



Sacramento event remembers war in ...
VIETNAM

PAGES 16-17

Commander reflects on leading 60th MXS

During my time as the 60th Maintenance Squadron commander, our unit faced multiple challenges like the California wildfires; Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria; and an increase in operational demands driven by a pivot to the Pacific.



Commentary by Lt. Col. Claudio Covacci

60TH MAINTENANCE SQUADRON

I only mentioned a few of the trials our Airmen effortlessly tackled during this period. Their operational successes continue to impress me over and over again. Regardless of the complexity of the operation, our cadre undertook each task with a proficiency and know-how which makes the impossible look easy. As I count

my many blessings while serving at Travis Air Force Base, California, I often reflect on the words of Col. John Klein, 60th Air Mobility Wing commander: "No Airman achieves alone."

Our Airmen, base, and community partners have contributed to our achievements by offering expert guidance, essential support and strong doses of passion which continuously fuel the 60 MXS. Therefore, as I approach my upcoming change of command this summer, I feel it necessary to utilize this commentary to express my gratitude for the many people that I respect so much. First and foremost, I would like

Commander's Commentary

to thank the 60th AMW, 60th MXG, and 349th MXG leadership teams for supporting our unit. In particular, thank you for empowering our squadron by breaking through numerous bureaucratic barriers that allowed us to take care of our Airmen.

Secondly, I want to extend my appreciation to all the base support agencies that assist our squadron every day. Naming each organization would be far too much for an article, but a particular note of thanks goes to the Base Chapel and the Airman and Family Readiness Center. Most notably, I want to express my sincere

indebtedness to our community partners from the Travis Armed Forces Committee and honorary commanders. A particular mention goes to our Honorary Commander Mr. Jamil Zainasheff from Heretic Brewery, Mr. Jim Wilson from the 10-33 Foundation, Mrs. Julie De-Maria from Operation Care and Comfort, Mr. Dennis Hammer from Tri-City Fence Company, Suisun's Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2333, Fairfield's Order of Sons and Daughters of Italy in America Lodge 2534 and the Travis AFB's Knights of Columbus Council 15625. You assisted our unit without hesitation on multiple occasions, especially in times of need. You are truly a big part of our 60th MXS family.

Finally, a message of

appreciation goes to all the men and women of both the 60 MXS and 349th MXS. Moreover, a huge hug goes out to our Key Spouse team who does so much for our unit. In the Air Force, it is important to find people you can count on. Your unwavering allegiance and devotion has led our organization to be recognized multiple times for professional excellence. The strong foundation of knowledge and experience you bring to our mission is unparalleled.

Thank you enormously for allowing Duska and I to be part of "Team Travis." Being with you made a vast difference in our lives. Travis AFB and the local Northern California community will always have a special place in our hearts. You have changed our lives forever.

Staying resilient when half of your unit deploys

Commentary by Senior Master Sgt. Richard Wagner
60TH MAINTENANCE SQUADRON

The 60th Maintenance Squadron was extremely busy in 2017. During the past year, I had the opportunity to be part of numerous high-performing teams.

We answered the nation's call through deploying over 15 percent of our Airmen to overseas contingency operations at locations including the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Iraq,

Enlisted Commentary

Qatar and Jordan. We drove world-class aircraft maintenance that fueled the success of Exercise Cobra Gold, the world's largest interoperability exercise, Mobility Guardian, Air Mobility Command's premier large-scale joint exercise, and Ultimate Reach, United States Transportation Command's exercise of strategic air refueling and air drop capabilities. The demand each one of these missions placed on our

maintainers stretched our unit thin.

The home-station mission never stops. Deploying 15 percent of the workforce significantly added to the stress of those left behind. They were required to dig a little deeper to ensure things didn't fall apart. Now imagine what it would be like if 50 percent of your unit deployed. This is often what happens at home when a member deploys. The family unit's manpower is cut by 50 percent, but the mission requirements remain. The workload for the person at home increases by 100

percent. Many families have children, and that's like having members of your staff who don't listen to you 24/7. When you deploy, your service is noble – be proud of that. When you deploy, your family's service is a blessing – don't forget that.

Fortunately, family members have resources available to help stay resilient during the deployment process. One such resource is the commander's Key Spouse program. During 2017, I was blessed to observe another

See WAGNER Page 25

Clinic supports Month of the Military Child

Staff Sgt. Amber Carter
60TH AIR MOBILITY WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

It has been said that military children are like dandelions. They can put down roots and bloom anywhere the wind carries them. Month of the Military Child, celebrated in April, highlights the resiliency, strength and courage of military children.

"They didn't sign up for the lifestyle and stressors of being a military child, but they do deal with the consequences," said Capt. (Dr.) Steven Williams, 60th Medical Operations Squadron staff pediatrician. "I've met children who have moved six times. They are always the new kid in school. On top of that, they are constantly under the stress of a parent's potential deployment. The children of the military should be applauded for their bravery and for their resilience."

Williams and his team at the David Grant USAF Medical Center Pediatric Clinic at Travis Air Force Base, California, care for approximately 4,500 military children ranging in age from newborn to 18.

"The most important thing to do, in my opinion, is to take care of the children of those who serve," said Williams. "We owe our Airmen that. They need to know that while they are away on deployment or a (temporary deployment) or when their family is struggling with the stresses of a (permanent change of station) that at the very least their children are taken care of. They need to know that their children are happy, healthy, well and cared for."

April may be the month that we take a little extra time to recognize the sacrifices of military children, but the mission of the Pediatric Clinic is year round.

"At the Pediatric Clinic, we treat every month as if it were the Month of the



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

Levi, center, is held by his mother, Jolene Abaya, and comforted by his big brother, Roen, March 30 before a check-up at the David Grant USAF Medical Center Pediatric Clinic at Travis Air Force Base, Calif. The clinic cares for 4,500 military children from newborns up to 18 years old.

Military Child," said Senior Airman Hugo Estrada, 60th MDOS medical technician. "I believe keeping military children healthy enhances readiness by allowing members to have one less stress in their lives. Military members have busy, stressful days at work and if their loved one, such as their child, is not doing well, their focus will not be all on the mission.

The mission takes a lot to be completed correctly and efficiently and as long as the children are happy and healthy, parents have one less thing they have to worry about."

The Pediatric Clinic takes pride in their mission to monitor appropriate growth, development and health of all ages.

"My favorite part about working here at the Pediatric Clinic is the fact that we are helping these kids," said Estrada. "Kids are pure-hearted and deserve to be healthy and to get better. The best times are when a child returns after being sick and they are laughing and running around, and the thought that we helped is just priceless."

Tailwind

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60th Air Mobility Wing

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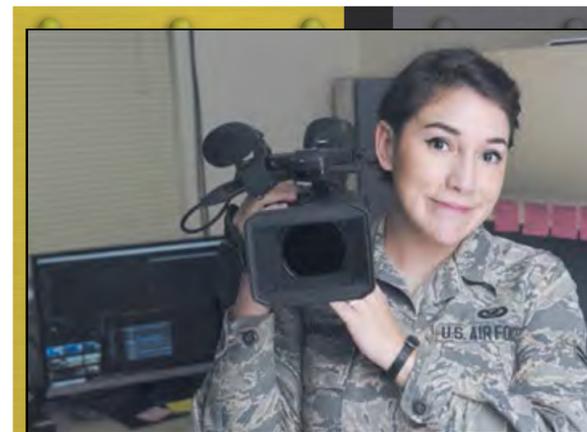
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On the cover

Baldwin Wong, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Department of California State Bugler, performs "Taps" March 29 at the Vietnam War Veterans Day and 50th Commemoration ceremony at the State Capitol in Sacramento, Calif.

U.S. Air Force photo/Heide Couch



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

WARRIOR OF THE WEEK

Name:
Airman 1st Class
Amy Younger.

Unit:
60th Air Mobility Wing
Public Affairs.

Duty title:
Broadcast journalist.

Hometown:
Alamogordo, New Mexico.

Time in service:
One year.

Family?
Spouse, Anthony Isley.

What are your goals?
To earn my bachelor's degree as well as senior airman below the zone.

What are your hobbies?
Hiking, reading and listening to

horror story podcasts.

What is your greatest achievement?
Overseeing the most profitable years for the New Mexico Museum of Space History's education department/foundation while working as education coordinator. During this time, they went from one camp franchise to three.

Support assists during Red Flag

Senior Airman Janelle Patiño
92ND AIR REFUELING WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

NELLIS AIR FORCE BASE, Nev. — People hear about aircraft and fighter jets accomplishing the mission all the time.

Whether it be KC-135 Stratotankers refueling or fighter jets fighting the fight, but what many overlook is what happens behind the scenes and what units and agencies are involved to authorize those flights.

There are a couple of units that work together to initiate the process, and it is no different in an exercise called Red Flag 18-2.

Airmen from the 92nd Operations Group from Fairchild Air Force Base, Washington, 6th OG from MacDill Air Force Base, Florida, and 931st Operations Support Squadron from McConnell Air Force Base, Kansas, flew to Nellis in support of the KC-135 Stratotankers' role in the exercise.

Upon the aircrew's arrival, the 92nd OG planners take charge by ensuring all aspects of the mission are developed. They set up flight plans and briefings to enable a smooth transition from the moment the aircrew arrives to the moment they land.

"We ensure the aircrews have all the materials they need to fly by setting up plans and procedures and going to meetings where I can gather more information about the mission," said Capt. Casey Lynn, 384th Air Refueling Squadron planner. "Without us, it would be a lot more difficult for them because they would have to dig through a lot of information for their upcoming flights. We show up earlier than everybody else so by the time

See RED FLAG Page 21



Courtesy photo

Guests pose Feb. 22 at the Gold Star Families Honor and Remembrance at the Marine's Memorial Club and Hotel in San Francisco, Calif.

Gold Star event remembers fallen

Dr. Lisa Rich and Suzanne Black

TRAVIS AIRMAN AND FAMILY READINESS CENTER

In a show of support for families of fallen service men and women, representatives from the Travis Airman and Family Readiness Center and the Travis First Sergeants Council attended the 2018 Gold Star Families Honor and Remembrance event held Feb. 22 at the Marine's Memorial Club and Hotel in San Francisco.

Senior Master Sgt. Jason Wilson, 60th Civil Engineer Squadron first sergeant, Master Sgt. Khafiz Gondry, 60th Logistics Readiness Squadron and Master Sgt. Michael Richardson, 60th Comptroller Squadron and Wing Staff Agencies first sergeant, all with the Travis First Sergeants Council

attended the reception and delivered proceeds raised during the seventh annual Gold Star Families Ruck March held in 2017 at Travis Air Force Base, California.

The Travis First Sergeants Council sponsors the annual ruck march event during May and representatives from the council attend the Gold Star Families Honor and Remembrance event the following February, hand-delivering the proceeds.

"It is an honor to support the families who have lost a loved one in military service," said Wilson.

The annual event brings together approximately 200 families for two days to remember their fallen heroes, connect with other GSF and learn about support resources for surviving families of fallen service members. One

such service is the Air Force Families Forever program, represented by Suzanne Black, Travis AFB AFFP program manager, and Joan Miller, AFFP program assistant, of the Travis AFB AFRC.

Ensuring that the families of our fallen Airmen are never forgotten by providing immediate and long-term compassionate support is the mission of AFFP. Black and Miller set up an information table during the Thursday evening reception discussing the support surviving family members can receive through the AFFP program located at the Travis AFRC. Black and Miller visited each remembrance table, speaking with family members and hearing the stories of their fallen loved one represented in

See GOLD STAR Page 23

Air Force, Nebraska conduct research

Senior Airman Christian Sullivan
628TH AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

JOINT BASE CHARLESTON, S.C. — Joint Base Charleston hosted members from Air Mobility Command and the University of Nebraska Medical Center for a transportable isolation system training and research event March 14.

The TIS, an enclosed negative pressure medical pod with clear walls, is an isolation unit designed to provide in-flight medical care for patients with highly infectious diseases.

The training helped identify and solve problems and ways to further improve the process of using the TIS in a real-world scenario.

"This was part of a joint research project with AMC and the University of Nebraska," said Maj. Melissa Buzbee-Styles, AMC deputy chief of in-route medical care. "We tested the TIS to ensure the operational policies and procedures work, as well as seeing if the training is set up for success."

Buzbee-Styles, and AMC, hope to conduct simulations in the future while flying for a more realistic evacuation scenario.

JB Charleston brought in aeromedical evacuation Airmen from Pope Army Air Field, N.C. and Scott Air Force Base, Ill. because of their prior experience training with the TIS.

"We pulled aeromedical evacuation teams from different bases to train them in case they are needed in a real world scenario," said Staff Sgt. Peter Boyd, 628th Medical Support Squadron biomedical equipment repair technician. "Working together with Airmen from other bases has been great. We've all kind of melded together working toward one goal."

New sleep apnea kit expands options



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

Items found in the Travis Kit will supply reliable electric power to operate a continuous positive airway pressure device for eight to 12 days. Items include CPAP device, filters, hoses, batteries and battery chargers.

Merrie Schilter-Lowe
60TH AIR MOBILITY WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

A rapid medical prototyping team at David Grant USAF Medical Center has designed a kit that will open deployment locations to aircrew and warfighters with obstructive sleep apnea corrected by a continuous positive airway pressure machine.

The team, composed of active duty and reserve members at Travis Air Force Base, California, call their creation the Travis Kit. The kit provides the electrical power CPAP users need to operate their devices when deployed to austere locations.

"Sleep apnea is a medical condition that would have prevented aircrew from flying into the most austere areas," said Col. (Dr.) Al M. Elsayed von Bayreuth, 60th Medical Group associate chief of professional staff, staff pathologist and primary medical review officer. "Based on our limited

field tests, four charged batteries can run the CPAP device for eight to 12 days. The operational aspects of this will affect not just the Air Force, but the Army, Navy, Special Forces and anyone who flies."

The Travis Kit weighs about 22 pounds and fits into a double-cushioned helmet bag. The kit includes a full face mask, a nasal mask with harness, heated and unheated tubing, filters, two datacards – one to mail to the user's medical waiver authority for compliance verification while the spare is being used – four battery chargers and four chargeable batteries that can be fully charged with two to three hours of continuous or interrupted power.

Elsayed von Bayreuth, Maj. Stephen Vela, 60th MDG Flight and Operational Medicine Flight commander and Tech. Sgt. Ryan

See APNEA Page 24

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Actions have consequences

60th Air Mobility Wing
Judge Advocate

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

During March, two 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 as well as maintaining unit good order and discipline.

Law and Order



Administrative separation actions

21st Airlift Squadron
A staff sergeant from the 21st Airlift Squadron was administratively discharged for
See LAW Page 25

2005 all-female crew recalls mission

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

SOUTHWEST ASIA — On Sept. 26, 2005, six women assigned to the 737th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron under the 386th Air Expeditionary Wing, made history and became the first all-female C-130 Hercules crew to fly in combat. More than a decade later, a few members of the group reflected on their experience.

"We were just doing our everyday jobs, so there was nothing unusual about that day for us," said Lt. Col. Carol Mitchell, 310th Airlift Squadron commander. "Frankly, we were disappointed that it was 2005 before an all-female C-130 crew flew in combat."

Mitchell was a young captain
See RECALLS Page 22



U.S. Air Force photo

From left to right, Staff Sgt. Josie E. Harshe, flight engineer; Capt. Anita T. Mack, navigator; 1st Lt. Siobhan Couturier, pilot; Capt. Carol J. Mitchell, aircraft commander; and loadmasters Tech. Sgt. Sigrid M. Carrero-Perez and Senior Airman Ci Ci Alonzo, pause in the cargo bay of their C-130 for a group photo following their 2005 flight.

Air Force, Army team up for Alaska mission

Senior Airman
Tryphena Mayhugh

62ND AIRLIFT WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

JOINT BASE LEWIS-MCCHORD, Wash. — Members of the 62nd Airlift Wing teamed with Soldiers for Exercise Arctic Pegasus, held March 11-14 in Alaska.

During this four-day exercise, Airmen assigned to the 7th and 8th Airlift Squadrons braved bitter winds and freezing temperatures transporting approximately 30 Soldiers and Interim Armored Strykers using C-17 Globemaster IIIs.

"A lot of what we're doing these days operationally is all joint exercise," said Capt. Alex Hoffman, 7th AS pilot. "(Working with other branches helps in) figuring out how we can work out our different, unique assets or strong points together."

"It's not just the Air Force or Army doing their own thing, everything is interconnected," he continued. "Realistically this is what we'll be doing - taking the Army. It's always good to train with the actual people and not just simulate dropping them off."

See ALASKA Page 20

BX to offer 'brat patch' April 7

Jessica Jones
ARMY AND AIR FORCE EXCHANGE
SERVICE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Military brats are serving, too and now they can put their fearless spirit on full display with a free patch from Vanguard and the Travis Air

Force Base Exchange. The first ever military brat patch is part of the Army and Air Force Exchange Service's celebration of Month of the Military Child. Patches will be handed out to military children while supplies last from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. April 7 at the

Travis AFB Exchange. Kids will also receive a coupon for \$5 in stripes alterations, allowing them to have the patch sewn on a personal item.

"Military brats put down roots almost anywhere," said
See PATCH Page 23

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STEAM event wows students

3-D printing, drone display highlights of day

Staff Sgt. Clayton Lenhardt
375TH AIR MOBILITY WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, Ill. — More than 300 students from six local schools got a first-hand look at the Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics areas of focus March 22 during Scott Air Force Base's annual STEAM Day.

"Enforcing some of the critical STEAM principles will hopefully get people encouraged, young people encouraged to go into or explore those opportunities related to those fields of study," said Capt. Daniel Esposito, 375th Communications Support Squadron director of operations and STEAM Day chairman.

The day's highlights included demonstrations of 3-D printing and how it relates to transportation by U.S. Transportation Command, a drone display and Wi-Fi cracking by the Cyber Support Squadron and an operations floor tour by the Defense Information Systems Agency, who also hosted half of the stations for the event.

Second Lt. Panupong Phongpitakvises, 375th CSPTS software service flight commander, hopes the booths and demonstrations will spark a new interest in the students.

"The students should be able to learn things they don't see daily in school," said Phongpitakvises. "They might be really interested in it and they can in the future use it as a point of contact and just going to learn more about it."

His hopes were echoed by members of the local schools.

"Just hearing some of these people talk would make me want to sign up for the military, just after seeing the things, the demonstrations they do," said Vicki Norton, Smithton School principal. "I think it's going to get some kids thinking and considering this as a career that maybe wouldn't have."



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Clayton Lenhardt

Maj. Keith Nordquist, United States Transportation Command strategic initiatives officer, explains 3-D printing and the benefits it adds to the transportation community March 22 during the Spring STEAM Day at Scott Air Force Base, Ill.

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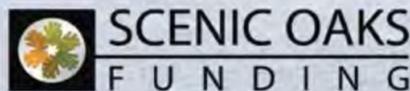


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Officer takes part in carrier ops

2nd Lt. Savannah Stephens
 33RD FIGHTER WING

ATLANTIC OCEAN — Air Force 1st Lt. Sean Duval, 33rd Maintenance Squadron maintenance operations officer, participated in a maintenance officer exchange program March 16-22 aboard the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN-72).

During the exchange, Duval filled a dual-hatted role. He split his time between shadowing the ship's aircraft intermediate maintenance department and Strike Fighter Squadron 101's maintenance sailors, who were learning flight operations on the flight deck.

Experiencing flight operations on the flight deck was very different than what Duval is used to on the flight line at Eglin Air Force Base, Florida.

"Getting out on the flight deck, watching jets launch and land was pretty awesome," Duval said. "It's like nothing I've ever seen before."

Duval spent his time learning about how the Navy executes aircraft maintenance while at sea and understanding the difference in shop dynamics.

"Back home, the maintenance officers are really involved in the day-to-day missions of maintenance, it's very structured," Duval said. "Here on the ship, it seems to be more of the enlisted briefing and keeping the mission running. It's really neat seeing how things work differently."



U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Peter Thompson

First Lieutenant Sean Duval, 33rd Maintenance Squadron maintenance operations officer, stands in front of an F-35A Lightning II March 19 on the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN-72).

This is the first time a maintenance officer from 33rd MXS has come aboard the USS Abraham Lincoln.

Duval toured numerous parts of the ship, participated in operational exercises and volunteered to be a medical casualty during a general quarters drill.

GQ is a ship-wide simulation of actual emergency situations. It helps prepare the sailors for real world scenarios that a ship can encounter at sea. They practice everything from first-aid, to damage control, to defensive maneuvers.

"I was watching the sailors work a first-aid station, and they needed a volunteer," Duval said. "Little did I know that within just a few minutes, I would be strapped to a stretcher and taken down to the ship hospital for the rest of GQ. It was pretty unique to be right in the middle

of what the sailors do every day."

Duval is thankful for the opportunity he was given to experience life as a sailor, and is excited to take what he learned back home.

"I'm an airplane guy; I love airplanes," Duval said. "I had the opportunity to shoot off a jet, and that was pretty awesome. I was able to follow around someone clearing the jet for takeoff, being just aft of the jet. It shakes you, which is an indescribable feeling."

Duval also saw this as an opportunity to reconnect with his family's history of naval service.

"I come from a family of Navy folks, so during my sit down with my new commander, I asked him if I could get on an aircraft carrier," Duval said. "It's something I've always wanted to do, and he immediately told me yes."

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Inspection process goes digital, hopes to save funds

John Harrington
88TH AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

TINKER AIR FORCE BASE, Okla. — The Air Force Life Cycle Management Center expects to save the Air Force money while protecting the environment and streamlining operations as they roll out their new nondestructive inspection process to inspect aircraft across the service.

Computed radiography uses an imaging plate instead of film to produce X-ray images of airframes and their components digitally and will eventually eliminate the existing chemical process used by some 1,200 Total Force NDI technicians across the Air Force. While reducing costs in purchasing, storing and disposing of chemicals as well as keeping them out of waste streams. The new process will impact every airframe the service flies,

according to Michael Paulk, Air Force NDI Office chief.

“Every aircraft that we fly in the Air Force, whether it’s a manned or an unmanned aircraft, has some level of inspections that are required on a re-occurring basis,” Paulk said.

Nondestructive inspections are performed on many parts of an aircraft, including control surfaces, structural members and even engines, according to Paulk. They’re done after a set number of operating hours as well as when an aircraft encounters severe flying conditions or are subjected to hard landings or other incidents in order to determine the extent of damage. Think of them like an annual physical or a check-up after getting hurt.

“Just like the doctor might do an ultrasound, an MRI or an X-ray, we do basically the same thing to our patients – being airplanes and the components

of airplanes,” said Paulk.

And like doctors of old, NDI X-rays were produced like they had been for decades, shot on special film that needed to be chemically processed. Now, for the price of 50 sheets of X-ray film, the Air Force can buy one digital plate that can be used 500 times.

“There’s a savings on the film itself, you’re saving the (cost of) development chemicals and, more importantly, you’re not having to pay money to dispose of (the chemicals) after it’s used and it becomes hazardous waste,” said Calvin Moore, Air Force NDI Office materials engineer.

Additionally, the digital format of the imagery allows for NDI technicians to use specialized software to enhance the images for clarity during diagnosis, according to Paulk. And, when technicians are unsure of a determination, the images can be electronically shared with experts for second opinions. Besides cost savings and flexibility, the system has even greater benefits.

“One of the real advantages, for our major command customers, is when they have to deploy,” Moore said.

Instead of having to transport four palettes of equipment



Courtesy photo

Kevin McClain, contract nondestructive testing instructor, explains how to clear a jammed image scanner from a computed radiography system to Tech. Sgt. Matthew Barnes, left, visiting nondestructive inspection instructor; Tech. Sgt. Clifford Daniels, rear, Military NDI Instructor supervisor; and Bobby Britton, seated, Civilian NDI Instructor supervisor during instructor qualification training Jan. 24 at the 359th Training Squadron Detachment 1 at Naval Air Station Pensacola, Fla.

when NDI technicians traditionally deploy – including film processors, chemicals and tanks to capture the hazardous materials – that’s been reduced down to one, according to Moore. Not only does that save on vital aircraft cargo space but it also leads to a much faster setup time – from at least two days required to reassemble equipment, install plumbing and set up environmental controls, down to four hours to set up a computer system and scanner.

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U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Steven Sechler

Lt. Col. Cheryl Buehn, 71st Fighter Training Squadron T-38A Talon instructor pilot, poses March 27 in front of T-38A Talons at Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Va.

Pilot serves as example to youth

Emerald Ralston
633RD AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

JOINT BASE LANGLEY-EUSTIS, Va. — “I hear at times in my uniform out and about in daily life, ‘do they let women fly?’” said Lt. Col. Cheryl Buehn, the only female instructor pilot in the 71st Fighter Training Squadron. “I don’t think they realize they’re asking a female fighter pilot. So I take a breath and I say, ‘Absolutely. They let women fly fighters, tankers, RPAs, everything. Both men and women fly a lot of different platforms and everyone is important to the fight right now.”

Buehn has flown a number of aircraft in the Air Force, such as the F-16 Fighting Falcon, T-38C Talon and the E-11A Battlefield Airborne Communications Node. She currently flies the T-38A Talon in an adversary air role to help F-22 Raptor pilots train for combat. She said she loves the opportunity to challenge outdated stereotypes and inspire younger generations, including her own children.

“My kids used to think that all parents were pilots since my husband is a pilot too,” she said. “They’d meet (other parents) and say ‘what airplane do you fly?’ It was the coolest thing that my kids believed that anyone could be a pilot.”

Buehn’s interest in flight came in part from her love of a challenge and conquering things other people said were too difficult.

“My first true interest and desire in becoming a pilot began while I was at the United States Air Force Academy,” she said. “There were a few really unique and interesting aviation programs in which I was able to participate.”

The expectation at the Academy is to develop pilots, but she said the real excitement came from earning the chance to attend the training program she wanted most - the Euro-NATO Joint-Jet Pilot Training, where NATO allies send their top candidates to develop them into fighter pilots.

“One of the neatest aspects of that program is that you have representatives from other countries all together in the same class,” she said. “They’ve proven their worth to represent their nation in a pilot training program that will serve throughout their professional aviation career.”

Buehn said being a part of this rigorous pilot training program further proved to her that tenacity, drive, determination and true passion were the main factors that contributed to success. It also showed her that the airplane is truly the greatest

equalizer – gender, race or background – none of those things matter in the cockpit.

“There are different minorities throughout all facets of the Air Force, so I think the biggest point is that we find unity and share the ability to work together as a team regardless of what segregating factor you might have,” she said.

Buehn credits those who came before her who made it possible for her to be an Air Force fighter pilot.

The accomplishments of her role models, such as Amelia Earhart, the first female pilot to fly alone across the Atlantic; Bessie Coleman, the first African-American and Native-American woman to hold a pilot’s license; and the Women Airforce Service Pilots, who served an integral role flying military aircraft during World War II, inspired Buehn to never let any societal expectations hold her back.

Women’s History Month was just one opportunity to highlight the incredible women serving in many capacities, but being an inspiration to future fighter pilots is something Buehn said she hopes she does all year.

“There’s a natural confidence or comfort in seeing someone that looks like you doing something that you want to do,” said Buehn.

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DAILY REPUBLIC

AFAF begins 45th year of helping Airmen, families

Richard Salomon
AIR FORCE'S PERSONNEL CENTER
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JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas — The 2018 Air Force Assistance Fund campaign runs through May 4.

Air Force bases worldwide participate in the AFAF campaign, which raises money for charities that support Air Force active-duty members, Guardsmen and Reservists as well as spouses, immediate family members and veterans. The charities are: the Air Force Aid Society, Air Force Enlisted Village, Air Force Villages Charitable Foundation and the General and Mrs. Curtis E. LeMay Foundation.

"The four affiliate charities of the AFAF campaign exist for the sole purpose of taking care of Airmen and their families from induction into the Air Force through retirement," said Bill D'Avanzo, Air Force fundraising chief at the Air Force Personnel Center. "These funds provide emergency financial relief, educational assistance and family support, and have a direct

impact on the lives of Airmen and families."

One-time donations are accepted by cash or check to one or more of these AFAF funds. Active-duty members and retirees can donate monthly from their military pay accounts to one or more of the funds.

Active-duty members can choose to have payroll deductions for three to 12 months, while retirees can do so for 12 months. Under certain conditions, Guard and Reserve members can sign up for payroll deductions for three to 12 months beginning in June.

"The AFAF continues to be a major factor in our resiliency and readiness, even after 45 years of the campaign," D'Avanzo said. "This year also marks 76 years of the Air Force Aid Society helping Airmen and 50 years of the Air Force Enlisted Village providing homes to surviving spouses."

For more AFAF information, visit www.afassistancefund.org.

Visit AFPC's public website for more information about personnel programs.

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Sacramento event pays tribute to Vietnam vets

U.S. Air Force photos by Heide Couch



1) Airman 1st Class Candy Chang, left, and Airman 1st Class Chelsea Cox, center, Golden West Winds of the United States Air Force Band of the Golden West, perform March 29 at the Veterans Day and 50th Commemoration at the State Capitol in Sacramento, Calif. The event was held to recognize all Vietnam veterans and commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War. 2) Attendees render a salute during the ceremony. 3) Col. John Klein, right, 60th Air Mobility Wing commander, greets a veteran during the ceremony. 4) Tech. Sgt. Robert Mayes and Airman 1st Class Hilary Zirkle, both with the Golden West Winds, perform at the event. 5) Members of the Vietnam Veterans of America, Sacramento Valley Chapter 500, retire the colors during the ceremony.

Swap Ads

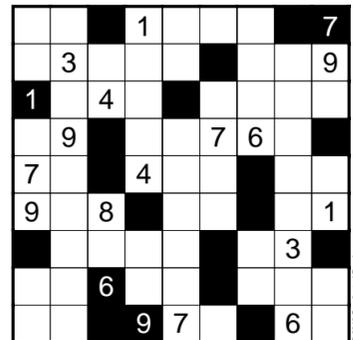
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Puzzles

STR8TS

No. 380 Medium



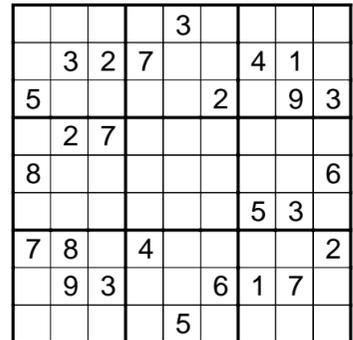
Previous solution - Tough



How to beat STR8TS – Like Sudoku, no single number can repeat in any row or column. But... rows and columns are divided by black squares into compartments. These need to be filled in with numbers that complete a 'straight'. A straight is a set of numbers with no gaps but can be in any order, eg [4,2,3,5]. Clues in black cells remove that number as an option in that row and column, and are not part of any straight. Glance at the solution to see how 'straights' are formed.

SUDOKU

No. 380 Medium



Previous solution - Easy



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

Managers focus on nonmedical care

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas — Nonmedical care managers serve as the Air Force Wounded Warrior Program's subject-matter experts and actively advocate for more than 3,000 wounded, ill and injured service men and women.

Visit www.wounded-warrior.af.mil for more information about the program. For more information about Air Force personnel programs, go to myPers using a CAC-enabled computer. Eligible individuals who do not have a myPers account can request one by following instructions on screen.

— Air Force News Service

News Notes

Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Block Party. Postponed to April 27. For more information, contact 2nd Lt. Katie McGaha at 424-5359 or katie.mcgaha.1@us.af.mil.

Take Your Kiddo to Work Day. April 24. Register at the Airman and Family Readiness Center to receive a free complimentary goody bag. Limited to 150. For more information, call 424-2486 or visit TravisAFRC.com.

DGMC closed for training. The David Grant USAF Medical Center at Travis Air Force Base, California will be closed all day April 26 for training. The Family Medicine Resident Clinic and the emergency department will still see patients. Since both the main pharmacy in DGMC and the satellite pharmacy in the Base Exchange mini mall will be closed, patients with prescriptions and prescription refills are encouraged to pick them up April 25.

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 VA 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 tfianie.stevenson@us.af.mil to receive a packet.

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., 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 Upcoming

Family Bible Study Night. 5:30 p.m. free dinner, 6:30 p.m. at First Street Chapel. Six-week study. Children's ministry offered for 6 months to 12 years old. Begins March 22.

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.

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

60th FSS

Upcoming

MLB discount tickets. Get tickets to the upcoming games: Los Angeles Dodgers at San Francisco Giants on April 7, Oakland Athletics at Giants on July 14 and Atlanta Braves at Giants on Sept. 11. For more information, call 707-424-0969.

Zip-lining. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. April 15 via Outdoor Recreation. This adventure is \$25 for R4R eligible and \$85 for all others. Ages 18 and up. Call 424-0969 to learn if you qualify for R4R pricing.

Club member breakfast. 6:30-9 a.m. April 22 at the Delta Breeze Club. Nonmembers \$7.95.

Closures

NAF Human Resources Office hours. The office will close every Thursday. Business hours are 7:30 to 4:30 p.m. Monday, Tuesday Wednesday and Friday. NAF HRO also is closed on federal holidays. For more information, call 707-424-4749.

News and notes

Dependent ID card renewal. Dependents

In the next week...

sat UFC Fight Night. Watch Tony Ferguson vs. Khabib Nurmagomedov April 7 at Wingman's. Doors 7 p.m. All Pay-Per-View events shown at Wingman's are free for members. Nonmembers \$10. For more information, call 707-437-4737.

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

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

Recurring

Air Force Office of Special Investigations.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Employee-Vehicle Certification and Reporting System. Civilian and military personnel must maintain emissions information

with the Web-based ECARS system. For more information, call Xuyen Lieu at 707-424-5103.

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

Fairfield/Vacaville Train Station Project. Located at Peabody Road and Vanden Road in Fairfield with a six-lane overpass. Construction is scheduled for completion in October. For more information, visit <http://bit.ly/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 travspcombatpsd@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 sent back to back and must be completed online with 2D barcode at website <https://pdpform.state.gov> and/or <https://travel.state.gov>. For more information, call 707-424-5324.

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

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

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 Gisham 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/2mR1g2>. 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

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

Today

- 6:30 p.m. "Annihilation" (R)
- 9 p.m. "Thoroughbreds" (R)

Saturday

- 6:30 p.m. "Rampage" (PG-13, free advanced screening)

Sunday

- 2 p.m. "A Wrinkle in Time" (PG)

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 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.
- Daniel Durkin, 60th Logistics Readiness and Therapeutics Squadron.
- Anonymous employee, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington.
- Anonymous employee, McConnell Air Force Base, Kansas.

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

THE FLIP SIDE

Airmen complete FTAC



U.S. Air Force photo

Congratulations to the latest Airmen to complete the First-Term Airman Center course. Alphabetically: Airman 1st Class Salem Almosadder, 60th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron; Airman 1st Class Marisol Ascencio, 60th Logistics Readiness Squadron; Airman 1st Class Pryce Austin, 60th Diagnostics and Therapeutics Squadron; Airman 1st Class Joshua Brown, 60th Air Mobility Wing; Airman 1st Class Derek Calmeyn, 60th Operations Support Squadron; Airman 1st Class James Carter, 660th AMXS; Airman 1st Class Christopher Cifers, 60th Maintenance Squadron; Airman 1st Class Chelsea Concepcion, 60th Surgical Operations Squadron; Airman 1st Class Hailey Criss, 60th Security Forces Squadron; Airman 1st Class Celyann Cruz-Torres, 60th Force Support Squadron; Airman Joshua De Jesus Gerard, 60th Communications Squadron; Airman 1st Class Toiquan Duren, 60th Dental Squadron; Airman 1st Class Russell Fant, 660th AMXS; Airman 1st Class Zachary Gager, 60th Civil Engineer Squadron; Airman 1st Class Efen Garcia, 660th AMXS; Airman Ernestas Gelgotas, 60th CES; Airman 1st Class Bryant Hennessy, 660th AMXS; Airman 1st Class Daniel Hii, 60th Aerial Port Squadron; Airman 1st Class Gabrielle Konopczyk, 60th MDTs; Airman Trevor Mosher, 60th Medical Operations Squadron; Airman 1st Class Destinee Noller, 60th LRS; Airman 1st Class Daniel Pierce, 60th LRS; Airman 1st Class Victor Reyes, 660th AMXS; Airman 1st Class Noel Salcido, 60th AMXS; Airman Donald Shipp, 60th MXS; Airman 1st Class Justin Srader, 60th OSS; Airman 1st Class Shea Taylor, 60th APS; Airman 1st Class Arianna Wadley, 60th MDOS; Airman 1st Class Jacob Waters, 921st Contingency Response Squadron; and Airman 1st Class Alexis Williams, 60th SGCS.



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Alaska

From Page 7

Working frigid conditions was a new experience for many of the Airmen participating in the exercise. However, flying and unloading cargo in cold weather while the Army simulated an operation provided critical training helps maximize full-spectrum readiness. Team members recognized the value of this training to maintain rapid global mobility capabilities.

"This exercise was to see how we're able to handle arctic conditions and to

work with the Army to build our relationship with them," said Airman 1st Class Samantha Martino, 7th AS loadmaster. "I really enjoyed it, I thought it was a cool experience to go up as far north as we can and work with the Army."

For the Army, working with the Air Force in joint exercises provides an opportunity to sharpen their skills on procedures involving aircraft.

"(Loadmasters and aircrews) have a level of expertise on the procedures necessary for us to deploy our platforms with aircraft," said Army Sgt. 1st Class Philip Piennette, Crusher Company 321 platoon sergeant. "Due to the type of

operation this was, everyone in my organization is now better from learning how that goes.

"Everything from the inspection process, to the cleanliness of the vehicle, to how it's chained down, how it's loaded and off loaded - they'll use that for the rest of their career," he continued. "The Stryker platform and C-17 probably aren't going anywhere anytime soon, so learning how to deploy both of them in conjunction with one another is exceedingly valuable for the young Soldier."

In addition to the joint training advantage, the temperatures offered a unique environment. With a respective average

high and low temperature of -7 and -21 degrees the environment provided an ideal location for Airmen and Soldiers to practice cold weather operations.

"It's something we don't see very much, for sure," Hoffman said. "Depending on what sort of situation the U.S. may find itself in, it's definitely good to train in those environments to see how our equipment and people work and all the stuff that gets affected by cold weather."

Once Airmen and Soldiers arrived the location, the loadmasters pulled on their protective layers and stepped into the freezing temperatures to unload the Strykers on their aircraft.

Red Flag

From Page 4

the crews arrive, they have everything they need to know in front of them."

Remaining vigilant, flexible and patient is vital in being a planner as they deal with a lot of changes and challenges throughout the day.

"As planners, we need to be on time and be flexible especially with Red Flag 18-2 because it changes as it happens,"

Lynn said. "As a whole, organization and continuity of knowledge with this type of exercise is important. It makes everything go smoothly not just for the aircrew but also for us."

Intelligence Airmen from the 92nd Operations Support Squadron then provide threat details to the aircrew prior to flight and post-flight.

"We work directly with mission planners to provide all of the details for the aircrew to accomplish their mission securely," said Staff Sgt. Steven Close,

92nd OSS intelligence analyst. "Especially in today's generation, there are a lot of systems and capabilities that are advancing and changing every day. It's our job to provide important insight to the aircrew so they can better fulfill their mission."

In this exercise, intelligence Airmen provide mission briefs with an overview of what the aircrew can expect along their route when accomplishing the Red Flag mission, Close added.

Subsequently, Airmen from the 92nd OG's Squadron

Aviation Resource Management office come into play. SARM ensures pilots and boom operators are current and qualified with their training, which earns them a "go" to fly and accomplish the mission.

"We are here to make sure aircrew members are qualified and current with their training prior to safely executing the mission," said Staff Sgt. Jonathan Rivera, 93rd Air Refueling Squadron SARM NCO in charge. "We do this to ensure that the aircrews are properly

trained and have completed all of their flying requirements."

Without SARM, the risk of missions being executed carelessly and unsafely increases.

"Each aircrew has to complete a certain amount of training requirements and we help by keeping track of them before they go on a flight," Rivera said. "We don't just keep track of their training requirements, but we also keep track of their aeronautical qualification, physical and physiological training."

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Recalls

From Page 6

and the aircraft commander then, and her crew included 1st Lt. Siobhan Couturier, pilot; Capt. Anita T. Mack, navigator; Staff Sgt. Josie E. Harshe, flight engineer; and loadmasters Tech. Sgt. Sigrid M. Carretero-Perez and Senior Airman Ci Ci Alonzo. The crew members were deployed from the 43rd Airlift Wing at Pope Air Force Base, North Carolina and flew the mission on a Vietnam-era 1962 C-130.

Throughout the deployment, their missions included flying cargo and troops in and out of Iraq, Afghanistan, and the Horn of Africa. On this historic day, the crew transported 151 U.S. Marines and their equipment in and out of Iraq.

"I was happy to be doing our primary mission," said Lt. Col. Anita Mack, Air Mobility Command deputy division chief. "Delivering beans and bullets on time and on target. We get to have a direct impact on the folks in the field bringing them the supplies needed to do their job and then flying them back to go home. There is a real sense of responsibility to do the best job you can do when people are depending on you."

For decades, women have worked hard to get to a point where they belong inside an organization. According to Mitchell, there is a fine line between setting yourself apart as different, like the all-female crew did in 2005, versus blending into an organization.

"I want to be measured by my performance and abilities rather than my gender," said Mack. "While it was special

"I want to be measured by my performance and abilities rather than my gender."

— Lt. Col. Anita Mack

to be a member of this crew, I want to emphasize I have always focused on being a great navigator and officer first, rather than a woman in the Air Force."

Because of the significance of that flight and the media attention the event earned that day, Mitchell was invited to give interviews and attend speaking engagements to talk about women in the military and specifically, in aviation. By participating in those events, she said she learned that there is still a large part of society that does not think women have the opportunities to succeed in

technically, physically, or intellectually challenging occupations.

"We didn't want an all-female crew to be unusual, we wanted it to be normal," Mitchell said. "Unfortunately, it is not normal yet. In order to get there, we have to stand out to show the rest of the world what we are capable of."

1st Lt. Josie Duff, 96th Medical Group registered nurse, was a flight engineer on the crew then and agreed she looks forward to when a female crew becomes the norm.

"If we want women serving in the military to be treated equally and for gender not to be an issue, then we should not put

our gender in the spotlight and make it something 'special.'"

Throughout history, many courageous women have stepped forward to fight inequality and to break down barriers for the benefit of society. The first all-female C-130 crew to fly in combat joined an elite group of women that historic day allowing future generations of women in the military to progress further.

"Young girls in particular are often surprised to learn that I'm a pilot and that therefore, they could be too," said Mitchell. "We need to do a better job of educating society and our youth so they understand that there are no longer obstacles preventing girls from doing whatever they decide to do, even if that's being an Air Force pilot. Brave pioneering women painstakingly removed those obstacles for us, and we need to take advantage of the opportunities they have provided."



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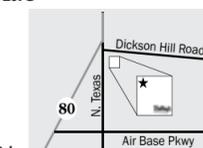
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Gold Star

From Page 4

after her son's death, she felt the message was more of a sentiment instead of a reality. But after speaking with Black about the AFFF program and new Gold Star DBIDS initiative, she finally believed she was part of the Air Force family.

"She truly made me feel like the Air Force valued me," said Vega. "When they gave me that card, I thought, 'I believe you now. I am Air Force.' It is a tremendous amount of pride and a tremendous amount of feeling that I am truly appreciated as a Gold Star mom, as the mother of an Airman who lost his life for our country. It is a big thank you and I carry that thank you in the form of an ID."

"We want Gold Star Families to know their loved ones are not forgotten, that they are not alone, said Black. "That we, the Air Force family, are here for them."

AFFF Gold Star mom, Tati-ana Oddson, experienced unimaginable loss when her son, Airman 1st Class Alfred Komlev, died on active service while



Courtesy photo

Guests pose Feb. 22 at the Gold Star Families Honor and Remembrance at the Marine's Memorial Club and Hotel in San Francisco, Calif.

stationed at Aviano Air Base, Italy. While attending the two-day event, she expressed, "We want to ensure our sons and daughters continue to live on and the stories we share with others during events like this help us to do that."

Oddson continues to stay connected to her Air Force family by participating in the annual Travis AFB Ruck March, receiving family support services through her local veteran center and volunteering her time at the United Service Organization on Travis

AFB. Oddson shared another proud moment when she witnessed her daughter, Lolita, enlist into the United States Air Force. Oddson credits the AFFF program and Black for keeping her connected to the Air Force and local community.

"I know I have a family. I am not alone," said Oddson."

For more information on the Air Force Families Forever program and the Gold Star DBIDS access card, call the Airman and Family Readiness Center at 707-424-2486.

Patch

From Page 7

Flor Payton, Travis AFB Exchange general manager. "These children are our nation's youngest heroes and these special patches symbolize their strength and resolve."

"Military brat" is used in the military as a term of endearment and respect, and

refers to the children of those serving in the U.S. armed forces who move often as their parent's duty assignments change.

Airmen and military families can contact the Travis AFB Exchange at 707-437-4633 for more details. For information about the Exchange's Month of the Military Child events including sweepstakes and more, visit ShopMyExchange.com/MOMC.

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Apnea

From Page 5

Padgett, 821st Contingency Response Group, introduced the kit in March at the 2018 Aerospace Medicine Summit and NATO Science and Technology Organization gathering at Ramstein Air Base, Germany.

Currently, the kit is only available to Airmen at Travis, but team members hope it will be adopted Air Force-wide.

"We are using word of mouth from our presentation at Ramstein and our soon-to-be published medical articles," said Vela, who is also a physician assistant. "Our hope is that this will gain traction and then more and more Airmen will be able to benefit from this easy to procure kit. We know this is an easy fix that just requires a minor edit to the referral for a member's CPAP and supplies."

Obstructive sleep apnea is a potentially serious sleep disorder in which a person's breathing repeatedly stops and starts during sleep. OSA can result in abrupt awakenings accompanied by gasping or choking, excessive daytime sleepiness, difficulty

concentrating during the day, high blood pressure and mood changes, such as depression or irritability. A CPAP machine corrects the breathing problem by delivering constant and steady air pressure so the individual does not have abrupt awakenings.

It is estimated that 22 million Americans and one in 15 adults have moderate to severe sleep apnea. A 2010 study published by Madigan Army Medical Center in Tacoma, Washington, found that 85 percent of 725 active duty members from all services – about 93 percent were men – had a clinically relevant sleep disorder, with OSA being the most frequent diagnosis followed by insomnia. Participants self-reported sleeping an average of 5.74 hours per night.

Although sleep needs vary among individuals, the American Academy of Sleep Medicine says adults need an average of seven to eight hours of sleep nightly to feel alert and well-rested during the day.

Airmen with medical conditions like OSA undergo a medical evaluation board review and receive an assignment limitation code. The code restricts them from permanent and temporary

duty assignments in areas where they would not have access to reliable electric power to run their CPAP device.

Not everyone diagnosed with OSA requires a CPAP device, but OSA of any severity requires aircrew and ground-based controllers to obtain an aeromedical waiver.

"This would not change with use of the Travis Kit," said Vela.

However, the kit hopefully will allow members who need a CPAP device to request a deployment waiver for austere environments, he said.

Flight medicine will issue the Travis Kit to Airmen newly diagnosed with OSA when they prepare their waiver package for the MEB, said Elsayed von Bayreuth.

"Imagine, anyone with a CPAP pack and batteries can go anywhere in the world," he said.

In daily interactions with crews deploying around the globe, Elsayed von Bayreuth, who is also a flight surgeon, said he repeatedly witnessed instances where the most qualified member could not go on a critical mission because of the reliable power limitation.

"The current regulation says reliable power, but I don't know

what that means," said Elsayed von Bayreuth. "The term is not sufficiently objective to enable precise determination if a particular deployed location is suitable for members with controlled OSA."

To resolve the issue, Elsayed von Bayreuth recruited a team that included Vela, a nurse, a command surgeon, an expeditionary medical support commander, a certified master diver, a private pilot, a Marine Corp mechanical engineer, a psychologist and an ear, nose and throat surgeon.

Padgett was also on the team. A loadmaster on the C-5M Super Galaxy, Padgett is currently assigned to the 821st CRG as a ramp coordinator and contingency tactician. He was diagnosed with OSA about 18 months ago.

Padgett wasn't certain that he had OSA while flying with the 22nd Airlift Squadron and he wasn't anxious to find out.

"There's a stigma attached if you can't fly," he said.

After learning that people were using batteries to power their devices on camping trips, Padgett went to the Flight Medicine Clinic hoping to get approval to use batteries in his CPAP device on deployments.

"I was trying to solve the problem myself when I ran into 'Doc' Vela, who said, 'It's funny you should say that because we have a project to look into this,'" said Padgett. "They ordered the batteries and I got to field test them."

Without recharging, two batteries will last Padgett four to six days.

"Previously, the wording (in the regulation) said I needed access to reliable power," said Padgett. "Now, the battery is my reliable power. I just need access to a generator once or twice a week. I can plug the charger in on the jet, in a tent, in the work center, anywhere."

The team is preparing a report for the Competent Aerospace Medical Regulating Authorities offering a better definition of reliable power.

"We also propose a more precise definition of OSA corrected by CPAP," said Elsayed von Bayreuth.

"These changes may seem minor, however in our views, they may prove to be most valuable in opening the doors for some commanders to put forward their most qualified personnel to serve on some of our nation's most critical missions."

Wagner

From Page 2

high-performing team, the 60th Maintenance Squadron Key Spouses, who were recently recognized as 60th Air Mobility Wing's "Team of the Year." Key to their success was that they led with a servant's heart. Each of them is a military spouse and know the challenges of military service. They attended countless hours of training to learn about and advocate for various programs such as the Airman and Family Readiness Center's "Hearts Apart." They built relationships with family members throughout the year, so when deployments came up, the established rapport made it easier to provide support throughout and after the deployment cycle.

As military leaders, we do

a very good job at making sure our members are qualified for the mission and ready to deploy. Family preparedness is just as important. My call to action for leaders is to advocate for family resilience. Add family readiness to discussions you have with your deployers. Advocate for family support programs on base. Build these topics into your roll calls. Forward information to spouses, make them feel welcomed as a vital part of your unit, and introduce them to support resources such as the Airman and Family Readiness Center and your commander's Key Spouse representatives. When the family is well-taken care of, it eases the stress of the deployed member and increases their mission focus. When family members feel integrated into the unit, team cohesion is stronger and unit pride will certainly be higher.

Law

From Page 6

adapt failure with an honorable service characterization.

60th Diagnostics and Therapeutics Squadron
An airman 1st class from the 60th Diagnostics and Therapeutics Squadron was administratively discharged for fitness failure with an honorable service characterization.

Nonjudicial punishment (Article 15s)
60th Operations Support Squadron

An airman 1st class received an Article 15 for one specification of possession of schedule IV drugs, a violation of Article 112a, UCMJ, and one specification of violating other general order, a violation of Article 92, UCMJ. Punishment consisted of 15 days of extra duty, 15 days restriction, reduction to the grade of

airman and a reprimand.
660th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
A technical sergeant received an Article 15 for one specification of dereliction of duty: willful, a violation of Article 92, UCMJ, and one specification of signing a false official statement, a violation of Article 107, UCMJ. Punishment consisted of a suspended reduction to the grade of staff sergeant, forfeiture of \$1,562 pay per month for one month and a reprimand.



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1) A child picks up some eggs March 30 during the Easter Eggstravaganza at Travis Air Force Base, Calif. Hundreds of children attended the event which featured several Easter egg hunts, face painting, games and prizes.

U.S. Air Force photos by Tech. Sgt. James Hodgman

1

Travis youth crack open fun at ... EGGSTRAVAGANZA



2) A child plays the frog launch game March 30 during the Easter Eggstravaganza at Travis Air Force Base, Calif.



3

3) A child shows off the eggs she found during the Eggstravaganza.



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