



CRW keeps exercises fully ...
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PAGES 16-17



Devil Raiders weather storm for country

What a strange winter this has been. In January, Chief Master Sgt. Philip Hudson and I travelled to California to help host Gen. Carlton Everhart's visit to Travis Air Force Base, California.

As you'll recall, in the middle of the visit, a large storm blew through base, knocking out power to most of the base and uprooting several large trees.

Shortly thereafter, Punxsutawney Phil saw his shadow and promised us six more weeks of winter. Though we received about 4 inches of snow at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey, in mid-February, we have enjoyed



Commentary by Col. Charles Henderson

621ST CONTINGENCY RESPONSE WING COMMANDER

70-plus degree weather on a few occasions since. While that may seem normal for Northern California, I can assure you it is not for New Jersey this time of year. During our last week at Travis, nice weather prevailed but the flooding threat at the Oroville Dam dominated the news, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency arrived to stage for disaster response. Since our departure from

California, the rain has returned with full force. Uncertainty has certainly characterized this season.

In the midst of this uncertainty, 621st CRW Devil Raiders deployed to Iraq to open

Commander's Commentary

Qayyarah West Airfield in support of the fight for Mosul, Iraq. Though they were scheduled to return to Travis in mid-December, as many of our deployments do, they were extended another month. After completing their mission, they returned home during Everhart's visit, arriving in perfect form aboard the C-17 "Spirit of Vaville." The stormy weather and uncertain winter could not dampen the spirits of these heroes and their grateful families, as they were finally able to celebrate the holidays with their loved ones. The same stormy uncertainty continues to surround another team of deployed

Devil Raiders and their families, as they too have extended well past their expected return. Thankfully, these heroes are nearing the completion of their mission and should reunite with their friends and family soon.

Uncertainty in the Pacific is not, however, limited to the weather. Trace the globe further west and you'll find the Korean peninsula and all of the uncertainty that accompanies sharing a border with a country under Armistice since 1953, as well as the political and security challenges surrounding China's advancements in the South China Sea. Because of these threats, 621st CRW Devil Raiders have been engaged in exercises aimed at perfecting their ability to plan, control and execute tanker and airlift operations, from both Travis AFB

and the 607th Air and Space Operations Center at Osan Air Base, Korea. Should the nation call on them to do so in conflict, these heroes will be prepared to run the mobility air war without compare.

In uncertain times, it is comforting to know there are 621st CRW Devil Raiders whose purpose is to strengthen ties with partner nations. While others spent the winter mobilizing the fight in the Middle East and projecting airpower into the South Pacific, one group of Devil Raiders focused their efforts closer to home. Specially-trained teams journeyed to our partners in El Salvador, Guatemala and the Dominican Republic to teach lessons on aircraft maintenance, aircraft operations, communications, force

See HENDERSON Page 25



Commentary by Chief Master Sgt. Philip Hudson

621ST CONTINGENCY RESPONSE WING COMMAND CHIEF

Airpower professionals require balance in life

2017: The year our Air Force turns 70. And birthdays are always better when shared with family. Team Travis exemplifies the very best of family, especially our brothers and sisters in the 349th Air Mobility Wing and the 60th Air Mobility Wing.

Special milestones are also a time to reminisce and I am honored to tell the Devil Raider story.

Last year, I wrote an article challenging our enlisted Airmen to get

Chief's Commentary

back to the basics of mission-oriented performance; you did not disappoint. You responded to the aftermath of an earthquake in Ecuador where your innovation laid the groundwork for humanitarian assistance and disaster relief to flow via airpower. Likewise, Devil Raiders deployed to Europe to train for global crisis response operations where

your unmatched ability to support airpower from the ground demonstrated American resolve and NATO strength. And your actions added to our storied history with successful deployments to Qayyarah Airfield West in the Mosul District of northern Iraq, as well as facilitating American aid deliveries to Haiti following a devastating hurricane. You continue to selflessly serve around the globe and I am humbled by your commitment and sacrifice.

This year, I challenge you to focus on balance, recognizing the demand for your skills as airpower professionals continues to grow. Focus on what matters most in your life, whether you enjoy the outdoors, sports, reading, traveling or hanging out with family. The commander and I will jealously protect your dwell time while also securing the best training and equipment for you to perform our global mission.

See HUDSON Page 25

Push-up, sit-up competition benefits community

Senior Airman Sam Salopek
60TH AIR MOBILITY WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Pulses of anticipation and murmurs of excitement reverberated through the gymnasium. With each repetition, the exhalations became more intense. Cheers accompanied the voices of timekeepers and counters as each participant was propelled to dig deeper.

Over 50 people participated in the Chiefs' Group Push-Up/Sit-Up Challenge at the Travis fitness center Feb. 23.

The competition is the one annual fundraiser the Chiefs' Group holds to raise money for various ceremonies and events they help fund, said Chief Master Sgt. Jason Morehouse, 60th Maintenance Group superintendent.

"Everything is going for a good cause," said Senior Airman Jacob Brooks, 821st Contingency Response Squadron contingency response crew chief. "The participants just want to help their fellow Airmen."

"Everything we bring in we give back to Travis Airmen and their families," said Morehouse.

The Chiefs' Group hoped the event would give an opportunity for camaraderie and competition between members and squadrons, as well as raise funds to pay for promotion parties and burger burns, said Morehouse.

Participants were given 10 minutes to perform as many



U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Sam Salopek

Tech. Sgt. Jennifer Dantzer, 60th Contracting Squadron contracting officer, participates Feb. 23 in the Chiefs' Group Push-Up/Sit-Up Challenge at Travis Air Force Base, Calif. Funds raised during the competition will help fund events for Travis Airmen and their families.

push-ups and sit-ups as possible.

"I wanted to come out, I wanted to contribute," said Brooks. "I was either going to donate or participate- so, here I am."

Brooks did 161 push-ups, 49 shy of his goal of 200.

"I had a few people in my

flight pledge for me," said Brooks. "They pledged five cents a rep, so I had to really work for it."

More than raising money, the competition was about inspiring Airmen to set and strive to meet their goals, said Chief Master Sgt. Damion Peterson,

60th Aerial Port Squadron traffic manager and Chiefs' Group president.

Fifty-five participants completed a combined 7,644 sit-ups and 10,662 push-ups raising almost \$4,000 along the way.

"Not only is this a good cause, but the chief in my

squadron, he is a great motivator," said Airman 1st Class Nichol Nelson, 660th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron communication and navigation specialist. "He recognizes us for our accomplishments and I just wanted to pay the respect back."

Tailwind

Travis AFB, Calif.
60th Air Mobility Wing

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

2nd Lt. Sarah Johnson
Chief of command information

Daily Republic
Nick DeCicco
Tailwind editor

Todd R. Hansen
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Deadline for copy is 4:30 p.m. Friday for the following Friday's issue. Swap ads must be brought to Bldg. 51 by noon Monday for possible print in that Friday's issue. Emailed or faxed Swap Ads are not accepted.

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For information on paid advertising and on-base circulation, call 425-4646. Correspondence can be sent to: Daily Republic, 1250 Texas St., Fairfield, CA 94533 or faxed to 425-5924.

Visit the Travis public web site at http://www.travis.af.mil. Read the Tailwind online at http://tailwind.dailyrepublic.net.

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On the cover

Airmen from the 621st Contingency Response Wing offload cargo from a C-17 Globemaster III aircraft using a K-loader during a Joint Readiness Training exercise Feb. 12 at Alexandria International Airport, La.

U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Robert Hicks



U.S. Air Force photo

WARRIOR OF THE WEEK

Name:
Airman 1st Class
Jacob Dewald.

Unit:
60th Civil Engineer
Squadron.

Duty title:
Pavement and equipment
journeyman.

Hometown:
Sequim, Washington.

Time in service:
Three years.

Family:
None.

What are your goals?
To become a better leader and to encourage other Airmen not to fall

into the mistakes I made when I was younger.

What are your hobbies?
Snowboarding, hiking, anything adventurous.

What is your greatest achievement?
Being able to be a part of the world's greatest Air Force.

Travis keeps USS Ronald Reagan running

Chief Mass Communication
Specialist Xander Gamble

USS RONALD REAGAN PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Nestled in the rolling green hills of Northern California is Travis Air Force Base, located about halfway between San Francisco and Sacramento. While golden sun rays dance across the flightline, warming Air Force cargo planes, men and women from all services work tirelessly around the installation.

On the south side of the base, a small group of Sailors and one Marine work with the 60th Aerial Port Squadron, sending naval assets by air assembled at Travis to the 7th Fleet.

Petty Officer 1st Class Geronimo Delarosa, the West Coast expeditor for the USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76), an aircraft carrier, handles all materials coming through Travis destined for the ship named after America's 40th president.

Delarosa, a native of Manila, Republic of the Philippines, starts his workday at 7:30 a.m. His first duty is to check "the bays," designated areas in the warehouse where materials are set upon arrival or when ready for transport. In outbound bays, blue signs hang overhead with three-letter designators representing the materials final destination. OSN for Osan Air base, South Korea, UAM for Andersen Air Force Base, Guam and OKO for Yokota Air Base, Japan – the primary point of entry for USS Ronald Reagan supplies.

Trucks come and go throughout the day, said Delarosa. Prior to loading those trucks with packages bound for the Pacific, Delarosa conducts a careful inspection, ensuring each package is labeled and prepared for shipment properly.

"I have to physically wrap them, put metal bands (on them) and tie (them) to a pallet," said Delarosa. He also checks to see if "special handling" cargo requires his attention such as confidential, secret or hazardous materials.

"I really have to know, from the beginning, how material



U.S. Navy photo/Chief Mass Communication Specialist Xander Gamble

Airmen from the 60th Aerial Port Squadron at Travis Air Force Base, Calif., load a Navy gun mount casing bound for a forward-deployed Navy destroyer stationed Jan. 27 in Yokosuka, Japan. Travis supports the Navy by delivering parts and supplies whenever requested.

gets to me, how (each) package is being handled – all that – to avoid delays," said Delarosa.

On average, Delarosa processes 20 to 30 packages a day, a rate that can double when the Ronald Reagan is conducting operations.

Delarosa's job is vital to the USS Ronald Reagan and the 60th APS, said retired Chief Master Sgt. John Buchanan, 60th APS operations officer.

"That individual, through the port here, will (ensure we) keep ahead of the fleet and the battle group," said Buchanan. "His role is to ensure the USS Ronald Reagan is supplied with critical parts (and supplies) on time."

While the Ronald Reagan is at sea, Delarosa tracks the ships' location, as well its

destination. Ensuring material is sent to the ships' next location is vital.

"We want and need to beat the ship, so the ship and Travis have the capability, 24/7 to project American power," said Buchanan. "That's what we train our Airmen to do here. They understand that our Navy is a vital component out in the Pacific and critical to our operations."

Delarosa has supported ships at sea several times during his career having served on the Oliver Hazzard Perry class guided missile frigate, the USS Vandegrift (FFG 48) and the guided-missile destroyer, the USS Mustin (DDG 89), both in Japan. He also served on the submarine tender USS Frank Cable (AS 40), when it was

deployed out of Guam.

"It's good to have a little knowledge of everything, because I've been in supply for a while now," Delarosa said.

The default transportation for material shipments in the military is by surface, with materials bound for the Pacific being handled through the Defense Distribution Depot in Tracy, California.

"Most of the time, when (Navy ships) want shipments, they want it by air. But once it gets to Tracy, that's it. It's going by surface," said Delarosa. "That's the expediting part of this. Getting the material through Travis."

The 60th APS supports up to 270 sea and shore commands in the Pacific. According to Buchanan, between 80 and 85

percent of all material moving through Travis belongs to the Navy.

"If I did not have Sailors for the Ronald Reagan here, the ship would be in trouble," said Buchanan. "If we had a [casualty report], or an item, that grounds the aircraft carrier itself – whether that's an issue with the propellant system, the water system, the fueling system or the propulsion system – that part or that piece could come through Travis. Well, I don't know where the ship is exactly, so whatever is in the database, I would send it there. Delarosa provides me with the ability to beat the ship. So when the ship goes into port, the plan is – with his help and direction – to get critical parts sent to the ship, ready to go."



U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Amber Carter

Airman 1st Class Madison Miller, Phase 2 technical training student at the 60th Medical Diagnostic and Therapeutic Squadron laboratory at Travis Air Force Base, Calif., places a test tube into a sensor-activated tray on the new automated robotic system Feb. 14. Once the tray is loaded, a camera will photograph the barcode on the tube and move the sample along the conveyor belt for testing.

DGMC automates lab services

Merrie Schilter-Lowe

60TH AIR MOBILITY WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

When corporations must downsize their workforce, many find ways to automate functions that still need to be accomplished.

That's the kind of thinking that has brought automation to the David Grant USAF Medical Center laboratory at Travis Air Force Base, California, making it the first Air Force

laboratory to install a fully robotic automated system that processes, analyzes and stores specimens.

"We're the largest clinical laboratory in the Air Force, so we needed a strategy to execute the mission and improve efficiency while providing the highest quality of patient care," said Lt. Col. Jimmey Labit, 60th Medical Diagnostic and Therapeutic Squadron laboratory services chief.

The lab processes about 1.2 million tests per year on blood, urine and other body fluids requested by military and civilian health care providers for TRICARE beneficiaries.

"Our biggest challenge was manning," said Labit. "Since 2010, our manning has been reduced from 98 people to 68 and 85 percent of our techs are military, which means they come

See LAB Page 19

CALLING TRAVIS HOUSING RESIDENTS

Would you like to share your experience with living on Travis? Would you like to share your thoughts on where your additional Basic Allowance for Housing should go? If the answer is yes, then contact Public Affairs at 707-424-2011 and speak to Tech. Sgt. James Hodgman.

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Airmen answer call for help at Travis Elementary

Tech. Sgt. James Hodgman
60TH AIR MOBILITY WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Laughter fills the air as hundreds of children run, jump and dance outside Travis Elementary School at Travis Air Force Base, California., Feb. 27.

Many students participate in a relay race, some perform their best moves to "Uptown Funk" by Bruno Mars while others play a variety of games during recess. Smiles can be seen almost everywhere.

This enjoyment is possible because of the teachers and staff of TES who keep a watchful eye on children throughout the day, as well as Travis Airmen, who volunteer in 90-minute blocks to help supervise children during recess and lunch.

On Jan. 18, high winds and

rain severely damaged the roof to the school's multipurpose room. A patch was placed on the roof but unfortunately, it was not water tight and the roof has several leaks. The room is used for a variety of activities including breakfast and lunch service, award assemblies, meetings and physical education classes.

The rains and subsequent storms that followed have made the room unusable, said Deanna Yasaki, TES principal.

"Not being able to use the facility has had a major impact on parents, students, teachers and our staff," said Yasaki. "The MPR in many ways is the hub of our school. We do so much in that room from morning drop offs to the 6th grade olympics."

Now, breakfast and lunch are served in classrooms.

Meals are prepared at Scandia Elementary School, also located on Travis and transported to TES daily, because the school's kitchen is located in the multipurpose room and needs a thorough cleaning before it can be used again. Drop-off and pick-up locations and procedures have also been changed.

The school is also in need of volunteers to help supervise students during recess and lunch. A call for volunteers went out to the base populous on Jan. 26 seeking 80 volunteers for two weeks.

"The request went out on a Thursday and by the following Monday I had the first week filled," said Christian Mendoza, 60th Force Support Squadron school liaison officer. "I had the second week filled by Wednesday that week."



Courtesy photo

Severe winds and rain damaged a large portion of the roof above Travis Elementary School's multipurpose room. The damage resulted in large amounts of water leaking into the room. The room is currently off limits and a new roof is estimated to cost approximately \$169,069.

Mendoza manages the volunteer effort at TES and said nearly 70 Airmen have answered the call to help, many volunteering multiple times.

"It's been great to see the response Travis Airmen are having," Mendoza said. "I enjoy seeing them interact with the

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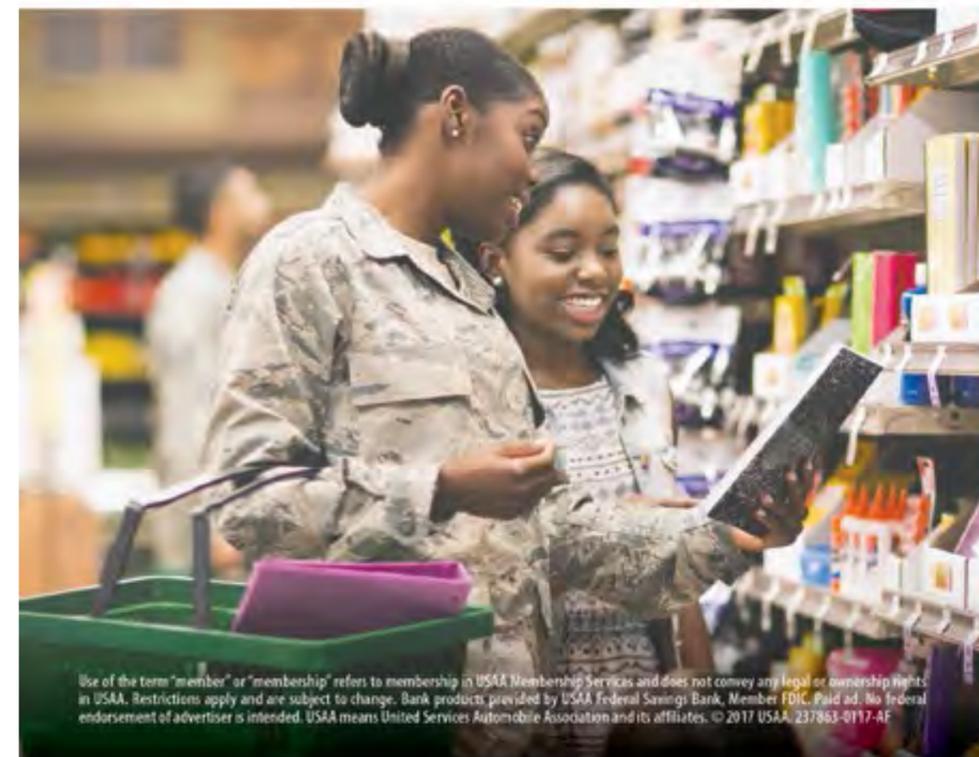
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Travis wins 3 AF Medical Service Awards

Merrie Schilter-Lowe

60TH AIR MOBILITY WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Air Force surgeon general has announced winners in the 2016 Air Force Medical Service Awards program, which included two individual and one team award winner at Travis Air Force Base, California.

Capt. (Dr.) Bridget Nestor-Arjun, 60th Medical Operations Squadron won the Clinical Excellence Award in the Company Grade Officer category and Maj. (Dr.) Ian Stewart, 60th Medical Group won the Outstanding Achievement in Clinical Research Award. Additionally, the 60th Medical Group was recognized for the Best Inpatient Facility Safety Program.

"The accomplishments of those recognized demonstrate expertise, leadership and commitment across the full breadth of the support we provide to the Air Force mission and the Joint Team," said Lt. Gen. (Dr.) Mark Ediger, Air Force surgeon general, in a Feb. 21 news release. "All accomplishments

were enabled by the hard work and support of their wingmen, consisting of fellow medical professionals at every level."

Nestor-Arjun, an emergency services physician, delivered \$1.7 million in care last year to more than 4,700 patients, including a pediatric patient with a traumatic brain injury. By providing advance trauma life support to the patient, she enabled the child to recover without neurologic issues.

Nestor-Arjun also treated two kidney patients with life-threatening hyperkalemia – too much potassium in the blood. The condition can cause changes in heart rhythm as well as death.

Other accomplishments during the award period include, creating an emergency life airway kit and single-handedly starting an emergency medicine clerkship with the University of California, Davis, California. The goal of the program is to integrate military medical students and resident physicians in an established program to increase the training they receive

"All accomplishments were enabled by the hard work and support of their wingmen ..."

— Lt. Gen. (Dr.) Mark Ediger

so they can better care for military patients worldwide.

Stewart is chief of combat casualty care research at the Clinical Investigation Facility, supporting 12 graduate medical education programs and 100 resident students. He also is recognized as the Air Force expert on renal replacement therapy as well as acute kidney injury in the combat setting. He also published 10 high-impact articles on acute kidney injury in nephrology and critical care journals.

An active clinician with board certification in internal medicine and nephrology, Stewart made it possible for DGMC to increase patient access to care to 100 percent.

Other accomplishments during the year include writing clinical practice guidelines for

combat casualties with acute kidney injury and rhabdomyolysis, which he presented to the Joint Trauma System. Rhabdomyolysis is a condition in which skeletal muscle tissue breaks down and is released into the blood stream. Rhabdomyolysis can result in paralysis and renal failure.

Stewart also leads a large-scale collaboration between the Department of Defense and Veterans Administration to study long-term health care after combat injury. The study received \$1.5 million in funding and is expected to significantly improve the lives of wounded warriors.

Stewart also was appointed DOD's representative to the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases advisory council.

DGMC is the Air Force's largest inpatient hospital. With a staff of about 2,555 military, civilian, veteran services and contract personnel, DGMC provides care to nearly 400,000 DOD and VA eligible patients.

The medical center implemented a number of programs to ensure patient safety, including holding morning "safety huddles" to review safety issues from the previous day and discuss how to avoid repeating the situations.

Staff members also drove the Air Force Medical Service initiative to use color-coded wristbands to alert or quickly communicate a patient's health information such as "allergy" or "at risk for falling."

Col. (Dr.) Michael Higgins, 60th MDG commander announced the inpatient safety award saying, "This is absolutely a testament to your work, leadership and relentlessness." He also encouraged staff members to build on their accomplishments and improve ways to be patient-centered.

Bonus program updates released

**Secretary of the Air Force
Public Affairs**

WASHINGTON — Air Force officials released details on the fiscal year 2017 Selective Re-enlistment Bonus program Feb. 23.

This year's program consists of 80 Air Force specialties and continues the practice of offering larger sums of money initially up front.

The program is designed to improve readiness and capacity by targeting retention of experienced Airmen, especially those in operations, nuclear, maintenance, cyber, space, intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance, and support career fields.

The 13 new Air Force specialty codes included in the fiscal 2017 SRB list represent critical and emerging career fields with high operations demands and low manning or retention, such as maintenance and intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance. The AFSCs removed from this year's SRB list were no longer among those AFSCs with the highest needs based on analysis of manning, retention, and/or training costs.

According to Col. Robert Romer, the chief of military force policy for the Air Force, the criteria used to determine career fields eligible for re-enlistment bonuses includes current and projected manning levels, retention levels and trends, and the cost levels associated with training new Airmen.

"This year's SRB list continues the Air Force's focus on retaining key experience while we deliberately grow our force," said Romer. "We are increasing our accessions

See **BONUS** Page 21

Dental squadron teaches value of care

**Senior Airman
Courtney Hamilton**

60TH DENTAL SQUADRON

February was National Children's Dental Health Month and a time for dental professionals to come together with local schools and day-care facilities to teach children about oral health.

During the past month, members of the 60th Dental Squadron visited 669 students in classrooms across Travis Air Force Base, California, to teach children the importance of oral health.

Dental cavities remain the most prevalent chronic disease in children. Teeth are susceptible to decay from the time they erupt into the mouth, which means good habits need to be developed at an early age. Instilling good oral hygiene and nutritional habits in children promote responsibility and good health.

Brushing should begin with the eruption of the first tooth and a visit to the dentist

should be completed by the first birthday. Infant oral care should begin with a simple wipe down of the teeth and gums with a wet washcloth after feedings. This will help rid the mouth of sugars that begin the decay process.

A soft bristled toothbrush can be introduced with a smear of fluoridated toothpaste and should be used in circular motions covering the teeth and gums for two minutes, twice a day. You can increase to a pea size amount as your child gets older and is able to spit. Flossing once daily should begin as soon as teeth touch because toothbrush bristles are not able to clean in between and under them. Mouth rinses can be used around the age of 6, or when your child can swish and spit with the supervision of an adult.

Cavity-causing bacteria are transferrable and can be passed from direct contact, whether you are sharing utensils, cups or simply giving

your child a kiss. It is recommended parents get regular dental checkups to ensure their oral health. Children that consume a high frequency of sugary foods and beverages are at a higher risk for tooth decay. If preventable, do not allow your child to fall asleep directly after breastfeeding, drinking a bottle containing milk, juice,

formula, or other sweetened liquids. This allows sugary liquids to remain in place for longer periods of time, which increases the chance of decay. It is recommended to switch to an open cup by the age of 1.

Some children are resistant to the brushing process but will

See **TEETH** Page 21

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Rescue warrior to complete on new reality show



U.S. Air Force photo/Maj. Cathleen Snow

A camera crew shoots footage of Tech. Sgt. Ben Domian, a survival, evasion, resistance, and escape specialist with the 920th Rescue Wing, in front of a HC-130 P/N King June 15, 2016, at Patrick Air Force Base, Fla.

Tech. Sgt. Lindsey Maurice
920TH RESCUE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

PATRICK AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. — Most people would jump at the chance to be stranded on a tropical island with a beautiful model. But what if it meant living in the jungle; making your own shelter; scavenging for your own food; encountering dangerous creatures, raging rivers, and extreme weather and competing against nine other couples in a physically and mentally draining competition?

For Tech. Sgt. Ben Domian, a survival, evasion, resistance, and escape specialist with the 920th Rescue Wing, saying yes turned out to be a

once-in-a-lifetime adventure. At 6 p.m. March 9, television viewers across the nation can follow him and his partner, Juliana Herz, in their quest to win \$500,000 on Fox TV's newest reality show "Kicking and Screaming."

The competition series teams 10 expert survivalists, including Domian, an eight-year Air Force veteran, with pampered partners to face the toughest challenges of their lives, according to the show's website. The series drops these unlikely pairs into a tropical jungle in Fiji where they try to outlast one another. The team who makes it to the end, wins the cash prize.

approached by the show's producers, after they saw some of his #SERE Instagram posts, he was a little hesitant. But after some thought, he realized what a fun challenge it would be.

"I try to live a deliberate life with adventure in it and this was a good opportunity to do that and travel to a place I'd never get to visit otherwise — actually putting my skills to the test in a legitimate jungle," he said.

The Oveido, Florida, native spent the first year of his military career as an active duty Airman working toward becoming a SERE specialist. Once he mastered the

When Domian was first

See SHOW Page 22

CHALLENGER

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Tech. Sgt. Ryan Crane
U.S. AIR FORCES IN EUROPE AND
AIR FORCES AFRICA PUBLIC AFFAIRS

RIGA, Latvia — Air Mobility Command C-5M Super Galaxies delivered U.S. Army UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters here March 1, in support of Operation Atlantic Resolve.

Task Force Phoenix, led by the 3rd General Support Aviation Battalion, 10th Aviation Regiment, signifies the first rotational combat aviation brigade deployed to provide a persistent presence in Eastern Europe.

U.S. Air Forces in Europe and Air Forces Africa and AMC directly support the joint and multi-national warfighting environment with air superiority, direct air operations, global air transportation and capabilities that are essential to supporting the warfighters on the ground.

One of the largest aircraft in the world, and the largest lifter in the Air Force inventory, the C-5M, provided the necessary capabilities required to bring the Black Hawks to Latvia. Capable of carrying three Black Hawk helicopters, two M1A Abrams tanks or 250,000 pounds of relief supplies, the galaxy



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

A U.S. Army UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter is unloaded March 1 from an Air Mobility Command C-5M Super Galaxy at Riga International Airport, Latvia.

is uniquely equipped to carry bulky combat equipment and oversized cargo in a rapid global environment.

“It’s a tremendous aircraft, and it’s crewed by the brightest and smartest young men and women our country has to

offer,” Maj. Gen. Timothy Zaldalis, USAFE vice commander. “The beautiful thing about the C-5M is that one day you could deliver combat airpower, and the next day you could be delivering humanitarian airlift around the world. It’s

part of what we do. It’s part of our commitment to Europe, it’s part of our commitment to NATO, and it’s part of our commitment to freedom.”

In total, 85 aircraft, **See LATVIA Page 25**

903rd AEF to celebrate anniversary

Stacey Geiger
88TH AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio — Original members of the 903rd Aeromedical Evacuation Flight will gather at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, in May 2017 to celebrate its 50th anniversary.

Established in February, 1967, the 903rd AEF was the first Air Force tactical aeromedical unit used in a combat area.

Initially operating out of the 21st Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron at Pope AFB, North Carolina, and the 22nd AES at Seward AFB, Tennessee, personnel and equipment from the two squadrons were combined to deploy to Phu Cat Air Base, Republic of Vietnam, in March, 1967.

The 903rd AEF’s role was to assist the Army and Marines by administering medical care and evacuating casualties to in-country surgical hospitals and naval hospital ships. C-130 Hercules, C-7A Caribou, C-123 Providers and various helicopters were utilized for the evacuations.

This first-of-its kind unit was comprised of a 12-person emergency medical care team that included a medical service corps officer, an NCO in charge, eight aeromedical evacuation technicians, a radio operator and an administrative specialist.

“A battle casualty would be airlifted from the point of injury by helicopter and brought to a forward combat medical facility for emergency treatment of battle injuries. The more serious injured patients would be stabilized and brought to us for evacuation by fixed wing aircraft,” said retired Chief Master Sgt. Charles Fox, an original team member and reunion organizer.

Fox served on the team as an aeromedical evacuation

See ANNIVERSARY Page 21



U.S. Air Force photo/Christopher Higgins

Master Sgt. Robert Self, a 370th Flight Test Squadron KC-135 Stratotanker flight engineer, stands tall following his final flight Jan. 18. Self is retiring this month from 34.5 years of service in the military.

Love of flying kept E-7 going

Kenji Thuloweit
412TH TEST WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. — After a career that has spanned almost four decades, the last Air Force flight engineer for the KC-135 Stratotanker is set to retire at Edwards Air Force Base.

Master Sgt. Robert Self joined the U.S. Marine Corps in November of 1978 and will wrap up his military career next month as a full-time Air Force reservist with the 370th Flight Test Squadron.

With 34.5 years of military service, 26 on active duty, Self has had a diverse set of assignments. He said the love of flying is what has kept him going, but with advances in technology, the role of flight engineer has been decreasing over several aircraft platforms.

“The flight engineer runs the fuel panel, watches the systems and is a technical advisor to all the pilots,” Self said. “Maybe 15 years ago they had a flight engineer on the KC-135 and even a navigator. But over the years the technology has improved and the systems in the airplane have gone to computers, so they have taken

engineers and navigators out.”

He first became interested in aviation in the Marines when he was a helicopter crew chief stationed in Hawaii. After a four-year term, he returned to his birthplace of Rhode Island to complete college. But the urge to fly brought him back to the military. He joined the Rhode Island Army National Guard where he served as an aeroscout observer and helicopter mechanic. He would fly in OH-6 Hughes Cayuse Light Observation Helicopters as a “flying sergeant.”

“We would fly really low with the doors off. We would pop up, radio coordinates to artillery and pop back down. That’s beautiful flying, I loved it,” Self said.

But as Self would see – and what would become a common theme in his career – changes in the military every few years would change his role, too. The unit in Rhode Island was deactivated, so Self went back to Hawaii to continue flying in OH-6s.

“But then special operations took them – took all the OH-6s and painted them black, so I’m out of a job,” Self said.

The Army also eliminated

the flying-sergeant career field to make way for junior officers to fly in the second seat of OH-6s.

He then became an Air Force Reserve C-5 Galaxy mechanic at Hickam AFB, Hawaii, which had a sister unit at Travis AFB, California, that had C-5 flight engineers. He trained to be a C-5 flight engineer and managed to stay in Hawaii. But after some time, his unit at Travis AFB wanted him to come to California. To remain in Hawaii, he took a part-time air national guard position at a unit that had C-130s at Hickam. He became a trained flight engineer in the C-130 Hercules.

“Then that unit went away and got C-17s, and they don’t have flight engineers,” Self said. “After that, I started a new life and became a full-time reservist with the Big Crow program at Kirtland Air Force Base, New Mexico, working as a KC-135 flight engineer.”

Big Crow is the name of two NKC-135 test-bed aircraft, which are heavily-modified KC-135s used for electronic warfare testing. These planes

See LOVE Page 22

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Iowa air refueling wing supports NATO

Staff Sgt. Daniel Ter Haar

IOWA AIR NATIONAL GUARD

NATO AIR BASE GEILENKIRCHEN, Germany — This month, members of the Iowa Air National Guard's 185th Air Refueling Wing based in Sioux City, Iowa, are refueling NATO Airborne Warning and Control System aircraft while assigned here.

Approximately 40 members from the 185th ARW are in Germany for two weeks supporting NATO missions.

The AWACS involves multifaceted radar equipped aircraft that provide surveillance, command and control for NATO areas of responsibility. Onboard aircraft crews provide communications and control for U.S. and partner nations, while also keeping a close eye on potential adversaries. These missions require long flight times and in-flight refueling provided by Air Guard units like the 185th ARW.

According to Royal Netherlands Air Force Capt. André Bongers, a public affairs officer stationed at Geilenkirchen, the long-standing partnership with the Air Guard is important to maintaining stability in the region.

"This has always been a very

successful partnership," Bongers said. "During 40 weeks per year the Air Guard provides essential training to the NATO E-3A Component. This is vital because pilots at the E-3A Component normally stay around for only four years. This means there's a high demand for training to ensure new crew members are combat ready. The high level of professionalism and flexibility delivered by the Air Guard is of great importance to get the right amount of training."

NATO AWACS play a critical role in many ongoing missions in the region, Bongers said, such as counter-Islamic State of Iraq and Syria operations, Eastern Europe surveillances and Mediterranean maritime operations. He said they also fly for high visibility events such as the recent NATO summit in Warsaw and big regional exercises like Red Flag and Arctic Challenge.

According to U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Joseph Bosch, the Air National Guard's liaison in Geilenkirchen, the Air Guard has been working with NATO forces since 2015. Bosch also said that the Air Guard brings a level of unmatched experience to refueling operations, especially units like the 185th ARW.



U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Daniel Ter Haar

A NATO Airborne Warning and Control System lines up with an Iowa Air National Guard KC-135 aircraft for refueling training Feb. 14 over northern Germany.

"It is always a pleasure having the 185th (ARW). This wing has a special dedication to this mission and shows time and again how much they love our mission here. Sioux City always brings their A game to make this special spot

better than when they arrived," Bosch said.

The 185th ARW will remain in Germany until the end of the week and will be followed by another Air Guard unit from Topeka, Kansas.

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CRW hones air base operability skills at JRTC



1) Staff Sgt. Justin Fraissinet, 821st Contingency Response Squadron maintainer, prepares to marshal a Royal Canadian Air Force C-130J Super Hercules aircraft during a Joint Readiness Training exercise Feb. 11 at Alexandria International Airport, La. Throughout the exercise, the aerial port team loaded and offloaded 101 C-130 Super Hercules and 21 C-17 Globemaster III aircraft and moved 282 short tons of cargo during the exercises, as well as supporting the movement of more than 670 passengers. 2) A U.S. Airman left, and a Canadian air force member push a pallet onto a C-130J Super Hercules aircraft during a Joint Readiness Training exercise Feb. 11 at Alexandria International Airport.

Staff Sgt. Robert Hicks

621ST CONTINGENCY RESPONSE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Airmen from the 621st Contingency Response Wing demonstrated their ability to be called into action at a moment's notice during exercise Joint Readiness Training Center 17-04, Feb. 10-18.

Approximately 85 Airmen from the 621st CRW and 2,500 Soldiers from the 25th Infantry Brigade Combat Team from Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, participated in the exercises operating out of the JRTC near Fort Polk, La., Alexandria International Airport, La., and Little Rock Air Force Base, Ark.

"Airmen in the CRW are able to rapidly deploy in a matter of hours, and possess the capability to open a runway, set up an aerial port and, in this scenario, load/offload the Army's equipment and personnel onto air mobility aircraft so those assets can deliver it to the fight," said Maj. Stephen Teeple, of 821st Contingency Response Support Squadron fulfilling the role of Contingency Response Element Commander for the exercise.

Throughout the exercise, the aerial port team loaded and offloaded 101 C-130 Hercules and 21 C-17 Globemaster III aircraft missions and moved 282 short tons of cargo, as well as supporting the movement of 670 passengers.

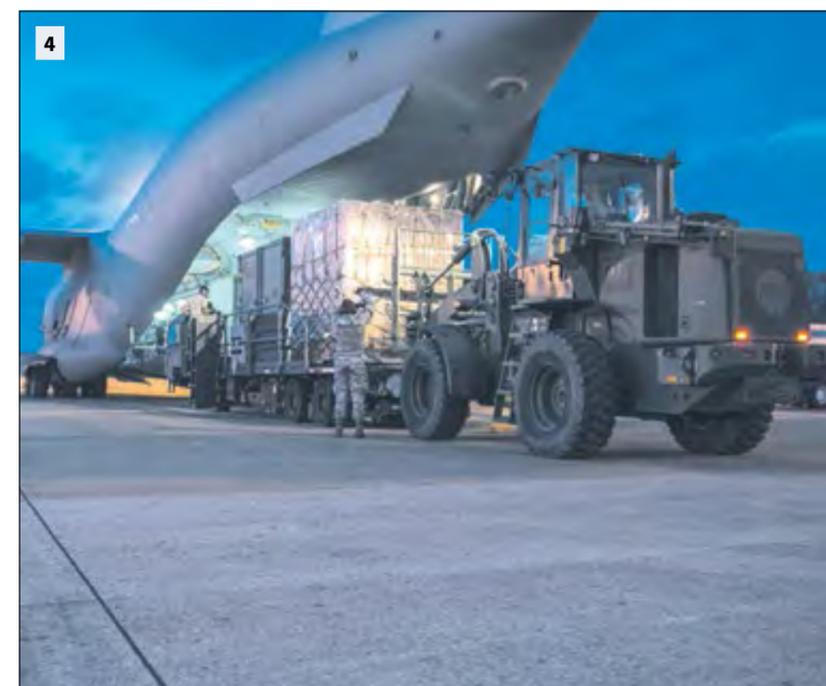
"JRTC 17-04 provides the CRW with an opportunity to interface with units that we otherwise may not get the chance to work with before operationally required," Teeple said. "The exercises allows us to hone our skill set to ensure operational success when called upon beyond the exercise environment."

The 621st CRW participates in multiple JRTC exercises every year, being a training opportunity applicable to nearly all career fields encompassed in the contingency response mission set.

"Even though we are here in a supporting role in an Army centric exercise, this environment allows us to assess our own policies, procedures, training and equipment and provides an ongoing effort to improve upon what we already know to be successful," Teeple said.

Although a majority of the CRW Airmen and assets are staged out of Alexandria International Airport to support the Army and AMC aircraft, they also play a huge role at Geronimo Landing Zone near Fort Polk.

"Geronimo Landing Zone acts as the forward staging base where all of the cargo and passengers from Alexandria International Airport are delivered too," said Maj. William Barrett, CRE evaluator. "At the landing zone the CRW has aerial porters, maintainers, command and control operations and an Air Mobility Liaison Officer staged there to ensure the Army cargo is delivered."



3) Marines prepare to board a C-130J Super Hercules during a Joint Readiness Training exercise, Feb. 12 at Alexandria International Airport, La. 4) Staff Sgt. Ryan Fennessey, 821st Contingency Response Squadron aerial porter, spots a forklift while unloading a C-17 Globemaster III aircraft during a Joint Readiness Training exercise Feb. 12 at Alexandria International Airport.

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

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Puzzles

STR8TS

No. 323 Tough



Previous solution - Medium

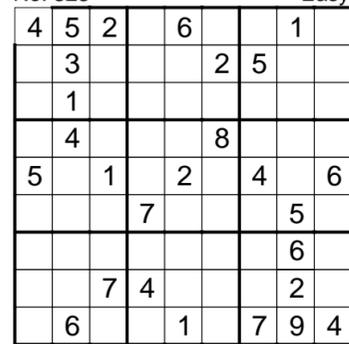


How to beat **Str8ts** – Like Sudoku, no single number can repeat in any row or column. But... rows and columns are divided by black squares into **compartments**. These need to be filled in with numbers that complete a 'straight'. A **straight** is a set of numbers with no gaps but can be in any order, 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. 323 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

News Notes

Upcoming events and information

Balfour Beatty Communities Foundation scholarships. Balfour Beatty Communities Foundation is now accepting scholarship applications for the 2017/2018 academic year and is looking to recognize both current and aspiring college students looking to make a difference both in and out of the classroom. Online applications are due by 11:59 p.m. March 31. For more details and to submit an application, visit the foundation's website, www.bbcommunities-foundation.org.

Recurring events and information

Air Force Office of Special Investigations. To report a crime, get a foreign travel brief or request information on joining AFOSI, report to Bldg. 380B, second floor. Send 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 from 3:30 to 4:15 p.m. on the first Friday of every month at Wingman's in the Delta Breeze Club. For more information, contact Master Sgt. Francisco Zamorano Jr.

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

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

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.

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

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

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

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

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

Family Advocacy Women's support group. Weekly meeting from 10 a.m. to noon Wednesday for women with past or current

In the next week...



First Friday. 4:30 p.m. March 3 at the Delta Breeze Club. Free appetizers, tastings and karaoke. Club members are free and nonmembers are \$5. For details, call 707-437-3711.

domestic violence events in their lives. Meet at the David Grant USAF Medical Center's Mental Health conference room. For more information, call Molly Martinez at 707-423-5158.

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

Hometown News Releases. To submit a Hometown News Release, visit the new paperless website at <https://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 dependents are eligible for free admission from Memorial Day to Labor Day. 1100 Railroad Ave. on Mare Island in Vallejo. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. first and third weekends of the month. For more information, call 707-557-4646.

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

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

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

Motorcycle licensing and training. California Rider Education offers the Motorcyclists Training Course, the Basic Riders Course 2 and the Military Sportsbike Riders Course on base. MTC classes take place most weekends. Motorcycles and helmets provided. Successful completion gives students a DL389 that waives the skills test at DMV. Course cost covered for active duty, reserves,

some DOD and some NAF folks. Dependents welcome, but must cover own costs. All registrations done via phone at 1-800-966-3844.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

visit during a UTA or check out <http://squadron22-cap.us>.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

available with children's TV programs.

60th FSS

Deals and discounts

\$5 auto window treatment. Head to Auto Hobby for a \$5 water repellent treatment on your vehicle. During stormy weather, the window treatment increases visibility and safety. For more information, call 707-424-5300.

Indoor rock climbing. Free indoor rock climbing for active duty. For all other guests, climbing is \$3 for the entire day. Climbing shoe rentals \$2. For more information, visit Travis-ODR.com or call 707-424-0969.

Prizes and scholarships

Scholarships. Entry for the 2017 Air Force Club Scholarship is open. Over \$20,000 available. Eligible participants may apply with an essay or video for a chance to gain a scholarship award toward their college education. For eligibility, rules and deadlines, visit MyAirForceLife.com/Clubs.

Gift card giveaway. The 2017 Travis Air Show is coming May 6-7. Sign up for the Travis Air Show Text VIP Program to enter to WIN one of five \$100 gift cards. VIPs receive updates on showtimes and exclusive details about the Travis Air Show. To enter, text "AIRSHOWVIP" to 87365. For more information about the Travis Air Show, visit Travis.af.mil/TravisAir-Show.

WIN an eReader. Mitchell Memorial Library is hosting two contests this month and you could win an eReader! You have the option to fill out a customer survey form or take a "Blind Date with a Book!" For more information, call (707) 424-3279.

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

Chapel programs

Recurring events

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

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

• Infant Baptism Prep Class: Two classes. Registration Required. 6 to 7 p.m., offered Quarterly.

- Youth Choir: 1 p.m. Sunday.
- Children's Choir: 2 p.m. Sunday.
- Adult Choir: 4 p.m. Sunday.
- Catholic Women of the Chapel: 6 p.m. first Monday of every month, Annex.
- Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults: 6 to 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, Annex.
- RE Classes: 10:15 to 11:30 a.m. Sunday, RE Wing.

First Street Chapel

- Mom's Group: 10 to 11:30 a.m. Monday.
- Protestant First Street Chapel**
 - Protestant Community Service: 9 to 10:15 a.m. Sunday.
 - Gospel Worship Service: 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Sunday.
 - Children's Ministry is provided for 6 months olds through fifth grade.
 - Protestant Men of the Chapel: 8 to 9 a.m., first Saturday of every month.

Twin Peaks Chapel

- Protestant Women of the Chapel: 9:30 to 11 a.m. Tuesday.
- Airmen's Ministry Center**
 - The Peak is open from 6 to 9 p.m. Monday through Friday at Bldg. 1348. Homecooked meal Tuesday's at 6 p.m. followed by Bible study at 7 p.m.

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

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

Local events

Events

- Downtown Art Walk.** 5 to 10 p.m. second Friday of each month, downtown Vallejo. www.vallejoartwalk.com.
- The Hub.** Casual waters, 7:30 p.m. March 4; Poetry by the Bay open mic, 6:30 p.m. second and fourth Tuesdays, 350 Georgia St., Vallejo. www.thehubvallejo.com.
- Red Carpet Gala.** 6 p.m. March 4, Downtown Theatre, 1035 Texas St., Fairfield. www.downtowntheatre.com.
- "Sounds of Suspense."** Radio broadcast, noon fourth Friday of each month, Vacaville Public Library-Town Square, 1 Town Square Place. www.solanolibrary.org.
- St. Patrick's Day beer crawl.** 1 to 5 p.m. March 11, downtown Benicia. www.beniciamainstreet.org.
- Vallejo Farmers Market.** 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays, year-round, Georgia and Marin streets. www.pcfma.com.
- Vintage Market.** 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. every third Saturday, St. Paul's United Methodist Church, 101 West St., Vacaville. 925-978-6989.

THE FLIP SIDE

Airmen complete FTAC



U.S. Air Force photo

Congratulations to the latest Airmen to complete the First-Term Airman Center course. Alphabetically: Airman 1st Class Christopher Andersen, Airman Karlo Bernardino, Airman 1st Class Jacob Black, Airman Basic Agustin Castellanos-Morales, Airman 1st Class Craig Foley, Airman Sydney Ford, Airman 1st Class Makayla Helm, Airman 1st Class Ian Hornstein, Airman Kenneth James, Airman 1st Class Jeremiah Johnson, Airman 1st Class Joshua Knutson, Airman 1st Class Yahaira Lara, Airman Xavier Laws, Airman 1st Class Dhomyenic Lightfoot, Airman Basic Crystal Mason, Airman Cariane Matela, Airman Basic Marquel McCall, Airman Basic Adam McPhail, Airman 1st Class Vincent Mwita, Airman 1st Class Celeste Paxton, Airman 1st Class Parker Phillips, Airman 1st Class Adriel Pineda, Airman 1st Class Devon Piveral, Airman Basic Kenneth Plank, Airman 1st Class Mitchel Porter, Airman 1st Class Matthew Randolph, Airman Carlo Roncal, Airman Basic Mojica Santiago, Airman 1st Class Michella Smith, Airman 1st Class John Thacker, Airman 1st Class Anthony Vazquez and Airman 1st Class Rimsha Wasim.

Retiree Corner

Commissary agency unveils private-label goods

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

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

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

Lab

From Page 5

and go anywhere the Air Force wants.”

Another reason for automating the lab was that 75 percent of the active-duty members have less than three years of experience compared to civilian hospital counterparts who average 15 to 20 years of experience, said Labit. About half of the lab's staff are students completing nine months of technical training at Travis.

“We're also the largest Phase 2 (medical) training site in the Air Force. By the end of the year, we will have a total of 34 students. So about half of our active-duty members may not actually be in the lab but in other training the Air Force requires for students,” said Labit.

Hiring additional civilian technicians was not an option due to the high cost of living in the Bay Area and the disparity between starting government salaries for lab technicians and starting salaries at civilian hospitals.

“Leadership took a look at this trend and started planning

for this project 2 1/2 years ago,” said Labit.

He said the \$7.8 million automated system “went live” Feb. 8. An official opening ceremony is planned for national laboratory week, April 23-29.

The robotic system replaces 17 different pieces of lab equipment and links instruments to process five core functions: chemistry, immunochemistry, urinalysis, coagulation and hematology on one line.

“At maximum capacity, the system can process up to 665 samples at once,” said Labit. “The time it takes to complete each test depends on the instrument and the complexity of the test. This ranges from less than one minute to 30 minutes per test.”

One blood sample could require up to 50 tests, he said.

The core lab is a 24/7 operation with 24 people assigned. Prior to automation, it took eight people on day shift to process and test specimens while four others performed administrative duties. Night shift required four people – two to process samples and two performing administrative duties.

“Now, for the basic processing and testing on day shift,

“We now have space-age technology with a command center where one person can control the entire operation.”

— Lt. Col. Jimmey Labit

we require four staff plus four to perform administrative duties,” said Labit. “We only need two people on night shift, so we've reduce daytime and nighttime manning by 50 percent.”

When a sample comes into the lab for testing, a technician verifies the information on the test tube with the providers' requests in the patient's electronic medical record. The system then generates a barcoded label, which the technician places on the test tube.

The technician then places the tube into a sensor-activated tray on the robotic system, which triggers the machine to move the tray along the conveyor belt.

“Once the test tube is on the line, a camera photographs the barcode and sends the test tube where it needs to go,” said Labit. “If tests require separating the cellular components of

blood from the liquid portion, the system will transport it to one of three centrifuges, then place it back on the conveyor belt to be transported to one of four analyzers for testing.”

When the tests are complete, the system automatically uploads the results to the patient's electronic medical record for the doctor's review.

“Old school, the results would come out of the machine and a tech would look at it and certify it and send to the provider,” said Labit. “We have taught the computer what is ‘normal’ so a tech doesn't have to look at every sample. If a test is outside the parameters, the machine will stop and let the tech know, ‘Hey, you need to look at this.’”

With three centrifuges, the robotic system can process STAT and routine samples simultaneously. Previously, a

technician would place routine tests aside to process a priority request.

“We now have space-age technology with a command center where one person can control the entire operation,” said Labit.

Not only has automation brought the lab into the 21 Century, it also has made it possible for some technicians to work in other areas of the lab where critical thinking is required.

“We're still in the infant stages, but we hope to send four or five people to other sections that require hands-on testing like microbiology, histology and transfusion services,” said Labit.

A mistake in any of these areas could have severe consequences, he said.

With a more efficient and productive lab, DGMC is seeking other Department of Defense and civilian customers who now rely on local or regional civilian labs.

“This will not only help the DoD lower the cost for civilian reference testing but also aid in bringing in resources from the civilian sector,” said Labit.

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Evening Prayer & Praise 6:00 pm
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Anniversary

From Page 12

technician and is also the father of Col. Shari Silverman, the 88th Medical Group commander.

"It is important to note that this schedule of operations could change anytime based on the numbers and conditions of patients," Fox said. "At Khe Sanh, during the 1968 Tet Offensive, some casualties were brought directly from the field to our casualty staging facilities for evacuation."

Staged at various combat bases with airstrips located in Vietnam where heavy casualties were anticipated, these teams mobilized and operated out of self-contained medical care units called casualty staging facilities.

Bonus

From Page 9

and training pipeline to support the increased growth, but these new enlistees won't be seasoned for some time. Retaining the experience we have is critical to maintaining readiness and training those new Airmen."

All AFSC bonus changes are effective Feb. 23.

The fiscal 2017 bonus list will be available on myPers on the "re-enlistment" page.

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

Teeth

From Page 9

mimic the people they look up to, whether it is an older sibling or a parent. Getting them involved in the routine will help make the process fun and exciting. Allow them to pick out their own toothbrush, toothpaste and floss and encourage them to watch you during your daily routine. With the advances in technology, companies have jumped on board and created fun apps that will countdown from two minutes and track brushing habits to help them remember to brush and floss.

Dental care for dependents at Travis is supported under the Tricare Dental Program and information can be found at www.tricare dental program.com.

Love

From Page 13

were also used as a target simulator for testing the Boeing YAL-1 Airborne Laser.

"Every time I switched aircraft I had to go back to school for training. I went to school for the NKC-135. Then they closed down the Big Crow program, and I had to go back to C-130s at Rhode Island and at Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado," Self said.

Unfortunately for Self, every time he changed units he had to lose a rank in order for his new unit to administratively accept him.

"I've had four stripes taken off. So, after all these units

"I loved flying that much, that I don't mind taking a stripe off."

— Master Sgt. Robert Self

closed down, I would apply to a new unit. They would say, 'Oh we can't take you unless you take a stripe off.' I loved flying that much, that I don't mind taking a stripe off."

While deployed overseas, Self received a message that would ultimately bring him to Edwards AFB in November, 2013. Since he was qualified to be a flight engineer in the C-130 and KC-135, he

would have a job working on the Speckled Trout program, which used KC-135s.

"The Air Force called me and said you have all these qualifications, we can use you here," Self said. "When I got here the (Speckled Trout) program closed down and there was no testing for the C-130 anymore, so they made me a KC-135 tanker flight engineer."

Self has reached his high tenure of service, and it's time for him to retire. He had his final flight Jan. 18 and is taking the rest of his leave before officially retiring this month.

Self said he plans on staying in the area and may continue to work at Edwards AFB as a civilian.

Show

From Page 11

specialty, he taught Air Force pilots, air crews and special operations Airmen survival skills in the mountainous Washington state terrain.

After separating from active duty, Domian transferred to the Air Force Reserve where he has spent the last four-and-a-half years with the 308th Rescue Squadron specializing in personnel recovery support.

"My Air Force SERE training was invaluable to any successes I may have had in the show," he said. "Not just in

the skills themselves, but in my work as an instructor. I've trained novices. Team survival requires open communication and working together."

Domian, who was partnered with Herz, a professional model from New York, said he was lucky when it came to pairing in the show.

"There were some interesting people on the show and I'll just leave it at that," he said. "Julie is a great girl and we worked well as a team."

While Domian is not at liberty to discuss what all went on behind the scenes, he said it was a great experience that he will always remember.

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Help

From Page 7

kids. They organize basketball and football games, share what they do with the children and their having a positive impact on so many."

One of those volunteers is Airman 1st Class Frederick Cabling, 60th Aerial Port Squadron traffic management office.

"Before joining the military I worked in the YMCA in the childcare facility, so, this opportunity is kind of a fun way for me to rekindle that," said Cabling. "I enjoy working with children. This is a way for me to help with everything that's going on right now, help military families and our community."

Senior Airman Bradley Chase, 60th Aerial Port Squadron cargo processor, has volunteered at the school multiple times.

"I came back to volunteer because I had so much fun the first time," said Chase. "It made me think back to when I was a kid and I enjoy seeing all the kids having fun."

Helping his community is also important, he said.

"Knowing I'm helping the base, the school and our community by ensuring my fellow military members' children are safe is a really good thing," he said. "I'm here to help."

Sixty-seven Airmen have answered the call to help at TES since the MPR room was damaged.

The Airmen have helped ensure a safe environment for 509 students, 92 percent of which are military families, said Kelly Hatcher, Travis Unified School District director of maintenance and operations.

"It's always nice to have support and we appreciate everyone for stepping in to help," said Hatcher. "Thanks to the Airmen, TES is able to have recess outside rather than indoors. We also have to give kudos to our teachers, students, staff members and parents for working together to make this not so good situation bearable for all."

Hatcher and TUSD superintendent, Pam Conklin, have been working on a plan to replace the roof in the MPR in an effort to return TES to normal operations.

"A new roof will cost approximately \$164,069 including Title 24 compliant coating and gutter replacement," said Hatcher. "We are in the process of getting supplies to replace the roof and working with a contractor to clean and sanitize the MPR and the kitchen. The cost of cleaning is currently about \$67,000."

Right now, it looks like the roof won't be replaced until the summer of 2017, said Yasaki.

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Henderson

From Page 2

protection, sensor operations, survival and personnel recovery – and much more. At the same time, they continued to build partner capacity through the development of C-130 Hercules

airdrop capabilities in Columbia. No matter what security challenges lie ahead in the Americas, our Spanish speaking heroes are creating certainty and stability for the United States by engaging with our international partners.

In retrospect, in the midst of an uncertain season, the

Devil Raiders of the 621st CRW at Travis are working hard to make our safety a certainty. Engaging across all points of the globe with professionalism and dedication, they Advise, Direct and Project Airpower, Delivering Instruments of National Power to the Leading Edge of Global Reach.

Hudson

From Page 2

Communicate with us often on any subject, whether through your chain of command or

directly. Finally, I recommend reading the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff White Paper on Mission Command, written by Gen. Martin Dempsey. It is eight pages on how the 621st CRW senior leadership

operates. We work for you.

Once again, I look forward to an awesome 2017 with Team Travis as the 621st Devil Raiders advise, direct and project airpower. Devil Raiders: Give 'em hell.

Latvia

From Page 12

including CH-47 Chinooks, UH-60 Black Hawks, AH-64 Apaches, medical evacuation helicopters, as well as 2,200 Soldiers, comprise the 10th CAB deployment throughout the European theater.

“We are thrilled to welcome so many excellent American soldiers, who will serve as members of the continuing U.S. aviation presence deployed to NATO’s eastern flank in support of Operation Atlantic Resolve,” said U.S. Ambassador to Latvia Nancy Bikoff Pettit during a press event at Riga

International Airport.

Zadalis added there was also a significant training aspect to the U.S. and Latvian militaries working together.

“I see nothing but an incredibly bright future for U.S. and Latvian relations because of how closely our two countries work together,” said Zadalis. “Not only the U.S. and Latvia, but Latvia within the NATO construct as well.

“The U.S. and Latvia do a lot of training, (planning and exercises) together. It’s where we get to know each other. There is a big emphasis on joint training. When we face a crisis, you don’t want to be learning then, you want to have already

practiced and trained together, and that is what we did here.”

Pettit echoed the general’s praise to the professionalism of the Airmen and Soldiers, and added that the U.S. looks forward to continuing training with the Latvians.

“This year, thousands of U.S. soldiers will rotate through Latvia to participate in exercises and trainings, building close ties with their Latvian counterparts,” Pettit said. “You can be assured that they – like all of us here – are committed to standing shoulder to shoulder with our Latvian allies to protect the independence, sovereignty, and security of Latvia.”

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Norcalrv1@gmail.com, or call (707)430-1245

715 - AIRPLANES

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1972 Cessna 172 at Nut Tree airport. 600 SMOH, 2800TT Dual N/C, Marker beacons, Mode C Txpd. Last annual compression was high 70's, no damage history, never a trainer. Accepting offers. Email
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808 - PICKUPS, 2WD

'04 Ford F-150 Crew Cab XLT, A/T, V8, 5.4L, clean, tow pkg., all pwr. MUST SEE! SALE! \$6999. DLR #42203. (707)280-6816
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808 - PICKUPS, 2WD

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820 - CHRYSLER

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- Avoid abbreviations. They can abbreviate your results. (The Tailwind uses only standard abbreviations and requires proper punctuation.)
- Include the price.
- Include your phone number and the best times to call.

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



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841 - NISSAN



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

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

850 - TOYOTA



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



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

850 - TOYOTA



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



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1) Jacob Thomas, a teenager from Travis Air Force Base, Calif., participates Feb. 23 in a bowling event at the Travis bowling center. The event was sponsored by several organizations on base to highlight Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month.

Awareness event helps teens FRAME... dating violence

U.S. Air Force photos
by Louis Briscese

2) Teenagers from Travis Air Force Base, Calif., check in Feb. 23 at the Travis bowling center for an event. The event was sponsored by several organizations on base to highlight Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month.



3) Staff Sgt. Coty Pinton, 60th Security Forces Squadron, talks with teenagers Feb. 23 from Travis Air Force Base, Calif., during an event at the Travis bowling center.



MOMENTUM AUTO GROUP
Spring CLEARANCE EVENT

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2014 Mitsubishi Lancer ES SK1K100018A, VIN#JA320U01703073407 STARTING AT	\$7,485	2007 Mercedes-Benz GL450 4MATIC® SK1K10012A STARTING AT	\$13,450	2015 Kia Soul Exclaim SK1K1P0207, VIN#KNDU3A5277801686 STARTING AT	\$16,995
2007 Hyundai Elantra GLS SK1K1P01AA, VIN#NMAZ0P9C1017170 STARTING AT	\$7,995	2013 Ford Escape SE SK1K1P0150, VIN#1FMCU0GD0BBS003 STARTING AT	\$13,925	2011 Toyota Avalon Limited SK1K1P0102, VIN#4T1B1C300481413322 STARTING AT	\$17,250
2008 Honda Accord EX-L SK1K1P0206, VIN#1HGBH6E16B48L08738 STARTING AT	\$7,995	2014 Scion iC 10 Series SK1K1P0252, VIN#JTLJF5C70E3071442 STARTING AT	\$13,995	2012 BMW 3 Series 328i xDrive SK1K1P026A, VIN#WBAK55070CE66793 STARTING AT	\$17,351
2010 Kia Forte EX SK1K10033A, VIN#KMAF0442A0099799 STARTING AT	\$8,765	2013 Nissan Juke S SK1K1P0207, VIN#NMAF5M070122289 STARTING AT	\$14,250	2014 Kia Cadenza Premium SK1K1P0207, VIN#KNDLNA070E134799 STARTING AT	\$17,485
2013 Fiat 500c Lounge SK1K1P0275, VIN#3C3CFE901014050 STARTING AT	\$8,985	2013 Toyota Camry LE SK1K1P0253, VIN#4T1B1E1V0E0209701 STARTING AT	\$14,450	2013 Hyundai Azera Base SK1K1175018A, VIN#KMH04JG0A260240 STARTING AT	\$17,750
2007 Toyota Avalon Limited SK1K1P0232, VIN#4T1B1C300481413322 STARTING AT	\$9,450	2014 Nissan Juke S SK1K1P0207, VIN#NMAF5M070122289 STARTING AT	\$14,550	2015 Dodge Challenger SXT SK1K1P0300, VIN#3C3C3C2A8P01720600 STARTING AT	\$18,995
2013 Kia Soul Plus SK1K1P0206, VIN#NMAZ0P9C1017170 STARTING AT	\$10,485	2012 Hyundai Veracruz Limited SK1K1P0210, VIN#KMH04JG0A260240 STARTING AT	\$15,995	2013 Infiniti G37 Journey SK1K1P0115, VIN#JN1LV5AP8M300280 STARTING AT	\$19,450
2010 Chevrolet Traverse LS SK1K1P0205, VIN#1G1E1E450L135246 STARTING AT	\$10,925	2012 Hyundai Genesis 3.8 SK1K1P0232, VIN#KMH04JG0A260240 STARTING AT	\$17,475	2015 Toyota Avalon XLE SK1K1P014L, VIN#4T1B1C300481413322 STARTING AT	\$20,425
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2014 Jeep Compass Sport SK1K110148A, VIN#1C4LQB8E0A04945 STARTING AT	\$12,550	2015 Toyota Corolla S Plus SK1K1P0241, VIN#ZT1B1R0E05A22302 STARTING AT	\$15,650	2013 Honda Ridgeline RT SK1K1P0227, VIN#5FPYK1F2400015407 STARTING AT	\$21,995
2015 Kia Optima LX SK1K170610A, VIN#KNAJ44A27P500346 STARTING AT	\$12,985	2015 Toyota Corolla S Plus SK1K1P0105, VIN#5NPE4A020C1073875 STARTING AT	\$15,825	2013 BMW 3 Series 328i SK1K1P0225, VIN#WBAK55070CE66793 STARTING AT	\$22,350
2013 Hyundai Sonata SE SK1K1P0202, VIN#NMAZ0P9C1017170 STARTING AT	\$12,995	2013 Chrysler 300 Base SK1K1P0107, VIN#1C3C3C2A8P01720600 STARTING AT	\$15,995	2014 Toyota Sienna XLE 8 Passenger SK1K1P0107, VIN#KTDK30020A41702 STARTING AT	\$25,325

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Military Saves Week

27 Feb - 04 March



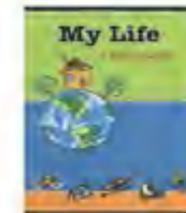
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Financial Freedom Classes at Base A & FRC
 Join one of TCU's Financial Education classes at the TAFB Airmen & Family Readiness Center or stop-by our branch and enter to win an Apple Watch® and three gift cards.

27 Feb. - Youth Day

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



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

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

27 Feb.	1000-1100	Kick-off Event at TCU branch Free Refreshments provided by KUIK Coffee Break
27 Feb.	1130-1230	Organize Your Financial Records
28 Feb.	1130-1230	Psychology of Spending
1 Mar.	0900-1000	Investing Fundamentals
	1130-1230	10 Steps to Financial Success
2 Mar.	0900-1200	Home Buying
	1130-1330	Drive Away Happy: Car Buying Decisions
3 Mar.	0900-1030	Retirement on Track
4 Mar.	1300-1330	Raffle for an Apple Watch® and three \$20 gift cards

Winners do not have to be present in win

Additional classes will be offered by TAFB Airmen & Family Readiness Center please call (707) 424-2805 for more information.

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