



Travis visited by AF spiritual ...

LEADER

PAGES 16-17



Wingmen critical to success, resilience

There are two definitions for the term “wingman” offered by Dictionary.com. The first is “a pilot whose aircraft is positioned behind and outside the leading aircraft in a formation.” The second is “a (person) who helps or supports another (person); a friend.”

Although the first definition lacks a great amount of detail outlining a wingman’s actual responsibilities, the role of the wingman is critical to operational success in combat and resiliency in our force.

In flying, the lead pilot or crew is the most-highly

experienced and qualified in the formation. The lead directs the actions of the rest of the formation and is responsible for formation position, timing and survival. Being the lead comes with a lot of responsibility, but so does being an effective wingman.

A wingman has to be where the lead expects them to be in order to prevent unsafe formation maneuvering, cover the lead’s

blind spots to prevent them from being surprised by an enemy aircraft or surface-to-air threat, and stay with the lead when the situation gets bad. If a

Commander’s Commentary

formation is engaged by an enemy, the lead calls out over the radio “lead’s going defensive” and begins maneuvering the aircraft to safely recover from the engagement. The wingman acknowledges with a very brief, yet important “two’s supporting”.

In those situations, maintaining formation integrity offers the best chance of survival for the crews and, ultimately, mission success. This is the contract briefed between crews in planning and practiced during training so that it becomes second nature.

When I started my career in the U.S. Air Force as a C-130 Hercules navigator, that was what being a good wingman meant to me.

It’s been a long time since I’ve been part of an aircrew, but over the course of my career, I’ve found the role of wingman, as stated in the second definition, is just as important. I’d ask you all to think about the parallels between what defines an effective wingman as part of a formation, whether in an airplane or on the ground tackling this mission we call “life.”

Every day offers uncertainty and there is endless potential for engagement with an enemy. How prepared are you to survive those engagements

and ensure success for your mission? Who are your wingmen? Do you have a contract with them or an understanding of what they are capable of and willing to do for you? Can they see your blind spots and do they know what triggers are in your life which may pull you into a threat ring? Ultimately, can you trust them to tell you when you are flying off course, making poor decisions or entering a situation that you may not recover from?

After 23 years of service and more than 23 years of tackling “life,” I can guarantee you that having dependable wingmen by your side only becomes more important and they must be part of your formation before you engage the enemy.



Commentary by Chief Master Sgt. Jamie Vanoss

821ST CONTINGENCY RESPONSE GROUP SUPERINTENDENT

Chief shares lessons learned in 26-year career

As I close out my career in the service of our nation, I find myself reflecting on the past 26 years, often reflecting on the things that aided my success.

While not all inclusive, I hope you gain something from my lessons learned.

1. Be appreciative. Thank you is such a simple phrase, but, when delivered, has the potential to instill pride in work and self and invite increased productivity in those you are given the privilege of leading.

2. Be passionate. John Maxwell said, “A great leader’s courage to

Chief’s Commentary

fulfill his vision comes from passion, not position.” Love what you do or find something else you love doing.

3. Demand perfection. Set your expectations high and coach those you lead to that standard. Mediocrity has no place in the world’s greatest air, space and cyberspace force.

4. Embrace failure. We will all fail. It is a fact of life. However, failure is not what defines us;

how we overcome those failures is what defines our character. Do not be afraid to fail nor be afraid to let those you lead fail. As a leader, you must stand ready to pick your Airmen up as they try again.

5. Stay humble. It is not about you. It never was and it never will be. Being a servant leader requires you to check your ego at the front door. After all, no one wants to follow a bully.

6. Respect. Regardless of rank or position, each of us deserves respect. Give it freely to your Airmen, agnostic of rank. Embrace each

other’s differences just as you embrace your commonalities.

7. Communicate clearly. If you do not communicate where you want those you lead to go, they will be left wandering aimlessly. Make your message, vision and words clear.

8. Be a compassionate leader. Listen to the needs of those you lead. Know about them, their families, their likes and dislikes. Know when something is wrong with them and offer to help them

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Tailwind



Travis AFB, Calif.
60th Air Mobility Wing

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On the cover

Maj. Gen. Dondi E. Costin, Headquarters U.S. Air Force chief of chaplains, gives a presentation at an all-call during his Feb. 22 tour of Travis Air Force Base, Calif. Costin spent two days at Travis, visiting several units and meeting with Airmen.

U.S. Air Force photo/Louis Briscoe

60th SFS receives training in crisis intervention

Airman 1st Class Christian Conrad

60TH AIR MOBILITY WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Members of the 60th Security Forces Squadron from Travis Air Force Base, California, received crisis intervention training from a Tustin, California-based company Feb. 26 at the base’s 60th SFS training compound.

The training, which focused on educating 60th SFS personnel in how to de-escalate situations involving victims of mental illnesses and developmental disabilities, is a part of Travis’ ongoing effort in both updating its already effective safety protocols and maintaining readiness amid an evolving understanding of mental illness.

“The purpose of CIT is to get people with mental health problems out of the justice system and into the appropriate programs where they can get the help they need,” said Brad Young, crisis intervention instructor and former Palo Alto police officer. “There was an instance in Memphis, Tennessee, in the ‘80s, where a couple of cops had shot a man with a developmental disability and it wasn’t until afterwards where they realized, ‘You know? We could’ve done something different.’ We work to educate police that, yes, you can do something different, and here it is.”

That “something different” comes in the form of an eight-hour course that teaches class attendees about mental illnesses and developmental disabilities like schizophrenia, bi-polar disorder, depression, substance abuse, post-traumatic stress disorder and autism as well as enlists the help of volunteers to engage class attendees in practical exercises that teach them techniques to talk to people who are suffering from mental health problems.

“Our main focus with the training is to



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

Andrew Contreras, Army veteran and volunteer, acts as a potential suicide victim during de-escalation training with Airman 1st Class Ashley Powers and Airman 1st Class Kimikho Hamilton, both 60th Security Forces Squadron installation entry controllers, Feb. 26 at Travis Air Force Base, Calif. Powers and Hamilton received de-escalation training as part of response training.

take individuals who may not necessarily be clinicians and give them the tools necessary to empathize and connect with potential victims in order to allow them to rethink and reshape what it is they’re feeling,” said Duane Thompson, director of operations for the CIT training. “What it boils down to is changing mindsets in

order to change outcomes.”

About 41,000 people die each year by suicide, which is the 10th leading cause of death among adults and the second leading cause of death among people ages 10 to 24, according to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention. The center also reports that more than half a

million Americans receive medical care annually for self-inflicted injuries.

At Travis AFB, various resources are made available to Airmen and their families dealing with mental illness including the military crisis line at 800-273-8255, the mental health clinic at David

See INTERVENTION Page 30

CMSAF discusses innovative spirit of Airmen

Staff Sgt. Megan Friedl

DEFENSE MEDIA ACTIVITY

ORLANDO, Fla. — Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Kaleth O. Wright discussed how to harness the innovative spirit of Airmen Feb. 22 during the Air Force Association Air Warfare Symposium in Orlando, Florida.

Wright stated that many Airmen ask him how can they continue to do more with less. Rather than answering that

question, he has a few questions of his own.

“How can we do less, do it better, do it faster, be more efficient, and ultimately create a more ready and lethal joint fighting force,” asked Wright. “The answer is innovation.”

Since its inception, the Air Force has been in the business of innovating and adapting its culture and technology.

The National Defense Strategy states that to maintain the advantage, the service must

out-think, out-maneuver, out-innovate and out-partner rogue regimes and anybody that tries to harm America.

Ten to 20 years from now, the Airmen of today will be fighting wars with what the Air Force is building now. It will be innovative technology that takes the Air Force to the next level in that fight.

“We have to allow Airmen to fail forward,” said Wright. “We must listen and provide opportunities. Do you have a culture

in your organization that allows Airmen to provide ideas?” He highlighted an Airman who was encouraged to share his idea. Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey Curtin, a broadcast journalist stationed at Hurlburt Field, Florida, came up with the idea to use 360-degree video cameras for the flight training program at NASA. This video can provide so much more than a simulator can, said Wright. It can be used in the classroom, it saves money, and multiple

people can use it at once. It will help those in the training pipeline become comfortable with takeoffs and landings at almost any airport in the world. “We all have to figure out how to be comfortable with taking risks and allowing Airmen to generate ideas,” said Wright. “Being innovative is about trust and empowerment. I trust our Airmen will help us get to where we need to be ... leaders must help them get to yes.”

Technology diminishes deployment challenges

Military life is not easy. The men and women who serve in our armed forces protect our freedoms and way of life. They make tremendous sacrifices along with their families in service to our country.



Commentary by Tech. Sgt. James Hodgman

60TH AIR MOBILITY WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Service members often have to endure times of separation from their loved ones, from a few days to a year. While the military member is away, the family is left to go on facing each day without their mother or father present. This can make military spouses often feel like single moms or dads.

Every family faces numerous challenges no matter where they are from, however, military families face unique challenges that only a small group has experienced. They move frequently, often struggle to find spouse employment and can have difficulty finding the best schools and child care for their children.

All of this change can be difficult to adapt to, especially for young children. After we moved to California in July 2014, my daughter asked if we could go back to Germany. That's where she started school and where her young brain started to memorize things. For her, Germany was home, but the Air Force needed me in California so we packed all of our things, boarded a plane and made the 5,643-mile trip to the Golden State. It took her a few years to feel comfortable and she often tells me that she doesn't want to move again.

See HODGMAN Page 23



U.S. Air Force photos/Staff Sgt. Robert Waggoner

Aerial porters from the 621st Contingency Response Wing stationed at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J., walk off a U. S. Air Force C-130 Hercules Feb. 14 during Joint Readiness Training Center 18-04 at Alexandria International Airport.

621st Airmen get back to basics

Travis CRW takes part in exercise

Staff Sgt. Robert Waggoner
621ST CONTINGENCY RESPONSE WING

ALEXANDRIA, La — Airmen from the 621st Contingency Response Wing enhanced their readiness during Joint Readiness Training Center exercise 18-04 here February 5 to 17.

Approximately 70 Airmen supported the U.S. Army during the exercise by providing rapid air mobility establishing a contingency response element at the Alexandria International Airport and a contingency response team at Fort Polk in Louisiana.

"We are playing a small role of a much bigger exercise supporting movement of equipment and troops from

an initial staging base, and flying into a simulated hostile country landing zones," said Lt. Col. Christopher Ott, 621st Contingency Response Support Squadron commander.

This year the 621st CRW included Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear Environment training objectives during the two week exercise.

"One of our focus areas is on full spectrum readiness, and our ability to operate in a contested environment," said Ott. "We are training with the protective gear that would keep us safe in that kind of environment."

He added that this can add different challenges to the everyday business of



Staff Sgt. Steven Preusser, 621st Contingency Response Wing at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J., marshalls a C-130 Hercules Feb. 14 during Joint Readiness Training Center 18-04 at Alexandria International Airport, La.

contingency response, like communicating through a gas mask, or driving a forklift in mission oriented protective posture gear.

"There's no better place

to learn than in this kind of controlled environment, especially for some of these young Airmen out here who have never done this

See LOUISIANA Page 25

Actions have consequences

60th Air Mobility Wing
Judge Advocate

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

During the month of January, seven Airmen received final review of nonjudicial punishment under Article 15, Uniform Code of Military Justice and two Airmen were involuntarily separated.

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

Nonjudicial punishment
(Article 15s)

60th Civil Engineer Squadron
A master sergeant received an Article 15 for one specification of wrongful use of marijuana, a violation of Article 112a, UCMJ. Punishment consisted of a suspended reduction to the grade of technical sergeant (a suspension which later was vacated), forfeiture of \$665 pay per month for two months and a reprimand.

60th Surgical
Operations Squadron

A senior airman received an Article 15 for three specifications of dereliction of duty, violations of Article 92, UCMJ, one specification of wrongful appropriation of military property of \$500 or less and one specification of larceny, both violations of Article 121, UCMJ. Punishment consisted of a suspended reduction to the grade of airman first class and a reprimand.

60th Security Forces Squadron

An airman received an Article 15 for one specification of failing to obey a lawful order, a violation of Article 92, UCMJ, one specification of drunk driving, a violation of Article 111, UCMJ, two specifications of assault, violations of Article 128, UCMJ, and one specification of drunk and disorderly, a violation of Article 134, UCMJ. Punishment consisted of 30 days

Law and Order



of extra duty, reduction to the grade of airman basic, forfeiture of \$799 pay per month for two months and a reprimand.

A staff sergeant received an Article 15 for one specification of having an unprofessional relationship, a violation of Article 92, UCMJ. Punishment consisted of 15 days of extra duty, suspended reduction to the grade of senior airman, forfeiture of \$1,267 pay for one month and a reprimand.

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

921st Contingency
Response Squadron

Two individuals in the rank of airman first class each received an Article 15 for one specification of use of a controlled substance, a violation of Article 112a, UCMJ. Punishment consisted of reduction to the grade of airman and a reprimand.

Administrative
separation actions

A senior airman from the 6th Air Refueling Squadron was administratively discharged for minor disciplinary infractions with a general service characterization.

A senior airman from the 60th Logistics Readiness Squadron was administratively discharged for minor disciplinary infractions with a general service characterization.

Week offers array of classes

Dr. Lisa Rich
TRAVIS AIRMAN & FAMILY
READINESS CENTER

Complete list of classes,
PAGE 25

Military Saves Week takes place March 5-11 at Travis Air Force Base, California.

As part of Military Saves Week 2018, Travis is spreading the savings message and urging people to participate in Military Saves Week and take the Military Saves pledge.

"Military Saves Week is a great opportunity to help service members and their families in our community set a goal, make a plan and save automatically," said Col. John

Klein, 60th Air Mobility Wing commander.

The Military Saves proclamation signed Feb. 21, states the importance of personal and household savings, calling it, fundamental to America's stability and vitality.

To help people save more successfully and encourage more people to save, the Airman and Family Readiness Center is partnering with Travis Credit Union, U.S. Securities and Exchange

Commission, Zieders Enterprises and local volunteers to offer military families and Department of Defense civilian employees a variety of classes throughout the week to help people build wealth, not debt.

To register for classes visit www.travisafrc.com. AFRC personnel also will visit base units by appointment and give personal financial readiness classes. For more information and to coordinate classes, call 707-424-2486.

Other events throughout the week include Travis

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Youth Center stamps 'passports'



Courtesy photo

Travis Youth Programs hosted Feb. 23 its annual Passport to Manhood Lock-In for boys ranging from age 9 to 12. Passport to Manhood is one of many Boys and Girls Club of America programs offered as a part of the Open Recreation Program. The program is designed to engage boys in activities that reinforce character, leadership and positive behaviors. The activities throughout the night included an obstacle course, basketball, team-building events, refreshments, movies and a host of other fun activities. For more information about youth programs, visit the Youth Center at 310 Fairchild Drive, Bldg. 7763.

New E-8s announced

Kat Bailey

AIR FORCE'S PERSONNEL CENTER
PUBLIC AFFAIRS



JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas — Air Force officials have selected 1,549 master sergeants for promotion to senior master sergeant out of 13,054 eligible for a selection rate of 11.87 percent.

The senior master sergeant promotion list was released March 1.

A senior master sergeant promotion release party takes place 3 p.m. March 2 at the Delta Breeze Club

Those selected for senior master sergeant will be promoted beginning April 1, according to their promotion sequence number.

For more information about Air Force personnel programs, visit myPers from a CAC-enabled computer. Eligible individuals who do not have a myPers account can request one by following these instructions.

Congratulations to the

Travis master sergeants who were selected for promotion:

- Busch, Nicholas 60 MXS
- Cannon, Matthew 6 ARS
- Compean, Michael 921 CRS
- Ellis, Paul 60 MDTs
- Goulart, Nicholas 660 AMXS
- Harrington, Enden 660 AMXS
- Hewett, Marcus 9 ARS
- James, Gerald 60 OSS
- James-Phillips, Aaron 821 CRG
- Jones, Mark 860 AMXS
- Larsen, Jessica 60 AMW/JA
- Leach, Jovan 60 MDTs
- Machuca Jr., Gilbert 60 SFS
- McKelvey, Cory 60 AMW/CP
- Rodriguez-Regalado, Marivel 60 MXG
- Romero, Tina 60 AMW/IG
- Welling, Mark 860 AMXS
- Westfall, Derek 60 FSS
- Whaley, Rod 660 AMXS
- Wojciuch, Andrew 60 MXS
- Zacher, Ryan 60 FSS.

You Made the Grade program rewards students

Jessica Jones

ARMY & AIR FORCE EXCHANGE
SERVICE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

For 17 years, the Army and Air Force Exchange Service's You Made the Grade program has been a cornerstone of military life.

Now, students who participated in the

program as children are passing it on to another generation of military students and the Exchange is ready to honor their achievements.

In recognition of military students who excel, the Exchange is rewarding high-achieving scholars in first through 12th grades who maintain a B average or better with a coupon book filled with

free offers and discounts.

"The Exchange appreciates the strength and resiliency of all military children," said Phonda Bishop, Travis AFB Exchange facility manager. "To excel academically while dealing with frequent moves, deployments and parents' long working hours is a significant achievement. That's why the Exchange

has rewarded military students for 17 years running with the You Made the Grade program."

The You Made the Grade booklet includes coupons for free food such as a classic 6-inch sub at Subway, bacon double cheeseburger and small fry from

See STUDENTS Page 25



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Dillon Parker

Gour Maker, a trainee at basic military training, receives an Airman's Coin at the coin ceremony Feb. 1 outside the Pflugston Reception Center at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas. Maker was recognized by his wingmen as a selfless leader and motivator during his time at BMT.

Sudanese former captive, Olympian joins Air Force

Airman 1st Class Dillon Parker
502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-LACKLAND, Texas — After enduring countless hardships and overcoming unimaginable obstacles, Airman 1st Class Gour Maker, a dental assistant currently in technical training, found his way out of war-torn South Sudan, Africa and into the U.S. nearly 20 years ago.

Surviving

As one of roughly 20,000 children uprooted by the gruesome Second Sudanese Civil War, Maker's childhood was far from normal.

After losing 28 family members, including eight of his nine siblings, 8-year-old Maker set out on foot from South Sudan to live with his uncle.

"The country I came from was torn apart by war," said

Maker. "It was all I knew growing up, nothing else. I've seen people die in front of me, but I knew no matter what, I had to make it."

During his harrowing journey, Maker was captured and enslaved twice: once by Sudanese soldiers and once by herdsmen.

"When I was captured, I was forced to be a slave laborer," said Maker. "I would wash dishes or do anything else needed to get by. I slept in a small cell and rarely got to eat ... but not always."

Both times, Maker successfully escaped from enslavement and was finally able to join his uncle in Khartoum after three years. However, his journey to safety was far from over.

During a nighttime attack in his uncle's home, Maker sustained serious injuries when

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AMC Airman wins 1st innovation cup

Headquarters Air Mobility Command Public Affairs

ORLANDO, Fla. — An Airman from McConnell Air Force Base took home the top prize in the Air Force's first-ever Spark Tank innovation competition Feb. 22 at the Air Force Association's Air Warfare Symposium in Orlando, Florida.

Master Sgt. Bartek Bachleda, 22nd Air Refueling Wing aircraft boom instructor, won the inaugural Air Force Spark Tank Competition Cup for his KC-135 aircraft boom instructor platform proposal to reengineer the boom operator instructor platform position for the entire KC-135 fleet. He asked the Air Force for \$1.5 million to implement his innovation.

"It's refreshing to see leadership encouraging Airmen to innovate," said Bachleda. "It's really cool."

His winning idea is designed to provide a more stable and ergonomically correct platform for all KC-135 instructor boom operators. The proposed innovation aims to

both reduce back and neck injuries and save the Air Force \$132 million each year in this critical aircrew specialty.

"We were and are destroying Airmen," he said. "We were getting neck and back injuries, and it's been happening since the 1950s."

A panel comprised of Air Force senior leaders including the secretary of the Air Force, chief of staff and industry partners, judged among six innovative finalists.

After Secretary of the Air Force Heather Wilson heard Bachleda's idea though, she gave firm direction to the Air Force's acquisitions lead.

"Before we leave tonight, I want you to talk to this guy, figure out his (System Programs Office) and get this to the Airmen," she said.

AMC, and its Phoenix Spark innovation program, embraced the call for innovation after Wilson kicked off the Spark Tank competition last September. The competition was co-hosted between the Airmen Powered by Innovation Program and the

See CUP Page 25



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

Senior Airman Nicole Meyer, 386th Expeditionary Security Force Squadron military working dog handler, rewards Nido, a Belgian Malinois, after training Feb. 19 at an undisclosed location in Southwest Asia.

Handler learns from student

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

SOUTHWEST ASIA — Moments ago, the joys of playing with a rubber toy were all he could think about; but now his posture has changed.

Senior Airman Nicole Meyer, 386th Expeditionary Security Force Squadron military working dog handler, deployed from Moody Air Force Base, Georgia, waits patiently and

reassures him the training will begin soon.

Nido, a Belgian Malinois, is ready to work.

This is Nido's third deployment, second to his current undisclosed location, and Meyer laughs joyfully describing how he clearly remembers the location.

"Oh, he definitely remembers," she said. "Like the vehicle search pit, it's not always the most exciting thing in the world but he knows what he has

to do and you can tell."

Speaking for Nido in a melancholy tone which sounds smaller and more child-like, Meyer says, "We are going to the pit today, aren't we?"

It is a testament to her bond with Nido, that she can instinctively describe his emotional reaction to the location before they have arrived.

This is Meyer's first deployment as a handler. She graduated from the military working dog technical school approximately a year ago and has worked with dogs for a few months before she found out she was deploying and assigned Nido, a more experienced and confident dog.

Meyer said the differences between a seasoned military working dog and a younger dog is as different as the colors black and white. She compared her first dog Buster to a toddler, young and energetic but new.

"It's pretty much like when you get to your first (station) as an airman first class and you're linked up with a staff sergeant," she said. "That's Nido, and Buster was that airman first class."

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515th AMOW contributes to DOD's success



U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Heather Redman

Maintainers from the 735th Air Mobility Squadron follow a maintenance checklist June 22, 2017, at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii.

Master Sgt. Kristine Dreyer
AIR MOBILITY COMMAND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, Illinois — In today's environment, America's Air Force continues to focus on assuring the delivery of a combination of mission critical capabilities across the globe.

Through Air Mobility Command's en route system, joint forces are able to maintain their competitive edge over potential adversaries no matter when or where they are called.

The Airmen of the 515th Air Mobility Operations Wing provide reach in the Department of Defense's largest area of responsibility, the Indo-Asian-Pacific region.

"Our military forces worldwide depend on Mobility Airmen to provide en route capability, and the 515th AMOW always delivers," Gen. Carlton D. Everhart II, Air Mobility Command commander, said after an operations overview visit earlier this month. "Global Mobility operations ensure America's Air Force is always there guaranteeing the Department of Defense's lethality, versatility, range, and mission success."

The 515th AMOW, headquartered at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, operates two groups - one at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska, and one at Yokota Air Base, Japan, providing fixed and deployed maintenance, aerial port,

and command and control support to AMC forces.

"The en route system is the backbone enabling AMC's global reach," said Col. Scott Zippwald, 515th AMOW commander. "The innovative Airmen postured at our 26 locations across the Pacific guarantee mission execution and readiness across 52 percent of the Earth's surface."

During his visit, Everhart met with the Mobility Airmen at six 515th AMOW squadrons. He gained insight into the units' commitment to readiness, ability to support the movement of cargo, and the ability to ensure logistics throughout the area of responsibility.

See **SUCCESS** Page 19

Warfighter named outstanding security forces civilian of year

Vicki Stein
AIR FORCE INSTALLATION AND MISSION SUPPORT CENTER

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-LACKLAND, Texas — Mark Davis, a member of the Installation Support Directorate Integrated Defense Integration Cell, has been selected as the 2017 Air Force Outstanding Security Forces Higher Headquarters Civilian of the Year.

In announcing the award, AFIMSC Commander Maj. Gen. Brad Spacy said the recognition was "well deserved. This is huge recognition of the

important work Mr. Davis does for our enterprise."

Lt. Col. Robert Shaw, Security Forces Enterprise-Wide Integration Branch chief, was not surprised at Davis' accomplishment.

"Mark is a great asset for our (Protection Services Division) and for AFIMSC," he said. "His years of experience and knowledge are invaluable to building and working within multi-functional teams. His efforts and teamwork have translated to enterprise-wide projects and solutions that impact multiple career

See **WARFIGHTER** Page 20



U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Rusty Frank

Maj. Gen. Kim Crider, Air Force chief data officer, speaks during the Air Force Association Air Warfare Symposium Feb. 23 in Orlando, Fla.

Data is future of force, says general

Staff Sgt. Rusty Frank
SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

ORLANDO, Fla. — Founded in summer 2017, the Chief Data Office remains focused on unleashing the value of data across the Air Force.

The Chief Data Office was established to fill a critical role for the Air Force: to harness data and operationalize it so Airmen everywhere have access to data to make data-driven decisions.

"All of our mission areas rely on data," said Maj. Gen. Kim Crider, Air Force chief data officer. "As the (chief data officer), it's my job to help our enterprise answer questions, solve problems and find

opportunities to leverage our data to deliver on the Secretary of the Air Force and Air Force Chief of Staff priorities."

Crider was announced as chief data officer by CSAF Gen. David L. Goldfein during the Air Force Association Air Warfare Symposium in September 2017. Having served the Air Force in various IT roles for more than 20 years at every major command it was a role Crider fit naturally into.

The Chief Data Office is performing proof of concept use cases that tackle important operational problems, like getting the right amount of Airmen through the development pipeline in time to fill manpower shortages.

See **DATA** Page 19

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48th RQS PJs primed for deployment

Staff Sgt. Chris Drzazgowski
355TH FIGHTER WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

DAVIS-MOTHAN AIR FORCE BASE, Ariz. — A dry and frigid December night hosts no moon in its sky and provides little ambient light as a team of pararescuemen race to their objective area in a convoy of open-cabbed, off-road vehicles.

The intel provided to them states there are several critically injured patients stranded in a collapsed structure. As they approach the rear of the demolished building, they are greeted with a barrage of rapid gun fire from a distant origin.

The pops are immediately followed by a series of near-by thumps, including occasional ear-grazing wishes attributed to dime-sized projectiles. The technical rescue specialists dismount the vehicles and work quickly to clear opposing forces from the area. They paint their targets with infrared lasers, only visible by other members in the team, and then kill off the enemy. The scene is clear, but



U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Chris Drzazgowski

A pararescueman assigned to the 48th Rescue Squadron provides security Jan. 20 during Razor's Edge 2018 at the Northwest Fire District Training Center in Marana, Ariz.

now exists the possibility that too many precious minutes were lost during the fire fight. It's time for the PJs to get to their patients, and then treat and transport them to safety as quickly as possible.

For the past few months, pararescuemen, or PJs, from the 48th Rescue Squadron out of Davis-Monthan Air

Force Base, Arizona, have been gearing up for a deployment in support of Operation Inherent Resolve.

They began with a five day tactical medical course in the pine-wooded environment of Perry, Florida, and then moved on to the culmination of their training at Razor's Edge, a two-week isolated

personnel recovery exercise.

The PJs hold a unique mission in the vast spectrum of combat. They are expected to perform rescue operations in any situation and in any environment, which involves robust and high volumes of training.

See PJS Page 19

21st OWS: Writers of the storm

Senior Airman Devin M. Rumbaugh

86TH AIRLIFT WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany — Planning for operations in the military takes information from multiple sources. Weather is one of the most important factors determining mission safety. Airmen assigned to the 21st Operational Weather Squadron began tracking winter storm Friederike from infancy to a record storm persisting three days in northern Europe Jan. 17-19.

The 21st OWS observes and reports weather patterns for all of U.S. European Command and U.S. Africa Command. At any given time approximately 20 weather technicians are on watch.

"We started looking at this storm around 13 of January," said 2nd Lt. Scott LaVoise, 21st OWS weather operations officer. "As it materialized, we issued the special weather statement giving all areas forecasted to be involved a heads up."

Winter storm Friederike started leaving a path of destruction Jan. 17.

Maj. James Caldwell, 21st OWS operations officer, said the squadron makes sure the forecast is accurate and that it gets to the right people at the right time.

"We're telling a story," said Caldwell. "We try to paint the best picture in the commander's mind and planner's mind about what to anticipate two or three days out. That way they

See WRITERS Page 14

49th MXG conducts Phase II exercise

Staff Sgt. Timothy Young
49TH WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

HOLLOMAN AIR FORCE BASE, N.M. — The 49th Maintenance Group educated more than 200 Airmen during its first Phase II exercise Feb. 22 at Holloman Air Force Base, New Mexico.

The exercise objective was to train and prepare Holloman Airmen for threats including chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear attacks.

This exercise is a first among remotely piloted aircraft bases and the 49th MXG had to reach out for support from other units.

"Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea was chosen as a template because they are the most experienced with such training," said Master Sgt. Danny Smith, 49th MXG self-assessment program manager. "We contacted Osan's quality assurance folks and maintenance group. We asked them to send over their information then we broke that down and created an ability to survive and operate guide that reflects Holloman MXG culture."

After converting the template the exercise planners started finding the necessary subject matter experts.

"We started getting all the

different agencies to help us out," said Smith. "We got with 49th Civil Engineer Squadron since they are the experts in this area and they got us the gear and helped us get everything we needed. We had the 49th Medical Group supply us with Self Aid Buddy Care kits and litters. Of course the 49th Logistics Readiness Squadron was a big help to supply all the CBRN equipment to all of us."

The participating Airmen's training included donning mission oriented protective posture gear, conducting SABC to simulated injuries all while keeping accountability of each other.

"It is outstanding to knock the rust off, while getting valuable training for the younger warriors," said Maj. Andrew Dowd, 49th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron commander.

Participants had the opportunity to decontaminate equipment and conduct post attack reconnaissance sweeps while keeping operations running.

"We are doing this Phase II while we are launching aircraft, while we are doing maintenance," said Smith. "We are the first MQ-9 Reaper base to do a true Phase II so we are setting the precedent for others to follow."



U.S. Air Force photo/Andy Morataya

Comic book illustrator Shawn Martinbrough speaks to Airmen about the power of diversity and inclusion in the comic book industry Feb. 20 at the Pentagon Conference Center. Martinbrough is a former TEDx Mid-Atlantic presenter and an acclaimed author.

Illustrator talks presentation

Col. Eries L.G. Mentzer
NATIONAL DEFENSE FELLOW

Comic book illustrator Shawn Martinbrough met with Pentagon Airmen to speak about the power of

representation Feb. 20.

A native New Yorker, he has illustrated Black Panther, Batman, Luke Cage Noir, Captain America and Hellboy characters for Marvel and Detective Comics.

"You've got to keep your hustle," he said. "You need to continually survey your environment, embrace emerging technologies, learn the business side

See ILLUSTRATOR Page 23

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Airmen finish Antarctica mission

Master Sgt. Catharine Schmidt
109TH AW PUBLIC AFFAIRS

STRATTON AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, N.Y. — Airmen and aircraft with the New York Air National Guard's 109th Airlift Wing have started their journey back home to Scotia, New York, from McMurdo Station, Antarctica, after another successful Operation Deep Freeze season.

During this season – which marks the 30th year the wing has provided support – crews completed 120 missions within Antarctica. They flew an estimated 2,300 researchers and support staff and carried about 2.7 million pounds of cargo and 135,000 gallons of fuel to research stations across the continent.

Operation Deep Freeze, the military component of the U.S. Antarctic Program, is managed by the National Science Foundation. The 109th Airlift Wing operates in Antarctica from October to March, when it is summer at the South Pole.

The unique capabilities of the



U.S. Air National Guard photo/Master Sgt. Catharine Schmidt

Staff Sgt. Latisha Webb, 139th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron crew chief, taxis an LC-130 "Skibird" into the fuel pit on the Williams Field skiway Nov. 6, 2017, at McMurdo Station, Antarctica.

ski-equipped LC-130 aircraft make it the only one of its kind in the U.S. military, able to land on snow and ice.

Col. Michele Kilgore, who took command of the wing in October, took her first trip to the ice earlier this month, and said she was impressed by the job her Airmen do on a regular basis.

"I was able to see first-hand the amazing mission I get to be

a part of now," she said. "The work the Airmen of this wing do makes me proud to be their leader, and to see them doing it in such austere conditions is just astounding."

Col. Alan Ross, the 109th vice commander, who took his last trip to the ice this season as he prepares for retirement in the coming months, said he was still impressed by the job the wing does from October to March.

Writers

From Page 12

take environmental conditions in mind when they plan a mission."

The 21st OWS identifies the importance of a storm based on how widespread the event is, how many installations will be affected, what kind of missions it can potentially impact, and the duration and intensity. Once the Airmen gather weather information and build the forecasts, they notify predetermined planners within each combatant command that could be potentially impacted.

"We can't know every operation that goes on at each and every location, but we want to alert as many people as possible that hazardous weather is going to happen at a specific place and time," said Caldwell.

Caldwell said the 21st OWS operates in a role similar to the national weather service and storm prediction center for the forces in Europe.

LaVoise said that during winter storm Friederike, the Airmen were also keeping track of several lightning storms in the area.

"It was pretty hectic," said LaVoise. "There were a lot of weather alerts we issued, a total of 38 wind watches and 58 warnings over the course of three days, which is a significant amount."

Caldwell said that being able to issue a special weather statement between 48 and 72 hours before the event, is a good hit. The statement for storm Friederike was put out 60 hours before the first impacts were felt in Europe and actual weather events played out as initially forecasted.

As a result, Caldwell said, approximately 4,000 troops involved in a multi-national exercise who were in the path of the storm were moved to safety.

"We like to harmonize everyone's talent in this unit, whether it's our training team or the systems folks who provide our connectivity to the outside world," said Caldwell. "Everyone teamed up on this one. It was up to the operational flights to keep the narrative going. Typically, when our 'weather story' needs to change, then it is up to that flight to give us a detailed update. That didn't have to happen because everyone was in sync."

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1) Chaplain (Maj. Gen.) Dondi E. Costin, Headquarters U.S. Air Force chief of chaplains, receives a briefing Feb. 23 during a tour of the 621st Contingency Response Wing, at Travis Air Force Base, Calif. Costin, center, spent two days touring Travis, visiting several units and meeting with Airmen.

2) Costin gives a presentation at an all-call during his tour of Travis.

3) Costin checks out a pair of night-vision goggles during a tour of the 621st CRW, Feb. 23 at Travis Air Force Base, Calif.

U.S. Air Force photos by Louis Briscese



Costin speaks about spirituality, resilience



2
Airman 1st Class Jonathon D. A. Carnell
60TH AIR MOBILITY WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

“There is nothing that we can’t do when we put our minds to it,” said Chaplain (Maj. Gen.) Dondi E. Costin, U.S. Air Force chief of chaplains. “There is no difficulty you can give us, there is no challenge you can put before us, there is nothing that you could have us face that we’re not going to succeed at because our mindset has no bounds.”

On Feb. 21, Costin came to Travis Air Force Base, California, for a three-day visit where his priority was to speak with Airmen of all ranks to discuss comprehensive airman fitness, spirituality and faith works.

The purpose of faith works is to develop spiritually fit Airmen to fly, fight and win. Research by Tyler J. VanderWeele, Harvard epidemiology professor, demonstrates the role spirituality and religion can play in improving health in every domain of CAF thus increasing Airmen readiness.

“Faith works is a platform and a means for the chaplain corps members and others to look at the data which connects spirituality, religion and how they relate to health,” said Costin. “What the researchers have found is that the connection of these are very clear. From a public health perspective and from the researchers, people who are devoted in their faith live happier and healthier.”

Costin opened an all-call with a few questions for the Airmen in the room.

“We all have to start by answering some major questions of life, which I define as the crux of spiritual fitness: Who am I? Why am I here? What is my purpose in life? What happens after I die?” said Costin. “These are questions to ask yourself thoroughly to obtain complete CAF.”

CAF’s goal is to build and sustain a thriving and resilient Air Force community that fosters mental, physical, social and spiritual fitness.



4
Chaplain (Maj. Gen.) Dondi E. Costin, Chief of Chaplains, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, waves to surgeons during his Feb. 22 tour of David Grant USAF Medical Center at Travis Air Force Base, Calif.

“The ways in which spiritual fitness can be exercised will most likely be different than someone else’s way,” said Costin. “For many, spiritual fitness is their religion and is a key component to exercise their spiritual fitness.”

Many Airmen are performing at higher levels than ever, said Costin.

“When we have so much work to do and not so many people to do it, we want to protect the Airmen who practice the religion of their choice,” said Costin. “Airmen can have religion or no religion. We want to accommodate whatever religious needs there are to make sure we get out there and maintain readiness to fly, fight and win.”

Costin provided all-calls to Travis AFB Airmen of various

ranks and invited all base Airmen to the base theater for participation in his all-call.

“We rapidly project American power anytime, anywhere,” said Costin. “You do it every day and even at times you aren’t aware of it. You remain resilient and do this because you focus on Airmen, your team, pride and readiness.”

While visiting different U.S. Air Force bases, Costin plans to further faith works.

During Costin’s mission here, more Airmen at Travis now have some questions which they can work on. Costin discussed how it’s not the name, but what you put into that name that matters.

“We are all a part of the world’s greatest Air Force,” said Costin. “Remain resilient and keep putting service before self.”

Swap Ads

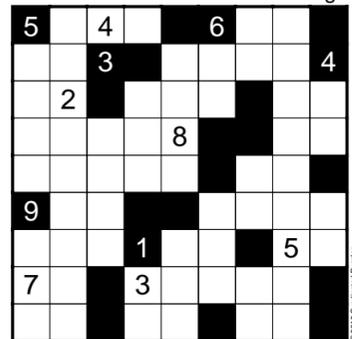
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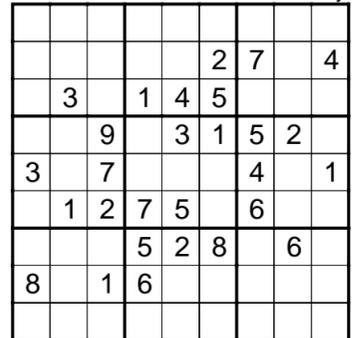


How to beat **Str8ts** – Like Sudoku, no single number can repeat in any row or column. But... rows and columns are divided by black squares into **compartments**. These need to be filled in with numbers that complete a 'straight'. A **straight** is a set of numbers with no gaps but can be in any order, 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.

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

SUDOKU

No. 375 Easy



Previous solution - Very Hard



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

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

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

The solutions will be published here in the next issue.

Retiree Corner

Telehealth improvements boost access to care

FALLS CHURCH, Va. — The Air Force offers a wide and expanding range of telehealth services, giving patients the opportunity to receive more efficient, convenient and patient-centered care.

Telehealth includes everything from mobile and

electronic access to personal health information, to virtual appointments and enterprise imaging. These enhance every aspect of the patient experience, giving patients more information to make choices about their health.

For more information on TOL Patient Portal Secure Messaging, visit <http://bit.ly/2ovBie5>.

— Health.mil

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.

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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 tiffany.stevenson@us.af.mil to receive a packet.

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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 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,

In the next week ...

fri St. Patty's Day First Friday / Senior Master Sergeant Promotion Release Party. 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.

tue 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.

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.

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

Chapel programs

Lenten and Holy Week events

Stations of the Cross/Soup Supper. 6 p.m. March 1, 8, 15 and 22 at Twin Peaks Chapel.
Holy Thursday Mass. 6 p.m. March 29 at Twin Peaks Chapel.
Good Friday service. 6 p.m. March 30 at Twin Peaks Chapel.
Holy Saturday Vigil Mass. 8 p.m. March 31 at Twin Peaks Chapel.
Easter Sunday Mass. 9 a.m. and noon April 1 at Twin Peaks Chapel.

Recurring events

Catholic Twin Peaks Chapel

- Roman Catholic Mass: 9 a.m. and noon Sunday.
- Children's Church: 10:15 a.m. Sunday.
- Sacrament of Reconciliation/Confession:

4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Wednesday or upon appointment.

- Infant Baptism Prep Class: Two classes. Registration required. 6 to 7 p.m., quarterly.
- Youth Choir: 1 p.m. Sunday.
- Children's Choir: 2 p.m. Sunday.
- Adult Choir: 4 p.m. Sunday.
- Women's Bible Study: 10 a.m. (at First Street Chapel).
- Catholic Women of the Chapel: 6 p.m. first Monday of every month, Annex.
- Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults: 6 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Annex.
- RE Classes: 10:15 to 11:30 a.m. Sunday, RE Wing.

First Street Chapel

- Mom's Group: 9 to 11:30 a.m. Thursday and Friday.

DGMC Chapel

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

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

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

DGMC Chapel

- Latter-day Saints Service: 4 to 4:30 p.m. Sunday at DGMC Medical Center Chapel.
- For all other enquires, call LDS Military relations representatives at 707-535-6979

Protestant

First Street Chapel

- Protestant Community Service: 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Sunday.
- Gospel Worship Service: 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Sunday.
- Children's Ministry is provided for 6-month-olds through fifth grade.
- Protestant Men of the Chapel: 8 to 9 a.m., first Saturday of every month.

Twin Peaks Chapel

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

DGMC Chapel

- Protestant Traditional Service: 10 to 11 a.m. 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.

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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. Angel Nichols or Tech. Sgt. Rebecca Linden de Romero.

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

Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Group.

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

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

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



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

Today

- 6:30 p.m. "The Post" (PG-13)
- 9 p.m. "Phantom Thread" (R)

Saturday

- 6:30 p.m. "Winchester" (PG-13)
- 9 p.m. "Proud Mary" (R)

Sunday

- 2 p.m. "Forever My Girl" (PG)

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/1yNIBwV>.

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 travspocombatpsts@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://pfpform.state.gov> and/or <https://travel.state.gov>. For more information, call 707-424-5324.

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

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

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

Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday. For more information, call 707-557-4646.

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

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

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

Motorcycle licensing and training.

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

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/2mR1gJ2>. 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.

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

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

60th Air Mobility Wing Information Protection Office. All requests are done on Thursdays and by appointment only. Schedule an appointment by calling 707-424-3114 or by emailing 60amw.ip@us.af.mil. Fingerprinting is only for federal employment and for agencies

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with a valid support agreement. For emergencies, call 707-424-3114.

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

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

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

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

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

retiree legal assistance, call 707-424-3251 to make an appointment.

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

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

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

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

What's Cookin' Wednesday. Free lunch at the Travis AFB USO Bldg. 1348. Served from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. every Wednesday. For active duty, Guard, reservist and their families.

Local events

Events

Ghost Walk. 8 p.m. Friday, leaves from Virgil's Bait Shop, 201 Main St., Suisun City; 8 p.m. Saturday, leaves from the Lawler House, 718 Main St., Suisun City. www.suisunwaterfront.com.

The Hub. Poetry by the Bay open mic, 6:30 p.m. second and fourth Thursdays, 350 Georgia St., Vallejo. www.thehubvallejo.com.

PJs

From Page 12

“Your training should always be harder than real-world operations,” said Capt. Caleb, 48th RQS combat rescue officer. “You want your team to be able to solve any problem they see because they’ve gone as far to the extreme as they can be taken in training.”

This is a philosophy the PJs have embodied since the beginning of their careers as rescue specialists.

“We used the training in Florida as a foundation course for Razor’s Edge,” said Staff Sgt. Ty, 48th RQS pararescue man. “So it was heavy with medical training and also heavy on trying to develop standard operating procedures.”

Both the medical course and Razor’s Edge involved a variety of full-mission profiles for the team to acclimate to the cycle of planning, executing and debriefing. PJs would receive a mission drop from intelligence personnel, then plan and begin execution within one hour of the intel brief. The missions all involved isolated personnel recovery which required clearing the area of opposing forces with the use of non-lethal training ammunition, and then stabilizing and transporting the simulated patients to a mock hospital for medical treatment.

“The training in Florida allowed these guys to take a step back and have a chance to refine their medical skills, and not focus so much on the big tasks like jumping, diving, and flying in helicopters,” Caleb said. “It was

meant to get them to remember the bread and butter of the career field – supporting and saving lives.”

For PJs to be successful in their craft, realism is paramount during training. In order to achieve the most realistic and valuable medical training, cadavers were utilized during both courses.

“You can’t get any more realistic than cadavers,” said Senior Airman Matt, 48th RQS pararescue man. “They are extremely valuable because you’re able to see how certain procedures are supposed to be carried out on human anatomy. It’s also good for the medic to see the injuries on the cadavers, because when the time comes to treat a real live patient, he won’t be surprised or taken aback because he’s already seen those injuries in training.”

To add to the realism and make problems increasingly difficult to solve, sleep deprivation was added to the mix. In Florida, the PJs sustained a near 24-hour rotation of operations. Then to cap off Razor’s Edge, they kicked it up to 56 hours.

“You get to learn quite a bit about yourself after 50 hours of not sleeping,” Ty said. “Everybody starts to change one way or another, good or bad. You have a moment of self-reflection to realize that when you start getting sleep deprived, you’re going to react a certain way. So I need to be ready to stay ahead of the curve to make sure the team gets taken care of.”

The PJs had to practice appropriate risk management to avoid letting lack of rest be a

hindering factor in their performance.

“I knew everyone was getting sleep deprived when we became more aware of each other’s condition,” Matt said. “We did more safety checks – if we were doing a rappel or extrication, we took that extra minute because we realized that we haven’t been sleeping for 40 plus hours. So we made sure not to mess each other up and possibly gain a new patient just because we’re sleep deprived. We took less risks to stay healthy and safe together as a team.”

To maintain their unity as a team, each individual needed to learn what kept them motivated and ready for the next mission.

“For me, I just focused on the next task at hand,” Ty said. “Making sure everyone is fully prepared, whether it was checking that weapons are cleaned, ammo re-jammed, our equipment is prepped, ready to go and staged. Once all that was done, it was just trying to give guys as much time off as possible, so that everyone could have a little bit of time apart from each other. Because when you spend that much time in a group, guys are going to get on each other’s nerves. So making sure they had a few moments to themselves to decompress was really important.”

During Razor’s Edge, the PJs also had the opportunity to work together in tasks with approximately 30 joint operators from the Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command, Naval Special Warfare Command, U.S. Army Special Forces and the Border Patrol Tactical Unit.

Success

From Page 10

“Logistics enables success in times of peace, need, and wins our nation’s wars,” said Everhart. “The Airmen I visited embody the innovation, determination, and expertise to deliver uninterrupted and unrivaled mission capability to our joint force and mission partners.”

Every unit in the AMOW is a tenant unit of a larger host wing at their installation. This requires strong relationships with their host in order to ensure mission

success. Everhart met with host wing, numbered Air Force and Pacific Air Forces leadership to discuss operations.

“Mission success relies on strong partnerships and teamwork,” said Everhart. “The 515th AMOW mission is critically important and is fundamental to ensure delivery of the right effects at the right time. I am convinced we have a mission ready and fully committed total force team across the Pacific that understands the importance of what they bring. Our mobility professionals deliver for our nation.”

Data

From Page 11

“We look at every aspect of a problem, identify the possible data sets and access, condition and correlate data to support analytics to derive options for improvement,” she continued. “Those lessons are in turn informing our Air Force Data Strategy and an Enterprise Information Model which will be a resource for our Airmen to leverage data across the Air Force to make data-driven decisions.”

The Chief Data Office wants to continue searching for innovative ways to unleash the power of the service’s data. Crider said her team’s core priorities of finding the data, making it accessible, understanding it, linking it, making it trustworthy and

“Data is the future of our force.”

— Maj. Gen. Kim Crider

providing an environment to access it will set the foundation for the Air Force’s ability to be innovative and figure out how to optimize its performance as a service.

“Data is the future of our force,” Crider said. “Being part of the CDO (Chief Data Office) team is an exciting venture ... unlocking and unleashing the power of our data is going to keep the Air Force at the forefront of technological advancement. We must take advantage of today’s technology so we can learn faster than our adversaries and ensure the maximum effectiveness of our force.”

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Warfighter

From Page 10

fields, installations and (major commands) and help keep the Air Force and its Airmen flying high.”

Davis is part of a think-tank initiative that takes problems and analyzes data to provide courses of action in innovative ways. Integrated defense is the integration of multidisciplinary active and passive, offensive and defensive capabilities, employed

to mitigate potential risks and defeat adversary threats to Air Force operations.

Over the past year, he has been a key member of a collaborative team that helped develop AFIMSC's Rescue Task Force Initiative, incorporating four career fields – fire, EOD, emergency management and security forces – into an enterprise-wide program for fiscal year 2018. The initiative proposed new policy and guidance that brings medics, fire and rescue into an active incident area

along with security forces as first responders to handle incidents such as Active Shooter.

Davis also helped conceptualize a solution to determine the scope of security projects not getting resolved through the current Air Force processes. He led a team that looked at the scope of the problem, performed a data call that identified nearly 1,000 projects costing an estimated \$2 billion. His team's solution yielded the first ever Air Force-wide roll-up of installation risk assessment data,

allowing AFIMSC to advocate for limited resources and help prioritize requested projects.

Last summer, he spearheaded an Air Force anti-terrorism data call to assess requirements across the enterprise. He collected data, analyzed it and reported 151 projects across 81 bases. The data call allowed AFIMSC to be poised to execute the first-ever enterprise-wide prioritization of security projects for Air Force installations.

Davis also devoted hundreds of hours to public service for

his community as Chairman of the Schertz City Council's Main Street Working Group, working to develop improvements in the city's original downtown district. In addition he participated in Schertz's "Love Where You Live" clean-up project to help revitalize older historic city neighborhoods.

He's a retired chief master sergeant with 30 years of active duty service and has been an Air Force civilian for the past nine years. He began working at HQ AFIMSC in the summer of 2015.

Handler

From Page 8

Meyer says Nido doesn't require as much hands-on instruction which has helped her overcome self-doubt, allowing her to build trust in her furry companion.

"When I first picked him up, I doubted myself a lot. I thought I had to intervene when I didn't have to and presented things to him I didn't have to," she said. "The handler that previously

had him (said) just watch him, so I gave him the leash and he did it on his own."

She said she would hover over top of him, like a helicopter parent. She would direct him to objects that either didn't require being searched or that Nido hadn't indicated as an object of interest.

"He's taught me to trust him and let him do his thing, read him and if he needs help he will let me know he needs help," Meyer said.

She learned to be patient

with him and stay calm, which built a bond allowing him to communicate to her. She speaks about this bond with reverence, indicating that it may be an experience only understood by other military working dog handlers.

"I just learned it travels down leash," she said about how her emotions can affect how the dog performs. "He teaches me, 'hey don't get stressed, relax, be cool,' because the stress will travel down the leash. If it travels down the leash it will go to

him and he's like 'what are you doing, calm down.'"

The bond between Meyer and Nido is obvious to those who are looking. He's constantly focused on a need for gratification, that can only be provided by his master.

The special way she ruffs up his fur.

The high pitch and cadence change in her voice when she's praising him from afar.

The calm and subtle way she says yes, giving him permission to take his reward.

There is pride in her voice and a twinkle in her eye as she speaks about her friend.

"Nido, he's a cuddler, he's sweet, he loves attention, he loves to please his handler and it's cool how he flips that switch from protection to patrol," she said.

"Yes they are (security) tools, but they are dogs and as a dog they have needs," Meyer said. "They need to breathe and eat, but they also need to be comforted, they need attention, they need love."

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Email: stpaulbfairfield@comcast.net
Church Phone: 707-422-2003

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Illustrator

From Page 13

of their industry, and reinvent yourself to remain relevant.”

Martinbrough said diversity was not deliberately excluded in the comic book industry. The comics were developed through the lens of illustrators in an industry lacking diversity. As a black illustrator in high demand, he said that creating images representative of his race is empowering.

“Shawn’s experience resonated with me because I am usually the only cyber female and African American in the room, and as I grow in rank, it is even more pronounced,” said Maj. Dee Randolph, Cyber and Space Strategy Branch chief. “As a minority you need to have tenacity, so you can be eventually recognized for the abilities you bring to the table. You too can be the first if it hasn’t been done.”

Martinbrough elevated black comic characters from sidekicks and villains to leading characters and heroes. When he illustrated Luke Cage, he altered Luke Cage’s image from a street image to a more professional representation with a classic suit and a fedora to show a strong superhero.

“As a parent, it is my job to reduce my children’s exposure to racial stereotypes. I do not want them to be influenced by negative perceptions,” said Maj. Chris Owens, Air Force Reserve Policy Integration chief of Congressional Inquiries. “It’s important to constantly ensure that diversity is represented because it helps people who are not familiar with other cultures to be more informed.”

Martinbrough was commissioned to illustrate a book without any specifics about the characters from the author, so he drew the lead female character to represent the strong black female role models in his life. The response from his editor, “Oh, she is black now. Cool.”

The lack of diversity and inclusion in his childhood comics inspired him to illustrate the representation he desired. “You just need to illustrate your story through your lens,” said Martinbrough.

Hodgman

From Page 4

For 15, years I’ve served in the United States Air Force with assignments in California, Nebraska, Europe and Asia. One of the most difficult aspects of my career has been overcoming the challenges of deployment.

My last deployment came in September 2015. I remember hugging my wife before walking out the door, one day before our son’s third birthday. I would miss much more on that deployment including Thanksgiving, Christmas, our daughter’s eighth birthday and our 11th wedding anniversary.

While my wife and children celebrated those special days, I was more than 7,000 miles away. Being away from your loved ones is incredibly challenging. As a father, I want to be there to help my children with their homework, hug them before they go to bed and be there as they achieve every milestone. As a husband, I want to hold my wife after a hard day, gaze into her dark brown eyes and get lost in her smile.

On my first deployment in 2006, the primary means of communication I used to keep in touch with my family were phone calls, email and letters. Thanks to advancements in technology nearly 10 years

later, I was able to use services like Skype and FaceTime to video chat with my beautiful wife and children.

Shortly after arriving at Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar, I wrote the time difference between Qatar and California on a piece of paper and hung that paper on my wall. I developed a schedule with the best days and times for my family and me to communicate. This often meant calling them before they left for school in the morning or late at night before they went to bed.

While nothing can replace the feeling of actually being with your wife and children, witnessing their smiles up close and enjoying their presence, technology enabled me to be as close to them as possible. That technology also helped me comfort my children when they grew lonely, stressed or upset.

Any time my daughter or son became upset because they missed me, I created a silly video with my iPhone and sent it to them.

One time, before having breakfast with a four-star general, I created one of those videos. I needed help figuring out what cereal I should eat. Who better to ask than my little girl?

“Hey Amani, it’s breakfast time and I have too many options here and I need your help,” I said. “What cereal should I eat? Applejacks?”

“I encourage every service member to find their own unique way to stay close to their loved ones during that difficult time and technology can help.”

Frosted Flakes? Cheerios?”

She later told me after viewing the video that she chose Applejacks. I never told her I went with what I thought was the healthier option, Cheerios. The video made her smile and maybe for a moment, forget about how much she missed me.

I continued making videos throughout my deployment. I made videos after working out, a couple showcasing how I was mailing my children letters and even one while riding the shuttle bus on my way to work.

The videos were just one way my family and I were able to stay connected during our slightly more than six-month separation. We also took advantage of phone calls, emails, letters and social media to stay in touch.

I’m so thankful for this technology because my family is the most important thing to me in the whole world. I have to be able to speak to them, hear about their day, learn about their challenges and share my own. Technology made that possible. That same technology helped me stay focused on

whatever I had to do for the mission because I knew my family was OK.

At some point in almost everyone’s military career, they will be called upon to leave their family, travel to some far-off land and perform the mission they’ve been trained to do. I encourage every service member to find their own unique way to stay close to their loved ones during that difficult time and technology can help.

You can use video chat services like I did to read your child’s favorite bedtime story, share how your day was and hear all about the great things your family is doing at home. You can take advantage of instant messaging services and texting over WiFi to send and receive messages in real time.

And you can still take a pen, a piece of paper, write a heartfelt letter and mail it to your family. Watching the joy that covers their faces later on a video chat is priceless.

Technology enabled me to do so many things to ease the burden of deployment and it could do the same for you.

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Array

From Page 5

Credit Union hosting children from the base's Child Development Center for free financial education story time sessions on March 5 and a KUIC Ultimate Coffee Break kick-off event at 10 a.m. March 6. Also, the AFRC invites children to enter the Piggy Bank Pageant contest for chance to win \$50 to jump start their savings and for individuals to stop by the AFRC Military Saves Information Table at the Delta Breeze First Friday event and at the Fitness Center on March 5, 8 and 9 to take the pledge and enter to win \$1,000 in the America Saves #ImSavingFor Video and Photo Contest.

Military Saves Week is coordinated by America Saves and the Consumer Federation of America in partnership with

Class schedule

- Introduction to Investing in the Stock Market at 11:30 a.m. Feb. 28.
- Investments and Retirement Planning 2.0 at 4 p.m. Feb. 28.
- Basics of Personal Finance at 11:30 a.m. March 5.
- Introduction to Saving & Investing at 11 a.m. March 5.
- Investment Products, Risks & Fees at 1:30 p.m. March 5.
- Debt Reduction with Power Pay at 3 p.m. March 5-7.
- Blended Retirement System at 4:30 p.m. Mar 5 - 8 and 11:45 a.m. March 10-11.
- Psychology of Spending at 11:30 a.m. March 6.
- Funding Your Child's College Education at 9 a.m. March 6.
- Military Service to College Education~Navigating your GI Bill Education Benefits at 9 a.m. March 7.
- Investing Fundamentals at 9 a.m. March 7.
- Path to Financial Success at 11:30 a.m. March 7.
- Retire on Track at 5:30 p.m. March 7.
- Home Buying, Foreclosure Avoidance at 9 a.m. March 8.
- Auto Buying & Financing at 11:30 a.m. March 8.
- Introduction to Retirement Planning with TSP at 1 p.m. March 8.
- Credit Card Makeover ~ Getting Out of Debt at 9 a.m. March 9.
- Credit Report Retrieval and Review at 9 a.m. March 10-11.

the Department of Defense. The Week is an annual opportunity for organizations to

promote good savings behavior and a chance for individuals to assess their own saving status.

Students

From Page 7

Burger King, a small chicken Philly sandwich at Charleys, Burrito Supreme or Taco Supreme from Taco Bell and a Chicken Po'Boy at Popeyes.

Students who made the grade will also score Snack Avenue coupons for a free fountain drink, including the Yeti frozen carbonated beverage; a complimentary hot dog, Tornado or Rollerbite and a free 14-ounce Crystal Cool Cow milk or chocolate milk. Other offers include 10 percent off

any pair of footwear and \$5 off any one piece of Under Armour apparel. Offers are valid through July 31.

The booklet also includes an entry form for the You Made the Grade semiannual sweepstakes. Students can enter to win Exchange gift cards worth \$2,000, \$1,500 or \$500. Entries can be submitted twice per year, with drawings typically held in June and December. The most recent sweepstakes winners were from Fort Gordon, Ga., Fort Lee, Va., and Fort Belvoir, Va.

Students, including those who are home schooled, can receive a You Made the Grade

coupon booklet by presenting a valid military ID and proof of an overall B average at the Travis AFB Exchange customer service area. Eligible participants can pick up one booklet for each qualifying report card.

Students and guardians can contact the Travis AFB Exchange at 707-437-4633 for more information about the Exchange's You Made the Grade program.

Students can send You Made the Grade sweepstakes entry forms, which are included in the coupon booklets, to You Made the Grade, PO Box 227398, Dallas, TX 75222-7398.

Cup

From Page 8

newly-announced AFwerX Innovation Ecosystem, and was conducted in a multi-step approach starting with participants submitting their ideas through their major commands. AMC was the only command with two innovations selected for presentation to Air Force and industry leadership in Orlando.

"Innovation is central to our Air Force's ability to apply airpower," said Gen. Carlton D.

Everhart II, AMC commander. "At a time when we are challenged with resource constraints, with no rest from our

adversaries, we need to find more effective ways to continue as the world's most dominant Air Force."

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Louisiana

From Page 4

before," said Staff Sgt. Thomas Brandenburg, 621st CRW airfield manager.

According to Capt. Peter Callo, 621st CRG office of group training officer, survivability in a CBRNE environment was the focus of the training.

"At a moment's notice we are worldwide deployable," Callo said. "We have to be able to operate in any environment, from humanitarian relief to a war environment."

According to Ott, there are benefits to bringing Airmen from Travis Air Force Base, California, and Joint

Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey, intermixed and operating as one team.

"It's an amazing opportunity just to bring those folks together and learn each other's strengths and weaknesses and just operate together in a different way than you might back at home station," Ott said.

The 621 CRW is highly-specialized in training and rapidly deploying personnel to quickly open airfields and establish, expand, sustain, and coordinate air mobility operations. From wartime tasks to disaster relief, the 621st extends Air Mobility Command's reach deploying people and equipment around the globe.

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Olympian

From Page 7

he was beaten unconscious by a soldier who smashed his jaw with a rifle.

"My mouth was shut for two months and I could only consume liquids because my jaw was broken," he said. "We fled to Egypt after that and the United Nations treated my injuries."

After two years of filling out paperwork at U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services in Egypt, Maker and his uncle's family were finally granted permission to enter the United States.

"I was very excited to come to the U.S.," said Maker. "Looking back at everything my family and I endured, it is a miracle that we made it out of there."

Dreaming

When Maker first arrived in the U.S. in 2001, he settled in Concord, New Hampshire. Not only did he want to survive, but he wanted to thrive.

"I wanted to change my life, help my parents back in South Sudan and give my future children a better childhood than the one I had," he said. "And the only way to do that was through education and determination."

Maker started with the basics and began learning English by watching children's cartoons and spending plenty of

time with other high school kids just listening to their conversations and absorbing all that he could.

"Within a short amount of time, I was able to communicate effectively with other students and teachers, order food, and really get by on my own," Maker said.

While learning English was a crucial step on his personal journey, Maker's high school career really took off when one of his teachers introduced him to running.

"Running was always just natural and easy for me," said Maker. "It was a great high school experience and it helped me meet a lot of friends, build confidence and it was genuinely fun."

After winning the National High School indoor 2-mile title, Maker received a scholarship to compete at Iowa State University, where he allowed himself to dream of things that had never been done before.

"When I got to college in 2005, I remember hanging a piece of paper on my wall that said I was going to run in the Olympics in 2012 for South Sudan," said Maker. "I thought 'Why not me? Why can't I do it?'"

Maker graduated with a bachelor's degree in chemistry and reached All-America status as a student athlete, ready to start his new life. Maker



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Dillon

Gour Maker, a trainee at basic military training, completes the 1.5 mile run portion of the Air Force physical fitness test Jan. 30 at the 324th Training Squadron's physical training pad at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas.

planned to head to Flagstaff, Arizona, to train for the 2012 Olympics.

The same day he left for Arizona in 2011 was the day South Sudan officially gained its independence.

Following his year of training, Maker qualified to run the marathon in the 2012 Olympics in London.

Even though South Sudan officially gained its independence, the country was not yet a member of the International Olympic Committee and Maker was still not an official U.S. citizen.

"State senators from New Hampshire and Arizona presented my case to the Senate in Washington D.C. so the International Olympic Committee allowed me to run in the Olympics without a country," said Maker.

Even though his dream of running for South Sudan had not yet come true, Maker accomplished a great deal as an unaffiliated Olympian.

"All of the people in South Sudan knew where I was from," said Maker. "I wanted to be the inspiration for the children to say, 'Hey, if Maker can do it, you know what, I can do it too.'"

After the 2012 Olympics, Maker was undeterred and set a new goal for himself and his country.

"I said to myself, 'In 2016, I'm going to bring South Sudan to the Olympics for the first time,'" said Maker. "I wanted to try to do more for my country and the 2012 Olympics only strengthened my conviction to accomplish my goal."

This time around Maker's dream became a reality in Rio de Janeiro 2016 when he became one of three athletes to be

the first to represent South Sudan in an Olympic games, as well as South Sudan's flag bearer for the opening ceremony.

"Walking into that stadium, carrying the South Sudan flag was just indescribable," said Maker. "The people of South Sudan were in my mind the whole time I was running into the stadium with that flag and it meant so much to me."

For Maker, the 2016 Olympics were an enormous accomplishment that went far beyond his 82nd overall finish.

"I couldn't have accomplished any of it without all the support I received from my family and the opportunity the United States gave me. It's the highlight of my athletic career so far and a moment I'll treasure forever."

Serving

The next chapter in Maker's life began when he decided to join the U.S. Air Force to serve the country that gave him so many opportunities.

"All of the things I've accomplished have derived from the opportunities the U.S. has afforded me," said Maker. "When I first came to America, I didn't have hardly anything, but with the support and opportunity this country has given me, I've been able to completely change my life."

The staff at basic military training had no idea who Maker was, but he quickly stood out to leadership at the 324th Training Squadron.

"I went out to the track and saw the instructors were putting their attention on one trainee in particular," said Maj. John Lippolis, director of operations for the 324th TRS. "I could see him running noticeably faster than everyone else and the instructors explained to me that we had a two-time Olympian at BMT."

In addition to Maker's Olympian status, his unique personal story also stood out to Lippolis.

"I was just absolutely floored when I talked to him about what he went through to get to where he is today," said Lippolis. "Not only did he survive, he wanted to better himself and he has accomplished so much. He has an amazing story and the drive he has displayed to succeed like that in the face of such adversity is truly inspiring."

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HOME • BUSINESS • SERVICES DIRECTORY

Vanoss

From Page 2

through the darkness should they encounter it. Your job is to help them slay their dragons and compassionate leadership allows you to do just that.

9. Offer and invite feedback. Your Airmen cannot get better if you are not giving them open and candid feedback while requesting the same in return. For those being led, you must offer feedback in return. The end goal is we are all better, but if we

are only coaching one player on the team, we are destined for failure.

10. Stand ready to take that 2 a.m. phone call. Someone's life may depend on you answering. Be ready to travel to the ends of the Earth to help your fellow service members. Your position as a leader, a friend and a wingman demands nothing less.

Again, while this list is not all inclusive, my hope is you glean something from it that will help motivate you into being the leader our Air Force needs. I know I am leaving it in great hands.



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

Duane Thompson, director of operations for a Tustin, California-based crisis intervention training company, gives critique to Tech Sgt. Paul Cruz, flight chief, and Senior Airman Joshua Hill, patrolman, with the 60th Security Forces Squadron, during a practical suicide prevention exercise Feb. 26 at Travis Air Force Base, Calif.

Intervention

From Page 3

Grant USAF Medical Center and the Chaplain Corps.

While the programs currently in place to help Airmen through troubling times are effective, they don't replace the feeling of solidarity that can accompany a simple text or phone call, said Senior Airman David Set, 60th SFS patrolman

"When people first come to this base, they don't know anyone," said Set. "Those Airmen who don't know anyone, text them, call them, involve them. When they go home, it's easy to just stay there, and that can be dangerous to someone who is going through a bad time or who really shouldn't be isolated. No matter where we find ourselves



Andrew Payne, Army veteran and volunteer, acts as a potential suicide victim during de-escalation training with Senior Airman Joshua Hill, patrolman, and Tech Sgt. Paul Cruz, flight chief, both with the 60th Security Forces Squadron, Feb. 26 at Travis Air Force Base, Calif.

in work or in life, it should be a priority to look out for one another and help them in whatever way we can."

Young hopes that what the defenders learned in his class takes hold in their future

engagements with suspects and that when it comes to being ready, they won't have to think about it.

"We can all spend our days here planning and talking and dumping a bunch of words into a bunch of people's brains, but unless you think on those words and internalize them, that's all they're going to stay: just words," said Young. "It's the practice of the method that turns an 'Oh, give me a second while I remember what I learned in training' moment into a knee-jerk reaction; fast and streamlined. That's the difference between acting ready and being ready."

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U.S. Air Force photo/Heide Couch

KC-10 Extenders parked on the ramp Feb. 26 at Travis Air Force Base. The aircraft were part of a weeklong base wide readiness exercise which evaluated the base's readiness and ability to execute and sustain rapid global mobility around the world.

Exercise sharpens Travis' skills across SPECTRUM

2) An Airman assigned to the 60th Air Mobility Wing proceed through a mobility processing line Feb. 26 at Travis Air Force Base, Calif. The Airmen were participating in a week-long base wide readiness exercise, which evaluates the base's readiness and ability to execute and sustain rapid global mobility around the world. 3) An Airman assigned to the 621st Contingency Response Wing, proceed through a mobility processing line Feb. 26 at Travis.



U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Amber Carter

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Additional classes will be offered by TAFB Airmen & Family Readiness Center please call (707) 424-2486 for more information or A&FRC website.



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