



# Travis efforts aid relief for ... **VOLCANO**

**PAGES 16-17**



# Psychological ownership an investment



**Commentary by Lt. Col. Naomi Henigin**  
60TH FORCE SUPPORT SQUADRON

I was out for a run with my 5-year-old recently, who was on his bike, when he stopped to pick up a discarded fast food bag. He asked me to carry it until we could find a trash can, and I obliged, of course. As we continued our run/ride, he explained that he wanted to make sure the people on Travis Air Force Base, California, had a nice place to live and work. He heard me provide that as an explanation to countless whys over the years. It made me chuckle to hear him recite it back to me, but more than that, it made me proud. I was so proud that my little guy was starting to understand what it

means to take ownership of the base and, in conjunction (even if he doesn't know it yet), the Air Force. I felt a similar sense of pride later that day when I presented the "Rock of the Week" Award to young Airman Medina in the military personnel section. With just one stripe on her sleeve, she's taking charge. She requested to assume safety rep duties when her supervisor deploys, was elected Dorm Council vice president, volunteers for Airmen Against Drunk Driving and is an active physical training leader in the squadron. She's epitomizing ownership of the place she works and lives – of her Air

### Commander's Commentary

Force. She makes me so proud. That same week, I participated in Travis' inaugural Community Partnership Forum which brought together local government and business leaders with Air Force experts from Travis and higher headquarters alike. I listened to the results of two days of intense collaboration aimed at tackling serious challenges in our collective futures. Plans were set in motion and the appropriate agencies were taking action. As I scanned the familiar faces of community leaders in the room, I was struck by the realization that support for this base from the surrounding

area is so much more than partnership – it's ownership. Each of us Airmen can really be proud to call this place home because the government and business leaders in Solano County exemplify ownership of their communities and of their Air Force. This idea of psychological ownership – a personal sense of possessiveness over our organization – is a 60th Air Mobility Wing priority for good reason. Studies show that higher levels of ownership are correlated to increased productivity, morale and overall success of an organization. If that's true, then the future of the Air Force depends largely on the degree to which its employees and stakeholders are engaged. A disengaged population will walk by trash on the sidewalk, contribute the

bare minimum to collect their paycheck and will not seek out collaborative opportunities with others. Please understand that the consequences of disengagement, for us, is much more severe than just litter across the installation. It is an inevitable reduction in readiness and lethality. Engendering and continually cultivating a sense of ownership within our organization is a critical component to maximizing our ability to maintain the leading edge. From my vantage point, the Air Force has a bright future and Travis AFB is a shining example of that. The sky is the limit for us with active community partners, incredible young Airmen and even children in our community all invested in our Air Force.



**Commentary by Chief Master Sgt. Shae Gee**  
60TH FORCE SUPPORT SQUADRON

# Thanking 'silent warriors' for Memorial Day

Memorial Day is upon us and we observe this holiday in honor of the men and women who died while serving in the U.S. military. Both my grandfathers, who have since passed, served in the Korean War and World War II. It is an honor to know that I am able to serve in the capacity I can because of their contributions. Memorial Day is a special time for us to reflect on our fallen heroes. I want to share my respect,

### Chief's Commentary

admiration and thanks for those who are the silent warriors that have made me so proud and honored to be their chief while paying tribute to those fallen warriors who more recently made the ultimate sacrifice. In the services career field, there are few Airmen who take on the role as a readiness and mortuary technician. I was not one of

these Airmen. I worked in food, protocol and lodging, never even thinking I would take on this role. I arrived at Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar, for a yearlong tour assigned as the force support squadron superintendent. Within 48 hours of boots on the ground, I learned about one of the most important missions that I will have in leading a team of personnel. The members of this team included the mortuary officer, myself, my readiness and mortuary

technicians and selected individuals within the unit who were also services professionals by trade. For the selected individuals, they received training on their key roles once appointed and continuously practiced should the need arise for their assistance. During my tenure at Al Udeid, this happened all too frequently as the base was the alternate theater mortuary evacuation point for Kuwait. Our job was

See GEE Page 24

## Tailwind



Travis AFB, Calif.  
60th Air Mobility Wing

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

**Tech. Sgt. James Hodgman**  
NCO in charge of command information

**Airman 1st Class**  
Jonathon D. A. Carnell  
Command information staff writer

**Airman 1st Class**  
Christian Conrad  
Command information staff writer

**Daily Republic**  
Nick DeCicco  
Tailwind editor

**Todd R. Hansen**  
Copy editor

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### On the cover

**Aircrew members from the 22nd Airlift Squadron at Travis Air Force Base, Calif., unload a double recirculating cement mixer trailer from a C-5M Super Galaxy May 15 at Hilo International Airport, Hawaii.**

U.S. Air Force photo/Louis Briscese

# Gladiators work to grow Whole Airman Concept

**Tech. Sgt. Liliana Moreno**

621ST CONTINGENCY RESPONSE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Airmen from the 821st Contingency Response Support Squadron are using the Whole Airman Concept to find innovative ways to incorporate leadership development into their everyday squadron routine. The Whole Airman Concept lays a foundation of service for all Airmen through three major components: leadership and job performance, significant self-improvement and base or community involvement. The concept's most important component is that it exemplifies the Air Force's core values of integrity first, service before self and excellence in all we do. Last year, during the Air Force Association Air Warfare symposium, Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Kaleth O. Wright, said, "I think the most important thing I can do for all of our commanders and for all of our Airmen is to make sure that our Airmen are well trained, well led and resilient."

Following this concept, the 821st CRSS, also known as the Gladiators, brainstormed effective ways to help Airmen become more successful in accomplishing the Air Force mission. The programs the CRSS created establish active learning environments in the workplace and are intended to accelerate growth in thoughtful decision-making through role modeling, feedback and practice. One of the initiatives the squadron created is a program called "Thinking Thursday." As part of this program, members are given two hours per week to focus on individual development, such as working on furthering education goals or strengthening the five pillars of wellness: emotional, physical, spiritual, social and family.



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

**Staff Sgt. Stephanie Avery, 821st Contingency Response Support Squadron commander's support staff admin, shares her Air Force history during the weekly staff meeting May 16. The 821st CRSS leadership is using the Whole Airman Concept to find innovative ways to incorporate leadership development into their everyday squadron routine. In order to learn more about the individual Airmen in the CRSS, Airmen are encouraged to briefly present their stories during the "Gladiator Moment" initiative.**

Staff Sgt. Matthew Audet, 821st CRSS readiness equipment custodian, is currently working towards his Community College of the Air Force degree. He has been able to use the time during the program to finish school work and prepare for exams. He applauded the squadron's "Thinking Thursday" initiative for helping him get closer to his goal. "Supervisors need to show their Airmen the steps they need to take to broaden their career, both professionally and personally," Audet said. "For myself, at the moment, I'm focused on studying for

a college-level exam. My supervisor and I talked about the details and what my goals are, and the steps I'm going to take to make that a reality." For Maj. Stephen Teeple, 821st CRSS assistant director of operations, he chooses to use "Thinking Thursday" to spend a few extra hours with his son. "I am able to spend what is the best part of my son's day with him as he is getting up and around," Teeple said. "What I have found through this initiative is that I have a much stronger relationship with my son, and it allows me

to execute the mission with greater confidence knowing that my family is in a good place." The squadron also started "Gladiator of the Month" program to recognize top performers giving the honorary member the opportunity to act as the squadron commander for the day. "This program provides me with an opportunity to have great conversations with some of our young Airmen and hopefully provide some mentorship and

See GLADIATORS Page 26

## WARRIOR OF THE WEEK

**Name:**  
Tech. Sgt. Demarcus Pettiford.

**Unit:**  
60th Force Support Squadron.

**Duty title:**  
Official mail manager.

**Hometown:**  
Belleville, Illinois.

**Time in service:**  
14 years.

**Family:**  
Spouse, Thalís Pettiford; two children.

**What are your goals?**  
Continue career in the United States Air Force and cross over to Department of State after retirement.

**What are your hobbies?**  
Home improvement projects, photography, making vehicle

modifications, motorcycle riding, cooking, baking.

**What is your greatest achievement?**  
Getting selected to work with the Department of State at the U.S. Embassy in Djibouti and becoming the primary photographer for the now-retired Ambassador Kelly.



U.S. Air Force photo



# Defenders commemorate Police Week

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

They run into dangerous situations to protect their communities, often exposing themselves to great personal risk. They do this without question and without hesitation.

America honors these men and women every year during National Police Week, which is a weeklong series of events to honor fallen peace officers and recognize the sacrifices law enforcement officers make serving their communities.

Security forces Airmen from Travis Air Force Base, California, commemorated National Police Week May 16 by participating in the 29th Annual Solano County Peace Officer's Memorial Ceremony in Fairfield, California.

Ten defenders representing the 60th and 349th Air Mobility Wings' Security Forces Squadrons stood in a formation during the ceremony with law enforcement officers from nearly every city in Solano County.

Staff Sgt. Callie McGee, 60th SFS standardization and evaluation evaluator, was one of the Airmen in the formation.

"It's an honor be a part of this ceremony and show our respect to those who made the ultimate sacrifice," she said.

Maj. Matthew Stillman, 60th SFS acting commander, led the formation and echoed McGee's sentiments.

"We have a phenomenal relationship with law enforcement all over Solano County and it's an honor to be here," he said. "Our job isn't easy. It comes with great risk. The cost of freedom and security comes at a great price."

In 2017, 199 peace officers were killed in the line of duty nation-wide, and since 9/11, 14 security forces Airmen have been killed in action or died while performing their



Senior Master Sgt. Erin Rose, 60th Security Forces Squadron operations superintendent, holds a salute during the 29th annual Peace Officer's Memorial Ceremony May 16 in Fairfield, Calif. Nearly a dozen security forces members participated in the ceremony to honor fallen peace officers.

official duties.

The ceremony included the presentation of colors, guest speakers, the playing of Taps, a three-volley salute and a moment of silence to remember all fallen police officers.

In 1962, President John F. Kennedy signed a proclamation which designated May 15 as Peace Officers Memorial Day and the week in which that date falls as Police Week. Since that day, cities all over the United States have held a variety of commemoration events to show their respect for the men and women who serve and protect.

Travis closed Police Week May 18 with a retreat ceremony at the base flagpole outside the 60th AMW headquarters building.



Senior Airman Robert Aube, 60th Security Forces Squadron installation patrolman, prepares to fold the American flag during a retreat ceremony to close out Police Week May 18 at Travis Air Force Base, Calif.

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



Courtesy photo

Winners of the Travis Spouses' Club 2017-18 Military Dependents Program scholarships pose May 20 at a celebratory ceremony at the Delta Breeze Club at Travis Air Force Base, Calif.

## Spouses Club awards students scholarships

**Maureen Kozak**

TRAVIS SPOUSES' CLUB  
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The Travis Spouses' Club recently announced the winners of its 2017-18 scholarships for the Military Dependents Program.

The annual scholarship program provides college scholarship monies for dependents of active, reserve and retired members of the Travis Air Force Base, California, community.

This program is the largest

support element of the private organization and one of the biggest charitable donations it makes each year. Due to the successful operation of Travis' Community Thrift Shop, it is able to award scholarship monies this year totaling more than \$30,000 to 10 deserving recipients.

The scholarships are awarded on the basis of academic excellence and involvement in school, work and the community.

See **SCHOLARSHIPS** Page 25

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Community walks for autism



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

Roughly 150 Travis community members participate in the Autism Awareness Walk May 18 at the Balfour Beatty Community Center at Travis Air Force Base, Calif. This was the 10th annual event to build awareness in the Travis community for the Exceptional Family Member Program and to help military families with autistic dependents.

Ask a Sports Doc:  
Do testosterone  
boosters work?

Editor's note: "Ask a Sports Doc" is a recurring editorial series run by the residents at David Grant USAF Medical Center's Family Medicine Residency Primary Care Sports Medicine Clinic.

◆◆◆  
**Question:** Do over-the-counter testosterone boosters work and are they safe?

◆◆◆  
**Answer:** This is a very interesting question, and the answer is continuously evolving.

Testosterone boosters claim to increase the male sex hormone testosterone, which affects muscle strength, endurance and male sexual performance. There are many different dietary supplements on the market today which claim to boost testosterone. Ingredients commonly found in these supplements include Tribulus terrestris, D-Aspartic acid, zinc, magnesium, maca, fenugreek, tongkat ali, mucuna pruriens and vitamin D.

Of these, Tribulus terrestris

Ask a Sports Doc

is the No. 1-selling testosterone booster on the market. It has been used as an herbal supplement in China and India for centuries. Proponents of Tribulus terrestris claim that it exerts an androgenic effect due to its chemical structure which is similar to dehydroepiandrosterone. However, there is little reliable data to support its ability to increase testosterone levels in the human body. In a study published in the "Journal of Ethnopharmacology," young men given Tribulus terrestris showed no significant difference in serum testosterone levels when compared to a matched control group given a placebo. There is some evidence that it may enhance libido through non-androgenic mechanisms.

Reported adverse effects of Tribulus terrestris are sleep

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## Fairfield recognizes base's anniversary



U.S. Air Force photo/Louis Briscese

Col. John Klein, 60th Air Mobility Wing commander at Travis Air Force Base, Calif., receives a proclamation from the Solano County Board of Supervisors May 22 in Fairfield, Calif. Travis was recognized in honor of its 75th anniversary.

## Mobility kicks off 101 Critical Days of Summer

**Air Mobility Command  
Public Affairs**

SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, Ill. — Memorial Day marks the start of Air Mobility Command's 101 Critical Days of Summer Safety Campaign, encouraging all Airmen to make sound decisions, when participating in summer activities.

The annual safety awareness campaign, which runs through Labor Day weekend, is designed to help counter the risks associated with the summer season, a time of year where warmer weather provides more opportunities for Airmen to participate in risky activities.

"Every year, healthy and productive Airmen are injured or killed in avoidable accidents because they made a poor decision," said Gen. Carlton D. Everhart II, AMC commander.

In addition to the campaign kick-off video, AMC is providing multiple sources of media and educational information, including mishap scenarios discussion topics to spark conversation between Airmen and help instill the importance of

personal risk management.

Preventable mishaps lurk around every corner during the summertime. Because of this, it is imperative Airmen assess the risk of activities and make sound decisions based on these assessments. When activities are coupled with heightened excitement, peer-pressure, and alcohol or even fatigue, the line between sound decisions and poor decisions blurs, increasing the chance for mishaps to occur. Because of this, a culture of personal risk management is needed. It's your life, do you really want to risk it over something unnecessary?

The goal of the CDS campaign is zero fatal mishaps. In 2017, AMC achieved this goal for the second year in a row, and only the third time in AMC's history.

However, the Air Force as a whole, wasn't as fortunate, losing 10 Airmen.

"We cannot afford to lose a single Airmen, especially from something that was completely avoidable" Everhart said. "This is why AMC continues to do what we can to combat senseless mishaps.

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## Military Star giving away \$30K in cards

**Jessica Jones**

ARMY & AIR FORCE EXCHANGE SERVICE  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Living a "be fit" lifestyle is its own reward for Travis Air Force Base, California, Exchange Airmen, but a bonus never hurts.

Military Star's Ignite Your Workout sweepstakes will reward 100 lucky military shoppers worldwide with \$300 exchange gift cards. Shoppers automatically earn an entry with two purchases at their local commissary plus two purchases at the Army and Air Force Exchange Service with their Military Star card from June 1-30.

The Exchange has been partnering with the Defense Commissary Agency to highlight better-for-you choices as part of the Exchange's "be fit" program to encourage readiness and resiliency in Airmen and their families. The Ignite Your Workout Sweepstakes is the latest initiative to promote awareness of the healthy living program.

"What better way to spotlight our "be fit" program than by giving away \$30,000?" said

Flor Payton, Exchange general manager. "We look forward to rewarding 100 deserving members of the military community during this sweepstakes."

Participating operations include the Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard exchanges; ShopMyExchange.com; myNavyExchange.com; ShopCGX.com; exchange concessionaires and the commissary. Winners are slated to be announced on July 31. Official rules will be available June 1 at MyECP.com/CustomerAds/Page/Exchange.com.

Military Star offers added value for shoppers. Last year, cardholders saved big with exclusive, money-saving benefits:

- \$309 million saved with one of the lowest annual percentage rates of any store credit card.
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- \$17 million saved through zero-interest promotional offers.

The Military Star card is administered by the Army & Air Force Exchange Service. For more information, visit MyECP.com.

## Retired Air Force rated officers welcomed back on active duty

**Kat Bailey**

AIR FORCE'S PERSONNEL CENTER  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas — Retired Air Force rated officers with Air Force Specialty Codes 11X-pilot, 12X-combat systems officer or 13B-air battle manager are encouraged to apply for the Voluntary Retired Return to Active Duty

Program to help alleviate manning shortages within the Air Force rated community.

Also eligible to apply are current Air Force rated officers in those AFSCs with an approved retirement order. Officers currently serving on active duty under the 2017 VRRAD program whose tour lengths are limited to 12 months may apply for tour extensions under this program.

The secretary of the Air Force approved the extension to VRRAD for implementation on May 11 as one of a wide range of initiatives the Air Force is pursuing to improve rated officers' quality of life and quality of service in order to increase retention and the rated officer inventory.

"Officers who return to

**See RATED Page 26**

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# ACC to test organization at Idaho base

**366th Fighter Wing Public Affairs**

MOUNTAIN HOME AIR FORCE BASE, Idaho — Air Combat Command officials announced the 366th Fighter Wing at Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho, will test a new wing organizational structure.

The experimental structure, initiated by Gen. Mike Holmes, Air Combat Command commander, directs the 366th Fighter Wing to create an organization that will test possible ways to improve squadron readiness, develop unit leaders and encourage innovation. Changes at the wing are expected to start this month.

Command officials contend that an era of re-emerging great power competition requires units to be ready to fight across the entire spectrum of combat. Operations may be decentralized, requiring squadrons to operate with greater independence. Wing commanders may need to deploy to separate locations with staffs that can effectively liaise with joint and service headquarters to direct and support the actions of these dispersed units. The experiment will test whether a new structure at home stations can improve the lethality and readiness of an Air Force combat wing along these lines.

“This experiment is about our desire to improve lethality and create an environment where leaders are empowered to lead and squadron personnel can focus on their core missions,” Holmes said. “This concept should flatten the decision-making structure within wings to encourage faster, decentralized decision-making and to remove some duties from our front-line units.”

The new structure removes group commanders and a vice commander from the wing structure so that squadron commanders report directly to the wing commander.

Two deputy commanders will advise and assist the wing commander in guiding and evaluating squadron operations, as well as supporting and deconflicting squadron-level decisions.

The experiment eliminates the existing aircraft maintenance squadron and aligns the aircraft maintenance units for each fighter squadron with those squadrons, providing unity of effort through a director of maintenance having oversight of sortie generation and support for squadron operations.

The structure also provides an A-staff under a chief of staff, who will serve as liaisons for efforts directed by their counterparts at higher headquarters and work issues associated with organizing, training and equipping forces that are not part of any squadron’s core mission. Various squadrons have taken on these responsibilities over time because wings have lacked a dedicated staff of functional experts. The A-staff structure adopts a similar organizational model used by major commands, the Air Force, and joint staffs for functional support of unit operations.

Although the experiment changes the rank and positions of unit personnel, it does not add or subtract from the number of Airmen assigned to Mountain Home AFB.

As part of the experiment, ACC and the 366th FW established working groups of key stakeholders and developed a detailed plan for how the wing will test the new structure over the next two years. Evaluation of the experiment will consist of internal and external assessments of the 366th FW compared to similar units using the current wing-group-squadron structure, conducted by experts in and outside the Air Force.

“This experiment is aimed at revitalizing our squadrons by allowing them to focus on the mission while pushing administrative duties to a wing staff,” said Col. Joseph Kunkel, 366th FW commander.

# AFPC launches database for special trophies

**Staff Sgt. Alexx Pons**  
AIR FORCE’S PERSONNEL CENTER  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

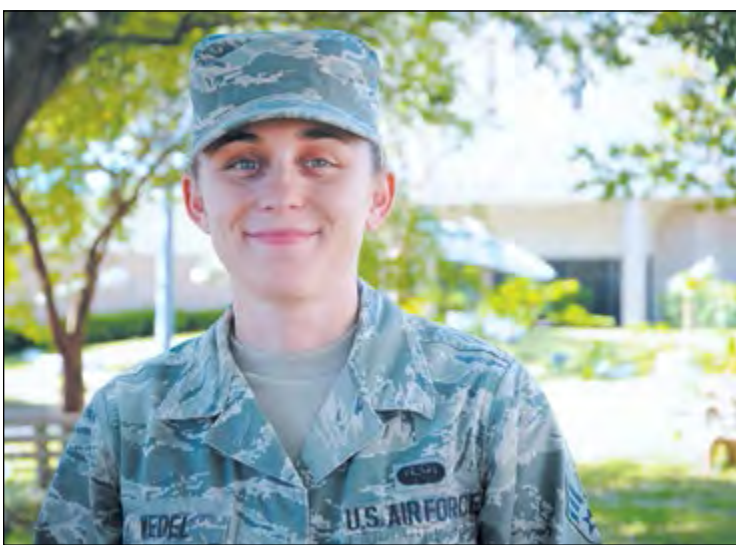
JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas — As the Air Force continues to streamline guidance and target improvements that impact Total Force Airmen in the squadrons, the Air Force’s Personnel Center has implemented an initiative placing all special trophies and award descriptions and eligibility information into a single location for maximum visibility to Airmen, supervisors and commanders in the field.

Since May 21, Airmen across the globe are able to search a single database for all Air Force special trophies and awards such as the Bob Hope Award, Lance P. Sijan Leadership Award, the 12 Outstanding Airmen of the Year Award winners, as well as hundreds of other functional area awards.

The innovative special trophies and awards database, which was conceptualized by members of the AFPC team, blends together more than 30 award-related Air Force Instructions, incorporating more than 700 functional awards.

“Our goal for this project was to consolidate special trophies and awards guidance thereby reducing the number of award-related AFIs,” said Master Sgt. Angel Ortiz, AFPC Air Force Recognition program manager and database developer.

Airmen and commanders will be able to use the database by selecting a category (i.e., officer, enlisted, or civilian) and then by military rank or civilian grade or Air Force specialty code or series. This targeted



U.S. Air Force photo/1st Lt. Jessica Risma  
**Senior Airman Bridgette Wedel, 53rd Computer Systems Squadron technician, poses April 23. She emphasized the education opportunities given to her by the Air Force as well as the plethora of job opportunities in the civilian cyber security world when her Air Force career eventually ends.**

# Education opportunities in information technology

**1st Lt. Jessica C. Risma**  
53RD WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. — Two 53rd Computer Systems Squadron Airmen recently shared how the Air Force opened wide the doors of educational opportunity, and how they set themselves up for success in both the military and civilian worlds.

“I’m a big cyber security guy, that’s why I joined the Air Force in the first place,” said Airman 1st Class Logan Flook, 53rd CSS technician, who pursued a degree in network administration and cyber security before joining.

Flook and his father, a career information technology employee, discussed the fastest way for Flook to enter into the cybersecurity field. Their answer: The Air Force.

“Including basic training, I calculated it’d take me less than eight months before I was in the hands-on field and building up my resume. I was done being a sophomore.”

At computer systems technical school, Flook earned the coveted CompTIA Security + certification, a commercial, non-military certification which is the base line and foundational building block of the security world.

“If you don’t have good security, you don’t have a company,” he said. “This cert is a standard in the field of IT. I was pretty ecstatic when I got mine.”

When Senior Airman Bridgette Wedel joined the Air Force, she too was driven to learn as much as possible as quickly as possible.

“Cybersecurity, that’s what my bachelor’s will be in,” said Wedel. “When I came in, that was my goal, to finish my bachelors within my first enlistment.”

She completed her required career development courses, earned her Community College of the Air Force degree and passed the Security + certification test in her first two years. She continued to push, taking two classes every five and a half weeks for the next two years and finished 32 credits while deployed.

“My four-year mark is June, and I graduate at the end of the month,” she proudly announced.

Being raised in a military family, fostered Wedel’s drive to earn her education and serve her nation. Both of Wedel’s parents were Marines. She said she watched as her father completed each degree he earned.

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# 86th MXG Airmen achieve perfection

**Staff Sgt. Jonathan Bass**  
86TH AIRLIFT WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany — Airmen assigned to the 86th Maintenance Group on Ramstein Air Base, launch C-130J Super Hercules aircraft every day.

But it's been three years since they launched one like this.

The 86th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron's responsibility is maintaining the 86th Airlift Wing's fleet. The 86th Maintenance Squadron works to maintain all the support equipment and individual parts needed to maintain the fleet.

On May 18, the maintainers launched a "Black Letter" aircraft, a plane with zero maintenance issues from nose to tail, inside and out.

"To black letter an aircraft you have to sign off on every discrepancy on the aircraft," said Staff Sgt. Kyle Shea, 86th AMXS dedicated crew chief.

Many aircraft have simple superficial issues which are noted on an inspection but still maintain operational status and are safe to fly. But on Shea's Herc, every issue was resolved thanks to the hard work of both the 86th AMXS and the 86th MXS.

Shea hasn't seen a black letter in his nine years of fixing Hercs.

"This is very important for the maintenance group and the airlift wing," Shea said. "Our aircraft need to be in

See PERFECTON Page 25



Staff Sgt. Kyle Shea, front, 86th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron dedicated crew chief, and Airman 1st Class Kyle Hodge, 86th AMXS assistant crew chief, pose May 18 inside the C-130J Super Hercules they maintain at Ramstein Air Base, Germany.

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# Laser-guided bombs aid Afghanistan capability

**1st Lt. Erin Recanzone**

TRAIN ADVISE ASSIST COMMAND

KABUL AIR WING, Afghanistan — Since March 22, the Afghan Air Force has both introduced and increased the use of precision-guided munitions in southern Afghanistan.

"The recent addition of laser-guided bomb strike capability is huge for the Afghan Air Force," said Lt. Col. Justin Williams, 438th Air Expeditionary Advisor Squadron commander. "Afghanistan did not have it last fighting season, and we are already seeing the crippling psychological effect it is having on the enemies of Afghanistan this season."

Since the implementation of Laser Guided Bombs, nearly 96 percent of strikes have been successful and have led to a 30 percent increase in ground force commander desired effects on the battlefield and a greater overall mission success.

The capability, which consists of conventional bombs enabled with laser guidance kits, is



U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Jared J. Duhon

An Afghan Air Force A-29 Super Tucano taxis to a parking spot March 6 at Kabul Air Wing, Afghanistan. The aircraft is highly maneuverable and capable of operating in austere environments and rugged terrain.

almost entirely Afghan.

"The bombs are built by Afghan ammunitions specialists and loaded onto Afghan planes by Afghan maintainers,"

Williams said. "This is one example of how the Afghan Air Force is assuming ownership across the board."

As of May 11, A-29

Super Tucano pilots have supported approximately 30 Afghan ground missions with this technology, successfully dropping over 50 laser-guided bombs on

enemy targets.

"The Taliban like to hide in towns and places where civilians are," said an Afghan Air Force A-29 pilot. "The Laser Guided Bomb lets me strike those places without hurting the local people."

Williams echoed the Afghan pilot's comments.

"Using laser-guided technology, the Afghan Air Force pilots are able to strike with extreme precision, limiting civilian casualties while still having a greater, more profound effect on the battlefield," Williamss aid.

Afghan Air Force members are constantly working with their train, advise and assist coalition partners to develop new capabilities that create a more professional, capable and sustainable Afghan Air Force.

The implementation of laser-guided bombs comes just two years after the Afghan Air Force gained air strike capabilities in the A-29 and is part of an overall effort to modernize the Afghan Air Force and give it a lethal advantage over the enemy.



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# Davis-Monthan named top base

Airman 1st Class  
Frankie D. Moore  
355TH FIGHTER WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

DAVIS-MONTHAN AIR FORCE BASE Ariz. — The Office of the Secretary of Defense named Davis-Monthan Air Force Base the top base in the Air Force for the second time in six years.

The base won the 2018 Commander-in-Chief’s Installation Excellence Award, which recognizes the outstanding and innovative efforts of the service members who operate and maintain U.S. military installations.

Davis-Monthan last won the award in 2012.

Installations from across the Air Force competed for the award based on how well they achieve departmental objectives in several areas of installation management, including mission support, energy conservation, quality of life and unit morale, environmental stewardship, real property management, safety, health and security, communications and public relations.



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Frankie D. Moore

**A U.S. Air Force A-10C Thunderbolt II performs aerial maneuvers during the annual Heritage Flight Training and Certification Course March 3 at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz. Established in 1997, the HFTCC certifies civilian pilots of historic military aircraft and U.S. Air Force pilots to fly in formation during the upcoming air shows.**

“This trophy recognizes 11,000 (Davis-Monthan) Airmen who think, innovate and execute at an extraordinary level every day,” said Col. Scott Campbell, 355th Fighter Wing commander.

Davis-Monthan AFB is comprised of 34 unique mission

partners that support four combatant commanders worldwide. Some of these operations include close-air support, combat search and rescue, airborne electronic combat, weather operations, and aircraft storage and regeneration.

**See TOP BASE Page 24**

# New tool enhances safety inspections

Keith Wright  
AIR FORCE SAFETY CENTER PUBLIC AFFAIRS

KIRTLAND AIR FORCE BASE, N.M. — A new module has been launched through the Air Force Safety Automated System on May 17, arming safety professionals Air Force-wide with a single method to document and track both spot and annual inspections, as well as safety assessments and evaluations at a local and enterprise level.

Created in 2007 by the Air Force Safety Center, AFSAS is the unique safety reporting system used by the Air Force to collect and maintain safety-related data, record mishap investigations, and track mitigation and abatement of hazards for all safety disciplines.


This new capability provides safety professionals and commanders with a single user-friendly tool to identify and track hazards across their

installations and increase visibility of all hazards Air Force-wide.

The inspection module incorporates the communication and tracking of identified Risk Assessment Code 1 through 5 hazards with the added ability to automatically transfer 1, 2 and 3 coded hazards to the formal Master Hazard Abatement Program. This capability expands Air Force visibility of more than 1,000 Risk Assessment Code 1, 2 and 3 hazards, as well as allowing for the management of \$142 million in abatement costs.

“This new module will eliminate the myriad of paper processes and shadow databases safety offices have used for decades,” said Senior Master Sgt. Jakob Kurtz, Air Force Occupational Safety Investigation, Reports and Analysis Branch chief. “Everyone

**See TOOL Page 21**



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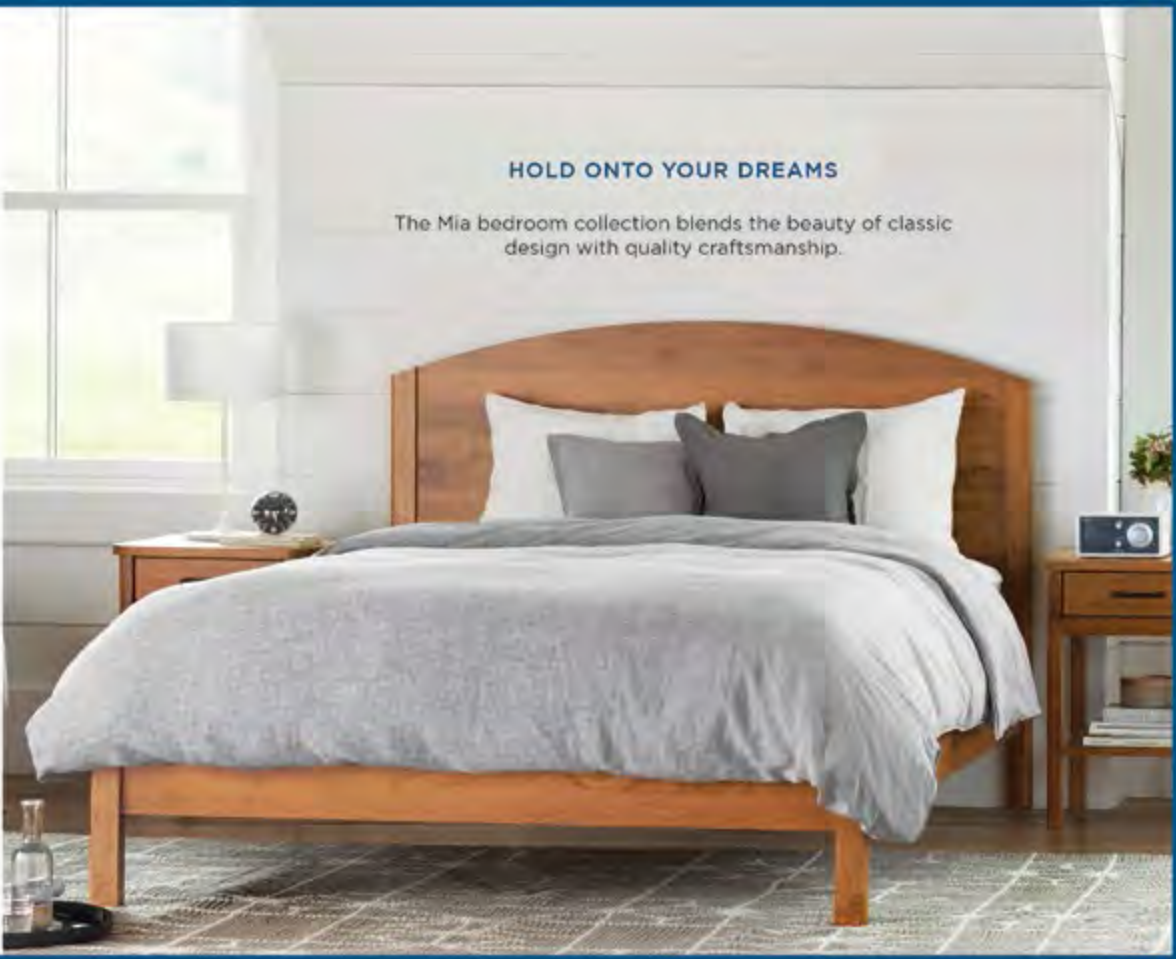
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# Travis delivers equipment in support of Kilauea volcano relief efforts



1) Aircrew members from the 22nd Airlift Squadron unload a double recirculating cement mixer trailer from a C-5M Super Galaxy May 15 at Hilo International Airport, Hawaii. 2) Aircrew members unload the mixer trailer. The 22nd AS delivered the trailer to Hawaii in support of Kilauea volcano relief efforts. 3) Members from the 60th Aerial Port Squadron load a Double RCM Cementing trailer into a C-5M Super Galaxy May 15 at Travis Air Force Base, Calif. The cementing trailer was transported to Hawaii and will be used to help mitigate any well controlled hazards that have been disturbed by volcanic activity from the Kilauea volcano.



Story and photos by Louis Briscese  
60TH AIR MOBILITY WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

A C-5M Super Galaxy from Travis Air Force Base, California, flew May 15 to deliver a double recirculating cement mixer trailer to the island of Hawaii.

The trailer will be used in support of Kilauea volcano relief efforts.

An aircrew from the 22nd Airlift Squadron was responsible for the short-notice delivery of the equipment to the island. Tech. Sgt. Cole Rehse, 22nd AS, loadmaster, was given less than 24 hours' notice before the mission.

"We had less than 24-hour notice for this trip which is out of the ordinary as far as notifications go," said Rehse. "Any time you have an opportunity to help people out and ensure their safety, that's always fulfilling."

The cementing trailer has local ties to the Travis community as the company that owns the trailer is based 20 miles away in Rio Vista, California. Alexander Morris, operations manager, in Rio Vista, is grateful for the assistance Travis is providing.

"This is the first time we've ever flown the double RCM trailer," said Morris. "We normally send this equipment by boat, which takes almost two weeks. With assistance from Travis, we're cutting that time down significantly."

Getting the trailer to Hawaii quickly is critical because volcanic activity is disturbing wells at the Puna geothermal power plant. The trailer will help stabilize any potential hazards caused by volcanic activity.

"With the ongoing volcanic eruptions, they're trying to mitigate any well control hazards," said Morris. "It's a preventive measure as well as to shut in some of these wells."

Loading the double RCM trailer onto the C-5M Super Galaxy was somewhat challenging because of its size. The trailer weighs more than 55,000 pounds and is almost 100 feet long. Securing the trailer properly took some time because it had never been done before. Senior Airman Jacob New, 60th Aerial Port Squadron air transportation journeyman, oversaw the loading of the trailer.

"The item was so unique that it was difficult to figure out how to secure it," said New. "Backing the trailer into the C-5M with the semi-truck then finding the correct tie down locations took a lot of time."

It took a team of 10 aerial porters members to successfully load the trailer. Once the trailer was secure, New could reflect on the significance of what he and his team accomplished.

"It's always good to be part of the solution," said New. "It's what keeps me going."

The 22nd AS is no stranger to delivering critical cargo. In the past year, the unit has delivered cargo to support hurricane relief in Texas and Puerto Rico, delivered supplies to Mexico after an earthquake, while modeling the epitome of rapid global mobility. Capt. Thomas Tharp, 22nd AS aircraft commander, takes pride in knowing his crew is helping those who need it.

"It's great to take a group of guys and do a mission that has a big impact," said Tharp. "It's very humbling to pull off a mission with less than 24-hour notification to perfection."



4) Senior Airman Robert Harold, 22nd Airlift Squadron, removes a pulley cable before unloading a double recirculating cement mixer trailer from a C-5M Super Galaxy May 15 at Hilo International Airport, Hawaii. 5) Tech. Sgt. Cole Rehse, 22nd Airlift Squadron loadmaster, speaks with a truck driver before unloading the cement mixer. 6) Aircrew members from the 22nd AS unload the cement mixer. 7) Senior Airman Jacob New, right, and Robert Lewis of the 60th Aerial Port Squadron, secure a Double RCM Cementing trailer onto a C-5M Super Galaxy at Travis Air Force Base, Calif.

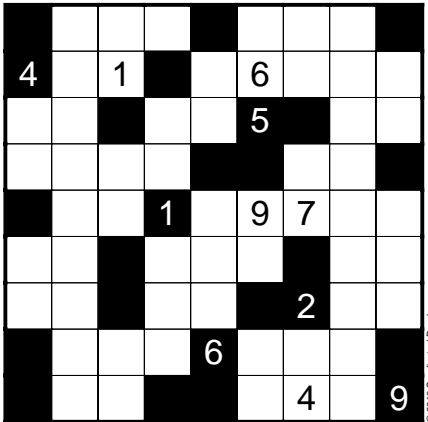




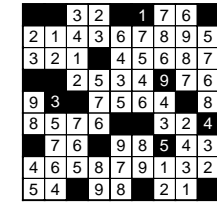
Puzzles

STR8TS

No. 387 Tough



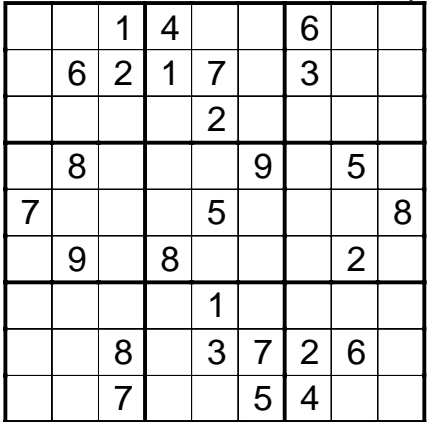
Previous solution - Medium



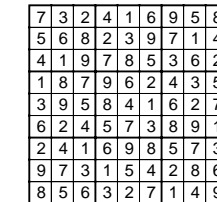
How to beat **Str8ts** – Like Sudoku, no single number can repeat in any row or column. But... rows and columns are divided by black squares into **compartments**. These need to be filled in with numbers that complete a 'straight'. A **straight** is a set of numbers with no gaps but can be in any order,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

SUDOKU

No. 387 Easy



Previous solution - Very Hard



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

For many strategies, hints and tips, visit [www.sudokuwiki.org](http://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](http://www.str8ts.com)

The solutions will be published here in the next issue.

Retiree Corner

TRICARE officials explain pricing changes

FALLS CHURCH, Va. — Population growth, aging and price increases for medical goods and services drive many health care costs in the United States. In any given year, these price increases are related to rising drug costs, using new medical technology, increasing provider rates or other factors, say TRICARE officials.

In response, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, which tracks health care costs for the federal government, estimates spending on health

care is expected to grow 5.5 percent each year through 2026.

TRICARE is not immune to these drivers. On Jan. 1, the Defense Health Agency adjusted TRICARE costs. The National Defense Authorization Act of 2017 set some of these rates.

TRICARE cost changes vary and may change annually. Near the end of 2017, with the help of several military and veteran service organizations, DHA was able to recalculate and correct costs before Jan. 1, lowering 2018 patient costs for several types of care by \$3 to \$8.

— 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](mailto:constance.boulware@yahoo.com) or call 707-639-7175.

**Free painting class for military and their families.** 2-5 p.m. June 16 at Macy's in the Solano Town Center. Must be 17 years of age and/or have a military ID to participate.

**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

Job opening

**Position available.** Travis AFB hospital chapel coordinator position open. Contact Twin Peaks Chapel at 707-424-3217 for an application and Chaplain Greg Jans at 707-423-3651 for more information.

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

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: Oakland Athletics at Giants on July 14 and Atlanta Braves at Giants on Sept. 11. For more information, call 707-424-0969.

**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.

News and notes

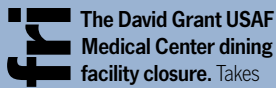
Dependent ID card renewal.

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

Closures

**NAF Human Resources Office hours.** The office will close every Thursday. Business hours are

In the next week...



**The David Grant USAF Medical Center dining facility closure.** Takes place May 25 to June 3 to complete the final phase of the resurfacing project that began last year to make the kitchen floor safer. Box meals will be provided to meal card holders and resident students and a modified menu will be available for inpatients. During the week, food trucks will be on site and the coffee shop and the small base exchange store will be open. For more information, contact nutrition medicine at 707-423-2387.

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.



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.”

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 [travssopcombatpdsd@gmail.com](mailto:travssopcombatpdsd@gmail.com).

Government no-fee passports.

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

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

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



**Mare Island Museum.** Free admission from Memorial Day to Labor for active and Reserve military, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and dependents with ID cards. Open 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays. 1100 Railroad Ave. in Vallejo. For more information, call 707-557-4646.

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

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

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

Motorcycle licensing and training.

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

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

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

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

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

Today
• 6:30 p.m. “Solo: A Star Wars Story” (PG-13, first run)

Saturday
• 6:30 p.m. “Solo: A Star Wars Story” (PG-13, first run)

Sunday
• 2 p.m. “Solo: A Star Wars Story” (PG-13, first run)

For more information, call 707-424-5324.

Professional Loadmaster Association.

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

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

**60th Air Mobility Wing Information Protection Office.** All requests are done on Thursdays and by appointment only. Schedule an appointment by calling 707-424-3114 or by emailing [60anrw.ip@us.af.mil](mailto:60anrw.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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

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

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

- Jessica Pope, 349th Air Mobility Wing.
- Tony Brown, Scott Air Force Base.
- James Van Nostrand.
- Anonymous employee, McConnell Air

# THE FLIP SIDE

Force Base, Kansas.

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

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

Local events

Events

**Benicia Farmers Market.** 4 p.m. Thursdays through October, First Street between B and D streets. 745-9791.

**Fairfield Farmers Market.** 3 p.m. Thursdays through Oct. 7, corner of Jefferson and Texas streets. [www.fairfieldmainstreet.com](http://www.fairfieldmainstreet.com).

**Fiesta Days.** Through Monday, Andrews Park, downtown Vacaville. <http://fiestadays.org>.

**Ghost Walk.** 8 p.m. June 8, leaves from Virgil's Bait Shop, 201 Main St., Suisun City; 8 p.m. June 9, leaves from the Lawler House, 718 Main St., Suisun City. [www.suisunwaterfront.com](http://www.suisunwaterfront.com).

**Ghost Walk.** 8 p.m. first and third Fridays, leaves from 90 First St., Benicia. 745-9791.

**The Hub.** Music jam, 7:30 p.m. June 1; Fantasy role playing, noon June 2; Poetry by the Bay open mic, 6:30 p.m. second and fourth Thursdays, 350 Georgia St., Vallejo. [www.thehubvallejo.com](http://www.thehubvallejo.com).

**“Lunchtime Laughs.”** Noon the first Friday of each month, Vacaville Public

Library-Town Square, 1 Town Square Place. Free. [www.solanalibrary.com](http://www.solanalibrary.com).

**“Sounds of Suspense.”** Radio broadcast, noon fourth Friday of each month, Vacaville Public Library-Town Square, 1 Town Square Place. Free. [www.solanalibrary.com](http://www.solanalibrary.com).

**Vacaville Farmers Market.** 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays through Oct. 27, Creekwalk Plaza at Andrews Park, downtown Vacaville. [www.facebook.com/VacavilleFarmersMarket](http://www.facebook.com/VacavilleFarmersMarket).

**Vallejo Farmers Market.** 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, year-round, Georgia and Marin streets. [www.pcfma.com](http://www.pcfma.com).

**Vintage Market.** 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. every third Saturday, St. Paul's United Methodist Church, 101 West



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to be repaid,  
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freedom born,  
To remember them  
the poppy worn.



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I-WEPTAC

From Page 20

“Our goal is to get ideas from our Airmen into action. We know the ideas are out there – our Airmen are coming up with them.”

The teams developed their proposed courses of action in a lean environment that wasn’t “top heavy with bureaucracy,” said Marc Vandever, senior mentor for this year’s working groups and a member of the AFIMSC Expeditionary Support Directorate.

This allowed them to find answers to challenges in relatively quick succession.

“Left to other means, it may take years to do, and we’re doing it in weeks and months,” he added.

That type of dynamic

wouldn’t have been possible without cross-functional teams.

The diverse group of Airmen around the table allowed each person to “think differently and invest differently within our infrastructure,” said Capt. Brendan Dorsey-Spitz, a working group chairman and member of AFIMSC’s Expeditionary Support Directorate.

The innovative ideas developed in his group coupled with available technologies “allowed us to get after the problem sets,” he said.

By bringing in “the folks who are doing the mission right now and having them think creatively and collaborate collectively to come up with the best ideas, I truly believe what comes out of I-WEPTAC will ensure the agility of combat support in the future,” said Lt.

Col. Steve Thomas, AFIMSC Plans and Analysis Division chief and this year’s conference chairman.

Air Force leaders will take the teams’ proposals under consideration for action. They selected 17 recommendations from the inaugural I-WEPTAC in 2017. Those are now staffed for further analysis and action.

“Having our senior leaders involved is important, because these are the people who are going to digest the ideas presented here today and figure out if and how they should work in the policy guidance for the Air Force,” Spacy said.

“They might not turn out on the ground exactly as presented. There may be elements pulled from problem sets being brought from other parts of the enterprise. That’s the exciting part of this forum and energy.”



U.S. Air Force photo/1st Lt. Jessica Risma

**Airman 1st Class Logan Flook, 53rd Computer Systems Squadron technician, poses May 2. He earned the coveted CompTIA Security and certification, a commercial, nonmilitary certification which is the base line and foundational building block of the security world, through the Air Force.**

IT

From Page 11

“Education will open doors, especially in the IT world,” said Wedel. “There are two more certifications I want to get, that’s my next four-year goal.”

Both Wedel and Flook emphasized the plethora of job

opportunities that exist for them when their careers in the Air Force eventually come to a close.

“I have plenty of options,” concluded Wedel. “I want to stay in (the Air Force) because I want to stay in, it’s not because I feel like I have to or there aren’t other options out there. It’s because I want to continue to wear this uniform.”





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Gee

From Page 2

to receive our fallen heroes from various locations and then prepare them for transport to Dover Air Force Base, Port Mortuary, in Delaware. Our job usually took place on short notice and under the cover of darkness. No one with the exception of the aircrews, senior leaders, our first sergeant and chaplain knew what we had to do. The hours were long and the majority of my team had already pulled 12-hour shifts prior to working upwards of another 21 hours straight. We would meet the plane and aircrew to transport our heroes to holding areas for further processing. My team has to be very meticulous in the documentation and care of our fallen. They are the most resilient individuals and have to live their lives without anyone knowing what they have seen, gone through or how exceptionally well they did their job. Their ranks were from the most junior of Airmen

to seasoned officers and senior noncommissioned officers. With the help of the first sergeant and chaplain corps, we ensured that they were continuously checked on and doing well. The work they do can affect individuals in different ways at any given time. My life was forever changed after my arrival at Al Udeid. There are 47 Airmen, Soldiers, Sailors and civilians lives that touched mine in a way that the majority of Air Force Airmen will not know and I pray they will not have to. These individuals, nor their families will never know of mine nor my team's role in taking care them. There will never be a thank you note from us to them for all that they did, accomplished or sacrificed in the greater objective of our military missions spanning numerous countries. We silently thanked them by doing our job to the best of our abilities in the most respectful, dignified and professional manner we could in order to honor them and their service. Their names are

forever etched in my heart and they have become a part of me. Resiliency can be hard to achieve. As a leader, we in sometimes have to be resilient on our own. Each time we had a fallen hero did not make it any easier to process emotionally the next time. I had to be the strong one for my team and could not let others see any of my emotions. This is hard to keep inside. If I was not strong, they would not turn to me if they needed me and it could affect how strong they were – their resiliency was my top priority. At times, when we had new team members that never had to do our job, my resiliency always took a backseat. My team making it day by day and continuing to excel helped me to be more resilient. I relied heavily on my husband and son. They only knew that if I called they needed to answer; I just needed to hear their voices and know that they were all right. I made up wards of 20 of these calls because sometimes we had more

than one fallen hero at a time to take care of. Every day, I think of our fallen heroes and how precious life is. Every day that I hear about another fallen hero, I am thankful for the men and women working tirelessly in taking care of them. I pray for our fallen and their families knowing this is one of the hardest things that they have to go through in life. I understand this having lost both parents, my grandfathers and one of my grandmothers. I just want them to know that they are a part of a huge military family no matter what branch of service, whether civilian or military. They are always in our thoughts and prayers. On Memorial Day weekend, enjoy your time off with loved ones. Do not take them for granted as the next day is never promised. Also, take some time to think about those who came before us who forged the path forward and those who made the ultimate sacrifice to ensure the freedoms of everyone around in the U.S.

Top base

From Page 14

The base is well positioned to execute this variety of mission sets given its consistent weather, abundant airspace, proximity to dynamic training areas and adjacency to Tucson, Arizona, a city of more than one million people. These qualities allow units here to conduct year-round training events in the most realistic simulated deployed conditions possible. Davis-Monthan AFB will be awarded several accolades, including the installation excellence trophy and flag, and granted \$700,000 for base improvements. Airmen were able to suggest improvements by filling out an electronic survey that let them select from a list of improvement options or add their own. “It wasn’t the chiefs and commanders who won this award, it was the Airmen,” Campbell said. “This is all thanks to them.”

Database

From Page 10

database filtering will be available with just a few clicks from drop-down menus, versus scouring through several multi-volume publications. The database contains all Air Force-level awards, those which were previously contained in 30 Headquarters Air Force stand-alone AFTs, as well as major command special trophies and awards. “What we have built will allow leaders to break down the special trophies and awards program and deep-dive into areas that directly pertain to their organizations,” said Tech. Sgt. Jorge Hernandez, 433rd Force Support Squadron commander support staff and database programmer at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas. “For example, a security forces NCO will be able to query the system by RegAF, Guard, Reserve or Total Force by enlisted Airmen, requiring major command approval, within Air Force Special Operations Command. The database will supersede stand-alone functional award AFTs and those awards not listed or embedded in existing guidance.” To access the database, visit <http://www.afpc.af.mil/Recognition/>.



U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Jonathan Bass

Airmen assigned to the 86th Maintenance Group salute as a C-130J Super Hercules taxis by them May 18 at Ramstein Air Base, Germany. Tail 5822 was flying its first sortie as a “black letter” aircraft, meaning there were zero maintenance issues.

Perfection

From Page 12

top-notch shape for the missions we support all around the world. But to get them there is a lot of hard work.” To make this happen Shea and his assistant crew chief,

Airman 1st Class Kyle Hodge, worked countless hours and spent many long days working on tail 5822, Hodge said. “We had a lot of dedication and support from the 86th AMXS and 86th MXS to be able to get to where we are now,” he said. Shea said that this wasn’t a quick fix. They have worked on

tail 5822 since January to obtain all the needed parts and correct all the issues, no matter how small. “The 86th AMXS and 86th MXS worked hard together to make this happen,” said Tech. Sgt. Robert Paradis, 86th MXS isochronal inspection section chief. “The 86th AMXS knows they can count on us and we’ll do whatever we can to get the mission accomplished.” Shea and Hodge are the first crew chiefs for their plane, which they nicknamed “The Yeager Express,” in honor of retired Brig. Gen. Chuck Yeager. For their efforts, Shea and Hodge flew with the aircraft on its initial black letter flight.

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Scholarships

From Page 5

Applicants are also required to submit a personal essay. The judging is handled outside of the club and is specifically designed to ensure that all applicants remain anonymous and are rated on the essay, merit and accomplishments alone. The following family members of military men and women were awarded scholarships to be put toward their college studies. These recipients include recent high school graduates, continuing education students and spouses furthering their studies: Jack Gardner, Elyse Gottschal, Adam Grabowski, Bridget Higgins, Madeleine Malone, Jessica Paddock, Michael Rangoonwala, Miracle-Giselle Tuika, Ashlyn Weaver and Megan West.

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

Members from the 821st Contingency Response Squadron based out of Travis Air Force Base, Calif., hold group discussions during the “Leadership Trailhead” initiative May 16. The initiative provides weekly professional development with the squadron commander and is aimed at improving teamwork and organizational goals. Airmen are using the Whole Airman Concept to find innovative ways to incorporate leadership development into their everyday squadron routine.

Gladiator

From Page 3

tools for them to continue on their career,” said Lt. Col. Troy Pierce, 821st CRS commander and previous 821st CRSS commander. “It has been a truly amazing opportunity to be able to spend one-on-one time with Airmen.”

Senior Airman Nelson LaRoche, 821st CRSS aerial porter, was recognized as a “Gladiator of the Month” earlier this year. During this time, he was able to spend one-on-one time with the commander where he received personal development and mentoring for his career.

“During my day as the acting squadron commander, I sat

in various briefings throughout the day and got to see the big picture of tasks that happen and occur in the wing,” LaRoche said. “It was a good experience for me to think outside of my Airman tier and see what kind of decision making, planning and coordinating goes on as a squadron commander.”

He also had the opportunity to share his Air Force history with the unit during another program called the “Gladiator Moment.” In order to learn more about the individual Airmen in the CRSS, the Gladiators are encouraged to briefly present their story during the weekly staff meeting. LaRoche said through these program initiatives, he has learned more about what it takes to become a

leader and developed skills he can use in his future Air Force career.

The 821st CRSS was recently recognized by the Profession of Arms Center of Excellence and Air University Leadership Institute for their innovative leadership development programs and the unit was awarded the 2017 PACE Leadership Impact award.

“What a privilege it was to nominate the squadron and leadership team for the PACE award,” Pierce said. “Just a few of these great achievements that our leadership team has developed within the squadron has really enhanced the human capital of the entire squadron and just created a pleasant environment to work in.”

Doc

From Page 7

disorders, burnout, fatigue and hypertension. Additionally, due to its similar chemical structure to DHEA, it could lead to a positive doping control test for anabolic steroids.

Unfortunately, at this time, there is little evidence to support the claims that over-the-counter testosterone boosters actually raise testosterone levels in young, healthy men. However, there are many safer and more natural methods to raise testosterone including weight training, getting adequate sleep, losing weight if you

are overweight or obese and eating a healthy, balanced diet that includes leafy greens and animal fats.

If you have any concerns about a given supplement you are taking, we recommend bringing it to your physician and discussing the potential benefits and adverse effects.

The Department of Defense also has a dietary supplement resource called Operation Supplement Safety which is open to the public and can be found at [www.opss.org](http://www.opss.org).

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Rated

From Page 9

active duty under VRRAD will fill rated staff and active flying staff, test, training and operational positions where rated officer expertise is required,” said Maj. Elizabeth Jarding, Air Force’s Personnel Center VRRAD rated liaison. “We can match VRRAD participants to stateside or overseas requirements where they’ll fill critical billets that would otherwise remain vacant due to the shortage of rated officers.”

Rated officers who received an active duty-retirement within five years, or will receive one within 12 months from their

VRRAD date of application, in the ranks of captain, major or lieutenant colonel, and who are under age 50, may apply for the program, with applicants older than 50 considered on a case-by-case basis. Participation has expanded to up to 1,000 retired rated officers and active-duty tour lengths are increased to a minimum of 24 months and a maximum of 48 months.

In addition, applicants must be medically qualified for active duty and have served in a rated staff position within 15 years or been qualified in an Air Force aircraft within 10 years of application for flying positions. Refer to AFPC’s VRRAD web page for aircraft specifics.

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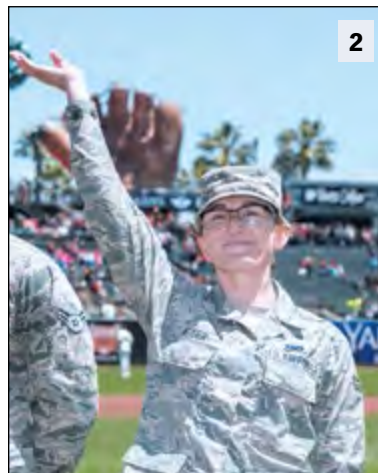


1) Members of the Travis Air Force Base, Calif., Honor Guard prepare to present the colors during a pregame ceremony May 19 at AT&T Park in San Francisco, California, before the San Francisco Giants and Colorado Rockies Major League Baseball game. Travis was recognized at the game in honor of its 75th anniversary.



# GIANTS ... celebrate anniversary

U.S. Air Force photos by Louis Briscese



2) Airman 1st Class Mikaela Keiser, 60th Logistics Readiness Squadron, acknowledges the crowd during a ceremony May 19 at AT&T Park in San Francisco, Calif., before the San Francisco Giants and Colorado Rockies Major League Baseball game. 3) Members from Travis participate in the playing of the national anthem before the game. 4) Members of the Travis Air Force Base, Calif., Honor Guard prepare to present the colors.

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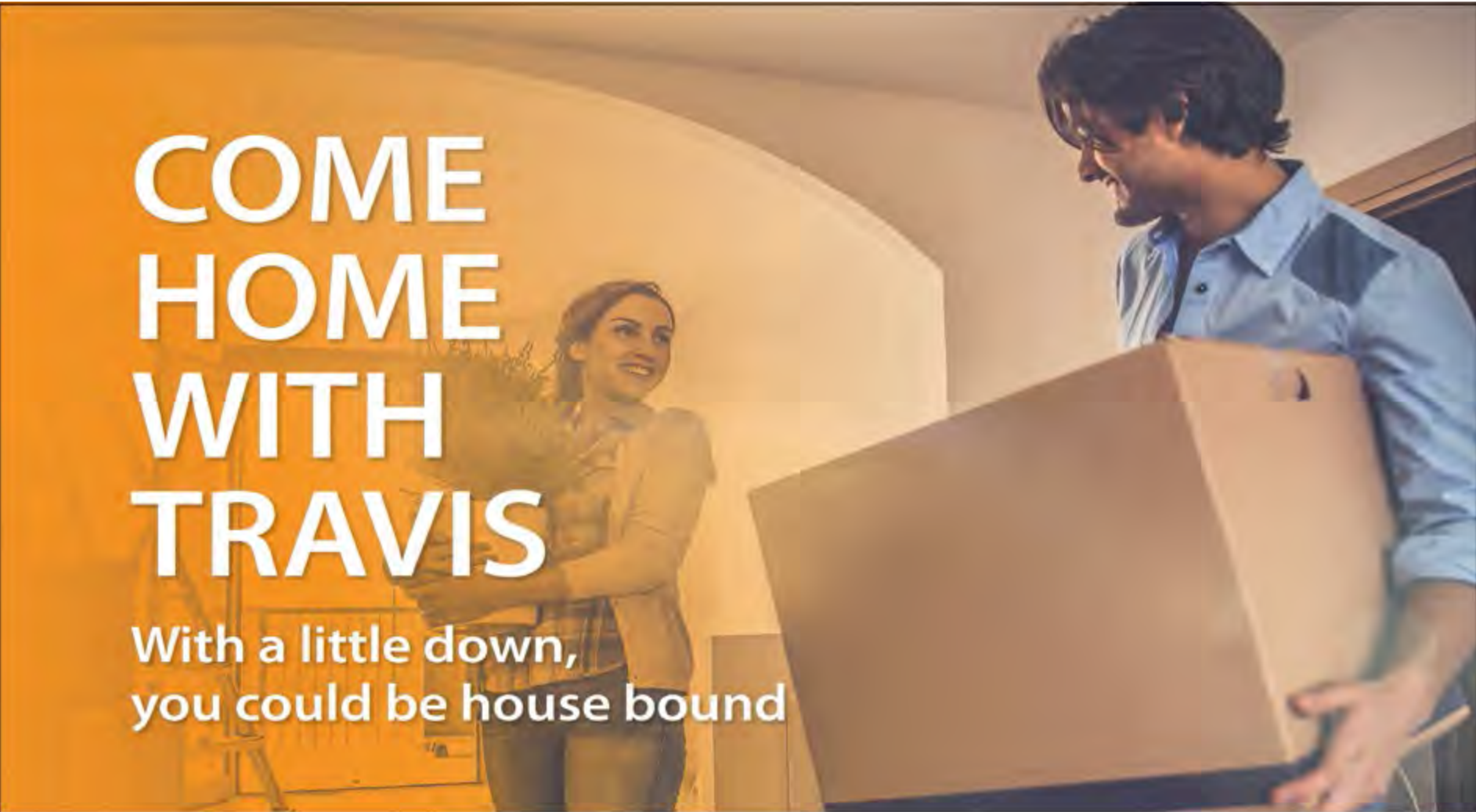
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