defend our vital national interests around the world."

The branch of AFWERX created at Travis AFB is called Spark which has gone on to be implemented by the

headquarter level of the Air Force. Spark is split into different teams, or cells, all of which are designed to assist wing-level innovation, said McGuire.

"On the (Air Mobility Command)

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WARRIOR OF THE WEEK

Name:
Airman 1st Class Kenn Hansen.

Hometown:
Tucson, Arizona.

Family:
None.

Unit:
22nd Airlift Squadron.

Time in service:
One year.

What are your hobbies?
Video games and hot rods.

Duty title:
Aviation resource manager.

What are your goals?
To earn a Community College of the Air Force degree and a degree in psychology.

What is your greatest achievement?
Joining the Air Force.



U.S. Air Force photo/Louis Briscose



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Jonathon D. A. Carnell

Meredith Kelly, 60th Aerospace Medical Squadron patient, lays in the monoplace hyperbaric chamber Feb. 13 at the hyperbaric clinic at David Grant USAF Medical Center at Travis Air Force Base, Calif. Kelly has therapy four days a week for 90 minutes because she is diagnosed with myonecrosis, a rare diabetic condition.

Hyperbaric treatment does deep dive

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

Approximately 20 patients go to David Grant USAF Medical Center, Travis Air Force Base, California, where they have admitted themselves into a cutting edge hyperbaric oxygen treatment. The hyperbaric oxygen treatment chamber at DGMC uses a state-of-the-art technology to aid patients who are in need of therapy for a multitude of diagnosed illnesses. One component of the hyperbaric chamber is “taking a dive,” the practice of outfitting patients with plastic hoods and pressurizing the air inside of them, for

approximately 90 minutes. These plastic domes increase the level of oxygen to the recipient as each breath is taken and the ambient pressure is increased to below sea level pressure. “We see our patients on a daily basis most of the time and to know that I have an impact not only on their day, but in their healing process, really means a lot to me,” said Staff Sgt. Kylynn Bevis, 60th Aerospace Medical Squadron aerospace medicine technician. “I believe I’ve built harmonious relationships with my patients. They often visit after they’ve ‘graduated’ from treatments and it’s definitely nice to see their faces filled with happiness when they walk through our doors.”

The staff members at the hyperbaric clinic not only make the staff feel like an adoptive family, but they sincerely care about any sensitivities a patient may have, said Master Sgt. Aileen L. Griffith, 60th Air Mobility Wing superintendent of administration and hyperbaric patient. “I love walking in the doors to the hyperbaric clinic and getting the friendly smile from SSgt. Bevis, followed by the catch-up questions of how I am doing and what is new,” said Griffith. “I feel that not only does Bevis showcase the clinic’s high standard of healing their patients, she takes it to a personal level and offers sincere care.”

There are multiple reasons why an individual comes for treatment at the hyperbaric clinic. One of which is that it gives patients an ample timeframe for their stay to ensure they are in good health upon leaving. “There are 14 diagnoses that are recommended for treatment with hyperbaric oxygen in the United States by the Undersea and Hyperbaric Medical Society,” said Dr. Ben Slade, 60th Aerospace Medical Squadron hyperbaric medicine physician. “These conditions include air embolism, arterial insufficiencies and carbon monoxide poisoning.” “We most commonly treat problem wounds and radiation tissue injury,” said

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SAPR seeking volunteer victim advocates

Nick DeCicco
60TH AIR MOBILITY WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Sexual Assault Prevention and Response program is slated to host a training March 19-23 for incoming volunteer victim advocates. Volunteer victim advocates provide support for victims of sexual violence. That includes a variety of actions, said Anita Perry, SAPR program manager. “We cannot do this program without our volunteer victim advocates,” said Perry. “That’s everything from the victim having access to them 24/7, meeting with the victim, going with the victim to different appointments, whether that victim’s going to mental health, whether they’re going to (the Office of Special Investigations) or to the chaplain, going to talk to their lawyer, maybe having to go to court, maybe have to travel to a residential mental health facility, maybe have to travel back to the base they left for court.” The advocates support a full-time staff of four in the SAPR office. Perry said the program has 33 advocates. The office attempts to pair advocates by age and gender with victims to encourage comfort and build trust. The training puts potential volunteers on the path to becoming advocates, a process Perry said can take upward of six months. Among the stages toward becoming an advocate, a volunteer must complete the 40-hour training, undergo a background check, have their personnel folder checked, face interviews with Perry and their unit commander and more before their

Exchange supports readiness, resiliency

Jessica Jones
ARMY & AIR FORCE EXCHANGE SERVICE
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

As the Department of Defense shifts its focus to readiness, Airmen at Travis Air Force Base, California, can count on the Army and Air Force Exchange Service to have their six. At the Exchange and ShopMyExchange.com, Airmen and their families can equip themselves with the tools needed to maintain a be fit lifestyle, including athletic apparel and footwear, strength training, cardio equipment and digital fitness devices tax-free and at an average savings of 20 percent off the manufacturer’s suggested retail price. Honorably discharged veterans can also save on fitness gear and shop the Exchange’s full online assortment by signing up for their lifelong online military exchange shopping benefit at ShopMyExchange.com/Veterans. “As a partner in the Air Force Smart Fueling initiative under the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the Travis AFB Exchange is dedicated to promoting readiness and resiliency among Airmen and their families,” said Phonda Bishop, facility manager. “With healthier restaurant and Express options and military-exclusive savings on top-tier fitness brands, the Exchange is the one-stop shop for maintaining a holistic, be fit lifestyle.” Essential be fit gear offered by the Exchange in-store and online includes: • Athletic apparel from brands including Nike, Under Armour and Adidas. • Athletic footwear from brands including Brooks, Asics and New Balance. • Treadmills, exercise bikes

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Base greets new group of honorary commanders



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Jonathon D. A. Carnell

Incoming honorary commanders take the honorary commander’s oath during an induction ceremony Feb. 15 at the Delta Breeze Club at Travis Air Force Base, Calif. In addition to those already serving, 36 new honorary commanders joined their ranks during the ceremony.

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Thom, Sharon & Ricardo

Second lady backs value of art therapy

Mikaela Cade
CARL R. DARNALL ARMY MEDICAL CENTER

FORT HOOD, Texas — Speaking with second lady Karen Pence during her Jan. 29 visit to the Intrepid Spirit Center here, it's apparent that championing art therapy is not just an initiative, but a passion.

Pence has toured Creative Forces Military Healing Arts networks at military facilities as part of her advocacy for the use of art therapy to help heal service members suffering from traumatic brain injury and post-traumatic stress.

Pence's passion is driven by the human and scientific evidence of art therapy's healing properties.

"People think its arts and crafts, but that's not what art therapy is," she said. "It is a mental health profession where a trained therapist uses art as their medium to help guide someone through the healing process."

Power of art therapy

Pence first learned of the power of art therapy to help people heal a decade ago when she observed an art therapy program for kids with cancer. Since then, the second lady's top goal is to raise awareness



U.S. Army photo/Patricia Deal

Second lady Karen Pence, right, and Texas first lady Cecilia Abbott speak with Army Col. David Gibson, commander of the Carl R. Darnall Army Medical Center, during a roundtable discussion about the National Intrepid Center of Excellence Satellite Center's art therapy program Jan. 29 at Fort Hood, Texas.

of the unique form of therapy and how it benefits everyone from those battling cancer to those dealing with the invisible wounds of war.

Pence has partnered with the Creative Forces Military Healing Arts Network, a joint pro-arts initiative amongst the National Endowment for the

Arts, the Defense Department and Veterans Affairs, which put creative arts therapies at the core of patient-centered care at Fort Hood and 10 other military medical facilities across the country.

As she travels across the nation advocating for art

therapy, Pence said she is excited to meet active-duty soldiers and veterans who have embraced the therapy method and are thriving.

Her trip to Fort Hood included a tour of the Intrepid Spirit Center, an orientation to

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Warrior Games back in Colorado

2018 Department of Defense Warrior Games Public Affairs

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. — Community and business leaders joined representatives of the military at the Air Force Academy Feb. 15 to mark the 100-day countdown until athletes arrive in Colorado for the 2018 Department of Defense Warrior Games.

Now in their ninth year, the Warrior Games are returning to Colorado Springs, the city that hosted the inaugural Games in 2010. The Warrior Games will be free and open to the public throughout the competitions from June 2-9.

The Warrior Games are a Paralympic-style competition between the U.S. Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force and Special Operations Command. The United Kingdom Armed Forces, Australian Defence Force, and, for the first time, the Canadian Armed Forces, recently confirmed they will compete in the Warrior Games.

This will be the sixth year the U.K. Armed Forces will compete and the second time for Australian Defence Force athletes.

Lieutenant General Gina Grosso, Deputy Chief of Staff for Manpower, Personnel and Services and senior Air Force officer hosting the evening's event announced the addition of three new adaptive sports to this year's line-up: indoor rowing, powerlifting and time trial cycling. The other eight events include archery, cycling, shooting, sitting volleyball, swimming, track and field, and wheelchair basketball.

"In my 30-plus years of service, nothing has moved me more than seeing the determination, resiliency and pure strength of our wounded, ill

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A history of innovation: Sunsetting the MQ-1 Predator



U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Christian Clausen

An MQ-1 Predator sits on the flight line Dec. 8, 2016, at Creech Air Force Base, Nev. The Predator started as an RQ-1 in the late 1990s, providing reconnaissance capabilities until the early 2000s, when it was equipped with two AGM-114 Hellfire missiles and designated as a multi-role asset.

Senior Airman James Thompson
432ND WING/432ND AIR
EXPEDITIONARY WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

CREECH AIR FORCE BASE, Nev. — The MQ-1 Predator is a remotely piloted aircraft flown by aircrew assigned to the 432nd Wing/432nd Air Expeditionary Wing at Creech Air Force Base and units around the world.

It has contributed to the U.S. warfighting efforts in unprecedented ways and is scheduled to sunset on March 9 as the Air Force transitions to an all MQ-9 Reaper force.

With the introduction of aerial warfare, countries all over the world raced to the skies to gain tactical advantage over their adversaries. Devices such as balloons were used in early conflict for reconnaissance and, while the thought of such technology seems primitive today, that same pursuit of aerial superiority ultimately inspired the MQ-1.

An initial unarmed intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance RQ-1 version of the

Predator first deployed and operated out of Albania in July 1995. That same month the Air Force activated the 11th Reconnaissance Squadron at Indian Springs Air Force Auxiliary Field, Nevada, as Air Combat Command's first Predator unit.

The 11th RS took operational control of the deployed RQ-1 at Tazsar, Hungary, in the fall of 1996. Joined in Indian Springs by the 15th RS in the summer of 1997, deployed members of these units flew the Predator's first combat missions over the Balkans in 1999 to provide ISR for U.S. and coalition strike aircraft under Operation Allied Force.

Over the years the RQ-1 had its fair share of growing pains before Airmen were able to tap into its full potential.

During early RQ-1 deployments, several aircraft were destroyed due to infrastructure problems or surface-to-air missiles. Through trial and error, aircrews employed innovative thinking which led to

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Team members earn Bronze Star medals



U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Victor J. Caputo
Lt. Col. Ben Mitchell, 720th Operations Support Squadron emergency room doctor and Special Operations Surgical Team leader, salutes Lt. Col. Eli Mitchell, 720th OSS commander, during a ceremony Feb. 13 at the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

Bob Shepard

UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA AT BIRMINGHAM

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — The brightly lit, inviting atrium of the University of Alabama Hospital is a far cry from the two room, concrete-walled farmhouse in the Middle East where the U.S. Air Force Special Operations Surgical Team, based out of the UAB, deployed in 2016.

During their four-month tour at that casualty collection point, the team performed the deeds that brought their families, scores of UAB well-wishers, and senior officers from the Air Force Special Operations Command, to the atrium for a medal ceremony Feb. 13.

The five members of the

SOST Gold Team were awarded Bronze Star Medals by the Air Force for their actions during that deployment.

A SOST is a team of active-duty Air Force medical professionals, including a trauma surgeon, emergency physician, nurse anesthetist, surgical scrub tech, critical-care nurse and a respiratory tech, who are charged with providing far-forward medical care during combat operations wherever the U.S. military is engaged.

“A SOST is a mobile surgical team with advanced medical and tactics training which can deploy to austere or hostile areas to provide surgical support,” said Lt. Col. Ben Mitchell, SOST leader and emergency

room medical doctor with the 720th Operations Support Squadron. “Our mission is to provide early, potentially life-saving surgery to wounded American military personnel or to the local population.”

In 2010, UAB became one of the first two civilian hospitals in the nation to host a SOST. The Air Force determined that, when not on deployment abroad, the teams needed to be stationed at a facility where they could best develop their medical and teamwork skills.

“Military hospitals in the states typically don’t see a lot of trauma,” said Dr. Jeffrey Kerby, director of the Division of Acute

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Call for 2018 Armed Forces volleyball teams

Air Forces Installation and Mission Support Center Public Affairs

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-LACKLAND, Texas — Air Force Sports is accepting applications for the 2018 Armed Forces volleyball teams.

The trial camps are scheduled from April 19 to May 6 at Hurlburt Field and Tyndall Air Force Base, Florida.

Interested personnel should create an account to complete the application process in the new sports Application Tracking system at <http://bit.ly/2CAXish>.

For instructions on how to register please visit the Air Force Services Agency Portal - Fitness and Sports “What’s New” web page at: <http://www.myairforcelife.com/Sports/>

For more info, contact AFS-VA.FitnessSports@us.af.mil.

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Trials for Wounded Warriors begin Feb. 23

Richard Salomon

AIR FORCE'S PERSONNEL CENTER
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas — More than 125 Air Force wounded, ill and injured service men and women have trained and practiced for months in their chosen sports in preparation for the Air Force Trials Feb. 23 to March 2 at Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada.

The Air Force Trials is an adaptive and resiliency sports event designed to promote the mental and physical well-being of the participants. The trials' events include wheelchair basketball, sitting volleyball, swimming, track and field, air pistol and rifle shooting, rowing, archery, cycling and powerlifting.

More than 40 wounded warriors from the U.S. Army, Great Britain and Australia will also be among the mix of competitors at Nellis AFB. The Air Force athletes will be vying for a spot on the Air Force team that will compete at the 2018 Department of Defense Warrior Games in June at the U.S. Air Force

Academy, Colorado Springs, Colorado.

“Many of these courageous men and women have overcome significant hardships to take part in these trials, so we are committed to honoring and supporting them as they strive to achieve their personal best,” said Marsha Gonzales, Air Force's Personnel Center Warrior Care Support Branch chief. “These adaptive sports events serve as a powerful recovery tool and help the participants build confidence, camaraderie and resiliency as they continue on the road to recovery.”

In addition to the sporting events, the athletes will also have access to music and comedy workshops and will be provided massage, chiropractic and physical therapy as well as other holistic healing services.

The AFW2 Program hosts six CARE events a year in six different U.S. regions. CARE events provide recovering service members, veterans and their caregivers personalized service through caregiver support training,

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U.S. Army photo/Pfc. Hyeonmin Lee

A soldier assigned to 3rd Battalion, 16th Field Artillery Regiment, conducts pushup drills during chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear training Nov. 9, 2017, at Camp Casey, South Korea. Soldiers conducted the exercise to maintain a high state of readiness and to be able instantly to react against CBRN attacks.

Policy focuses on deployability

Terri Moon Cronk

DEFENSE MEDIA ACTIVITY

WASHINGTON — The Defense Department has a “higher expectation” of deployability by its forces, Defense Secretary James N. Mattis said Feb. 19.

Speaking with reporters on a return flight from Germany to Washington, the secretary said the undersecretary of defense last week defined a problem that initially was brought to his attention by the Army, where “many non-deployables were on their rolls.”

Aside from combat-injured personnel who are in a separate category, Mattis said, the issue concerns service members “who are, just for one reason or another, not able to deploy with their units. It was a significant number, and the Army brought their concerns forward. The other services also highlighted (their) concerns.”

New policy
DoD's office of personnel and readiness has “come out

with a policy that if you're not deployable for a year or more, you're going to have to go somewhere else,” he said.

As an example, Mattis said, if 10,000 troops out of 100,000 are not deployable, that means 90,000 deploy more often to meet the same deployment standard.

“That's unfair,” he said.

The secretary talked about a service member who is on his sixth deployment in 11 years.

“When that sort of thing happens, that brings sharply

into focus that some people are carrying more than the share of the load that I want them to carry,” he said.

“They need time at home,” Mattis emphasized. “They need time with their families. We may enlist soldiers, (but) we re-enlist families. That's the way it is. If you can't keep the family together, then you're either going to lose the family or you're going to lose the soldiers, and that's a net loss for

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Mil-to-mil couple at Peterson met at Travis AFB



U.S. Air Force photo/Adam Harri

Senior Master Sgt. Jay Styles, Air Force Space Command Intelligence Reconnaissance and Surveillance command manager, kisses his wife Tech. Sgt. Jessica Styles, Air Force Space Command enlisted aide to the commander. Through the Join Spouse Program, they've been stationed together since getting married almost 13 years ago.

Ramstein greets Ravens

**Senior Airman
Joshua Magbanua**

86TH AIRLIFT WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany — Security forces Airmen from across the Kaiserslautern military community graduated from a Phoenix Raven Qualification Course at Ramstein Air Base, Germany, Feb. 12.

The Airmen completed approximately three weeks of rigorous training to join Air Force's Raven program. The program focuses on the concept of specially trained security forces Airmen who travel with and protect Air Force aircraft around the world.

The Raven students came from the 86th and 435th Security Forces Squadrons, and the 569th U.S. Forces Police Squadron.

This particular class is unique because instead of taking place at the Raven program's hub at Joint

Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey, it took place at Ramstein AB. U.S. Air Forces in Europe-Air Forces Africa and 86th Airlift Wing leadership requested a mobile training team to come from JB McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst and conduct the course at Ramstein AB.

Master Sgt. Sean Cunningham, 421st Construction and Training Squadron Phoenix Raven Qualification Course director, oversaw the class and served as the master of ceremonies for the graduation. He commended the graduates for their perseverance throughout the course.

"On behalf of my fellow cadre and the United States Air Force Expeditionary Center, we thank you for the opportunity to train you," he said. "We wish you the best of luck in all your endeavors and look forward to seeing you down range. You are the backbone of

See RAVENS Page 23

Robert Lingley

21ST SPACE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

According to the Air Force Personnel Center, there are more than 27,000 active-duty Airmen, just under 10 percent of the active-duty Air Force, married to another active-duty Airman, and about 1,500 active-duty Airmen married to an active-duty member of another military service.

There are numerous "mil-to-mil" married couples assigned to Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado.

Tech. Sgt. Jessica Styles, Air Force Space Command enlisted aide to the commander, met her husband, Senior Master Sgt. Jay Styles at Travis Air Force Base, California.

They've been married for almost 13 years.

"I was walking out to my car at Travis AFB, from my office building, and there was a security forces Airman trying to look for the VIN on my brand new car because I didn't have plates yet," said Jessica. "I asked if I

could help him and he said he was responding to a call about a car being parked illegally.”

A frustrated Jessica responded, "Do I look like I'm parked illegally?" Jay said no and asked if they had a mutual friend. It was then that Jessica remembered her friend talking about Jay.

“Why didn’t she introduce me to this guy, he’s cute,” said Jessica. “I didn’t let him know I thought he was cute, I just asked him if he needed anything else from me and he said he didn’t, then we both went our separate ways.”

As soon as she was able to, Jessica called their mutual friend to let her know what had just happened and to give her grief about not introducing her to Jay.

Her friend thought it was funny Jessica was calling because Jay was sitting in her office asking her the same questions. So from that day on, Jessica and Jay communicated regularly over the phone and had their first date at a local Mongolian barbecue restaurant. They hit

it off immediately, Jessica said, and the rest is history.

Since being married, outside of deployments, Jessica and Jay have shared duty assignments. They joined the Air Force's Join Spouse Program, which is designed to make every possible effort to assign both spouses to the same base.

The Styles have a blended family with two 15-year-olds, Monique and Aric, and an 11-year-old, Aiden. The older they get the more helpful they are around the house when Jay is on deployment, Jessica said.

“Deployments really help to put things into perspective,” said Jessica. “You don’t realize how much you take someone for granted until they aren’t there to unclog the drain, fix the fence in the backyard after the wind blows it down, or sit down to watch your favorite show together.”

"We do our best to stay in close contact with Jay when he's gone," said Jessica. "We text, chat over the phone, and we do

See COUPLE Page 26

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Members win Black Engineer of Year awards

Tech. Sgt. Robert Barnett
SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE PUBLIC AFFAIR

WASHINGTON — Senior leader officials recognized two Air Force members at the 32nd Black Engineer of the Year Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, Global Competitiveness Conference, Feb. 9 in Washington, D.C., for exceptional achievements in STEM career fields.

Timothy K. Bridges, Headquarters Air Force assistant deputy chief of staff for logistics, engineering and force protection at the Pentagon in Arlington, Virginia, received the Black Engineer of the Year Career Achievement in Government Award. Maj. Brendan O’Neal,

14th Air Force analysis and assessment branch chief, at Vandenberg Air Force Base, California, was presented the Black Engineer of the Year Award.

While speaking at the event Secretary of the Air Force Heather Wilson emphasized the importance of having role models like Bridges and O’Neal for future leaders to emulate.

“Those of you who spent the afternoon here inspiring the next generation of engineers and scientists taught us a lesson...the obligation doesn’t end here,” she said. “Your stories light the way for the next generation to follow...it’s our obligation to open doors to opportunity.”

Bridges has served in the Air Force

for more than 38 years, first while on active duty and subsequently as a member of the federal Senior Executive Service. As an SES, he established a way ahead for the Air Force’s Community Partnership Program enhancing small business opportunities.

He has fostered alignment across all levels of the Air Force, the Office of the Secretary of Defense, and its sister services by ensuring unity of effort for Airmen. Under his leadership, he rallied the support of stakeholders and the undersecretary of the Air Force to reduce 359 logistics information technology systems spread across 73 program elements to improve modernization.

While Bridges moved those elements

toward modern integrated systems with greater capability, better connectivity, and fewer redundancies, O’Neal served on missions to procure, develop, and employ new technologies and systems.

O’Neal was the chief analyst determining effectiveness and suitability for new aircraft, weapons and avionics for Air Combat Command. He developed the test methodology for an F-16 Fighting Falcon towed decoy analysis, increasing F-16 survivability by 75 percent.

“He did deep analytical work to increase the lethality of fighters flying various missions,” said Vice Chief of Staff of the Air Force Gen. Stephen Wilson, who presented O’Neal the award.



U.S. Air Force photo/Wayne A. Clark

Air Force Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Stephen Wilson speaks Feb. 14 to the Readiness and Management Senate Subcommittee in Washington, D.C. Wilson and other members of the panel discussed the readiness of the Armed Forces.

Vice chief visits Congress

Tech. Sgt. Robert Barnett
SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON — Air Force Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Stephen Wilson testified before the Readiness and Management Senate Subcommittee concerning the Air Force’s readiness Feb. 14 in Washington, D.C.

“Today, our chief competitors are moving ahead with a speed and scale unseen in recent history,” Wilson said. “We must counter that with sustained, urgent action.”

To move at “the speed of

See CONGRESS Page 22

T-X to replace T-38 in training

Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

WASHINGTON — The Air Force announced today that the Advanced Pilot Trainer (T-X) will replace T-38C Talon aircraft at existing undergraduate pilot training bases, with Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, Texas, named as the preferred location for the first T-X aircraft scheduled to arrive in 2022.

The other locations include Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi; Laughlin AFB, Texas; Sheppard AFB, Texas; and Vance AFB, Oklahoma.

Current pilot training installations rely on a unique runway structure and special-use airspace capable of supporting high volume pilot training which makes them ideal for the new aircraft.

“As we bring the T-X training aircraft into service, we’ll base them at our current undergraduate pilot training bases which have the airspace and runways needed for the mission,” said Secretary of the Air Force Heather A. Wilson.

The new trainer will provide student pilots with the skills and competencies required to transition into 4th and 5th generation fighter aircraft.

“We need the T-X program to properly train our pilots to fly our growing fleet of 5th generation aircraft,” said Chief of Staff of the Air Force Gen. David L. Goldfein. “This new training capability will enable pilots to receive realistic training in a system similar to our fielded fighters.”

Basing the T-X at JB San Antonio-Randolph first, home to Air Force instructor pilot training, is an essential step to establishing a T-X instructor

See T-X Page 21

Last TF-39 engine leaves Dover

Staff Sgt. Aaron Jenne
436TH AIRLIFT WING

Members of the 436th Maintenance Squadron gathered together at the Jet Engine Intermediate Level Maintenance shop Feb. 16 to bid farewell to the very last General Electric TF-39 turbofan engine.

For 45 years, Team Dover’s JEIM shop maintained and rebuilt these engines. Maintainers stripped the engines completely to their components over a grueling 75-day process to diagnose and repair issues. They were equipped to work on 13 engines at once. Since the shop opened, the Airmen rebuilt 5,601 engines.

The shop officially closed two years ago as the Air Force’s contingent of C-5A/B Galaxies were being modernized into the C-5M Super Galaxy fleet of today’s mobility force, but the lights stayed on as its members prepared the remaining engines to be sold.

“A gradual conversion of the C-5A/B legacy aircraft to the C-5M has meant



U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Aaron J. Jenne

Michael Tatum, 436th Maintenance Group aerospace propulsion engine mechanic, watches from the Jet Engine Intermediate Level Maintenance Shop building as the last production General Electric TF-39 turbofan engine rolls away Feb. 16.

many modern changes to include new engines,” said Kevin Morrow, 436th MXS aerospace propulsion engine mechanic supervisor. “The change to the GE CF6-80

engines used on the C-5M made the GE TF-39 engines built here at the Dover AFB JEIM shop obsolete.”

The new CF6-80 engines produce more thrust, are

more fuel efficient and produce less noise pollution than the decommissioned TF-39s.

“It’s sad to see (the TF-39) go, but I’ve recently gone to

See ENGINE Page 22

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Comms trains on fly-away kit

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

SOUTHWEST ASIA — Imagine a military unit is pushed to the brink of stress.

They’re behind enemy lines, required to relocate from a base in short notice or recovering a crashed aircraft.

Now imagine this same scenario without the ability to communicate for support.

The 386th Expeditionary Communications Squadron trains with a communication fly-away kit for these what-if scenarios.

“We just need power,” said Tech. Sgt. Mathew Eisenbarth, 386th ECS ground radio section chief deployed from the 190th Air Refueling Wing, Kansas Air National Guard. “It’s got a couple of cases in the fly-away kit that we can rapidly set up for quick communications. This is actually a backup to a backup here, and is a deployable unit for command and control and satellite communication capabilities in a deployed location.”

Command and control is the ability to support and coordinate operations using a centralized command, distributed control and decentralized



U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. William Banton

Tech. Sgt. Mathew Eisenbarth, 386th Expeditionary Communications Squadron ground radio section chief, and Staff Sgt. Rodger Fladung, 386th ECS ground radio technician, take apart a communication fly-away kit to be taken down Jan. 31 in Southwest Asia.

execution. The Air Force operates a variety of communications systems utilizing both radio and satellite technology, including the communication fly-away kit to do so.

The kit provides a non-secure internet protocol router, secure internet protocol router and voice over secure internet protocol communication

capabilities for remote locations and can be integrated into established communication networks as a backup system. According to the Defense Information Systems Agency, a VoSIP service provides a cost-effective, reliable, and secure means of classified voice communications, and has direct

See COMMS Page 20



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AMC command chief Frey retires

Master Sgt. Kristine Dreyer
AIR MOBILITY COMMAND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, Ill. — Her Air Force story began in September 1984 as a young girl from New Orleans, Louisiana, when she left for basic training and began her Air Force career with the Louisiana National Guard.

Nearly 34 years later, Chief Master Sgt. Shelina Frey, Air Mobility Command command chief master sergeant, is retiring May 1 from the Air Force. She was recognized for her years of service during a retirement ceremony Feb. 16.

Frey entered active duty in 1987, beginning her career as an administrative assistant at Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama. It was during this assignment where she found her calling as an Airman.

“I made a decision to dedicate myself to the Air Force,” she said. “It quickly became more about the needs of the Air Force than about the needs of Shelina Frey. That is what has made all the difference. Every opportunity the Air Force gave me made me the person I am today, and I am proud of that. The mentorship I have received from my leadership throughout my career and the insight I gained from talking with the awesome Airmen are what I cherish most from my Air Force career.”

Frey served in multiple special duty career fields including professional military education instructor, first sergeant, and assistant to the 12th chief master sergeant of the Air Force. In

2013, she became the first female command chief master sergeant for Air Forces Central Command.

Following her assignment as the 7th Air Force command chief, Gen. Carlton D. Everhart II, AMC commander, selected her to become AMC’s command chief.

“Chief Frey is a ‘people-first chief and positively impacted Airmen, families and the mission on a daily basis,” said Everhart II. “Caring for Airmen is what Chief Frey is all about. Her leadership, energy, drive, and commitment to helping people achieve their full potential and getting the mission accomplished were remarkable. She was a relentless advocate for Airmen and earned the trust and confidence of everyone she served. Her leadership truly made a huge difference in the lives of others.”

As Frey retires from the Air Force, she vows to remain a part of the AMC family.

During her tenure at AMC, Frey met with Mobility Airmen in every area of the world and brought back information, which she used to advise Everhart on matters that effected the more than 109,000 Total Force enlisted Airmen assigned to AMC units.

Most recently, after soliciting feedback from senior non-commissioned officers, Frey developed the first Superintendent 101 course in Air Mobility Command. The course is intended to provide senior non-commissioned officers with the tools they need to be successful in superintendent roles.



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18th Air Force leadership pays visit to Travis



1) Lt. Gen. GI Tuck, 18th Air Force commander, and Airmen from the 60th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron walk on the wing of a C-5M Super Galaxy Feb. 13 during a tour of Travis Air Force Base, Calif. Tuck was on a five-day tour of Travis, visiting several units and meeting with Airmen. 2) Tuck shakes hands with Col. John Klein, 60th Air Mobility Wing commander before his Feb. 14 departure from Travis Air Force Base, Calif. 3) Tuck puts his arm around an Airman asking a question at an all-call Feb. 14 during a tour of Travis. 4) Tuck speaks Feb. 14 at an all-call during a tour of Travis. 5) Chief Master Sgt. Todd Petzel, 18th Air Force command chief, speaks Feb. 14 at an all-call.

U.S. Air Force photos/Louis Briscese

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

Lt. Gen. GI Tuck, 18th Air Force commander, toured Travis Air Force Base, California, Feb. 11-14.

This was the first time Tuck had visited Travis AFB since taking command in June 2017.

Tuck was previously stationed at Travis AFB twice; once from 1996 to 1999 as a KC-10 Extender instructor aircraft commander and executive officer, and again in 2007 to 2008 as the vice wing commander.

During his five-day visit, Tuck toured all the groups in the 60th Air Mobility Wing, met with local civic leaders and spoke to the wing at an all call.

Tuck addressed the wing about four core focus areas for the command: posture, capacity, resiliency and readiness.

The first area ensures Airmen are correctly postured for humanitarian missions or contingency operations, said Tuck.

He also highlighted the importance of resilience and Airmen supporting each other as a team. He said that support helps Airmen maintain the daily battle

rhythm and improve readiness.

Chief Master Sgt. Todd Petzel, 18th AF command chief, also spoke about his three priorities for a ready force: Airmen, mission and culture.

“It takes each and every Airmen to move a mission in what we do,” said Petzel. “From the front offices, to the flightline, to the (flight deck) of an aircraft, it takes each and every one of you to generate a sortie.”

Petzel challenged the Airmen to challenge themselves, be better tomorrow, to move the mission and to be the best version of themselves to accomplish the mission. He ended his priorities with culture – providing a climate and culture of dignity and respect.

“Airpower is a team sport, but it is also a family business,” said Petzel. “We need you to take care of one another and have each other’s backs.”

Tuck and Petzel finished up the all call and visit with a question and answer session with Airmen before returning to Scott Air Force Base, Illinois, where they shared what they learned at Travis AFB and a way ahead for both the wing and command.



Swap Ads

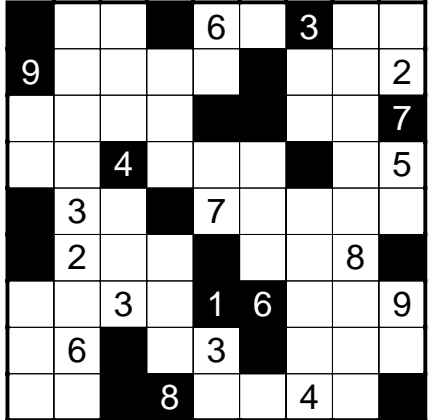
Wanted

60th CONS is seeking aspiring singers to accompany its classic rock/pop hobby band. Please submit inquiries to David Soule at 707-424-7707, david.soule@us.af.mil.

Puzzles

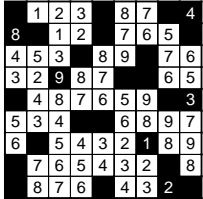
STR8TS

No. 374 Medium



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

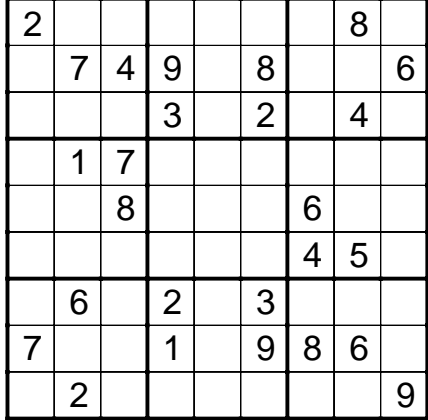
Previous solution - Easy



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 **compartments**. These need to be filled in with numbers that complete a 'straight'. A **straight** is a set of numbers with no gaps but can be in any order, eg [4,2,3,5]. Clues in black cells remove that number as an option in that row and column, and are not part of any straight. Glance at the solution to see how 'straights' are formed.

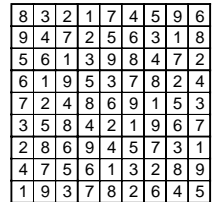
SUDOKU

No. 374 Very Hard



The solutions will be published here in the next issue.

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

News Notes

Disposition of personal effects.

Capt. Talisha McNeal is authorized to make disposition of the personal property of Tech. Sgt. Deontae Lockett, deceased, 60th Medical Operations Squadron, as stated in AFI 34-511. Any person having claims for or against the deceased person, contact McNeal by phone at 707-423-5312 or email talisha.1.mcneal@mail.mil.

Scholarships for military children.

Open to sons and daughters of active duty, reserve, Guard or retired military commissary customers. Recipient must be enrolled or planning to enroll full-time in a four-year undergraduate college or university accredited in the U.S. or a two-year community college, with a GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 basis. For more information, call Maryle Dobson at 804-734-8000, ext. 52781, Jim Weiskopf at 202-607-1067 or visit www.militaryscholar.org.

Balfour Beatty Communities Foundation scholarship program. Accepting applications for the 2018-19 academic year. All residents, including spouses and children, who live at a BBC-owned and managed property are eligible to apply. Applications must be submitted at www.bbcommunitiesfoundation.org by March 31.

Vietnam Veteran's Day. The Travis Commissary would like to announce the celebration of Vietnam Veteran's Day starting at 10 a.m. March 29.

Dependent ID card renewal. Dependents can now renew their ID cards online at <http://bit.ly/2C01q9e>.

Sexual Assault Response Coordinators.

The alternate SARC serves in the absence of the primary SARC and deputy SARC due to leave, temporary duties, deployments, illness, etc. They also serve as subject matter experts once all requirements are met and training/certifications are completed. Officers O-2 and above or civilians GS-12 or equivalent, who have completed the VVA initial training and/or AF SARC course, has performed SAPR VA/VVA duties under SARC supervision, and are D-SAACP certified may serve as an alternate SARC. If interested or want additional information, please contact the SARC or SAPR VA at 707-424-1105 /1098 or email tiffanie.stevenson@us.af.mil to receive a packet.

60th FSS

Upcoming

St. Patty's Day First Friday. This upcoming First Friday, March 2, at the Delta Breeze Club will be special. Due to the senior master sergeant promotion release, the event kicks-off early at 3 p.m. Free. For more information, call 707-437-3711.

Passport Day. From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. March 6, the Airman & Family Readiness Center will have its free Passport Day. U.S. State Department passport agents will be on site to facilitate the processing of passport application. Copies of required documents must be produced prior to event. Register for the event at travisafc.com. For more information, call 707-424-2486.

Financial workshop. Focuses on what type of lifestyle you want to have when you retire, helps you assess the cost of your chosen lifestyle and

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Passport to Manhood

Lock-In. From 9 p.m. to 2 p.m. beginning Feb. 23 at the Youth Center. This event for boys ages 9-12. A night full of sports, gym fun, video games and "bro-bonding." Light refreshments and snacks will be provided. The registration fee is \$10 for Youth Center members and \$15 for nonmembers. Participants must register by Feb. 22. For more information, call 707-424-5392.

thu

MPF walk-in hours.

Effective March 1, MPF will no longer service customers for ID card related issues via walk-in hours and will go to an appointment-only system. For those needing assistance for emergency situations such as stolen or lost Common Access Cards or pin resets, visit during operation hours from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

assists with calculating how much you will need to save to secure your chosen lifestyle for retirement. The workshop, hosted by Travis Credit Union, takes place at 5:30 p.m. March 7 and offers an Apple Watch participation prize. Space limited.

Family Child Care Provider Class. Sign up and earn extra income with Family Child Care. The free class takes place from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. March 19-22. Training, license, personal support and resources are all included. For details, call 707-424-4596.

Club member breakfast. On March 22, club members can enjoy a free breakfast buffet at 6:30 a.m. at the Delta Breeze Club. Non-members are welcome to join for \$7.95 plus tax. For more information, call 707-437-3711.

S.T.E.A.M. at the Library. Every Wednesday in March, the Mitchell Memorial Library will have S.T.E.A.M. Wednesdays from 3-5 p.m. Children ages 8 and up can learn and play with everything science, technology, engineering, art and math themed. Free tech and gadget fun includes: coding, robotics, electronics and building. For details, call 707-424-3279.

Contests and specials

Blind Date with a Book. During the month of February, join us and have a Blind Date with a Book at Mitchell Memorial Library. The event is free and for all ages. Simply check-out a wrapped book, read it and fill out a "Rate the Date" form. For more information, call (707) 424-3279.

Closures

Sierra Inn dining facility closure. The DFAC, Sierra Inn, is closed due to remodeling. All dining services are moved to the Delta Breeze Club. Midnight chow will not be served, but all other meals provided.

◆◆◆

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

Chapel programs

Recurring events

Catholic

Twin Peaks Chapel

- Roman Catholic Mass: 9 a.m. and noon Sunday.

Catholic

Twin Peaks Chapel

- Roman Catholic Mass: 9 a.m. and noon Sunday.

Airmen's Ministry Center

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

◆◆◆

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

Recurring

Air Force Office of Special Investigations.

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

Air Force Sergeants Association

"Walter E. Scott" Chapter 1320. General membership meetings are at 3 p.m. on the second Friday of every month at Wingman's in the Delta Breeze Club. For more information, contact Senior Master Sgt. Angell Nichols or Tech. Sgt. Rebecca Linden de Romero.

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

Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Group.

Meetings take place from 1 to 2:30 p.m. the third Thursday of the month in the diabetic education classroom on the first floor in Internal Medicine at David Grant USAF Medical Center. For more information, call 707-423-7227.

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

Base illicit discharge number. To report sewage/water leaks or illegal dumping, call 707-424-2575. For hazardous chemical/material spills call the base emergency numbers.

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

Employee-Vehicle Certification and



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

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

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

Family Advocacy Parent/Child playgroups. Toddlers to the Max Playgroup for children ages 1 to 3 meets from 9:30 to 11 a.m. Wednesdays at the First Street Chapel Annex. The Rattles to Raspberries Playgroup for infants 8 weeks to 1 year meets 9:30 to 11 a.m. Thursdays at the First Street Chapel Annex. For more information, call 707-423-5168.

Family and Friends Combat Stress Peer Support Group. Meets from noon to 1 p.m. the first Tuesday of every month at the Balfour Beatty Community Center and from 1-2 p.m. the third Thursday of each month at The Peak. For more information, contact Amber Quirate and Jessica Soto at 501-231-7756 or email travstopcombatpds@gmail.com.

Government no-fee passports. All submissions of applications for government no-fee passports must now include: 1) A photocopy of Military Identification Card front and back; 2) Passport photo taken in the past six months; 3) Supporting document(s), proof of U.S. citizenship certified copy with state or county seal, if it involved a name change submit a court order or marriage certificate. Passport application cannot be handwritten and printed back to back and must be completed online with 2D barcode at website <https://pdpform.state.gov> and/or <https://travel.state.gov>. For more information, call 707-424-5324.

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

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

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

- | Today |
|--|
| • 6:30 p.m. "The Commuter" (PG-13) |
| • 9 p.m. "Den of Thieves" (R) |
| Saturday |
| • 6:30 p.m. "Maze Runner: The Death Cure" (PG-13) |
| • 9:30 p.m. "12 Strong: The Declassified True Story of the Horse Soldiers" (R) |
| Sunday |
| • 2 p.m. "Black Panther" (PG-13) |

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

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

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

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

Motorcycle licensing and training.

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

MPF self-renewal program. Did you know that dependents can now renew their ID cards online? To participate in this program, visit <http://bit.ly/2mR1gl2>. This program is limited only for renewing dependents' IDs. For all other services, visit MPF during duty hours or call 707-424-8483.

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

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

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

- Jessica Pope, 349th Air Mobility Wing.
- Anonymous employee, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington.

The VLTIP 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.

THE FLIP SIDE

Airmen complete FTAC



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

Congratulations to the latest Airmen to complete the First Term Airman Center course. Alphabetical: Airman Angelo Arnold, 60th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron; Airman 1st Class Austin Arnold, 860th AMXS; Airman 1st Class Cody Barnes, 660th AMXS; Airman Basic Katie Bean, 60th Aerial Port Squadron; Airman 1st Class Glenn Bovino, 22nd Airlift Squadron; Airman Katelynn Bridges, 60th Operations Support Squadron; Airman 1st Class Jade Cairns, 60th Diagnostics and Therapeutics Squadron; Airman 1st Class Jean Cardona-Santiago, 60th APS; Senior Airman John Da Silva, 60th Contracting Squadron; Airman 1st Class Audrey Edmission, 860th AMXS; Airman Nicholas Elsen, 660th AMXS; Airman 1st Class Zachary French, 60th APS; Airman Douglas Gerrity, 21st AS; Airman Kevin Gonzalez, 60th AMXS; Airman 1st Class Kristin Graeff, 60th Medical Operations Squadron; Airman 1st Class Gerardo Hernandez, 921st Contingency Response Squadron; Airman 1st Class Nathan Hoppe, 60th APS; Airman 1st Class Noah Keith, 860th AMXS; Airman Basic Karsin Miethe, 60th Logistics Readiness Squadron; Airman Andrej Mitchell, 60th OSS; Airman 1st Class Octavia Riggins, 60th LRS; Airman 1st Class Anthony Silva, 860th AMXS; Airman 1st Class Keenan Stover, 60th Maintenance Squadron; Airman Basic Patrick Strouse, 60th AMXS; Airman 1st Class Hunter Talikka, 60th Surgical Operations Squadron; Airman Basic Malik Tate, 60th APS; Airman Nicholas Van Pelt, 660th AMXS; Airman 1st Class Caden Victor, 860th AMXS; Airman 1st Class Connor Walsh, 860th AMXS; and Airman 1st Class Emma Warde, 860th AMXS.

Retiree Corner

Exhibit features gas warfare during World War I

SILVER SPRING, Md.

— A new exhibit at the National Museum of Health and Medicine, a Department of Defense museum in Silver Spring, Maryland, reveals how American military medicine responded to chemical warfare on the battlefields of France during the Great War.

The new exhibit and related programming are elements of the museum's World War I centennial commemoration.

Put On Your Mask, You Damn Fool! opened Feb. 12 at NMHM in Silver Spring. The exhibit is on display through 2018.

Learn more about NMHM online at www.medicalmuseum.mil.

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Comms

From Page 14

calling capabilities.

Weighing approximately 45 pounds, the kit can be deployed operationally in less than 30 minutes, allowing operators to communicate support requests if needed.

The capability is crucial to assuring that the military maintains command and control capabilities when operating remotely in situations which would require robust secure network and teleconferencing support. The unit allows troops to communicate real time updates and

request anything from additional water and rations, to air support at short notice.

The unit is designed to transfer a lot of information quickly, requiring technicians to accompany it assuring the computer and telephones can smoothly interface with the communication fly-away kit, said Senior Airmen Angel Perez, 386th ECS, cyber transport systems technician deployed from Robins Air Force Base, Georgia.

“Without ground radio technicians, we would not have Internet at all, we would not be able to make a phone call, we wouldn’t be able to do anything,” Perez said.

Exchange

From Page 5

and elliptical machines from Pro-Form, NordicTrack, Spirit Fitness and more, as well as more than 650 items online.

- Digital fitness accessories from Fitbit, Garmin and Samsung, in addition to more than 150 items online only.
- Apple Watch devices with fitness tracking capability with nearly 20 on-line only.
- Hydration gear from Camelbak,

Yeti and Hydro Flask.

The Travis AFB Exchange features an extensive be fit concept shop, where Airmen can find athletic apparel and footwear located in one convenient spot. The shop, which looks and feels like major sporting goods stores, is part of a strategic initiative to bring top national brands to military shoppers at competitive prices.

The Travis AFB Exchange is located at 461 Skymaster Circle, Bldg. 648. For information on how the Exchange can help military shoppers lead a BE FIT lifestyle, contact the Exchange at 707-437-4633.

Spark

From Page 3

level, there’s Phoenix Spark, a Spark cell,” said McGuire. “Due to its geographical proximity to tech hubs like Silicon Valley and San Francisco, the 60th Air Mobility Wing has the distinct advantage of bringing new tech to the Air Force.”

The current Spark model that Travis implements has been so successful, in fact, that it’s been used and duplicated by other wings in AMC and in the Air Force, said McGuire.

McGuire himself has even been called on to advise new wings on how to best build and implement their own Spark programs that would best suit the needs of their bases. In addition to McGuire, the members of Phoenix Spark are dedicated to realizing the initial vision of Maj. Anthony Perez, 60th Operations Support Squadron Phoenix Spark director and creator.

Although Travis’ natural advantages in contributing to the program are not without their significance, McGuire acknowledges that new forms of technology and innovation can be created anywhere and at any time,

and the Air Force must take proactive measures in integrating that technology before what is considered current becomes obsolete.

“We recently sent a team of five to Boston to be military liaisons for AF-WERX’s tech accelerator program,” said McGuire. “These members will work with developing start-up companies to further tech integration into the Air Force.”

“The Spark program came from Travis,” said McGuire. “It’s our duty to not only tie ourselves into this ecosystem of development and innovation, but to lead the way in it.”

T-X

From Page 13

pilot pipeline and sets the conditions to transition to T-X training at the other flying training locations.

The Air Force will now begin the required environmental analyses at all of the existing undergraduate pilot locations. Final basing decisions are dependent on the outcome of the environmental analyses.

The Air Force expects to award a contract for the new aircraft in 2018, with the first aircraft expected to arrive at JB San Antonio-Randolph as early as 2022.

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Wednesday:

Dinner (Sept-May)..... 4:45 pm

AWANA (Sept-May)..... 6:00 pm

Youth..... 6:00 pm

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Tuesday

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10:30 AM

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United Methodist Women

Sunday Morning Bible Studies at 9:00 A.M.

Congress

From Page 12

its end strength by 4,700 total force Airmen in 2019. Leaders are supporting innovation by investing in science, technology, engineering and mathematics in the workforce. Currently more than 25,000 Airmen have STEM degrees and the Air Force plans for additional recruitment, retention and development of this vital area, he said.

Air Force leaders are also promoting pilot production and training to address pilot shortfalls, he said. Additional training and weapon systems sustainment funding

will establish a strong foundation for improved aircraft availability and higher flying hour execution rates. This increases peacetime operational training and readiness, supporting retention, innovation and promoting technological advancement.

The Air Force will also invest in jam-resistant satellites, purchase more F-35A Lightning II fighters and KC-46 Pegasus tankers, and continue the development of the B-21 Raider bomber, expanding competitive space in science and technology.

“With your help, we can accelerate to building a more lethal force, ready to defeat terrorists and to win any fight, anywhere,” Wilson said.

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Hyperbaric

From Page 4

Slade. “There are numerous other conditions that may benefit from hyperbaric oxygen, and many other conditions are treated in other countries.”

A typical session in the hyperbaric chamber lasts roughly two hours. During this time, the cylinder-shaped plastic hoods increase the pressure equivalent to 33 feet below sea level. This pressure would feel similar to a scuba diver going in the depths of the ocean.

“The high levels of oxygen induce a controlled, oxidative stress that stimulates very potent mechanisms that we have to protect ourselves against oxygen toxicity,” said Slade. “Those mechanisms happen to be intermediaries for healing and for controlling infection and include enhanced white blood cell killing of bacteria, stimulation wound healing, induction of growth factors and growth factor receptors on cells, release of stem cells from the bone marrow and modulation of the immune system responses.”

“I had a previous injury which required a skin graft,” said Griffith. “The skin graft did not take, so my surgeon recommended the hyperbaric



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Jonathon D. A. Carnell

Latresha Thompson, 60th Aerospace Medical Squadron licensed vocational nurse, performs vital checks on Master Sgt. Aileen L. Griffith, 60th Air Mobility Wing superintendant of wing administration and hyperbaric patient, Feb. 13 at the hyperbaric clinic at David Grant USAF Medical Center at Travis Air Force Base, Calif. Griffith recently had a skin graft, leading her surgeon to recommend the hyperbaric clinic for treatment.

treatment for my next step of the healing process. After just two weeks, my wound has healed roughly 75 percent.”

Having hyperbaric treatment is very open-ended. This treatment could help many people who do not know about it, said Slade.

“There are currently over 200 hyperbaric chamber facilities that are accredited by the Undersea and Hyperbaric Medical Society Accreditation Program,” said Slade.

Travis’ hyperbaric team is constantly furthering research

into the aerospace medical mission. Having a spectacular team such as this demonstrates the ability of how hyperbaric treatments heal patients.

“It’s as simple as a computer consult over to our clinic and, normally, we book a new patient within 24 hours of receiving a notification,” said Bevis. “For those who do not know about hyperbaric treatment, ask your primary physician and ask questions about hyperbaric therapy.”

For questions, contact DGMC at 707-423-7300.

Engine

From Page 13

a class on the new engine, and I can see how much the technology has changed,” said Daniel Weimer, 436th MXS aerospace propulsion engine mechanic. “It’s time for this engine to be put down. Us old jet engine mechanics feel like we’re veterinarians for a dinosaur; we’re kind of useless.”

Weimer has worked at Dover AFB for 50 years, and on the TF-39 engine since it arrived at Dover. His career started at the “rickety, outside test cell on the far side of the base.” He saw the new JEIM shop being built, watched the first TF-39 engine as it was rolled in, and rebuilt the last one completed by the shop, serial number 441052, in March 2016.

While the JEIM shop was

still rebuilding TF-39 engines for the Air Force’s C-5A/B fleet, the modernization process necessitated the engine’s reclamation process as early as 2012.

Through 2015, the engines were turned in to the Defense Logistics Agency and the Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office, where they were basically sold for salvage, Morrow said. The money gained from this process was recuperated to the U.S. Treasury.

Since 2015, 144 TF-39 engines were turned in through a joint process involving the Air Force and General Electric. The JEIM shop had to process an average of six engines each month to prepare them for transportation to a metals reclamation company in Monroe, North Carolina. This exchange allowed the Air Force to recuperate \$1.38 million.

“There were some good

times and some bad times,” Weimer said. “We blew up a few engines, and we had a few problems in the test cell. It’s all one big memory. There’s good and bad, but you learn from it. That’s the experience, and that’s what makes it so sad that this is going away.”

Unlike the engines, Team Dover isn’t saying goodbye to all the Airmen of the JEIM Shop. While some are retiring, others are headed to the C-5 Isochronal Inspection Dock where they will bring with them their years of experience working on jet engines.

“I am proud to say that I was able to ‘crank wrenches’ with many mechanics, past and present, who have become part of the propulsion flight family, most specifically the ‘ten brothers in arms,’ or last men standing who have facilitated the closure of this shop,” Morrow said.



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

Graduates of the Phoenix Raven Qualification Course pose for a class photo with their instructors and leadership Feb. 12 at Ramstein Air Base, Germany. U.S. Air Forces in Europe and Air Forces Africa and 86th Airlift Wing leadership requested a mobile training team to come and direct the Raven course at Ramstein AB.

Ravens

From Page 11

airpower from the ground up.”

The Air Mobility Command Phoenix Raven Qualification Course involves daily physical training sessions, Armament Systems and Procedures Baton training, use-of-force scenarios, combatives and live-fire training. The course also includes 15 academic classes, which covers topics such as airfield assistance and embassy operations.

The cadre who led the course at Ramstein AB described Raven training as the most intense training in the Air Force security forces world.

Brig. Gen. Richard G. Moore Jr., 86th AW commander, congratulated the new Ravens and handed them their graduation certificates.

The graduates also received the Raven tab, which they can now wear on their uniforms, and a coin with their Raven

number on it.

Only a small portion of security forces Airmen have the opportunity to join the Raven corps. Moore encouraged the graduates to take pride in their accomplishment and use their new found skills wherever they find themselves later on in their careers.

“There are less than 3,000 of you anywhere in the world,” Moore said. “Your number is yours now, and it will be yours forever. You will find yourselves in a wide variety of situations that you haven’t planned for...situations that are uncertain, and many situations that are unsafe — and what do you do? Simply rely on your training. Rest assured, if you rely on your training and execute it properly, we’ll take care of all the rest back home.”

Master Sgt. Edward Mann IV, 86th SFS flight chief, one of the graduates in this class, expressed gratefulness for becoming a Raven and looked

forward to more opportunities in his career.

Mann acknowledged that the training was very difficult, and that a student needed not only physical strength, but mental strength as well. He said he is proud not just of himself, but his classmates as well.

“It’s an awesome accomplishment, and it’s something I’ve always wanted,” he said. “I see how happy these guys are and that just makes me proud. Hopefully I get to lead some of these Airmen down range.”

Knowing that there are trained Airmen standing guard all the time gives us all peace of mind, Moore said.

“One of the things that keeps me from losing sleep at night is knowing we have the very best defenders that there are keeping watch — no matter what time, no matter what airfield, no matter what weather conditions,” he said. “Everybody’s going to be safe, and we know that because you’re there.”

SAPR

From Page 4

package is sent to the National Organization of Victim Assistance, which credentials volunteers for military services.

“They’re checked thoroughly,” said Perry.

Perry estimated the process to receive certification takes six months, but once acquired, it lasts for two years.

Most volunteer advocates handle two to three cases per year, said Perry. She said staff members in the SAPR office handle a heavier caseload and

try to take the victims with greater support needs. Perry said most cases are resolved within six months to a year.

In addition to helping victims, Perry said the advocates participate in the public face of the program, giving briefings at the First-Term Airman Center, in their own units, newcomers’ orientation and other opportunities to engage with the public.

“They are essential to the success of our program,” said Perry. “They live under a glass bubble 24/7. How they act out in the community is a portrayal of our program. They have to know that.”

Perry said compassionate, nonjudgmental people should consider the role.

“When victims come in, we take them at their word,” said Perry. “We are not the investigative agency. We pass no judgment on right, wrong or they should’ve, would’ve, could’ve. We’re that source that helps them, but the victim owns the power to make the choices. We find available resources and present them to them.”

For more information, call Tiffanie Stevenson or Julia Mota at 707-424-1105 or email them at tiffanie.stevenson@us.af.mil or julia.mota.1@us.af.mil.

Policy

From Page 9

our society and for our military. (We) put a lot of training into people nowadays. So that policy is now out.”

Military must be deployable

The secretary said as he reviewed the services’ policies, they were already strong enough, “so some of this may simply be more adherence to the current policy that we have; some of it may require an effort within the DoD, the Office of Secretary of Defense policy, that we put out for the department now,” he added.

“But the bottom line is, we expect everyone to carry their share of the load,” the secretary said, adding, “and sometimes things happen. People bust their legs in training or they’re in a car accident. We understand that.”

But DoD comprises a

deployable military, which is a lethal military that aligns with its allies and partners, he said.

“If you can’t go overseas (and) carry a combat load, then obviously someone else has got to go. I want this spread fairly and equitably across the force.”

The only exemption is for those who have been injured in combat, he noted.

“If they were wounded in combat, and they want to stay in and they’ve lost their leg or something like this, and they can’t be a paratrooper anymore, then we’ll find a place to use them. That’s a special category. They’ve earned that special status,” Mattis said.

“Otherwise, you’re either deployable, or you need to find something else to do. I’m not going to have some people deploying constantly, and then other people who seem to not pay that price to be in the U.S. military,” he said.

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U.S. Air Force photo/Mike Kaplan

More than 125 Air Force wounded, ill and injured service men and women will compete in the Air Force Trials Feb. 23 to March 2 at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev. The Air Force Trials is an adaptive and resiliency sports event designed to promote the mental and physical well-being of the participants.

Trials

From Page 2

adaptive sports and resiliency programs, a mentorship workshop and employment readiness skills training.

The AFW2 Program is administered by AFPC and includes recovery care coordinators, non-medical care managers and other professionals who work with wounded warriors, their families and caregivers to help guide them through various

Medals

From Page 5

Care Surgery at UAB. “For a medical team to keep their skills sharp, they need a more challenging environment.”

Kerby, who was an Air Force surgeon before joining UAB, is the conduit between AFSOC and the hospital.

“UAB is a good training ground,” Kerby said. “We are the only adult Level 1 Trauma Center within a 150-mile radius. We see a great many penetrating trauma cases here from gunshot wounds, stabbings or car crashes. Unfortunately, we are a good place to hone trauma skills.”

The team members are fully accredited staff at UAB, treating patients in the emergency department, performing surgery and caring for those in intensive care units.

In 2016, the UAB Gold Team deployed in support of Operation Inherent Resolve, setting up at an austere, forward location that served as a collection point for injured local fighters.

“When we arrived on location, we basically were jumping into a fast-moving river of trauma,” said Lt. Col. Matt Uber, Gold team’s nurse-anesthetist.

There were some local medical personnel at the farmhouse, and some U.S. military medics, but no surgical capacity. As word spread of their arrival, the river of trauma began to flow.

“We had patients on site within two hours of arrival at our location,” Mitchell said. “We treated more than 750

patients during our deployment, working 24/7.”

Mitchell, Uber and the rest of the six-man team experienced 19 mass casualty events – when the river of patients would have overwhelmed even a good-sized emergency department in the states. They performed 16 life-saving surgeries, sometimes while mortar rounds whistled overhead. Supplies were limited. Capt. Cade Reedy donated his own blood for one wounded fighter, while Maj. Nelson Pacheco organized other locals to donate multiple units.

At times, the patients dramatically outnumbered the providers. Tech. Sgt. Richard Holguin, the team’s respiratory therapist, established an airway on one casualty while single-handedly managing another patient’s chest injury.

For the first time ever in a forward wartime environment, Maj. Justin Manley, Gold Team’s surgeon, performed a Resuscitative Endovascular Balloon Occlusion of the Aorta procedure, in which a balloon catheter is placed into a patient’s femoral artery. The balloon is inflated to stop severe bleeding. It is a difficult, even risky procedure, but it allowed the patient to survive until arrival at an operating room. The team used the same procedure three more times during the deployment, saving four patients who otherwise would not have survived.

Team members say the time spent at UAB when not overseas is important. Training and working together brings the team closer.

“It helps to really know and

understand each member of the team — to know what they will do and how they will react to situations that arise,” Mitchell said. “We had some rough days during deployment, and you have to know that you can count on each other in those times.”

UAB hosts three six-man SOST teams, which rotate on deployments that usually last about four months, followed by 11-12 months at the host medical facility.

“We are adjuncts to the UAB staff, not replacements,” Mitchell said. “We train with our SOST teammates, but also work alongside the incredible medical professionals at UAB as much as possible.”

“It is gratifying to know that we can play a role in helping the team reach and maintain peak proficiency in their medical skills prior to a deployment where those skills might be needed to save lives on a battlefield,” said Reid Jones, Chief operating officer of UAB Medicine.

The team shares its experiences with their UAB counterparts in an exchange of learning that flows both ways.

“Most of the major, significant contributions in trauma surgery have been made during times of military conflict,” Kerby said. “This affiliation with the Air Force, tapping into their experience and their expertise, certainly has a positive impact on what we are trying to do at UAB as a trauma center. At the same time, their opportunity to work as a team, in a busy, high-volume trauma center, has a positive impact on what they are trying to accomplish.”

SOST members are involved in teaching residents and medical students at UAB through presentations and side-by-side training. The team has worked with over 200 first responders on proper techniques for using tourniquets to stop bleeding after trauma.

“The tourniquet is a great example of how military medicine can change civilian practice,” Kerby said. “Tourniquets had fallen out of favor until recent battlefield experiences reaffirmed their utility in stopping major bleeds following severe trauma. SOST is now helping us re-introduce this life-saving technique through our Stop the Bleed campaign.”

Predator

From Page 7

the transformation of the RPA mission and it highlighted what crews brought to the fight.

“Airmen retrofitted helicopter missile pylons onto the Predator,” said Chief Master Sgt. Christopher, former superintendent of the 726th Operations Group.

Additional examples of innovation included when Airmen switched to a turbo engine, making the aircraft more dependable flying at high altitudes and adding sophisticated pods, to include hyperspectral technology.

Airmen flew unarmed Predators from Sept. 18, 2001 until Oct. 7 of the same year, after which aircrew flew the Predator’s first armed mission as part of Operation Enduring Freedom. The aircraft continued to undergo modifications after it became strike-capable.

“The mighty MQ-1 may not be fast, but our proficient aircrews and support personnel capitalized on its new capabilities to deliver unmatched persistence, exceptional reconnaissance, and precision attack to combatant commanders worldwide,” said Col. Julian C. Cheater, 432nd WG/432nd AEW commander. “I believe the employment of MQ-1s helped shape a new type of warfare, where dangerous enemies of the U.S. and its coalition partners have no sanctuary.”

In 2003, a new tactic was developed. The RPA enterprise called it “remote-split operations,” and it changed how RPAs were flown. In this new capability, RSO used satellites to send signals to the aircraft once airborne, allowing crews to fly missions from anywhere in the world.

The Predator showcased its new capabilities during Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003.

ACC fielded yet another modification within the RPA community in 2004 called the Remotely Operated Video Enhanced Receiver, or ROVER for short. ROVER allowed ground forces to see real-time video feeds from Predators overhead via a portable tablet, it resulted in greater situational awareness which ultimately saved lives.

As Airmen proved the



U.S. Air Force photo/Lt. Col. Leslie Pratt

An MQ-1 Predator flies in 2008.

MQ-1’s strike proficiency and senior leaders recognized its lethality, the demand for RPAs grew. In 2006, the Air Force responded by introducing the MQ-9 Reaper RPA as the Predator’s successor. The MQ-9 could fly faster, climb higher and was optimized for combat with more weapons capacity.

One year later, ACC activated the 432nd WG at Creech AFB to oversee RPA operations and training worldwide. As RPA involvement in conflicts grew, the community expanded, standing up more active-duty units along with its first Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve units.

In 2011, the MQ-1 and MQ-9 enterprise achieved a monumental milestone: Aircrew flew 1 million combat hours. That year also marked the start of the MQ-1’s involvement in Operation Odyssey Dawn during the Libyan civil war and the end of Operation New Dawn in Iraq.

Just two years after completing 1 million hours, the MQ-1 and MQ-9 aircrew flew 2 million combat flight hours, highlighting the demand for RPA operations and support.

“Between the Predators and Reapers alone, we have 303 aircraft, and we are now

approaching 2.5 million (flight) hours, of which 90 percent has been in combat,” said James Clark, the then ISR innovation director who now serves as deputy chief of staff for ISR, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, in a 2014 interview.

In 2014, the enterprise began executing operations against the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria as part of Operation Inherent Resolve. During this coalition effort, MQ-1s, alongside MQ-9s, played a key role in liberating cities from the oppression of terrorism. In late 2017, Combined Joint Task Force OIR declared ISIS defeated.

Airmen of the 432nd WG flew more than 12,000 sorties in 2017 alone, equaling approximately 216,000 flight hours which resulted in 2.7 million Iraqis and 715,000 Syrians returning to ISIS-free homes.

In 1945, in a post-World War II address, Gen. Henry H. Arnold, U.S. Army Air Forces commander said, “We have just won a war with a lot of heroes flying around in planes. The next war may be fought by airplanes with no men in them at all... It will be different from anything the world has ever seen.”

Art

From Page 6

its Healing Arts program and a roundtable discussion with community leaders about the integration of art therapy in caring for service members.

“I hear a lot of stories about soldiers who initially don’t want to go into art therapy sessions because it doesn’t seem like the strong or tough thing to do,” Pence said. “But then I hear them talk about the tremendous relief and success they experience after art therapy. One soldier confided in me that he doesn’t go to that dark place anymore. Hearing success stories like that is powerful. It shows that art therapy saves lives.”

Effective treatments

“Art and music therapy are effective treatment modalities that enhance the total treatment regimen to help the recovery process,” said Dr. Scot Engel, a clinical psychologist and director of the Intrepid Spirit. “When interweaving creative art therapies into our patient care plans we are improving clinical outcome for our warriors.”

Peter Buotte, healing arts and therapy coordinator, believes art therapy benefits the patient as it fosters a safe,

supportive environment for therapeutic self-expression.

“At its deepest, the art therapy process can go beyond the verbal -- and even beyond the recognizable image -- in order to emotionally engage with the patient/client,” Buotte said.

Art and music therapy have been integral components of the Intrepid Spirit Center’s multi-disciplinary approach to restoring service member’s medical readiness for more than a year. The center is one component of the comprehensive system of behavioral health care offered for service members and their families at the Carl R. Darnall Army Medical Center here.

Before visiting Fort Hood, Pence shared her message of art therapy significance with more than 140 local community arts professionals and military behavioral health care specialists at the Texas Creative Forces Arts and Military Conference held in Killeen, Texas.

The conference aimed to support and grow collaborative relationships between local artists, arts organizations and military populations to help service members reintegrate after deployment.

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Hosler

From Page 2

your mentor that may accelerate that path. For instance, are there tough jobs or positions you can leverage to effect or speed up your progression? On the enlisted side, a possible example could be a developmental special duty assignment such as first sergeant, military training instructor, or maybe vectored staff positions. On the officer side, maybe its time for a tour as an executive officer working for a senior leader, or a one year deployment or short tour to add breadth to your

experience. These are the conversations that are appropriate to have with your mentor. They can assist you in getting out of your comfort zone, so challenge yourself. It will only make you better.

Bottom line, the value of the mentor and mentee relationship continues to be made clear to me each and every day. I know that I wouldn't be the squadron commander of the West Coast's greatest aerial port today if it weren't for the impact and guidance of my mentors. Take the time to cultivate these critical relationships in your life. Trust me, you will reap the benefits on and off duty.

Couple

From Page 11

video calls when the signal is strong enough on his end."

The assignment program helps assign military couples together, when possible, to a location where they can live in the same residence. The needs of the Air Force mission come first in base assignment. If your spouse is also an Airman, assignment to the same base is not guaranteed.

"The Air Force has had a positive effect on our marriage," Jessica said. "Being

married under normal circumstances can get tough at times but being married in the military requires a consistent effort being put forth by both members to keep the marriage healthy and happy."

"We've learned that in order to make it through this crazy life together we have to be willing to put in the work and not give up on each other," Jessica said. "Marriage is work, hard work. The two people in the marriage have to go into the marriage knowing they are going to do whatever it takes to not give up on it, even though it's tough at times we don't give up."

Colorado

From Page 6

and injured service members," said Lt Gen. Grosso. "In nearly 100 days, more than 200 warriors will arrive at Colorado Springs, Olympic City USA, to compete amongst each other for Gold, but more importantly, the comradery, healing, and recovery that comes with competitive sports.

"This is by far and away one of the most exciting sporting events I've ever witnessed."

The 2018 Warrior Games, free and open to the public, are an opportunity to celebrate the accomplishments of wounded, injured and ill service members and veterans in overcoming adversity and thriving against the odds.

The Department of Defense Warrior Games were established in 2010 as a way to enhance the recovery and rehabilitation of wounded, ill and injured service members and to expose them to adaptive sports. Approximately 250 wounded, ill and injured



Department of Defense photo/EJ Herson

Warrior Games athlete and Navy veteran, Petty Officer 2nd Class A.J. Mohammad, competes in an archery competition during the 2017 Warrior Games. Archery is one of 11 sports scheduled during the 2018 Department of Defense Warrior Games at the Air Force Academy from June 2-9 in Colorado Springs, Colo.

service members and veterans representing teams from the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, and U.S. Special Operations Command will participate in the competition. They will go head-to-head in 11 sports including archery, cycling and time trial cycling, indoor rowing, sitting volleyball, shooting, swimming, powerlifting, wheelchair basketball, track

and field, engaging in friendly competition and experiencing the healing power of sports.

Visit DoDWarriorGames.com to learn more about the Warrior Games, its athletes, volunteer opportunities and the schedule of events and follow the Warrior Games on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/WarriorGames/>.

Smith

From Page 2

grandfather would then retort, "Good. I guess it's worth it if you learned something."

As a teenager, I didn't fully understand the life lesson that was being bestowed upon me. I just thought my grandfather was trying to be funny. However as an adult, I have a fond appreciation for the power of learning from my mistakes.

One of my favorite quotes about failure was from Thomas Edison who said, "I have not failed. I have just found 10,000 ways that won't work." Edison

didn't see his mistakes as failures, they were simply lessons learned.

Likewise, the United States Air Force has become the most powerful air force in the history of mankind, largely due to how we view mistakes and what some would classify as failures. Aircrews are known for making the time to debrief after missions, others conduct a "hot wash" after a significant exercise or temporary duty yonder. Ever notice the link in the portal titled "Air Force Lessons Learned," or did you know Air Mobility Command has a whole directorate dedicated to analyzing and

capturing lessons learned?

We all read the news. We know we live in tumultuous times and can appreciate the necessity to be ready to answer our nation's call. Here at Travis, we just concluded a readiness exercise, our base's method of choice to bolster readiness.

For many, especially our first-term Airmen, this may have been their first time mobilizing or executing their portion of an installation deployment plan. Take the time to capture the lessons learned, embrace the mistakes as opportunities to learn and share them in your unit.

I will admit, our endeavor is challenging, frustrating and, yes, at times, painful, but by no means impossible. There will be more exercises in our future and after the last "endex" is sounded, my question to you is: Did you learn anything? If not, that was a lot of pain to go through for nothing.

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Branch Manager
Mortgage Consultant

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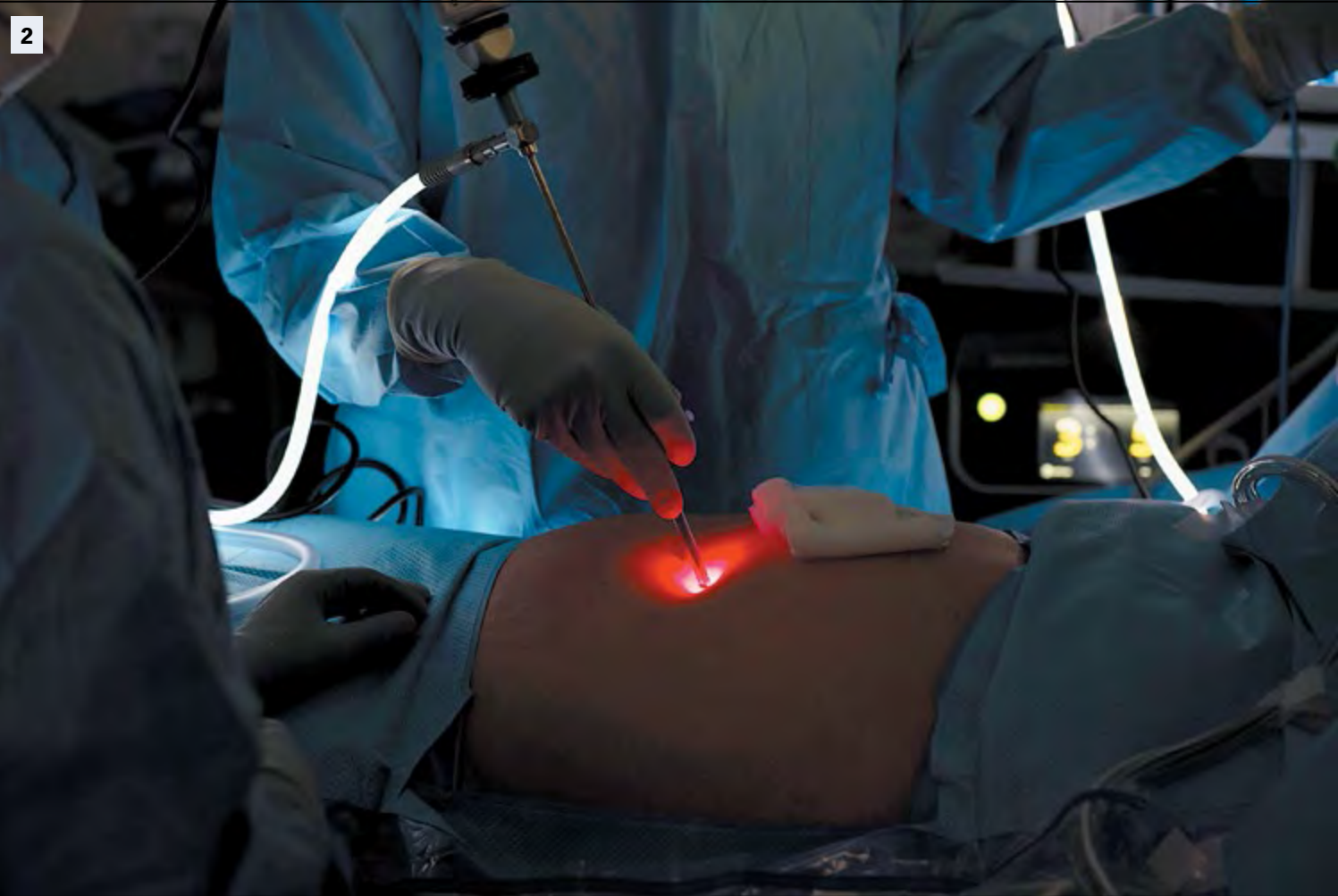
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1) Maj. (Dr.) Michael Rawlins, 60th Medical Group Surgical Squadron general and bariatric surgeon, uses hand-eye coordination while performing a bariatric surgery Feb. 13 at David Grant USAF Medical Center at Travis Air Force Base, Calif. Requirements for being a patient at Travis' bariatric clinic is the individual must be at least 18 years old, have a body mass index of or more than 35 percent, dependent of active duty personnel, retiree or dependent of or be a veterans assistance patient referred by their primary care provider. 2) 60th Medical Group Surgical Squadron Airmen perform bariatric surgery Feb. 13 at DGMC. 3) Rawlins guides another doctor during bariatric surgery Feb. 13 at DGMC. A joint commission-accredited teaching hospital, DGMC is the Air Force Medical Service's flagship medical treatment facility in the United States, providing a full spectrum of health care and patient-centered treatments. 4) 60th Medical Group Surgical Squadron Airmen set up equipment for bariatric surgery Feb. 13 at DGMC.



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



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6 March	1000-1100	KUIC Coffee Break <i>(TCU Base Branch)</i> Free Refreshments
6 March	1130-1230	Psychology of Spending
7 March	0900-1000 1130-1230 1730-1900	Investing Fundamentals Path to Financial Success Retire on Track <i>(TCU Base Branch)</i>
8 March	0900-1130 1200-1330	Home Buying Auto Buying and Financing
9 March	0900-1030	Credit Card Makeover - Getting Out of Debt
10 March	1300-1330	*Prize Drawing: Apple Watch® and three gift cards

*Winners do not have to be present to win.
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