

CRW Airmen take part in ... **C-STRIKE**

PAGES 16-17



Four priorities guide officer's life, service

After 22 years of service, I've learned a few lessons that help shape who I am, how I approach life, work and what I fall back on when I need a little help figuring out which way to go. We all learn and think differently, but what follows has served me well.



Commentary by Maj. Nate Hier

660TH AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE SQUADRON

what you can't. Finally, treat everybody with dignity and respect.

Work hard, but have fun. It sounds simple enough and it really is. If you find you're having more bad days than good ones, then you're probably in the wrong line of work. I'm not saying every day is going to be a barrel of laughs, but all in all, the good days should always outnumber the bad ones.

We work hard because we have to. We're limited on resources and have a critical mission that needs to happen each and every day. There's no reason we can't get it done and still

Commander's Commentary

have fun while we knock it out. Laughter goes a long way.

Take care of yourself physically, mentally and spiritually. This one is paramount. You can't take care of anybody else if you aren't good to find yourself. Whether you go yourself tapped to run around outside the wire in Afghanistan or just need a few more points to get an excellent on your physical training test, staying in good shape and ready to deploy is vital. Mental and spiritual fitness are equally important. There will be stressful times you'll have to get

through and being mentally and spiritually ready will enable you to handle whatever you need to.

Control what you can, but don't waste time and energy worrying about what you can't. Have you ever worked with somebody who spent half their day complaining about how much they had on their plate versus making any progress on their workload? As stated previously, we're limited on resources but still have a critical mission to knock out. Investing time and energy being frustrated only makes it worse. It's a far better idea to just dig in and work together to get things done.

The chief of staff of the Air Force has also given direction to take a hard look at the

work we're doing and eliminate things that we do "just because we've always done them" or otherwise don't make sense. We have an opportunity to identify and eliminate added taskers and duties and we need to take advantage of it so we can focus on the real mission.

Finally, treat everybody with dignity and respect. We're a family and that's how we need to treat each other. We need every single one of us every day to get the job done. Make it a point to get to know the men and women you work with and build a strong team. Everybody in your unit raised their right hand the same way you did. They've earned the right to be treated with dignity and respect.

Life lesson: Don't forget family focusing on career



Commentary by Senior Master Sgt. Richard Hardin

660TH AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE SQUADRON

Like many of you, I am a very proud American and Airman and have always done exactly what has been asked of me through my military career.

The U.S. Air Force has given me so much over my 17 years of service that I've felt that I owe a debt that I must repay – sometimes blindly.

First off, I was recruited for U.S. Air Force Honor Guard duty and earned the honor to be a pallbearer during President Ronald Reagan's funeral. After the Honor Guard, I retrained into the physical medicine career field, which is one of the best jobs that the Air Force has to offer.

Enlisted Commentary

When I was notified that I made master sergeant, I applied for first sergeant duty and have taken care of some amazing Airmen over the last five years. I became very receptive to their needs and I wanted to spend more and more time helping them, but I also started to notice that my wife and son seemed to get further away. Eventually, my Airmen became my family and my family became strangers to me.

I was told many times that I needed to throttle down and start

looking after my family more before I ended up losing them. I disregarded that wise advice from a chief master sergeant who had been an incredible first sergeant and had traveled down that same road. He spent so much time taking care of his Airmen that he knew them far better than he knew his own wife and children.

That chief, who was such an amazing mentor, decided to retire the very day that I walked into his office to tell him I lost my family. He made that decision because he felt that he failed me and that his counsel wasn't enough to help me

avoid the pain that he had felt. He was heartbroken for me because he saw himself in me. He retired and moved back east to be close to his family or what family he had left.

This chief had such a profound effect on me, but it was what he did in the end that made the biggest difference in my life. Recently, my current wife and children have had a string of medical problems that eventually forced me to make one of the hardest, most heart-wrenching decisions of my life, but this

See HARDIN Page 24

6th ARS section recognized as Air Force's best

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

Nearly three dozen Airmen of the 6th Air Refueling Squadron's In-Flight Refueling Section at Travis Air Force Base, California, had quite a year in 2017. The section was responsible for offloading 50 million pounds of fuel to more than 4,000 receiver aircraft and supporting missions around the globe.

At the 39th annual Boom Operator's Symposium at Altus AFB, Oklahoma, the section received the 2017 Senior Master Sgt. Albert L. Evans Trophy. The award is given to the most outstanding air refueling section in the Air Force each year. The 6th ARS received the honor for the sixth time, more than any unit in the Air Force.

"The Senior Master Sgt. Albert Evans award is meaningful because it's tied specifically to the boom operator 1A career field and it's a memorial award for a guy that embodied everything the boom operators are about," said Lt. Col. Justin Longmire, 6th ARS commander.

Senior Master Sgt. Albert Evans was well known and recognized in Strategic Air Command due to his skill and expertise as a boom operator. He held positions at the command and base levels as an instructor, evaluator and program manager. He was fatally injured during a KC-135 Stratotanker mishap at Castle AFB, California, in September 1979. The first award given out in his honor was presented in 1980 and the 6th ARS first received the award in 1989.

In 2017, 6th ARS boom operators supported testing of the KC-46A Pegasus, special operations forces, the first deployment of the F-35 Lightning II and much more.

"I'm very proud of the accomplishments of our booms," said Longmire.

One area the colonel said he's proud of is the unit's combat record.

"The KC-10 Extender is 37 years old and we've been deployed continually since Desert Storm for 27 years," he said. "About a quarter of my squadron has been deployed performing combat missions for nearly three decades."

That constant presence provides a wide range of capabilities, he said.

"We can fly over Syria and stay there all day, refuel multiple aircraft and ensure those aircraft can provide close air support to our troops or coalition troops in contact and support any number of named or unnamed operations that are going on in that theater," he said.

"We also have the ability to maintain a heightened sense of situational awareness and be active participants in the battle space," he said. "We can



Twelve members of the 6th Air Refueling Squadron pose with the Senior Master Sgt. Albert L. Evans Trophy at Travis Air Force Base, Calif., May 11, 2018. The 6th ARS In-Flight Refueling Section was presented the award during the 39th annual Boom Operator's Symposium, which took place April 27-29 at Altus AFB, Okla. The award is given annually to the most outstanding air refueling section in the Air Force. The 6th ARS has been awarded the honor six times, more than any other Air Force unit.



Senior Master Sgt. Lucero Stockett, left, 6th Air Refueling Squadron Boom Operator superintendent, poses with Master Sgt. James Cain, 6th ARS Operations superintendent, right, and the Senior Master Sgt. Albert L. Evans Trophy inside a KC-10 Extender May 11 at Travis Air Force Base, Calif.

listen to the radio and hear that maybe F-18s didn't get all the fuel they needed before they left the boat. My guys can hear that, rework things in the aircraft and come up with a solution to get those

F-18s the fuel they need and get back to where they need to be to refuel their next aircraft."

The 6th ARS refueling team supported almost 500 combat missions in

the past year enabling more than 1,000 strikes on enemy targets. To do all this, Longmire said his boom operators must be perfect.

"We hold our boom operators to an exceptionally high standard," he said. "We tell them, 'Everything behind the cockpit door is yours. The cargo is all yours and we can carry as much cargo as a C-17, so I need you to be an expert loadmaster and boom operator. I need you to be able to go to the back of the airplane at night, in combat, in terrible weather when everything is bouncing around and have a receiver pilot that may not be stable; you have to be able to attach a 60-foot long telephone pole that's bouncing around into a receptacle about the size of a basketball with perfection. You can never miss and you can never screw that up.'"

One of those boom operators who strives for that perfection is Senior Airman Nathaniel Forider. He's accumulated 1,400 flying hours supporting missions from the United States to Japan and the Middle East.

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Tailwind



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60th Air Mobility Wing

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On the cover

Staff Sgt. Jessica Kindinger, 921st Contingency Response Squadron commander executive, marshals an aircraft during exercise Cerberus Strike May 5 at Amedee Army Airfield, Calif.

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



Courtesy photo

Master Sgt. James Hoskins, 818th Mobility Support Advisory Squadron air advisor, instructs basic fuels management principles and environmental safety precautions to Uganda People's Defence Air Force personnel as part of a mobile training team mission Dec. 14, 2017, in Entebbe, Uganda.

Air advisors strengthen capabilities

Tech. Sgt. Liliana Moreno
621ST CONTINGENCY RESPONSE WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Two Airmen from the 621st Air Mobility Advisory Group are making significant contributions in strengthening Air Mobility Command's mobility partnerships with allied nations.

Lt. Col. Angel Santiago, assigned to the 571st Mobility Support Advisory Squadron at Travis Air Force Base, California, and Master Sgt. James Hoskins, assigned to the 818th MSAS based out of Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey, are advisors for MSAS, which has air advisors ranging across 34 job specialties, enabling them to train, advise, and assist partner nations in developing

air mobility capabilities in support of combatant commands.

Santiago believes the best part of being an air advisor is being provided the platform to enable the growth of partner nation air forces.

"As an air advisor, I work with other qualified personnel to assess the capabilities of our allies, advise them on the path to get to their desired end-state, and assist them on preferred avenues to get there," he said. "Working with partner-nation personnel and watching them take what expertise we provide to improve their capabilities is exceptionally rewarding."

Santiago clarified that their job is not to shape other international air forces into the image of the U.S. Air Force.

"Instead, we take some of those best practices and lessons learned that can be applied to how our partners operate so they can move their program forward," he said. "With every follow-on engagement, growth and hunger for more expertise continues. Having the ability to link up with multiple air forces in Latin America to assist their desire to grow cannot be understated."

Santiago's vision and leadership as an air advisor reshaped Colombian air force medical and airlift capabilities, directly resulting in the rescue and recovery of 254 flood victims. He was the first air advisor to fly with the regional security system in Barbados and validated air advisor ground training. In Ecuador, Santiago made

history conducting the first operational assessment of the Ecuadorian air force's C-130 aircraft fleet in over 4 years.

"As a C-130 Hercules pilot, I have always loved the tactical airlift mission and the impact a Herc crew can make... one mission at a time," Santiago said. "While I will always love that part of my career, I've learned that what an airlift crew accomplishes on a single mission pales in comparison to what an air advisor team accomplishes."

He explained that while an airlift sortie can move invaluable resources to support a particular mission, a single air advisor mission can revolutionize the capabilities of an entire partner-nation air force.

"Make no mistake, both

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Air Force to move to single combat uniform

Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Air Force leaders announced the service will move to a single combat utility uniform, adopting the Operational Camouflage Pattern already in use by the Army and Airmen in combat zones and in certain jobs across the Air Force.

Starting Oct. 1, Airmen who have serviceable OCPs may wear the uniform and Airmen can purchase OCPs at Army and Air Force Exchange Services at the following locations: Aviano Air Base, Italy; Charleston Air Force Base, South Carolina; Shaw Air Force Base, South Carolina; and MacDill Air Force Base, Florida.

These initial locations will allow uniform manufacturers to produce additional stocks for other locations, eventually outfitting the total force in the coming months.

The service will fully transition to OCPs by April 1, 2021.

Uniform timeline

Air Force leaders decided to transition to the OCP following feedback from Airmen that it is the best, battle-tested utility uniform available. It will also eliminate the need to maintain two separate uniforms — one for in-garrison and one for deployments — and it is a visible reminder of the service's identity as a joint warfighting force, Air Force officials said.

"We looked at all utility uniforms currently in our inventory to find the best-of-breed," said Chief of Staff of the Air Force Gen. David L. Goldfein. "We spoke to and listened to

See **UNIFORM** Page 25

Travis using farm animals to control invasive plants

Merrie Schilter-Lowe

60TH AIR MOBILITY WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

With a b-l-e-e-e-a-t here and b-a-a-a-a-a there, more than 300 sheep and about a dozen goats arrived at Travis Air Force Base, California, to begin grazing duties in the Castle Terrace Preserve area that serves as a habitat for federally listed endangered species.

The animals will spend several weeks ridding the 20-acre parcel of land of barbed goatgrass and other non-native plants that cannot be managed by yearly mowing.

"We are targeting barbed goatgrass and tall non-native grasses, many of which are not palatable to grazing animals once they have flowered because of barbs and awns attached to the seeds," said Lauren Wilson, regional natural resource manager and biological scientist with the Air Force Civil Engineer Center Installation Support Section at Travis. "Targeted grazing allows us to achieve better control of invasive species by targeting a specific growth period of a plant, reducing the likelihood that it will grow to produce seeds."

Tall grasses can reduce the number of small mammals using an area, which in turn, reduces habitat for the endangered California tiger salamander. Targeted grazing by sheep and goats will produce shorter grasses than mowing, said Wilson.

"The sheep and goats will trample much of the grasses, breaking up the spikey parts and the underlying thatch that can inhibit the growth of preferred native species," said Wilson.

Barbed goatgrass is a winter annual that thrives during fall rains. It matures between May and August, reaching a height of 8 to 20 inches. Barbed goatgrass is native to Eastern and Mediterranean Europe and Western Asia and is believed to have been introduced on the West Coast in the 1900s along with the import of cattle to El Dorado and Sacramento counties, according to the University of California Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

Since 2015, AFCEC has

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"The sheep and goats will trample much of the grasses, breaking up the spikey parts and underlying thatch ..."

— Lauren Wilson

worked under a cooperative agreement with the Solano Resource Conservation District to control barbed goatgrass and other invasive species in the Castle Terrace area. The SRCD is also providing oversight for the grazing project.

Travis already manages about 315 acres of land for cattle and horse grazing on the base's western boundary, but this is the first time the base has relied on sheep and goats.

"We chose sheep and goats for several reasons," said Wilson. "First, they are smaller and more agile and will more readily utilize forage on the slopes and hillsides in Castle Terrace that cows would be unlikely to use. Additionally the Castle Terrace area does not have the infrastructure to support cattle grazing at this time."

Unlike cattle, which prefer grasses, goats prefer woody stems and leaves from shrubs and trees as well as grasses and flowers. Sheep prefer small flowering plants, like the California poppy.

Also, goats and sheep provide different benefits than cattle. Not only do they eat grasses and shrubs, they create less soil compaction and allow for contract grazing over short periods of time with a large number of animals, said Wilson.

The natural resources office has used grazing as an effective land management tool since 1977, said Penn Craig, 60th Civil Engineer Squadron natural resource manager.

"Grazing promotes native species diversity and improves habitat for federally listed species by

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Base opens 'The Inclusive Park'



U.S. Air Force photo/Louis Briscese

Col. Matthew Leard, center, 60th Air Mobility Wing vice commander and Bendle Bell cut a ribbon for a new park May 11 at Travis Air Force Base, Calif. "The Inclusive Park" was an 18-month project and is designed for visitors with all abilities, with emphasis on military families with special needs.

Cyber Mission Force teams reach full capability

Tech. Sgt. R.J. Biermann
AIR FORCES CYBER PUBLIC AFFAIRS

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-LACKLAND, Texas — Air Forces Cyber announced today all Air Force Cyber Mission Force teams achieved full operational capability May 11.

The 39 total force teams, comprising more than 1,700 Airmen, civilians and contractors, were deemed sufficiently manned, trained and fully mission-ready more than four months ahead of the Sept. 30 U.S. Cyber Command deadline.

"We've reached an enormous military cyber milestone and we're excited about what AF-CYBER can deliver to our service and the joint cyber fight," said Maj. Gen. Chris Weggeman, AFCYBER commander. "Our teams are integral in performing and achieving the common-core mission of cyberspace superiority shared across all Department of Defense services."

As the action arm of CYBERCOM, the 133-team CMF executes the command's mission to direct, synchronize, and coordinate cyberspace operations in defense of the nation's interests.

The Air Force began building its contribution to the CMF in 2013, along with the Army's 41 teams, Navy's 40 teams and Marine Corps' 13 teams. The Air Force build includes 15 Air National Guard squadrons and one Air Force Reserve squadron, which provide both continuously mobilized forces as well as increased surge capacity.

This FOC milestone completes the personnel and training aspects of the CMF build. Now the respective service commanders can focus on mission readiness of the force.

"I'm very proud of the total force team as this is an

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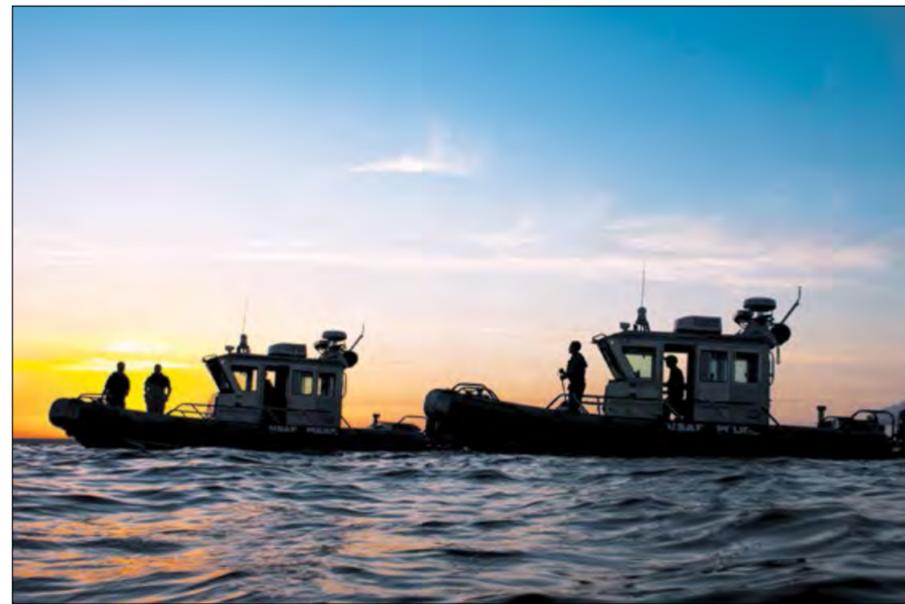
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Half-staff flags honor fallen

The American flag flies at half-staff outside 60th Air Mobility Wing Headquarters May 11 at Travis Air Force Base, Calif., in honor of nine Airmen with the 156th Airlift Wing Puerto Rican National Guard who died in a WC-130 crash in Georgia May 2. All bases across Air Mobility Command were directed to fly their flags at half-staff May 10-11 to honor the fallen Airmen.



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



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Adam R. Shanks

Four Marine Patrol Airmen assigned to the 6th Security Forces Squadron patrol May 4 on the 7.2-mile coastline of MacDill Air Force Base, Fla. On April 7, these Airmen assisted five local and federal Tampa Bay agencies in rescuing five people after their boat capsized near Davis Island.

MacDill Airmen help rescue 5

Airman 1st Class Adam R. Shanks

6TH AIR MOBILITY WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

MACDILL AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. — It was April 7 and for the 6th Security Forces Squadron marine patrol unit, it was like any other day. They were routinely conducting patrols around the 7.2-mile coastline of MacDill Air Force Base, Florida.

Every weekend, boaters make their way onto the water to enjoy the mid-70 degree weather. But on this day, water conditions were rough; swells reached heights of 6 to 7 feet and winds were around 30 knots.

At approximately 2:08 p.m., Airman 1st Class Christian Britton and Senior Airman Michael Roper, 6th SFS marine patrolmen, received a “PAN-PAN” alert from U.S. Coast Guard Sector St. Petersburg.

“The call we received said there was a capsized vessel with around four individuals in the water near Davis Island,” said Roper. “Britton and I immediately began heading over to help and we spotted a helicopter hovering over one spot in the water, so we knew that had to be it.”

The helicopter, piloted by Todd Curabba, the chief pilot with Tampa Police Department’s Aviation Unit, was

providing aerial support to the Hillsborough County Sheriff’s Office dive team who were on scene.

“There were victims holding onto a buoy in the channel, and we were told to hold fast because HCSO’s rescue diver was making his way to give them floatation devices,” said Roper.

At this point, the situation seemed to be under control. The diver assisted the individuals in the water, and Tampa Fire and Rescue was waiting on the island to transport them to Tampa General Hospital.

But then the helicopter pilot stated over the VHF radio that they spotted another person in the water.

“The HCSO boat had already left with the four rescued, so our boat was the only one in the immediate area,” said Roper. “We headed over to the location that Tampa PD gave us.”

Moments later, the two patrolmen saw a man sprawled out on the shore of one of the spoil islands in the channel, not moving. Britton told Roper that

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OPES ADVISORS

DEFY program returns

Drug Demand Reduction Program

Travis Drug Demand Reduction Program is sponsoring a Drug Education For Youth program.

The program has been dormant since 2013. Its hope is to revitalize the program using base’s resources. This is a year-long program for children ages 9-12, broken into two phases. It teaches children techniques to resist drugs, gangs, and alcohol use.

The first phase of the program is a weeklong leadership program from July 16-20. The children learn about leadership, teamwork, substance abuse prevention and self-confidence. It also allows the children to bond with the adult mentors to improve the effectiveness during phase two. The program relies on greatly on volunteers to be good, strong mentors.

Phase two of the program, from September to May 2019, is a school-year mentoring phase. Also during this phase, children will meet with their mentors once a month.

In order to revitalize the program, DDRP is looking for volunteers in the roles of team leader, medics and administrative assistants. It’s seeking military, retirees or Department of Defense civilians who are patient with children and willing to share some of their personal experiences with them.

DDRP has 20 slots for the DEFY Program. Selections are on a first-come basis. Those not selected will go on a waiting list in case someone is disqualified.

The age limit is 9-12. Children must be available to finish the program and not PCS during year and this is a yearlong program. The program is open to all dependents of active duty service members, retirees and DOD employees.

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Teams work to boost resiliency

Alexi Worley

AIR COMBAT COMMAND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

JOINT BASE LANGLEY-EUSTIS, Va. — For Airmen at the 363rd Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Wing, stress is an occupational hazard. Pressing deadlines, a heavy workload and constant pressure are natural parts of the mission.

They are also one of a growing number of units combating those stressors with an embedded care initiative, known as an Airman Resiliency Team, which fully integrates medical

and spiritual support teams into the unit.

“The ART team is genuine, deeply passionate and invested in the lives of the 363rd ISRW Airmen and it shows,” said Staff Sgt. Opal Kocher363rd ISRW, target system technical analyst. “They have an integrated, whole-person approach and seek to help every person in every way possible.”

Embedded care teams are primarily used for units that have missions with special performance requirements or operational health issues. This includes operations conducted

from Air Force installations, such as ISR.

“I think for the Air Force culture the best way to understand embedded care is to think of our roots, and our roots really came from flight medicine,” said Brig. Gen. Sean Murphy, command surgeon for Air Combat Command. “Long, long ago there were flight surgeons and those medics were embedded into the squadrons, a part of the unit.”

Integrating medical and spiritual support staff with the unit enables them to connect more with the Airmen and gain

a deeper understanding of the daily challenges they face.

“What we know is every unit has some bit of culture,” Murphy said. “So when you live with them you understand that mission set and that’s where you learn how to relate to that culture and that’s when you can build preventative mechanisms.”

A key component of embedded care initiatives is data collection, which will enable medical staff to better understand the types of problems units are facing and the resources

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Exchange honors Teacher of the Year selections



1) Travis Air Force Base Exchange associates Jessica Jones, left, and Amanda Greene, center, present the Student's Choice 2018 Teacher of the Year award to Kimberly Minahen, who teaches fifth grade at Scandia Elementary School. This is the first year the Travis AFB Exchange has held the awards, which invite students at Scandia and Travis elementary schools to cast ballots for their favorite educator. 2) Jones and Greene present the Student's Choice 2018 Teacher of the Year award to Scott Ziegler, who teaches third grade at Travis Elementary School.

Courtesy photos/Air Force Exchange Service



School honors alumnus during naming ceremony

Tech. Sgt. R.J. Biermann
AIR FORCES CYBER PUBLIC AFFAIRS

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-LACKLAND, Texas — The Joint Base San Antonio Airman Leadership School was named the "JBSA Rogers ALS" in honor of Staff Sgt. Ciera Rogers during a ceremony May 11.

Rogers was formerly assigned to the 67th and 688th Cyberspace Wings and graduated from the JBSA ALS. Rogers died May 20, 2016, from injuries sustained after saving a family from a burning building in the Songtan shopping district April 29, 2016, while assigned to Osan Air Base, South Korea.

"Rogers was a very eager and personable member of my team," said Jay Simmons, a former supervisor of Rogers' at the 688th CW. "She wanted to learn all aspects of her assigned duties. We had several great NCOs supervising the Airmen, and they always had positive and professional comments about her."

The event surrounding her death was captured on a cellphone, showing several Airmen and local residents using

blankets to catch a woman and her three children as they leapt from an apartment building window.

According to reports, while visiting a local beauty salon, Rogers smelled smoke and turned to see flames. Trapped with a woman and her three children, Rogers kicked out a window to escape, suffering a laceration to her leg. Unfortunately, a safe escape proved impossible as the alley was 37 feet below.

Rogers discovered another window with an adjacent metal cable that led to the ground. While descending, she lost her grip and fell 15 feet. She then gathered volunteers and blankets and pleaded with the woman to drop her children onto the blankets. Aside from shock, smoke inhalation and minor injuries, the family survived the incident.

"She did what she thought was the right thing to do," said Brig. Gen. Heather Pringle, JBSA commander, during the ceremony. "She did what each of us would have hoped we would have done. Not only was it the right thing to do, it was the selfless thing to do. Selfless

See CEREMONY Page 19

EOD Airmen take on Warfighter Challenge

Samuel King Jr.

EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. — Boom!

A three-person explosive ordnance disposal team approached a bomb-laden vehicle with two hostages inside. As they reach the car, a hidden device explodes, damaging the leg of one of their own. What does the team do next?

This was just one of many difficult scenarios EOD Airmen encountered during this year's EOD Warfighter Challenge at Eglin Air Force Base.

The two-week, situation-based challenge was created last year by the 96th Civil Engineer Group's EOD flight Airmen. The Airmen provided the unique opportunity for Air Force EOD units, outside of pre-deployment training, to train and learn from each other. The training preceded then followed in two rotations, the annual EOD Memorial ceremony at the Naval EOD School May 5.

More than 90 Airmen from over 20 Air Force EOD units attended during the two weeks. The unit interest and success of last year's week-long event were greater than expected.

"The response was so overwhelming we needed another week to handle the demand," said Master Sgt. Joseph Burke, EOD Warfighter Challenge creator with the 96th Civil Engineer Squadron.

The event's goal was to hone



U.S. Air Force photo/Samuel King Jr.

Airman 1st Class Jace Zook, left, and Tech. Sgt. Jesse Wibben, 48th Civil Engineer Squadron Airmen, assess the bomb inside a car trunk during the Warfighter Challenge May 9 at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla.

the Airmen's EOD and problem-solving skills with new environments, setups, gear and situations they may never see while training at their home station. Eglin AFB's range area, formally used to train deploying security forces Airmen, was the site of the urban and village environments of the scenarios.

"The more realistic and challenging we can make the situations, the more the Airmen will take away from it and remember when it is real," said Staff

Sgt. Michael Bodner, 96th EOD flight.

Another goal of the Warfighter Challenge was to provide opportunities for upgrading Airmen to perform in lead positions within the EOD team of three.

"You have to see the situation differently and think about the whole team and what actions are required to keep not just yourself, but your team safe. I hadn't seen that side of it until now," said Senior Airman Aaron Parris, 633rd Civil Engineer

Squadron, who acted as an EOD team lead for the first time during the exercise.

The teams encountered at least three scenarios per day. There were multiple improvised explosive device problems within each scenario the Airmen would solve along with human elements and equipment limitations. Each situation had numerous ways to solve each problem. It fell to the Airmen to determine the best and safest solution.

The situations varied from

pressure plates to a pipe-bomb around a victim's neck, to vehicle-borne IEDs, road-side bombs and a mock-electronics store filled with so many electrical parts that anything could be an IED. There was also a scenario with a simulated-bomb strapped to a non-English speaking victim. In that situation, the victim would frantically try, but could not provide the EOD technician any information to help them.

The mental and physical puzzles of the scenario training were only part of the Warfighter Challenge. The networking effects of one of the largest gatherings of EOD Airmen at once had rippling effects through the career field.

Attendees passed along various personal and unit-related lessons learned, equipment benefits and countless ways of mission improvement. That newly-gained, know-how is taken back and passed along and implemented.

At last year's event for example, a piece of equipment for the technicians' night vision was deemed a 'must have' by the exercise's attendees. The request was processed and with a few months, the new gear was added to the standard equipment required for all Air Force EOD technicians.

"This is larger for us than just these exercises. There's so much more being accomplished," said Capt. Cory McCart, Eglin AFB's EOD flight commander.

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Hurricane Awareness Tour prepares five bases



U.S. Air Force photo/Maj. Marnee A.C. Losurdo

Maj. Marnee A.C. Losurdo
403RD WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE, Miss. — Hurricane season begins June 1 and now is the time to prepare.

To promote this message, an Air Force Reserve Hurricane Hunter aircrew with their WC-130J Super Hercules and a team of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration hurricane experts visited five Gulf Coast cities May 7-11 as part of this year's Hurricane Awareness Tour.

The Hurricane Awareness Tour, which stopped at the

McAllen Miller International Airport, McAllen, Texas; Jack Brooks Regional Airport, Beaumont, Texas; Baton Rouge Metro Airport, Ryan Field, Baton Rouge, Louisiana; Montgomery Regional Airport, Montgomery, Alabama; and Lakeland Linder Regional Airport, Lakeland, Florida, is a joint effort between NOAA's National Weather Service and National Hurricane Center and the 403rd Wing's 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron to promote awareness about the destructive forces of hurricanes and how people can prepare.

"We enjoy taking part in the

Hurricane Awareness Tour each year because it highlights the vital role the squadron has in gathering data for NHC forecasts," said Col. Brian May, 403rd Operations Group commander. "What the Hurricane Hunters do strengthens relationships with our meteorological services, civil protection agencies, elected officials, and media partners that all work in a collaborative effort to enhance public awareness during hurricane season."

However, even with a perfect forecast, the storms still come,

See HURRICANE Page 20

Indiana University hosts Air Force science forum

Bryan Ripple
88TH AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio — The Air Force Research Laboratory continues its support of the Air Force Science and Technology 2030 initiative and joined with Indiana University to host a listening forum at the university's Bloomington,

Indiana campus May 10-11. Indiana University is one of six universities to host these types of listening forums as part of the S&T campaign, which is scheduled to last through September. The goal is to help the Air Force review its strategy in science and technology research. To do this, the service has been reaching out

See SCIENCE Page 14

Air Force awards first ESPC of 2018

J. Brian Garmon
AIR FORCE INSTALLATION AND MISSION SUPPORT CENTER PUBLIC AFFAIRS

TYNDALL AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. — Recently, the Defense Logistics Agency awarded a \$42 million energy savings performance contract, or ESPC, to be executed and maintained by Energy Systems Group, at Hill Air Force Base, Utah. This represents the Air Force's first such awarded contract of 2018.

"This joint (civil engineer) and (Air Logistics Complex) project was a team effort among Hill (AFB), Ogden Air Logistics Complex, the Air

Force Civil Engineer Center, DLA, and Headquarters Air Force Material Command," said Les Martin, AFCEC Energy Directorate program development division chief. "This project will modernize 255 buildings totaling more than 9 million square feet, increasing energy resiliency, efficiency, and reliability with particular emphasis on industrial infrastructure process improvements."

An ESPC is a partnership between federal agencies and energy service companies that provides energy savings, resiliency, and facility improvements to government agencies.



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Rachel Yates

An AC-130U Spooky gunship with the 4th Special Operations Squadron flies over a Distinguished Flying Cross ceremony May 11 at Hurlburt Field, Fla. Lt. Gen. Brad Webb, commander of Air Force Special Operations Command, presented the crosses to four Spooky gunship aircrews for their heroic actions in Afghanistan.

Airmen honored at Hurlburt Field

Staff Sgt. Ryan Conroy
1ST SPECIAL OPERATIONS WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

HURLBURT FIELD, Fla. — There were 808 lives that hung in the balance as terrorists launched coordinated attacks against friendly forces. Joint special operations teams were exposed and under duress as AC-130U Spooky Gunship crews circled above, pushing the limits of gun barrels to the melting point and providing precision airstrike capabilities to the troops below.

There were four missions and each presented different and complex challenges. Daytime operations, low fuel, low ammunition, gun malfunctions and emergency procedures pushed crews beyond normal measures to save lives on the ground.

Four Spooky gunship crews with the 4th Special Operations Squadron were awarded Distinguished Flying Crosses for four separate engagements in Afghanistan spanning less than one year.

Lt. Gen. Brad Webb, commander of Air Force Special Operations Command, awarded 24 Airmen the prestigious accolades during a May 11 ceremony.

Three Airmen were unable to attend.

"All of the DFCs presented today were earned in the dangerous skies of Afghanistan," Webb said. "Although dates and objectives differ, the general mission remained the same ... defend Americans and their partner forces, and decimate the enemy."

The DFC is awarded to any officer or enlisted person of the U.S. Armed Forces who have distinguished themselves in actual combat in support of operations by heroism or extraordinary achievement while participating in an aerial flight.

On July 25, 2016, the first aircrew awarded provided over watch for 114 American and Afghan Special Operations Forces during a high-risk, daylight, armed assault in Nangahar Province, Afghanistan. As the friendly forces pushed deeper into a valley, more than 50 insurgents executed a complex ambush utilizing higher terrain and buildings to effectively surround the friendly forces with multiple fortified positions and strongpoints.

The crew precisely employed danger-close 105mm howitzer rounds within 120 meters of

friendly forces while continuously working through gun malfunctions. When the gunship crew ran low on fuel, they coordinated the launch of another available gunship to provide backfill, but upon arrival, enemy forces began a new wave of firing. Both gunships established a formation and immediately began engaging with four guns simultaneously.

Low on fuel and ammunition, the crew coordinated for the launch of yet another available gunship to provide backfill, to allow them to refuel and rearm. As the third gunship arrived, the enemy began a new wave of firing on friendly forces. The AC-130s quickly established a gunship formation and immediately began engaging with four guns simultaneously, providing lethal effects on the insurgents. In total, the crew flew 12.3 hours in support of ground forces which led to zero friendly fatalities, 31 enemy killed in action and 28 structures destroyed.

"These are exactly the kinds of missions where Air Commandos thrive," Webb said. "No matter the challenge, the difficulty or the personal hardship endured, Spooky finds a way."

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Science

From Page 12

to the scientific community, higher education and business communities, as well as the general public to ensure it remains at the leading edge of technological advances.

Those interested in sharing scientific or technology-related ideas with the Air Force don't have to attend a listening event in person in order to do so. The lab has also created a website with a standing invitation to submit ideas about basic and applied research, as well as innovative business practices for Air Force Science and Technology. To provide your ideas, visit: www.afresearchlab.com/2030.

"In a world where far more innovation is happening outside the government than inside it, connecting to the broader scientific enterprise is vital," Secretary of the Air Force Heather Wilson said in a statement discussing the initiative early this year. "Our research strategy will look broadly and draw from the best of American research universities as well as Air Force and federal laboratories."

The forum at Indiana University offered participants a variety of technical presentation tracks covering topical areas such as Artificial Intelligence for Mission Planning and Execution, Novel Sensing and Data Fusion, Cyber Assurance, Human Performance and Human Computer Interface, and Next Generation Propulsion and Advanced Manufacturing.

"The reality of today is that many of the United States adversaries are



Courtesy photo/Chris Meyer

Maj. Brook Bentley, Air Force Research Laboratory program manager, introduces the technical themes of the U.S. Air Force Science and Technology 2030 Forum took place May 10 at Indiana University.

advancing technology faster than we are," Maj. Gen. William T. Cooley, Air Force Research Laboratory commander, told those in attendance.

"To stay ahead, we must continue to push the boundaries of what's possible. We must innovate smarter and faster. The U.S. Air Force is looking to you—our country's university scientific researchers and industry partners to help us invent the technologies that will keep all of us safe in the future."

Cooley told the audience that the stakes are too high to not work this way and that national security and the

American way of life depend on the Air Force's ability to innovate quickly and be on the cutting-edge of science.

"In the past, nuclear weapons, stealth technology and precision guided munitions have enabled an advantage over our adversaries and secured our dominance on the battlefield," he said. "Through this study, we hope to work with you and identify the next major technological breakthrough that will maintain our dominance on the battlefield. Together, we will lay the groundwork for the science and technology that will define the future of the U.S. Air

Force for 2030 and beyond."

Indiana University officials shared their optimism about AFRL's efforts with regard to the Air Force Science and Technology 2030 initiative.

"The Air Force is forward-thinking. They're looking for visionary ideas and we're thrilled to partner with them," said Fred H. Cate, IU's vice president for research, in an IU news release.

"Every idea collected, either online by an individual or developed by ideation teams at one of the public listening forums will be reviewed and considered," said Brian McJilton, Air Force 2030 S&T Program Manager.

AFRL has assembled a robust team of reviewers to ensure that each idea receives multiple reviews from qualified scientists and engineers. The ideas that are well endorsed will be forwarded to an external panel of experts with relevant technical expertise to evaluate and prioritize options, McJilton said.

"The ideas with the greatest promise for enabling the future Air Force will be considered by a panel chaired by the chief scientist of the Air Force," said McJilton.

A number of highly enabling opportunities will be chosen to be featured as new research priorities for the Air Force. These will be documented in a formal report to the Secretary of the Air Force in September and should shape Air Force research investments over the coming decade, he said.

The next public listening event is scheduled for May 22 at the University of Washington, to be followed by upcoming events at Texas A&M University June 28-29, and the University of Utah July 11.

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821st CRG test ability to operate in austere locations



1

1) Airmen assigned to the 821st Contingency Response Group perform a post attack reconnaissance sweep during exercise Cerberus Strike April 30, 2018, at Amedee Army Airfield, Calif. Cerberus Strike is a contingency response-centric mobility exercise that gives contingency response forces the opportunity to rehearse potential real-world situation. 2) Airmen assigned to the 821st CRG performs an engine running offload during exercise Cerberus Strike at Amedee Army Airfield, Calif.



2

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Robert Hicks

621ST CONTINGENCY RESPONSE WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

AMEDEE ARMY AIR FIELD, Calif. — Airmen assigned to the 821st Contingency Response Group exercised their ability to execute and sustain rapid global mobility during exercise Cerberus Strike April 26 through May 7 throughout California.

Cerberus Strike, also known as C-Strike, is a contingency response-centric joint mobility exercise that takes place over 11 days. The exercise provided contingency response forces the opportunity to rehearse potential real-world situations in a joint environment by training in aerial port procedures, aircraft engine running off-loads, and cargo unloading and downloading.

"This has been an amazing experience," said Maj. Ian Granier, 921st Contingency

Response Squadron and the contingency response element commander. "The 921st CRS had an exceptional opportunity to come out here and test the skills they have been developing over the past year. The team has exceeded our expectations working in an austere environment and handling a different number of unique threats."

The unit also used the exercise to test their knowledge in post-attack reconnaissance sweeps, administering self-aid and buddy care and their ability to react, defend and execute operations during simulated wartime events - such as hazardous material decontamination, as well as missile and ground attacks.

"We planned our exercise around possible real-world events and created scenarios that our Airmen might face on deployments in the CRW," Granier said. "They did a really good job. We will continue to

build upon what we learned here and better our force."

Contingency response forces are self-sufficient and can deploy with all the personnel, equipment and supplies to execute the mission, which makes them valuable to Air Mobility Command's rapid global mobility mission.

"The contingency response mission set is not only unique to the Air Force, but the Department of Defense as a whole," Grainer said. "We have the capability to go to an austere location and be self sufficient with a relatively small foot print and that requires our personnel to be proficient at their job as well as others."

Exercises like C-Strike are important for contingency response Airmen because they provide opportunities for them to work out any potential issues in a training environment.

◆◆◆
Master Sgt. Joseph Swafford contributed to the story.



3

3) An Airman assigned to the 821st Contingency Response Group observes M8 tape during exercise Cerberus Strike April 30 at Amedee Army Airfield, Calif. 4) An Airman assigned to the 821st CRG scans his sector during exercise Cerberus Strike. The contingency response element exercised their ability to execute and sustain rapid global mobility throughout California.

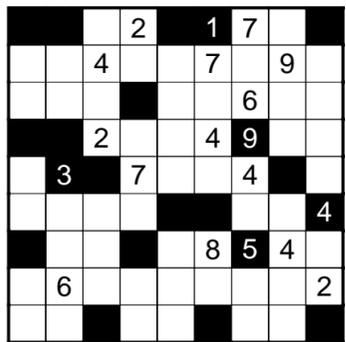


4

Puzzles

STR8TS

No. 386 Medium



Previous solution - Easy

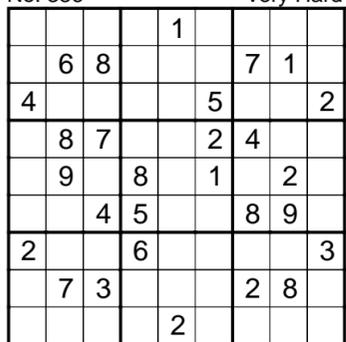


How to beat Str8ts – Like Sudoku, no single number can repeat in any row or column. But... rows and columns are divided by black squares into compartments. These need to be filled in with numbers that complete a 'straight'. A straight is a set of numbers with no gaps but can be in any order. eg [4,2,3,5]. Clues in black cells remove that number as an option in that row and column, and are not part of any straight. Glance at the solution to see how 'straights' are formed.

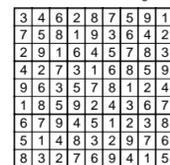
You can find more help, tips and hints at www.str8ts.com

SUDOKU

No. 386 Very Hard



Previous solution - Tough



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

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

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

The solutions will be published here in the next issue.

Retiree Corner

AAFES commits to hiring vets, spouses by 2020

DALLAS — The Army & Air Force Exchange Service is reaffirming its commitment to hiring 50,000 veterans and military spouses by 2020.

"We are on a mission to welcome home our American heroes and our military spouses," said Exchange Director/CEO Tom Shull. "Their commitment is our commitment. That's why the Exchange will hire an additional 16,000 veterans and military spouses to hire 50,000 former service members and military spouses by 2020."

Shull announced the hiring initiative at the Exchange's annual conference for general managers and main store managers in Frisco, Texas. About 35,000 associates work for the 122-year-old Department of Defense retailer at its department stores, convenience stores, malls, restaurants, theaters and other operations around the world to make life better for Soldiers, Airmen and military families.

The Exchange has long been considered a leader in hiring veterans and military spouses, said AAFES officials.

— Air Force Retiree News Service

News Notes

Endive Experience. The Rio Vista Lions Club and California Endive Farms will sponsor the fifth annual Endive Experience at 4:30 p.m. June 9 at 15 Poppy House Road in Rio Vista, California. This community event will feature the Vallejo Community Jazz Band, endive appetizers and the Lion's Club's barbeque steak or chicken dinner. Tickets are available at Pets 4 All at 167 Main St. in Rio Vista. For more information, email constance.boulware@yahoo.com or call 707-639-7175.

Career Fair. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. July 27 at the Delta Breeze Club. Encourage all members to ask questions to prepare for future transition from the military.

Chapel programs

Upcoming events

Summer Connection Block Party. 3-8 p.m. June 9 at the First Street Chapel.

Vacation Bible School. 9 a.m. to noon June 11-15 at Twin Peaks Chapel. Volunteers needed. If interested in volunteering or having your children participate, register at <http://www.myvbs.org/travisafbmakerfunfactory>. For more information, contact April Dingle at 202-702-2486.

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

sat

Gold Star Families Ruck March. May 19 at the 621st Contingency Response Wing's mobility warehouse in Bldg. 924. Check in 7:30 a.m., opening ceremony 9:30 a.m. with march immediately following. 6.2-mile course features military and civilian light and heavy categories. Registration deadline is May 15. The first 150 participants to sign up will receive a free T-shirt. The cost is \$65 for teams and \$20 for individuals. To register, visit <https://bit.ly/2vDQqna>. For more information, visit <https://www.facebook.com/GoldStarFamiliesRuckMarch>.

2018 Armed Forces Kids Color Run. 9 a.m. May 19 at the Travis Fitness Center's red track. Register today at www.americaskidsrun.org. Age groups are: Ages 5-6, Ages 7-8 and Ages 9-13. Participants who register will receive a free T-shirt while supplies last. For more information, call 424-5392.

Do or Dye Color Run. 10 a.m. May 19 at the Travis Fitness Center. The first 400 to register will receive a free T-shirt. \$15 registration through May 15, \$20 May 16-19. For more information, call 424-2008.

Gate Construction Update. 6 a.m. May 21, Main Gate resumes normal operations 24/7. 6 a.m. May 21, Hospital Gate closed for construction. No impact to current South Gate commercial delivery operations. No impact to current North Gate operations.

Capture the Moment Air Force photo contest. Continues through May. Win up to \$400 in gift cards from the Air Force Agency and Arts & Crafts. First, post your photo entry on the Arts & Crafts Facebook Page (using #FreedomPic on the TravisArts&Crafts page). Next, post your photo entry on MyAirforceLife.com (using #FreedomPic). Winners will be notified to determine the dollar amount of their prize. Arts & Crafts is awarding \$25 to \$100 in gift cards and the Air Force is awarding \$200 to \$400 in gift cards. Prizes will be determined in the following categories: Ages 6-8, 9-12, 13-17, adult novice and adult accomplished. For more information, call 424-2929.

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.

Recurring

60th FSS

Upcoming
MLB discount tickets. Get tickets to the upcoming games: Oakland Athletics at Giants on July 14 and Atlanta Braves at Giants on Sept. 11. For more information, call 707-424-0969.

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."

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 travospcombatsps@gmail.com.

Government no-fee passports. All non-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://pfmtform.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 Gitsam 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

THE FLIP SIDE

Airmen complete FTAC



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

Congratulations to the latest Airmen to complete the First Term Airman Center course. Alphabetically: Airman Basic Sakinah Abdurrahman, 60th Diagnostics and Therapeutics Squadron; Airman 1st Class Kevin Ackerman, 60th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron; Airman 1st Class David Aleman, 821st Contingency Response Support Squadron; Airman Basic Clay Bee, 821st CRSS; Airman 1st Class Jacob Christian, 860th AMXS; Airman 1st Class Delilah Doss, 60th MDTs; Airman 1st Class Fatima Douglas, 60th MDTs; Airman Aldo Estrada, 860th AMXS; Airman 1st Class Mohamadi Guene, 60th MDTs; Airman 1st Class Alexis Haynes, 60th Medical Support Squadron; Airman 1st Class Hunter Jamison, 60th MXS; and Airman 1st Class Kassie Krieg, 60th MXS; Airman Basic Jacob Klepinger, 921st Contingency Response Squadron; Airman 1st Class Travesha May, 821st CRSS; Airman 1st Class Raphael Mbuyi Mbaya, 60th MDTs; Airman Tyrese McPherson, 60th MDTs; Airman 1st Class Tristan Milosscott, 60th MDTs; Airman 1st Class Ahmed Mustafa, 60th AMXS; Airman 1st Class Rulsak Noel, 60th Dental Squadron; Airman 1st Class Dan Raven, 60th Civil Engineer Squadron; Airman 1st Class Nikolaus Rogers, 60th Operations Support Squadron; Airman 1st Class Austin Royle, 60th Maintenance Squadron; Airman 1st Class Casey Ann Sawyer, 860th AMXS; Airman Basic Jeremy Schultz, 21st Airlift Squadron; Airman 1st Class Derrick Siik, 921st CRSS; Airman 1st Class Conan Smith, 60th OSS; Airman Akira Spurlock, 821st CRSS; Airman 1st Class Scott Stevenson, 60th Logistics Readiness Squadron; Airman 1st Class Karley White, 60th MXS; and Airman Basic Brianna Williams, 821st CRSS.

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

Ceremony

From Page 10

service is one of those core values the Air Force has embodied ... (and) she brought that value with her. It's fitting this school is named after someone so selfless, so giving of her own talents to someone else."

Rogers' father, Larry Rogers, and mother, Jaqueline Greer, among other family members, were present at the event.

"I'd like to thank everyone who made this naming possible. I know there was a lot of hard work involved in this," said Larry, during the ceremony. "It is so easy to talk about other people...[but] it gets difficult to talk about your loved one, your daughter. Cierra would be really proud to know her name would be here, where every Airman who comes through the door has the ability to lead instilled in them. We know leadership can't come from a textbook...at some point it requires sacrifice. It requires an act that you put others ahead of yourself. If you're that leader, you're going to make the right choice, which is what Cierra did."

During the ceremony, Rogers was posthumously awarded the



U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. R.J. Biermann

Brig. Gen. Heather Pringle, Joint Base San Antonio commander, addresses the crowd at the JBSA Airman Leadership School naming ceremony May 11 at JBSA-Lackland, Texas.

Airman's Medal. A sign bearing the school's new name was also unveiled.

The process of renaming the schoolhouse began shortly after Rogers' death and, after approval, the staff scheduled the ceremony to fall between the anniversary of the incident and the anniversary of her death. The staff wanted to rename the schoolhouse in Rogers' honor, not only because she was an alumnus, but for everything she stood for.

"Her leadership philosophy was from Donald McGannon, 'Leadership is an action, not a

position,'" said Master Sgt. Andrew Post, JBSA Rogers ALS commandant. "What she did is proof she exemplified that philosophy. 'We have these students for five weeks and teach them how to go out and lead,'" he continued.

"We teach service before self, and we usually relate that to our service commitment, but it's also servitude to the people we protect and she was the embodiment of that."

The ceremony concluded with memorial pushups honoring Rogers, fallen Airmen and the Air Force core values.

Resiliency

From Page 9

needed to address them, according to Murphy.

"We'll have these teams collect big data on the wings, and then we can target units for musculoskeletal injuries, mental health support," Murphy said. "You name it, we can find it and help them fix it."

Embedded care also makes it easier for Airmen to develop trusting relationships with support staff, leading them to open up and seek care earlier, according to Col. Timothy Butler, ACC command chaplain.

"Usually when we expect people to come to us it's in those moments when things are pretty serious, when they have a real great need," Butler said. "And so the push is to get out into the units where the Airmen are and be much more proactive in our providing spiritual care."

In addition to providing daily medical and spiritual support, embedded care teams often host events, such as training and retreats, in order to help Airmen strengthen their personal and professional development.

"The personal tools and skills the ART team provide the 363rd ISR Wing, when utilized, tremendously benefit your personal and professional life," Kocher said. "So not only does our work stand to drastically improve, but our lives do as well."

There will be 15 operational support teams embedded at 15 different wings beginning in October 2018. The hope is to eventually have one at every wing, according to Murphy.

While each embedded care team may operate differently depending on the needs of the unit, Butler describes their benefit simply: "There's a difference between being a tourist and being a resident."



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Hurricane

From Page 12

said Ken Graham, the new NHC director, who was the meteorologist in charge at the National Weather Service in Slidell, Louisiana, for years.

"That is why we are here," Graham said. "It's all about preparedness; it's about being ready for the next storm. Whether it's a busy season or not a busy season it only takes one storm."

The awareness tour was also in conjunction with National Hurricane Preparedness Week. NOAA partnered with FLASH, the Federal Alliance for Safe Housing, with the #HurricaneStrong campaign. Throughout the week, officials encouraged people who live in hurricane prone areas to know their risk due to storm surge, inland flooding and winds, to have an evacuation plan and disaster supply kit, make sure they have adequate insurance, and strengthen their home to meet hurricane

building codes. They also stressed the importance of being a good neighbor before and after a hurricane and to have a written plan to ensure everyone in the household is prepared for the next storm.

Emergency response and informational booths were set up at all the stops to encourage residents to prepare for the upcoming season. The public and media also got the chance to tour the WC-130J aircraft, one of 10 specially configured aircraft operated by the U.S. Air Force

Reserve, and NOAA's G-IV both used to gather critical weather data for hurricane forecast models. While the NOAA G-IV, flies at high altitude around and ahead of a tropical cyclone, the WC-130J flies through the hurricane at 10,000 feet.

During a tropical storm or hurricane, 53rd WRS crews can fly through the eye of a storm four to six times. During each pass through the eye, crews release a dropponde, which collects temperature, wind speed, wind direction, humidity and

surface pressure data. The crew also collects surface wind speed data and flight level data. This information is transmitted to the NHC to assist them with their storm warnings and hurricane forecast models in the Caribbean and eastern Pacific. During a typical year, the squadron will fly 60 to 100 missions for the NHC.

Last year was a busy season for the Hurricane Hunters. The 53rd WRS flew more than 800 hours during more than 90 missions into 12 named storms.

Rescue

From Page 8

the man looked unresponsive, and dove into the rough bay waters without hesitation, and rushed toward shore.

"I kept the boat steady while Britton made his way to the man," said Roper. "I then contacted an additional patrol boat of ours to help because the water was so bad."

The additional boat came with Staff Sgts. Adrian O'Neil

and Vaughn Faubel on board. Britton made contact with the man, who was around 75 years old. He gave him a life preserver and instructed that they swim together back to the marine patrol boat. The man gasped, "I can't swim."

"I knew Britton wouldn't be able to swim the man back to the boat alone because of the water conditions, so I dove in to help with the rescue," said O'Neil.

Roper then maneuvered the security forces vessel as close

as possible to the three, without running aground.

"For me, that was the most difficult part because I had to turn off the engines to prepare for them to come on board," said Roper. "And the waves were so bad that it only took seconds for the boat to start drifting toward land."

After multiple attempts to keep the boat steady, Roper helped Britton and O'Neil bring the man on board. TFR notified them that they were standing by at the Davis Island

boat ramp to receive and treat the man.

"We were making a patrol flight within Tampa when our neighboring sector dispatcher received the 911 call about the capsized boat," said Curabba, "I have seen a great deal in my 17 years of airborne law enforcement, and all my training came together in a matter of minutes that day."

"It was incredible how all of our agencies worked together seamlessly for the common good of saving a life."

DEFY

From Page 9

Applications can be picked up at the DDRP office Bldg. 381, F Wing, Rm F-230 between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. All applications should be returned to DDRP by May 25.

For those interested, contact Timothy Finney at 424-0153 or email timothy.finney.1@us.af.mil or Timothy Vanderhoof at 434-0154 or email timothy.vanderhoof.2@us.af.mil.

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Animals

From Page 5

reducing grass heights, reducing dead plant material and increasing the amount of time wetlands remain filled with water," said Craig. "Additional allowing

animals to graze the property reduces fire hazards and eliminate mowing costs."

A shepherd and trained sheep dog will herd the animals around the 20-acre site until the vegetation is about 3 inches tall, said Wilson. A portable electric fence will contain the animals in the

evening and provide 24/7 oversight and protection. A chain link fence also surrounds the area.

"The electric fence is safe for small animals like rabbits and squirrels because the bottom fence is not electrified," said Wilson. "Birds landing on the wire will not be shocked either because they are not grounded to anything."

The fencing does not use continuous electric current, only intermittent pulses, said Wilson.

"Also, the amperage is kept very low in electric fencing, which regulates the amount of electricity delivered. The shock will be unpleasant, but not lethal," she said.

The smell typically associated with goat and sheep herds should not be a problem since the contractor is not using male goats, known as billys, which give off scent during breeding season.

During grazing periods, housing residents should keep children and pets away from the chain link fence and keep dogs inside to avoid stressing the herd.

The public is invited to see the goats as long as they remain outside the chain link fence.

The goats and sheep will leave the base, tentatively, May 23. Balfour Beatty Communities will notify housing residents of any updates, said Wilson.

Cyber

From Page 6

important milestone in maintaining cyber superiority," said Gen. Jay Raymond, commander of Air Force Space Command. "All efforts now focus on continuing to improve readiness to increase warfighting lethality in support of the National Defense Strategy."

Once manned and trained, AFCYBER assessed each Air Force team's ability to defend against and engage simulated cyber threats during themed exercises. These results were then validated by CYBERCOM to declare the team's operational capability.

To maintain each team's readiness level, many CMF Airmen will fulfill back-to-back CMF assignments as new Airmen are continually trained and added to teams.

"This is the battlefield of today and our cyber forces are ready," Weggeman said. "The need for this CMF will remain long into the future, and we will continue to evolve our cyber experts to combat the malicious cyber actors seeking to do us harm."

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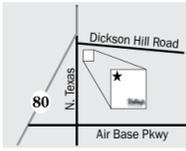
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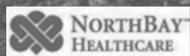


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Strengthen

From Page 4

mission sets are important and needed," Santiago said. "However, the level of impact air advisors make on a partner nation air force can have long-lasting national, regional and global impacts."

Similarly, Hoskins deployed to Uganda and Niger as a fuel expert air advisor to establish quality control laboratories and instructed over 50 African partners on air mobility and fuel operations. Additionally, he developed a \$90,000 African aviation

capabilities enhancement program, utilizing a three-tiered training approach to standardize fuel processes.

When asked, what is the best part of being an air advisor, he said, "This is a tough question to answer because as an air advisor who gets to travel the continent of Africa and engage with so many wonderful people, it's really hard to pinpoint what the best part is."

"One great benefit of my job is the satisfaction I get from knowing that as a unit, we are helping to shape the direction of partner-nation militaries and their air mobility enterprise for the future," Hoskins

said. "Many of our partners are able to take the knowledge and best practices that we exchange with them during our engagements and immediately implement changes in their own force. That is very rewarding."

He feels fortunate to have the opportunity to build partnerships by establishing and cultivating relationships with militaries from all over the continent of Africa.

"These key relationships are vital to developing interoperability amongst our nations' air forces," he said.

"We also have the distinct opportunity as mobility advisors to build partner capacities by

providing subject matter expertise in a vast array of specialties," said Hoskins. "It is not an easy task to sync the efforts of 34 different job specialties and provide tailored curriculum to multiple African partners simultaneously. But our small unit continues to make it possible day after day, and that is something that I am extremely proud of, and it is an experience that I will continue to draw from long after my time in the MSAS is finished."

Both Santiago and Hoskins were nominated by AMC for the 2018 Air Force International Affairs Excellence award for their contributions in building, sustaining, expanding, and guiding

international relationships.

Col. Todd White, 621st AMAG commander, said the leadership at both air advising squadrons has done an excellent job readying their Airmen to meet the Secretary of Defense's priority to strengthen alliances and attract new partners.

"The 818th and 571st Mobility Support Advisory Squadrons are AMC's deliberately trained, language enabled air advisors supporting the secretary of the Air Force International Affairs objectives in U.S. Africa Command and U.S. Southern Command," White said. "It's an honor to have the strategic impact of their work recognized by AMC."

Hardin

From Page 2

time I chose my family for the first time and voluntarily gave up my diamond.

As you go through your career, give the Air Force as much as you possibly can because our mission is one to be extremely proud of, but please don't give so much that you can't give anything to the ones who matter most.

One day, we will all take our uniform off for the last time and what will we be left with? What will our Airmen think of us at our retirement ceremony, the professional success or

the personal failure and which matters more?

Keep in mind that our Airmen may want to be just like you someday, so please be careful what example you are setting for them. Use your experiences to guide them, not blind them. If you can do this, they are at least able to see all sides of what it means to be successful and the effects their decisions will have on their future.

I'm not advocating that Airmen choose the Air Force over their family or vice versa, I'm simply saying that we must help our Airmen find what's most important in life because it goes by in a blink of an eye.

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Uniform

From Page 4

Airmen on this and the OCP was the clear choice.

"The uniform works in all climates – from Minot to Manbij – and across the spectrum of missions we perform. It's suitable for our Airmen working on a flight line in Northern Tier states and for those conducting patrols in the Middle East."

More than 100,000 Airmen have been issued or are already wearing OCPs or equivalent two-piece flight suits – from Airmen deployed to Air Forces Central Command, to those serving in Air Force Special Operations Command, and most recently, aircrews in Air Mobility Command and defenders in Air Force Global Strike Command.

Preserving service and squadron identity

As with the Battle Dress Uniform worn by all services until about 10 years ago, the OCP Airmen wear will have distinctive Air Force features. The name tape and Air Force lettering will be a spice-brown color, and T-shirts and belts will be tan. Most rank will also be in spice-brown thread.

Squadron patches will also be worn on the OCP, said Goldfein. Bringing back squadron patches was among the recommendations made by Airmen as part of the ongoing effort to revitalize squadrons.

"Unit patches express squadron identity and heritage – something our Airmen are incredibly proud of and want to celebrate," he said.

Unit patches and special functional identifiers (Security Forces, Fire, Explosive Ordnance Disposal, Tactical Air Control Party, Combat Controller, etc.) will be attached to Velcro fabric on the sleeves. All patches will be in subdued colors; headquarters patches and the U.S. flag will be worn on the right shoulder, and unit patches and authorized duty identifiers will be worn on the left shoulder.

Airmen can find guidance for proper wear of the uniform in the coming months via an Air Force Guidance Memorandum, followed by updates published in AFI 36-2903.

6th ARS

From Page 3

"As a boom operator, I'm responsible for the safe operation of the aircraft during air refueling," he said. "I have to guide a receiver aircraft using lights and radio signals to a stable contact position between two and five feet from our KC-10 to refuel them."

The job, while challenging, is very rewarding, he said.

"Seeing the impact we have, especially while we're deployed, is the most rewarding thing for me," he said. "We refuel multiple aircraft each day and we're usually briefed about what happened on our last mission. Many times we'll be briefed of the bombers and fighters impact that we supported. It's rewarding knowing that us doing our job and doing it well is keeping America safe."

The 6th ARS also has the ability to conduct aerial refueling without communicating with receiver aircraft at all, something the unit demonstrated during exercise Neptune Falcon from April 16 to May 5 at Ellsworth AFB, South Dakota. During the exercise, six KC-10s from Travis joined six from Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey, to support 16 air refueling missions. Every sortie was completed on time thousands of feet above Earth with radio silence.

"Imagine you and I are going to go to the movies," said Senior Master Sgt. Lucero Stockett, 6th ARS Boom Operator superintendent. "We get dropped off in the middle of nowhere and all we know is when and where the movie starts. Somehow, without the use of cell phones, texting



U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. James Hodgman
Twelve members of the 6th Air Refueling Squadron pose with the Senior Master Sgt. Albert L. Evans Trophy inside a KC-10 Extender May 11 at Travis Air Force Base, Calif. The 6th ARS In-Flight Refueling Section was presented the award during the 39th annual Boom Operator's Symposium, which was held from April 27-29 at Altus AFB, Okla. The award is given annually to the most outstanding air refueling section in the Air Force. The 6th ARS has been awarded the honor six times, more than any other Air Force unit.

"It shows (our Airmen) they're a cut above."

— Master Sgt. James Cain

Sgt. Albert Evans Trophy because her Airmen are so dedicated to the mission.

"We ask them to do a lot every day," she said. "They must be proficient in their job and be well rounded Airmen. This award is because of their hard work and commitment."

"They're the ones going on back-to-back deployments and they come to work every day with a smile and they love what they do," she said. "They do their jobs to the best of their abilities and they do it very well."

By winning the Senior Master Sgt. Albert Evans Trophy

for the sixth time, Master Sgt. James Cain, 6th ARS operations superintendent, said he hopes his Airmen are inspired to even greater heights.

"I hope it instills a sense of pride in what our Airmen do," he said. "It shows them they're a cut above. Our job is challenging. We're gone nearly 250 days a year, we fly all over the world, help a number of coalition forces and our global reach is unmatched. I hope our boom operators embrace the fact that they're part of that. They help us in our peace time and wartime missions demonstrate American resolve."

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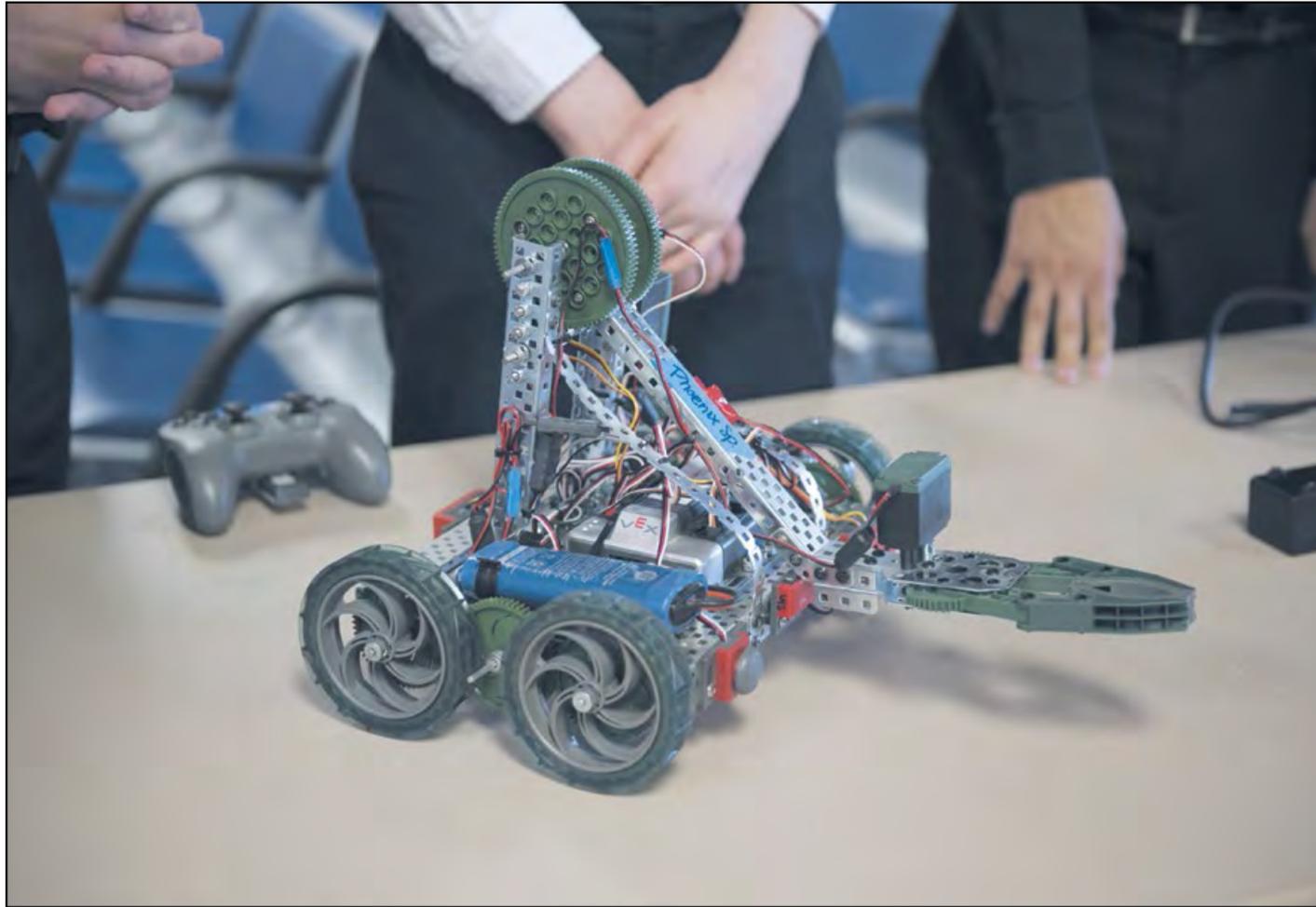
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Travis Air Force Base, Calif., hosted the Phoenix Spark Challenge May 10. The challenge involved five local schools competing in an innovation contest to propose the best ideas for enhancing counter-unmanned aerial systems, airfield lighting system monitors and self-driving vehicles.

Competition spurs ... CREATIVITY

U.S. Air Force photos by Staff Sgt. Amber Carter



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