

Sergeant marks mileage ...

MILESTONE

PAGES 16-17



‘Just the way we do it’ not the answer

I’ve been lucky in my career, so far, to instruct on three different aircraft and serve in the contingency response world.

I started off flying C-21As LearJets doing distinguished visitor travel, then transitioned to the C-130 E/H doing airland and air-drop missions. I’ve also flown on air-refueling missions. As I transitioned into the C-130 and KC-135, I asked many questions on why the techniques and procedures were a certain way.

I had instructed previously and knew I was going to instruct again, so I wanted to know not only what to do in the aircraft, but why we did



Commentary by Lt. Col. Taylor Johnston
921ST CONTINGENCY RESPONSE SQUADRON

what we did. Unfortunately, all too often in the C-130 and KC-135, the answer I received was “that’s the way we did it back in Strategic or Tactical Air Command.” While there was probably a good reason for doing it that particular way, we had lost sight of the original reason, and therefore, were unable to see the possibility or harm in changing the system.

There is an anecdote from a scientific study that is a little more blatant in its description: It starts with a cage containing five monkeys. Inside the cage, there is a banana on a string and a set of stairs under it.

Commander’s Commentary

Before long, a monkey will go to the stairs and start to climb towards the banana. As soon as he touches the stairs, all of the other monkeys are sprayed with cold water.

After a while, another monkey makes an attempt with the same result – all the other monkeys are sprayed with cold water. Pretty soon, when another monkey tries to climb the stairs, the other monkeys will try to prevent it.

Then, one monkey from the cage is removed and replaced with a new one. The new monkey sees the banana and wants to climb the stairs. To his surprise and horror, all of the

other monkeys attack him even though there is no water sprayed.

After another attempt and attack, he knows that if he tries to climb the stairs, he will be assaulted. Next, another of the original five monkeys is removed and replaced with a new one. The newcomer goes to the stairs and is attacked. The previous newcomer takes part in the punishment with enthusiasm. Likewise, a third original monkey is replaced with a new one, then a fourth, then the fifth. Every time the newest monkey takes to the stairs, he is attacked.

Most of the monkeys that are beating him have no idea why they were not permitted to climb the stairs or why they are participating in the beating of the newest monkey.

After replacing all the original monkeys, none of the remaining monkeys have ever been sprayed with cold water. Nevertheless, no monkey ever again approaches the stairs to try for the banana. Why not? Because as far as they know, that’s the way it’s always been done around here.

This is permanent change of station season. You are either new to Travis or will be teaching a newcomer about their roles and responsibilities in the workplace. If you are new here, I challenge you to ask the question, “Why?” If you are teaching, I challenge you to know the reason why. Things can always be improved, and if we don’t understand the “why,” how can we make things better for the next generation?



Commentary by Chief Master Sgt. John Overturf
921ST CONTINGENCY RESPONSE SQUADRON

Unbowed, unbent, unbroken – Stay ready

This is normally where someone talks about a leadership quality or shares a story from their past that shaped them into the leaders they are today. Instead, I want to discuss the importance of taking care of yourself.

Full spectrum readiness has been a priority among our Air Force leaders and has translated into countless exercises, numerous training hours in mission-oriented protective posture gear, and realistic scenarios to ensure we are able

Chief’s Commentary

to respond to any threat anywhere in the world. But what does this really mean if we personally are not at our best? While it is extremely important to be proficient in those skills, if we are not mentally strong and ready, we will never reach the level of readiness we need to be at.

As leaders and supervisors, one of our first priorities is taking care of our people. We spend a lot of our

time and energy in ensuring people are properly trained, equipped and helping them through challenges or personal issues that they may be experiencing. Because of that focus, I believe at times, leaders unintentionally neglect themselves. We tend to shy away from acknowledging and talking about issues we are dealing with which can adversely affect our ability to lead.

Each and every one of us regardless of rank will face a challenge at some point in our lives and

career. As much as we try not to let our personal lives affect our performance, they can negatively impact our performance if issues are not managed and addressed. Something as simple as talking with a friend, co-worker or a supervisor can make a huge difference.

Recently, I encountered an unexpected challenge that I would not have been able to get through if I did not have the support of my

See OVERTURF Page 25

Snakes on a base: Weather brings rattlers

Merrie Schilter-Lowe

60TH AIR MOBILITY WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Some people actually like snakes. But for the rest of Travis Air Force Base, California, it’s time to be leery.

California has 33 species of snakes, but only six are poisonous to humans, according to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. One of the most dangerous is crotalus oreganus, or the northern Pacific rattlesnake.

Rattlesnakes are generally not aggressive, but will bite if handled, stepped on or otherwise disturbed, according to CDFW. Most bites occur between April and October when snakes and humans are most active outdoors.

“Snakes are cold blooded,” said Staff Sgt. William Brazier, 60th Civil Engineer Squadron pest management section. “Now that it’s getting hot, they will be most active during the late mornings and early evenings.”

Not only do rattlesnakes prefer warmth, they like their environment to be dry, dark and as far away from humans as possible. But sometimes, they turn up in backyards, brushy areas and under woodpiles.

The most common snake on base, though, is the gopher snake.

“The gopher snake can average between 4 to 6 feet long,” said Brazier. “It is most active during the daytime, so people are more likely to come across it in their gardens or yards.”

Both rattlesnakes and gopher snakes pose a danger to small pets. Rattlers bite and gopher snakes constrict.

“Gopher snakes suffocate their prey,” said Brazier. “If you have pets like rabbits, guinea pigs, hamsters or other small animals, don’t leave them alone in the yard.”

People also should not try to catch



U.S. Air Force photo/Heide Couch

A western diamondback rattlesnake collected by 60th Civil Engineer Squadron pest management facility staff resides in a glass enclosure May 24, at Travis Air Force Base, Calif. Usually a rare occurrence, specialists can get called out to remove reptiles from unsafe situations.

the snake.

“The best thing to do is to leave it alone and call Balfour Beatty if it’s in base housing,” said Brazier. “If it is in a government facility or anywhere outside of base housing, call CES customer service at 707-424-2575 and we will come and get it.”

Between October and April, pest management has captured three snakes, which are in the pest management building: a northern Pacific rattlesnake, a gopher snake and a ball python. “The team captured the snakes while I was deployed,” said Brazier. “Pythons are not native to the state, so it may

have been a pet that was dumped or escaped.”

Pest management found the rattlesnake near the temporary lodging facilities and someone called to have the gopher snake removed.

“Since the rattlesnake is dangerous, See SNAKES Page 30

Tailwind

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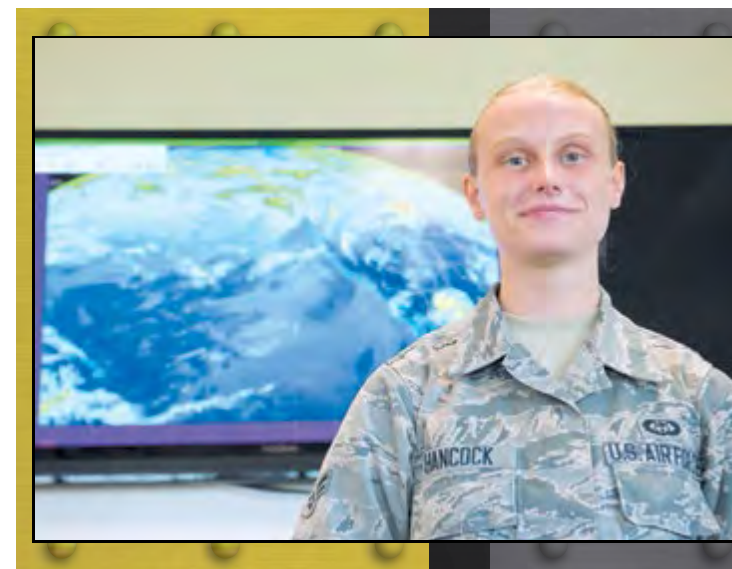
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On the cover

Master Sgt. Scott Dillinger, 6th Air Refueling Squadron NCO in charge of standardization and evaluation and a KC-10 Extender flight engineer, poses June 1 in front of a KC-10 at Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska.

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



U.S. Air Force photo

WARRIOR OF THE WEEK

Name: Airman 1st Class Katelyn Hancock.	Family: Airman 1st Class Melanie Baluyut.	other degree in psychology.
Unit: 60th Operations Support Squadron.	What are your hobbies? The outdoors, hiking and kayaking, and sports, such as tennis, softball and bowling.	What is your greatest achievement? Lost brother to suicide. In high school, started an organization that focused on breaking up high school cliques and introducing new students to each other with the goal of keeping everyone involved. Program is credited with saving five students from harming themselves.
Duty title: Weather apprentice.	What are your goals? Looking to complete a weather degree and commission. Going to make a career out of the Air Force. Once commissioned will finish	
Hometown: Linton, Indiana.		
Time in service: One year.		

Airmen attend Apple workshop

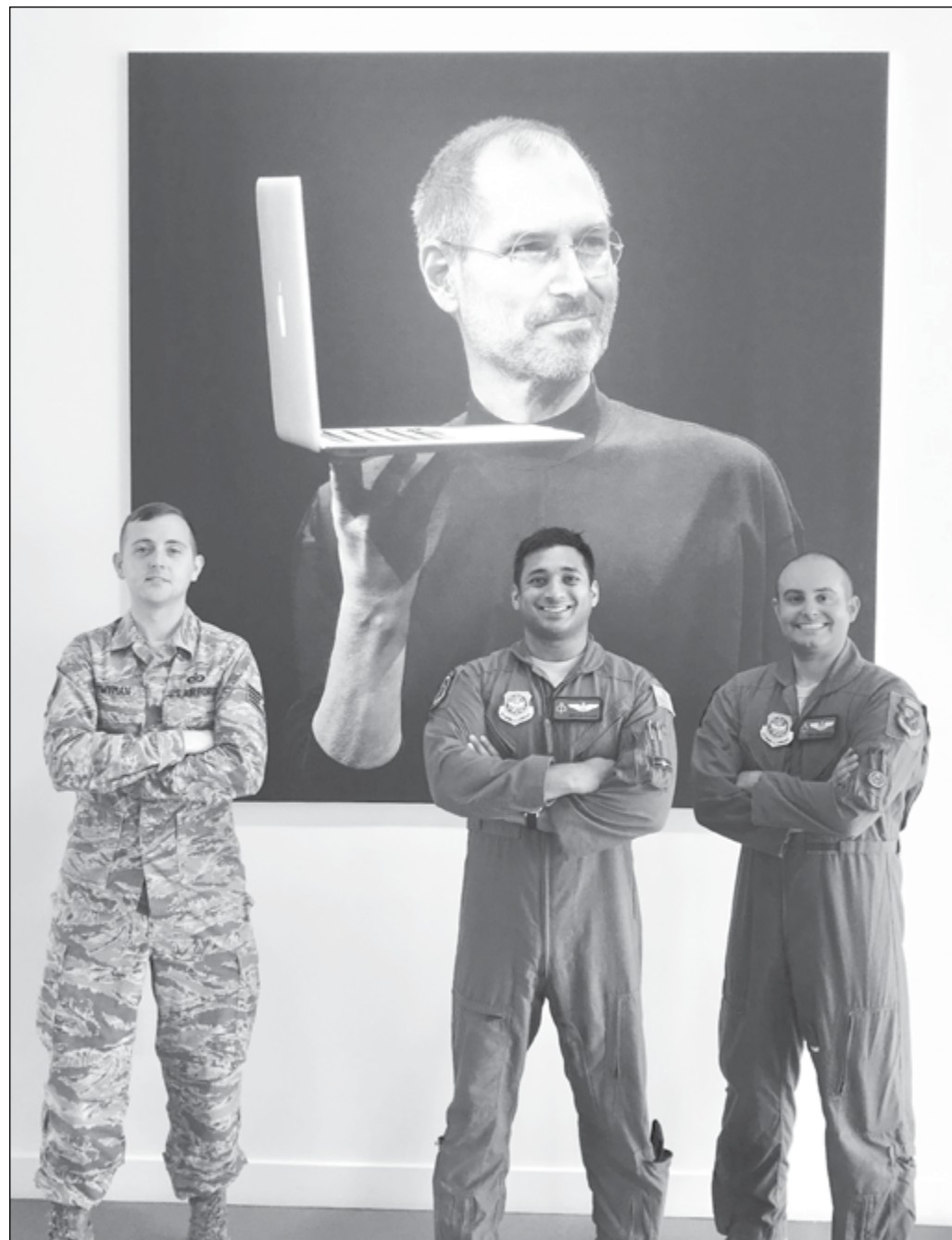
Maj. Imran Khan
21ST AIRLIFT SQUADRON

From May 21-24, Airmen from the 21st Airlift Squadron from Travis Air Force Base, California, attended the Apple App Design workshop.

21st AS Airmen partnered with Apple Inc. to develop next generation software that will drastically reduce time required in the flight record's process. Not only were the Airmen able to innovate next level software, they also had the opportunity to absorb some of the Apple culture and bring many ideas back to Travis. The 21st AS Airmen worked with other Air Mobility Command aircrews from multiple airframes, maintenance personnel and Apple software engineers to help develop innovative measures that could potentially save millions of man hours per year.

"It was an incredible experience partnering with Apple" said Master Sgt. Paul Garcia, 21st AS loadmaster instructor. "It was truly awesome to watch the developers transform our ideas into reality."

"Coming to Apple was a fantastic opportunity for us all," said Staff Sgt. Brendan Tyman, 21st AS squadron aviation resource manager. "With the representation of maintainers, pilots, loadmasters, boom operators, and aviation resource managers, we are creating the flightline of the future."



Courtesy photo
From May 21-24, Airmen of the 21st Airlift Squadron attended the Apple App Design workshop.

Afghan air force conducts first emergency combat airdrop

1st Lt Erin Recanzone
TRAIN ADVISE ASSIST COMMAND

KABUL AIR WING, Afghanistan — Afghan air force C-208 aircrew members conducted their first emergency combat airdrop mission June 1, bringing ammunition to Afghan national police and

citizens fighting the Taliban in Badakshan province.

The success of this emergency combat airdrop proves the Afghan air force's ability to respond quickly to emergent requests and deliver necessary supplies to support the Afghan national army, police, and citizens as they combat the Taliban.

Aircrew members conducted mission planning, prepared nearly 1,000 pounds of ammunition for delivery, and successfully dropped the supplies all within six hours of being notified of the need for support.

"In the past we didn't have anything to support the soldiers," said 1st Lt. Froton, Afghan air force loadmaster. "Now when

our soldiers are faced with any kind of problem, especially lack of ammunition, we are ready to support them, and it's really bad news for the Taliban."

All ammo was received by friendly forces, which allowed the Afghan national police and local citizens defending their

See **AIRDROP** Page 24

'Tank Divers' power fight

Airman 1st Class Adam R. Shanks

6TH AIR MOBILITY WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

MACDILL AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. — Mitochondria are the powerhouse of the cell. All things, living and mechanical require a source of fuel and a system designed to convert that fuel into energy. Aircraft are no exception.

While cells are microscopic, their functions can be magnified to apply to a larger structure such as an aircraft, with many complex parts with unique roles combined to make an efficient force.

Think of the engine as mitochondria; powering its flight. But that engine cannot run without a source of fuel, and for that purpose there is a specialized group of Airmen who are charged with maintaining the systems that enable the KC-135 Stratotanker to use and deliver its fuel and to power our Air Force around the world.

Known as "Tank Divers," Airmen with the 6th Maintenance Squadron aircraft fuel systems section at MacDill Air Force Base, Florida, constantly find themselves in a bind, looking for and fixing deterioration and leaks in the fuel systems of the aircraft.

"The access doors we use, See **TANK DIVERS** Page 24

Exchange shoppers can grab savings

Jessica Jones

ARMY AND AIR FORCE EXCHANGE SERVICE

Military Star is making moving to a new duty station smoother and more affordable for Travis Air Force Base, California, Airmen this summer.

From now through Aug. 8, Airmen who are undergoing a permanent change of station can receive an Operation PCS Benefit Card, valid for \$10 off a \$100 purchase with their Military Star card at any Army and Air Force Exchange Service store or online at ShopMyExchange.com. The benefit card is valid for 90 days after the issue date, and there is no limit to the number of times it can be used.

"The Exchange understands PCSing is stressful for Airmen and their families," said Flor Payton, Exchange general manager. "The Military Star card savings takes some of the financial burden off their shoulders and makes relocation a little easier."

To receive the benefit card, Airmen can visit the customer service desk at the Travis AFB Exchange and present their PCS orders. The benefit card savings may not be used on fuel, gift card, uniform, Exchange restaurant, Exchange online marketplace or mall vendor purchases.

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

- \$309 million saved with one of the lowest annual percentage rates of any store credit card.
- \$33 million saved with no annual, late or over-limit fees.
- \$17 million saved through zero-interest promotional offers.

Military Star cardholders See **EXCHANGE** Page 25

Former monk becomes Airman

Airman 1st Class Erick Requadt

23RD WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

MOODY AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. — For most people, spending a day without their phone is an impossible feat. To spend 30 days without a phone, writing, reading, talking or even eye contact would seem unfathomable, but for Thailand Buddhist monks, this is their world.

After spending 18 years in that world as a monk, Airman 1st Class Kornkawe Rue Art, 23rd Medical Support Squadron pharmacy technician, traded his robes for a uniform, in his continual pursuit of a life bigger than himself; one of meaning and purpose.

"When I first became a monk I didn't think it would open any (professional) doors," Rue Art said. "But the first time I heard I could join the military I saw the opportunities. I would be able to meet more people, see the world and be a part



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Erick Requadt

Airman 1st Class Kornkawe Rue Art, 23rd Medical Support Squadron pharmacy technician, poses for a photo, March 21 at Moody Air Force Base, Ga.

of the world's greatest military. Even when I was a kid, I saw ads for the Air Force in Thailand, and then I saw my chance to join. I wanted to feel that experience of being

a part something larger than myself, to be with the best Air Force."

In Thailand, a monk is one who studies Buddhism, practices in its ways, follows

the rules of and lives at the temple. They practice and teach meditation, along with being spiritual consultants and lead ceremonies.

See **MONK** Page 23

Christine J.J. Chao, O.D.

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U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Joshua King

Mark Flannery, a welder from Detachment 6 at Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar, welds a steel plate to the bottom of a Jet Petroleum 8 tank in a vehicle management garage at an undisclosed location April 27 in Southwest Asia.

Shop welds fuel tanks

Staff Sgt. Joshua King
386TH AIR EXPEDITIONARY WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

greatest Air Force doesn't get aircraft in the air. When the trucks that deliver that fuel start to leak, a multi-team effort is needed to get them fixed and back to delivering fuel to the fight. The 386th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron vehicle

See **TANKS** Page 21

SOUTHWEST ASIA — Without fuel, the world's

Command meets objective for second fiscal year in row

Monica D. Morales
AIR FORCE MATERIEL COMMAND
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio — Air Force Materiel Command captured more than \$2.5 billion in cost savings for fiscal year 2017, the second fiscal year in a row the command has achieved its strategic savings objective.

"Financial stewardship and budget discipline are not new concepts for AFMC," said Gen. Ellen M. Pawlikowski, AFMC commander. "Air Force leadership looks to AFMC as the service's cost conscience. It's a responsibility we take very seriously and a goal we are constantly striving to work toward."

Objective 3.1's stated purpose is to "generate cost awareness to drive savings/avoidance by over \$2 billion per year," according to the 2017 AFMC Strategic Plan. The objective aligns with the command's third goal to "drive cost-effectiveness into the capabilities we provide."

This objective encompasses multiple categories of savings, to include:

- Cost savings: Funds, manpower or other resources which are tied to a budget line and offered back to the command and are removed from the organization's budget;
- Cost avoidance: Benefits from actions that reduce or eliminate the need for an increase in manpower or costs, to include funds, manpower or other resources. It also includes cost savings re-purposed and not returned to the command;
- Time savings: Employees' time freed up through productivity gains and translated into dollars.

All AFMC centers, as well as many Headquarters AFMC directorates, actively contributed initiatives, with the top five highest dollar amounts originating from the Air Force Life Cycle Management Center. Some examples of savings initiatives, gathered from around the command, include the following:

Air Force Sustainment Center

The center's Strategic Alternative Sourcing Program Office searched the commercial aviation sector for used aircraft parts to repair military aircraft, finding savings in parts

See **OBJECTIVE** Page 22

Rock star's lesson one to absorb for career, life

Commentary by Nick DeCicco
60TH AIR MOBILITY WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Commentary

Michael Stipe seems like an unlikely source for life and career advice.

Stipe was the lead singer of the great, defunct American rock band R.E.M. You've probably heard their music in hit songs such as "Losing My Religion," "Everybody Hurts," "Man on the Moon," "It's the End of the World As We Know It (And I Feel Fine)" and many more.

Before he performed in front of millions around the globe, Stipe studied photography and painting at the University of Georgia in his youth. After R.E.M. broke up in 2011, he became an artist and teacher at New York University.

Stipe's love of art followed him throughout his music career, coloring and shaping his ideas as a songwriter and performer.

One concept he retained came from Swiss-German expressionist, cubist and

surrealist painter Paul Klee. Klee taught at the German art school Bauhaus in the 1920s and 1930s. In a 2004 interview, Stipe related Klee's concept of a circle of artistic mastery.

Klee told his students to visualize a circle. At the bottom, closest to them, was the beginning of the journey, a place of naiveté and innocence. As they progressed up the left side of the circle, it was a path of education, learning and discovering one's craft. At the furthest point, that person has mastered their field, becoming what Klee called a craftsman.

"The lesson got really interesting when he continued down the right side of the circle," said Stipe. "He said that to be a craftsman is fine, but to become an artist, you have to start to forget everything that you know. It's when you come back to the bottom of the circle, to a place of naiveté

See **DECICCO** Page 25



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Amy Younger

Nick DeCicco, Tailwind editor, poses for a photo May 4 at the Daily Republic newspaper office in Fairfield, Calif. DeCicco is a contractor in the 60th Air Mobility Wing Public Affairs office and also works at the Daily Republic, which houses the printing press where the Tailwind is printed.

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Tears, triumphs define Memorial Day for commander

Maj. Cathleen Snow

920TH RESCUE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

A year-and-a-half into commanding the 920th Rescue Wing, Col. Kurt A. Matthews is getting ready to attend his fourth burial.

Tragedies of the past year brought Memorial Day into perspective for 2,000 Airmen who serve with the 920th Rescue Wing, along with Matthews, who has seen the scars left by Vietnam in his own family.

The harsh reality of the pararescue motto, "these things we do, that others may live," serves as a Memorial Day

reminder for the Air Force Reserve wing that is uniquely capable of performing amazing feats to save lives.

The 920th RQW's annual flight plan portfolio logged two 1,000-mile roundtrips over the vast sea to save two men whose sailboat caught fire and sunk, and a cruise ship passenger who became gravely ill – a trek to Texas to evacuate 235 citizens displaced by the ravages of Hurricane Harvey – and several stints up Oregonian mountains to pick up hikers trapped by weather events – all the while surpassing the intense scrutiny of an inspection and sending multiple personnel out the door

to combat.

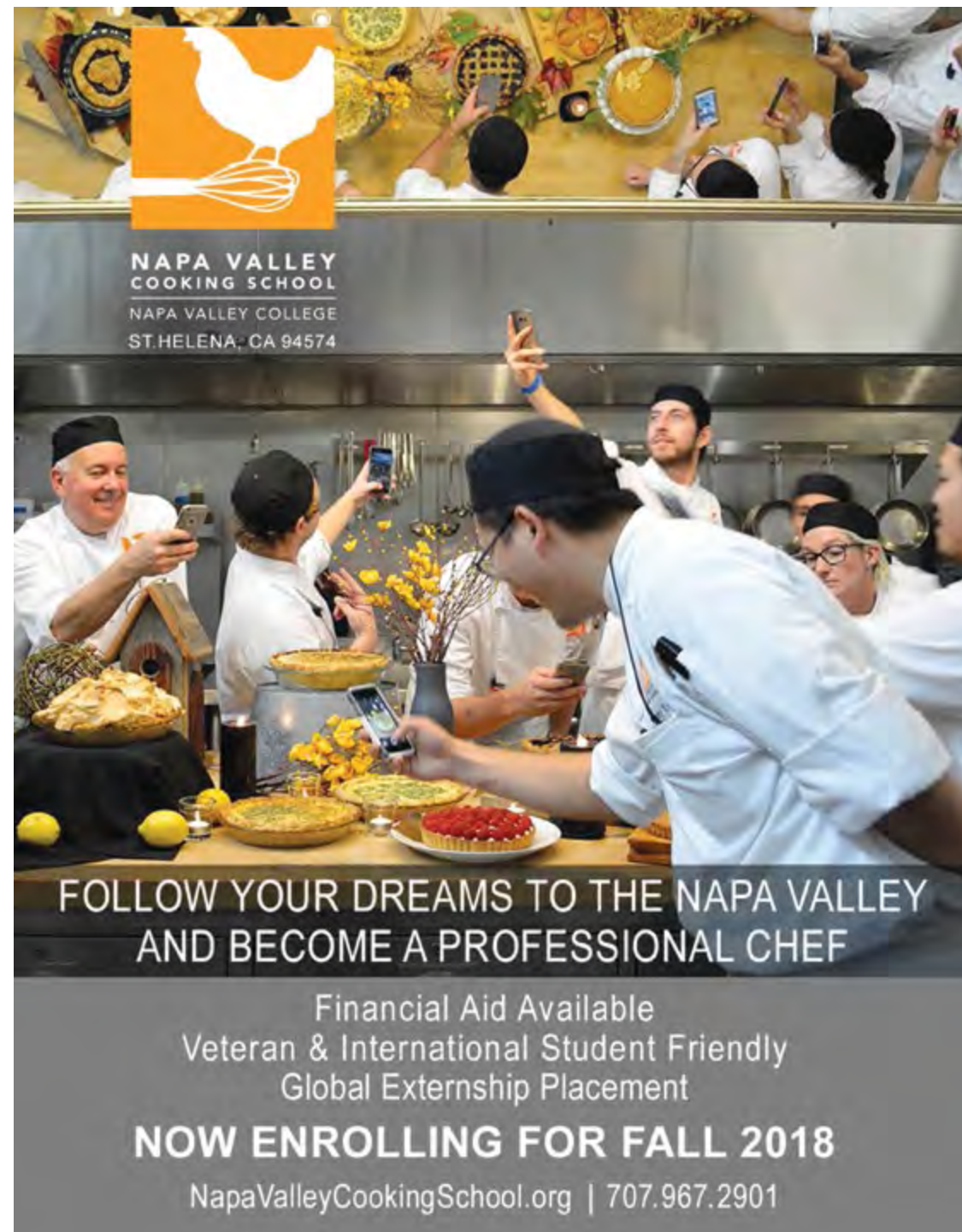
Checking off these seemingly immortal feats led to multiple accolades and awards for rescue warriors to celebrate, like the Power and Vigilance Award; the Jolly Green Association Rescue of the Year Award and the Medal of Honor on Ribbon for Rescue Missions at Sea in Gold, but tears brought on by tragic news of loss, dignified transfers, memorials and burials of fellow Airmen, were shed along the way.

The rescue community received a major blow when seven Airmen were killed aboard Jolly 51, an HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopter that crashed in Iraq March 15,

2018. Among those killed were pararescuemen, Master Sgt. Bill Posch, 36, and Staff Sgt. Carl Enis, 31, two men assigned to the 308th Rescue Squadron within the 920th RQW. Currently, the majority of the 100-person squadron of elite special operators remain deployed throughout the Middle East.

Another loss preceded when a recently retired 920th Operations Group commander and close friend to many, Col. Chris Hannon, was killed after being struck by a car while bicycling. After years of flying dangerous combat rescue missions in helicopters throughout

See DEFINE Page 14



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U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Zoe M. Wockenfluss

Lt. Gen. GI Tuck, left, 18th Air Force commander, presents the 436th Airlift Wing guidon to Col. Joel Safranek, 436th AW commander, during a change-of-command ceremony May 30 at Dover Air Force Base, Del.

Safranek assumes lead of 436th AW

Staff Sgt. Aaron Jenne

436TH AIRLIFT WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

DOVER AIR FORCE BASE, Del. — Col. Joel Safranek assumed command of the 436th Airlift Wing from Col. Ethan Griffin during a change of command ceremony May 30 at Dover Air Force Base, Del.

Lt. Gen. GI Tuck, 18th Air Force commander, presided over the ceremony receiving the 436th AW guidon from Griffin and passing it to Safranek, symbolizing the official transfer of command.

"Col. Safranek is not shy to operations and he's not shy to being in the joint community,"

Tuck said during the ceremony. "He's not shy at all to what the mission at Dover needs in terms of supporting Airmen, civilians and the total force that's here."

Safranek most recently served as the 621st Contingency Response Wing vice commander, headquartered at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey. This marks his first assignment at Dover AFB.

In his first message to the base, the new wing commander thanked the Airmen, families and community who make up Team Dover.

"A lot of times ceremonies

See SAFRANEK Page 25



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U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Ryan Callaghan

Airmen from the 820th Base Defense Group and the 71st Rescue Squadron prepare for a static-line jump proficiency training, March 30 at Moody Air Force Base, Ga.

Senior Airman Daniel Snider
23RD WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

MOODY AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. — Rescue Airmen from the 23rd Wing visited the Devil Raiders of the 621st Contingency Response Wing, May 21-23, 2018, to better understand the essential assets to stand up rescue operations from bare-base situations.

Although the 23rd Wing's mission to organize, train, equip and maintain combat-ready for Air Combat Command, and the 621st CRW focuses on rapidly organizing and standing up bare bases for Air Mobility Command aircraft, they both believed they could learn from each other.

"Historically, when rescue has been tagged to go somewhere that isn't an already established (area), we've tended to just make do and get by," said Maj. Tom Beier, 347th Operations Support Squadron assistant director of operations. "So the CRG already has an established model that they go with to set up bare bases."

The three-day exercise marked the first time a personnel recovery organization has reached out to the CRW to collaborate and innovate better ways of conducting their respective missions.

"Learning from that and seeing how they go in, set up, operate and what they're thinking about kind of plays into

what we should be thinking about," added Beier.

While the 621st CRW's specialty is procuring air bases for AMC aircraft, sharing knowledge between mission-sets could potentially benefit both entities.

"We're in the business of recovering personnel," said Lt. Col. Michael Gallagher, 347th Operations Support Squadron commander. "We're not in the business of putting up tents, bringing in fuel or feeding ourselves. We have some of that capability, but it doesn't last forever. So if we tap into these larger resources that the Department of Defense and the Air Force provide such as

See **QUICKER** Page 20

CSAF presents French medal to Army veteran

Ashley M. Wright
SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. — At a ceremony overlooking the Department of Defense Warrior Games at the U.S. Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colorado, June 2, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David L. Goldfein presented the French Legion of Honor to a World War II Army veteran for his efforts to liberate Western Europe in 1945.

Robert Wortman was just 19 when he joined the army in 1944 and became a scout for the 3rd division 15th Infantry, which was quickly sent to the front lines and then behind enemy lines, crossing the Rhine River in the second wave. Days later, a surprise attack by German hold outs in Nuremberg wounded Wortman, forcing a leg amputation.

After spending three weeks recovering in a hospital in France, Wortman was flown home, but he did not let his wound slow him down. He went on to serve 30 years at McConnell Air Force Base, Kansas, as an Air Force civilian employee, and celebrated his 92nd

birthday day last month.

"All of us in the services today enjoy the trust and confidence of a very grateful nation. That grateful spirit is not all because of what we do, but it is in part due to the incredible legacy of passed on by [Wortman] and those of [he] served with, members of the greatest generation," Goldfein said during the ceremony.

Despite his years of service, Wortman's daughter-in-law, Ann Wortman believes this is his first medal ceremony. His purple heart and bronze star arrived at the hospital while he was recovering in 1945.

Ann began searching for the medal after her father-in-law heard about the French trying to contact WWII veterans who aided in that country's liberation. The medal arrived in the mail in 2015, but there was never a formal presentation. As a civil servant herself, employed at the Air Force Academy, Ann started talking with Col. Gina Oliver, 2018 DOD Warrior Games director, about her father-in-law.

"After WWII there weren't these types of events and programs for disabled Veterans," Ann said.

Munitions squadron makes warfighting contribution

Airman 1st Class
Tristan D. Vigilanco

9TH RECONNAISSANCE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

BEALE AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. — Warheads on foreheads is a common expression heard across the Air Force, but without all of the skill and expertise of ammo Airmen throughout the career field, dropping munitions on our enemies wouldn't be possible.

Maintaining proficiency in their craft is important, which is why all ammo troops in the process of obtaining their seven- and nine-level skill upgrades visit the Air Force Combat Ammunition Center administered by the 9th Munitions Squadron.

"In our Combat Ammunition Planning and Production course we bring in upwards of 560 students a year to teach and give them the training they need for their seven- and nine-level skill upgrades," said Tech. Sgt. William Andrus, 9th MUNS AF-COMAC combat advisor. "We also offer Senior Officers Orientation where officers come in and get a two-day snapshot of the student's course."

AFCOMAC has existed for 32 years and has been at Beale Air Force Base for the last 26 years. The courses offered are designed to provide students hands-on training, which simulates munitions production.

"During the three week CAPP course, they learn about how to plan and prepare to deploy to a bare-base scenario," said Tech. Sgt. Ashley Long, AFCOMAC combat advisor. "The first couple weeks are spent focusing on the plan and in the last week they go through an exercise where they build up mass conventional munitions."

Andrus believes the type of environment offered during the course prepares ammo troops for expeditionary contingency efforts.

"We take more than 70 students from all around the Air Force and put them in a room, give them a scenario for a war and make them create a plan and execute the plan," Andrus said. "This course ensures we can execute the plans we create to meet the operations tempo



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Tristan D. Vigilanco

An Airman attending the Air Force Combat Ammunition Center Combat Ammunition Planning and Production course secures munitions to a trailer May 24 at Beale Air Force Base, Calif.

the war demands."

According to Long, the students build more than 1,000 bombs in the course, which allows them to experience building munitions they otherwise never would.

"Most ammo troops stationed at a base could be only supporting one airframe, but when they come here they are going over multiple air frames and building bombs for almost all of the aircraft we have across the Air Force," Long said. "Not everyone gets a chance to build bombs, but when we deploy we are expected to do so. They are learning things that every ammo troop needs to be qualified to do."

Behind the scenes
In order to successfully

conduct eight courses a year, the AFCOMAC cadre rely heavily on the Airmen who are permanently here under the 9th MUNS. They ensure each and every course runs smoothly by disassembling the students completed work and maintaining a rigorous inspection program for all components.

"Once the AFCOMAC students build the bombs they go through inspection and then they come to us," said Staff Sgt. Alexis Presley, 9th MUNS munitions inspector. "We tear all of the bombs down, disarm the fuse, take off the fins and repack the bombs."

This breaking down and inspection process occurs over and over again until the students complete the building portion of the courses.

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workflow and allows the 9th MUNS Airmen to learn more about bomb building for a variety of aircraft.

"The 9th MUNS is unique because normally we are taught to build bombs and here we are taught to tear them down," said Tech. Sgt. Ricardo Quilantang, 9th MUNS non-commissioned officer in charge of munitions control. "It gives you a different perspective."

In addition to the support they provide for AFCOMAC the unit is also responsible for the daily operations any other ammo unit would be. According to Presley they work with security forces, explosive ordnance disposal, aircrew egress and other organizations.

The efforts of the instructors and the infrastructure maintained by the 9th MUNS Airmen provide a foundation for the ammo career field and the Air Force's warfighting capabilities.

"We are training our people to be the best ammo troops out there and getting them ready for anything thrown at them," Long said. "The way war will be fought in the future is unknown, so we want to make sure when orders come down our ammo troops are going to be ready for it."

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Airman accepted for commissioning

Staff Sgt. Christopher Stoltz
386TH AIR EXPEDITIONARY WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

SOUTHWEST ASIA — Only 40 applicants were accepted into the Nurse Enlisted Commissioning Program this year. Staff Sgt. Laura Ibanez, 386th Expeditionary Medical Group public health technician, was one of them.

The seven-year veteran originally applied for the program in 2017, but her first package was rejected. Although she was upset at the initial decision, the outcome did not dissuade Ibanez from her path to become a nurse as she applied again in 2018.

"I've wanted to become a nurse since I was 8 years old," she said. "It was going to take more than one hurdle to stop me from reaching my dream."

NECP offers Airmen the opportunity to earn a baccalaureate degree in nursing at a college or university with an Air Force ROTC detachment, or a college or university with a "cross-town agreement." Applicants who are accepted are

required to attend school year-round in a resident-based program for up to 24 consecutive calendar months, where they are required to complete classes, in-residence training and ROTC requirements.

Ibanez took early steps to make her dream a reality by completing many of NECP's pre-requisite classes as a dual-enrolled high-school student. She continued toward completing her goal as she moved to college and nearly earned an associate's degree prior to enlisting. As an Airman, her mission continued as she then completed her Community College of the Air Force degree in Applied-Science Public-Health technology.

Ibanez, who hails from the 96th Aerospace Medicine Squadron in Eglin Air Force Base, Florida, currently conducts health and food inspections in addition to ensuring workplace health compliance. Although she will be moving away from her duties as a noncommissioned officer and health technician, she said she looks forward to the challenges of being an officer.



Courtesy photo

U.S. Air Force Honor Guardsmen march toward the Soldiers and Sailors Monument during the Indianapolis Power and Light 500 Festival Parade May 26 in Indianapolis, Ind.

AF Band, Honor Guard perform

11th Wing Public Affairs

JOINT BASE ANDREWS, Md. — "On Memorial Day," President Donald J. Trump said in his 2018 proclamation, "we pause in solemn gratitude to pay tribute to the brave patriots who laid down their lives defending peace and freedom while in service to our great nation."

Paying tribute and honoring fallen service members is what the 11th Operations Group is all about. That's why they were in high demand over Memorial Day weekend.

More than 80 U.S. Air Force Honor Guard parade element members traveled west; about half went to Illinois for the 2018

Chicago Memorial Day Parade on May 26, while the other half went to Indiana for the Indianapolis Power and Light 500 Festival Parade, also on May 26, and then continued to Pittsburgh for the Lawrenceville Memorial Day parade May 27.

"Every time we do a parade, and I hear the support of the crowd, it always reinvigorates me and reminds me of why we do this," said Senior Airman Amanda Skidmore, U.S. Air Force honor guardsman.

Meanwhile, the honor guard's drill team, along with Air Force Band's rock band "Max Impact," traveled to Miami for the two-day National Salute to America's Heroes Air and Sea Show.

And, much closer to home in Washington, D.C., the Air Force Symphony Orchestra performed in the National Memorial Day Choral Festival at the Kennedy Center, and the Air Force Band's Singing Sergeants performed at the National Memorial Day Concert on the west lawn of the U.S. Capitol. The latter event aired live on PBS, and it's annually one of the highest-rated programs on public television.

Although the Miami shows were canceled due to weather – and not counting the television audience – 11th OG assets performed live for a total of nearly 500,000 people.

"As flight sergeant I'm extremely proud of the men and women of the U.S. Air Force Honor Guard who marched with pride while performing over 200 weapon manuals during the Memorial Day weekend parades," said Tech. Sgt. Clark Twiss, 11th OG pallbearers non commissioned officer in charge. "They went out there and did what they do best which is represent all Airmen to the American public. We are all humbled to have had the opportunity to honor our fallen heroes."

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Airman grows into national award winner

Lori A. Bultman
25TH AIR FORCE

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-LACKLAND, Texas — Maj. Michael Butler has many accomplishments, including five Air Force-level awards, and soon he will add recipient of the prestigious, national Arthur S. Flemming Award to the list.

The annual Flemming Award honors outstanding federal employees who made significant and extraordinary contributions to the federal government. Butler, a Buffalo, New York, native, won in the leadership and management category.

Butler's contributions came about while he was chief of the Space Situational Awareness Branch assigned to the Air Force Technical Applications Center, with duty to the Defense Intelligence Agency's Directorate for Science and Technology. There, he led a large joint sensor development and operations team with members from multiple national agencies. Together, he and the team rapidly fielded unique methods of intelligence collection to fill key intelligence community capability gaps, according to his nomination for the award.

As a result of Butler's work developing new algorithms and processing techniques, space objects that used to show up as "fuzzy blobs" when viewed from earth are now viewed in spectacular detail. He was able to improve images to the equivalent of what a large sensor with a dish diameter hundreds of meters wide would produce.

Butler, who graduated from Penn State University, loves the work he does for the Air Force and his country, but things did not always come easy to him.

"I overcame a high-risk upbringing – both parents had substance abuse issues," Butler said. "That was a very toxic environment for a kid to grow up in."

His absentee father passed away from his addiction, and his mother did not get sober until he was 20 years old. He said the only positive role models in his life were his grandparents, who looked after him in his



U.S. Air Force photo

Maj. Michael Butler poses for a photo May 31.

later teens.

"I graduated high school in the bottom third of my class," Butler said. "I was inspired by my grandparents and had the potential to do very well but, statistically, high-risk kids are lucky if they graduate high school."

One teacher even told him that he would never amount to anything in life, but he was determined to prove her wrong.

"I knew I needed to move out of my grandparents' house and do something with my life after high school. I felt my grandparents should be enjoying their retirement, not raising another teenager," Butler said.

At the age of 18, Butler enlisted in the Navy and aced the Nuclear Field Qualification Test.

"That is a very elite career field; only three percent of the entire Navy fleet is nuclear

trained," he said.

The job involved completing two years of technical school, which included operating a nuclear reactor. Unfortunately, Butler was disqualified from the career field after completing the training due to a color vision issue.

"It was in the Navy that I developed the discipline, structure and study habits that I needed in my life," he said.

At that time, he transferred to the Naval Reserves as a Seabee and was mobilized in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"While deployed, my sister, who was an Air Force veteran, told me she was thinking about applying to Penn State and enrolling in its (Air Force ROTC) program," he said. "I thought this was a great idea, and I decided to do it too. I was not on

study program to pay his out-of-state tuition, which was double the normal tuition rate.

"During my freshman year, I was so broke trying to pay tuition that I used my janitor master key to do laundry at the campus gym at night when the gym was closed," he said. "The cafeteria workers would leave me leftover food at night, instead of throwing it away like they were supposed to, because they knew that would be the only food I would eat that day."

Toward the end of his first semester is when he said he started believing God had a plan for him.

"I was \$1,500 short of paying that semester's tuition bill and I could not register for the following semester's classes until the current semester was paid in full," Butler said. "I did not know how I was going to come up with the \$1,500, and I remember thinking at the time, 'I gave it everything I got; maybe it is not meant to be.' Then, right before the deadline to pay my tuition, I found out the Navy underpaid my per diem and allowances while I was deployed. This reimbursement helped pay my tuition and allowed me to enroll in classes for the following semester."

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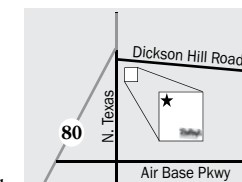
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Col. Kurt A. Matthews, 920th Rescue Wing commander, shares his thoughts May 28, 2018 at the Brevard Veteran's Center in Merritt Island, Fla. He also paid tribute to the fallen Airmen from his wing, as well as their commander, Lt. Col. Tim Hanks, and asked everyone in attendance to keep those serving far away in their thoughts.

U.S. Air Force photo/Darrell Hankins



Define

From Page 8

Afghanistan, it was hard to comprehend how a highly decorated athletic 57-year-old veteran and avid bicyclist could be here one day, and gone the next.

Five months earlier the grips of post-traumatic stress led Master Sgt. Pete Pavenski, an aerial gunner with the 301st Rescue Squadron, to take his own life.

"Nothing can fill the void left by the loss of these great men," said Matthews, a third generation pilot whose father, George, joined the Air Force in 1955, as the Vietnam War was revving up. George took his dad's commercial flying career to a new

level with his commitment to serve his country--paving the way for Kurt.

At an early age, George instilled in Kurt the importance of honoring the service members who've made the ultimate sacrifice. "We as a family have always honored our fallen. It's part of a family tradition," said George Matthews.

Twelve years into George Matthews' Air Force career, he chalked up a number of different assignments, but still none in combat. However, in 1964 George's little brother, Aitken Matthews, 19, joined the Marines and was shipped off to Vietnam two years later. At the time, George was flying C-121s out of McClellan Air Force Base, California. Then, he received tragic news that his little brother was killed in combat. The Marines asked George if he would escort Kenny's body home for his dignified transfer. George readily accepted.

"It was the most difficult and saddest mission I ever had to do," said George with tears welling up in his eyes, but he was honored to do it.

He wore his Class-A service dress and showed up in San Francisco to take his little brother back to their hometown, Miami. Upon his return, the indelible image of their mother hugging Kenny's casket is seared into George's memory. Kenny was laid to rest at Miami's Memorial Gardens Cemetery with full military honors and George had another difficult job - to present his parents with his little brother's flag.

George went back to work flying missions out of California, but received orders to Vietnam three months later. He was soon flying fighter-bomber missions in the A-26 Invader over Southeast Asia. It was his job to stop war supplies being transported along the Ho Chi Minh trail. On the one year anniversary of his brother's death, February 14, 1967, George ensured the enemy felt the full effect of his lost brother.

"I flew with a special purpose that day," George said.

During his 11 months in Vietnam, four aircraft from his unit were shot down losing both of the two crew members (pilot and copilot) aboard each aircraft and he earned the Silver Star and Distinguished Flying

"We honor them for what they did for us rather than mourn them."

— George Matthews

Cross for his heroic actions.

George redeployed back home in October 1967. Nine months later his wife Carolyn gave birth to their second child, Kurt, on Sept. 11, 1968. They have three children in all. He went on to retire after 20 years of service.

"I've participated in Memorial Day ceremonies, but it gets harder to go," said George. "I always honor those men and women who will never come back. We should be grateful they lived. We honor them for what they did for us rather than mourn them."

When Master Sergeant Posch's remains were brought back to Patrick Air Force Base, "It was really tough," said George. "I saluted the casket as it went by," he said as the memories of his brother flooded back. "The older I get, the closer the emotions come to the surface," George said. "My brother is right there at the top."

"This Memorial Day means a lot, not only for the nation, but for my family and our rescue family," said Matthews. "I was glad I got to spend it with my father, and with the 308th Rescue Squadron Commander, (Lt. Col.) Tim Hanks." Colonel Matthews was invited to speak at the Brevard Veterans Center in Merritt Island, Florida, where he presented an honorary flag to the 308th RQS and officially added Master Sgt. William Posch's and Staff Sgt. Carl Enis' names to the center's memorial.

"Today is a day in which we should remember the joy, the laughter, the magnanimous life of Bill and Carl and the entire crew of Jolly 51. Today is another day in our healing process for family, friends, teammates and the community. It is a day in which we recognize the pain is real and still raw, but it is also the day we celebrate the lives of our fallen heroes," said Lt. Col. Tim Hanks, 308th RQS commander, during memorial services for the 920th's two fallen rescue heroes.

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Journey to 10,000: KC-10 flight engineer closes in on milestone



1) Master Sgt. Scott Dillinger, right, 6th Air Refueling Squadron NCO in charge of standardization and evaluation and a KC-10 Extender flight engineer, conducts pre-flight checks June 1 inside a KC-10 at Travis Air Force Base, Calif. The aircraft flew 1,855 miles from Travis to Eielson AFB, Alaska, to support refueling missions in the Pacific. Dillinger is closing in on 10,000 flight hours. 2) Dillinger conducts pre-flight checks June 1 at Travis. 3) A KC-10 Extender aircraft awaits servicing after landing at Eielson. 4) Dillinger makes his way into a KC-10 Extender aircraft June 1 at Travis. 5) Dillinger reviews operating instructions June 1 inside a KC-10 at Travis.



**Story and photos by
Tech. Sgt. James Hodgman**
60TH AIR MOBILITY WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Editor's note: This is the first in a three-part series. Part two will appear in the June 15 edition of the Tailwind.

◆◆◆
EIELSON AIR FORCE BASE, Alaska — Under the cover of darkness early in the morning of June 1 Master Sgt. Scott Dillinger inched closer to achieving a significant milestone: 10,000 flight hours.

At 5:30 a.m., Dillinger, the non-commissioned officer in charge of standardization and evaluation for the 6th Air Refueling Squadron and a KC-10 Extender flight engineer, joined three pilots, two flight engineers and a boom operator for a mission briefing at Travis Air Force Base, California.

Approximately 30 minutes later the crew made their way to the jet that would take them 1,855 miles to Eielson AFB, Alaska a few hours later.

Before the flight, Dillinger had 9,982.6 flight hours, less than 18 away from becoming only the fourth KC-10 flight engineer to achieve the 10,000 hour milestone.

"I love flying," said Dillinger with a smile as he stood just outside the cockpit. "Getting closer to hitting 10,000 hours is awesome and hopefully it means I've been successful at doing my job safely."

"I'm looking forward to hitting that milestone and celebrating that moment with my crew," he said. "They're like my brothers."

The KC-10 is an Air Mobility Command advanced tanker and cargo aircraft designed to provide increased global mobility for U.S. armed forces. The aircraft's primary mission is aerial refueling. It's also capable of transporting litter and ambulatory patients using patient support pallets during aeromedical evacuations. The KC-10 can transport up to 75 people and nearly 170,000 pounds of cargo a distance of about 4,400 miles without stopping to refuel.

The capacity of the aircraft's

six tanks enables it to carry more than 356,000 pounds of fuel - almost twice as much as the KC-135 Stratotanker.

Flight engineers like Dillinger are responsible for ensuring all the systems on the aircraft are working properly and the aircraft is safe for flight.

"We check every system on the aircraft, verify take-off and landing data, oversee the flight plan and ensure any issues are identified," he said.

Dillinger started his military career in 1982 when he enlisted in the U.S. Navy and served five years as a radio systems operator. He joined the Air National Guard in 1987 and served in the maintenance field until 1992, when he eventually joined the Air Force Reserve. In 1994, he became a C-5 Galaxy flight engineer and in 2004, he became a KC-10 flight engineer.

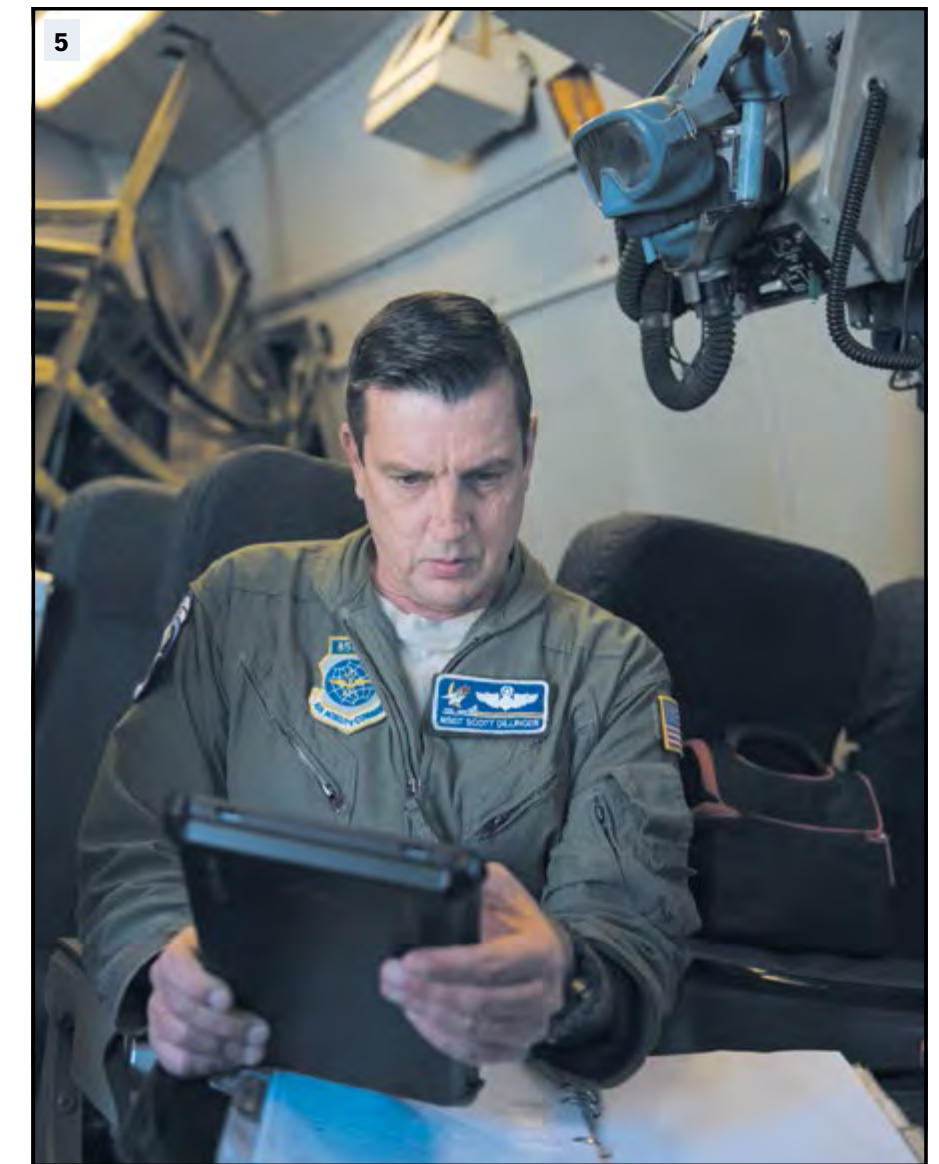
Dillinger has served in the United States military in one way or another for 36 years. He's earned five air medals, deployed five times in support of contingency operations and spent about a year and a half of his life in the air flying missions all over the world.

"He is amazing," said Capt. Eddie Miller, a 6th ARS assistant flight commander for the mission support flight and the aircraft commander for the mission to Eielson. "Flight engineers are critical to our mission and we don't fly without them. Dillinger is probably the most knowledgeable KC-10 flight engineer there is. You can ask him anything and he usually knows the answer."

The captain said he's excited Dillinger will soon take his place in history.

"It's rare for flight engineers to reach such a high number of flight hours before they retire," he said. "For him to reach 10,000, that's impressive. I'm thrilled I get to be a part of it."

The flight to Eielson took 4 hours and 21 minutes. That brings Dillinger's total to 9,986.9. He's expected to hit the 10,000-hour milestone over the next few days.





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Objective

From Page 6

with prices lower than those the Air Force has paid in the past. The program office manages the process of qualifying the parts and authorizing new vendors as additional sources of supply for procurement.

Savings: \$21.4 million in cost avoidance.

Air Force Research Laboratory

The lab initiated Agile Business Processes in fiscal year 2016 aimed to gather improvements and resources savings from employees and throughout the organization. Reported cost avoidances include cancelling low-value support contracts, divesting and transferring tasks to other agencies or organizations, and centralizing and streamlining processes.

Savings: \$17 million in cost avoidance.

Air Force Installation and Mission Support Center

The center's Air Force Installation Contracting Agency led the acquisition to implement contracted transient alert services across major commands. This \$145 million acquisition provides support to passing aircraft temporarily landing at, but not assigned to, the bases. It also provides support such as equipment and ensuring aircraft safety. The initiative covers 44 Air Force bases at nine major commands.

Savings: \$6.5 million in cost avoidance.

Air Force Life Cycle Management Center

The center's Engine Water Wash Program washed more than 416 bomber, tanker, reconnaissance, and airlift jet

engines resulting in improved operating performance, saving more than 577,000 gallons of jet fuel. The program aims to reduce engine fuel consumption by using heated high-pressure deionized water to remove accumulated internal contaminants from an engine's components.

Savings: Approximately \$1.9 million in cost avoidances.

Air Force Test Center

The center developed a new, enhanced yaw testing technique, eliminating damaged balances and preventing testing delays caused by obtaining replacement balances. The prior technique involved a 90-degree roll, followed by pitching, to simulate yaw, which regularly led to broken balances.

Savings: \$375,000 in cost savings.

Brig. Gen. James Peccia III, director of the AFMC Financial Management Directorate, said that though these savings were achieved during the most recent fiscal year, there remains a continual need for innovative approaches resulting in reduced costs and more efficient processes.

"Our Airmen's ingenuity is inspiring," Peccia said. "Month after month they keep finding new ways to work smarter and more efficiently. Those savings can go directly to our mission readiness and support of the warfighter."

The command's focus on fiscal responsibility echoes the message of Secretary of Defense James Mattis in a memo issued to all Defense Department personnel on March 26. In it, he underscored the responsibility of each DoD member to commit to "exercis(ing) the utmost degree of financial stewardship as you instill budget discipline within your organization."

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Monk

From Page 5

Common pilgrimage monks undergo missionary work, traveling across the world to bolster their faith in other countries.

During his first missionary task, journeying to the U.S., Rue Art reacquainted with an old friend who was soon enlisting into the U.S. military. Inspired by this friend, who became the first Thai Buddhist monk serving in the Air Force, Rue Art blazed his own trail by becoming the second.

"Even when I was young I wanted to join the military," Rue Art said. "Being a monk, though, it closed my dream. I just wanted a chance, because talking with my friend it reminded me of how I used to dream about joining the military."

Having grown up on a farm in the countryside of Thailand, dreaming of joining the Air Force, along with successfully following over 200 rules as a monk, Rue Art developed a foundation that would carry his dedication to the honor, respect and duty he would bring to the Air Force.

"This was something I felt I could do if I prepared myself," he said. "I wanted to challenge myself and always keep growing."

Rue Art, wanting to experience the full range of life, and exemplifying the Buddhist principle of releasing expectations, joined the Air Force with an open mind of genuine service before self.

"I think being a monk made me more flexible," Rue Art said. "I believed in myself. Whatever job I would get, it's something people have done and are still doing, so it's possible that I could do it, too.

Whatever (the Air Force) needed me to do, I could do that."

Since joining the Air Force, Rue Art expressed that having to see people who aren't always positive has put a test to his faith; but that it's actually given him a stronger conviction in his beliefs.

"You learn how to deal with conflict (as a monk), but you never experience it," Rue Art said. "Being at the pharmacy, I saw the realness of it all. So, when something would make me feel mad or upset, I would wonder how I'm going to refresh myself every day and be ready to go to work tomorrow. But with my Buddhist beliefs I was actually able to put it into practice and see how it really does work."

Rue Art maintains his Buddhist ways daily through meditation and keeping a calm mind in his Air Force life, serving as a cornerstone in his spiritual pillar of resiliency.

"You have to have a calm, cool, collected self to be able to get far not just in the Air Force, but in life," said Airman 1st Class Makatelyn Maynard, 23rd MDSS pharmacy technician. "He knows how to treat other people and respect them, because he's been respecting people the whole time he was a monk."

I know that for myself, I get worked up over a lot of things that'll fluster me; but with Rue Art, if he does get aggravated he doesn't let it show," she continued. "He'll just stop, he'll take a breath and breathe, and then he reiterates what he's doing and just goes right back into it. It always amazes me how he does it."

From monk to Airman, Rue Art's world has changed, but his way of life is still able to bring honor, not just to himself, but to his friends and family back in Thailand.

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Tank Divers

From Page 4

aren't much larger than the size of a shoebox," said Staff Sgt. Adrian Gonzalez, an aircraft fuel systems craftsman with the 6th MXS. "Once inside, our movement is extremely restricted; it's full of plumbing and reeks of jet fuel.

"We have to have multiple qualifications just to get inside the fuel systems, which shows just how dangerous it can be."

Like any fuel source, fumes are the main cause of concern and the smallest spark or electronic transmission could lead to a deadly result.

"It's a dirty, challenging job that requires a lot of patience and caution," said Tech. Sgt. Steve Parina, a shift supervisor of the aircraft fuel systems section. "We go through a huge list of procedures before and during our work using special equipment to detect oxygen levels and fuel in the air around us.

"The only thing smaller than the spaces we work in, is the room for error."

Some tools are complex,

such as the photoionization detector which detects the oxygen levels of the air, and will alarm the Airmen of hazardous conditions. However, another tool can be found in every home near the kitchen sink.

"One method of finding a leak in the fuel system, is to use dish soap and water," said Gonzalez. "We'll pressurize the fuel system with air, and spray a sudsy mixture into the compartments, and wherever the bubbles break, that tells us where the leak is."

Gonzalez explained that most jobs on the fuel systems take an average of 12 hours to complete. But one task this team undertook led to them winning Air Mobility Command's innovation award.

With approximately 13,000 man hours spanning six months, the 6 MXS aircraft fuel systems shop was able to completely remove a 30-year-old topcoat inside of all of MacDill's KC-135 aircraft in 2017. Due to its age, the previous topcoat began to deteriorate and began causing issues in the engines. The team was able to pinpoint this, and create a new way of inspecting and repairing the issue, which is now being used



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

Senior Airman Triston Evans, 6th Maintenance Squadron aircraft fuel systems journeyman, squeezes through the interworking of a KC-135 Stratotanker training fuel cell May 30 at MacDill Air Force Base, Fla.

Air Force-wide.

"In my time as a fuel systems Airman, this shop has been one of the best teams I've been a part of," said Parina. "Coming from a fighter base, to a tanker base like MacDill was a change, but the men and

women I work with every day do amazing work on the 24 jets we're charged with."

A claustrophobic and dirty job such as this would turn most away, but aircraft fuel systems Airmen do it day-in and day-out to keep fuel flowing.

When compared to a cell, they are similar to the molecules inside, working to repair and detect things that could cause malfunction. Each "organelle" and structure uses its unique function to allow safe, dependable operation at all times.

Airdrop

From Page 4

home town to continue fighting.

With guidance from Train, Advise and Assist Command-Air advisors, the Afghan air force began training on airdrop capabilities in October 2016, and conducted their first mission airdrops in July 2017.

Since that time, airdrops have primarily been conducted in support of ground forces as a means of resupplying ammo, food and water. Many of the compounds and checkpoints the Afghan national army, Afghan border patrol and Afghan national police operate out of are in austere locations and airdrops are the only means of effective and timely resupply.

"It has been remarkable to see the progress of the C-208 and C-130 Afghan aircrew members," said Lt. Col. Erik Johnson, 538th Air Expeditionary Advisory Squadron commander. "This combat airdrop is a prime example of what these

loadmasters are capable of. They proved that they can get supplies wherever it needs to go quickly and effectively without coalition assistance."

The Afghan loadmasters who prepared the ammunition for this mission are considered experts in mission planning, bundle fundamentals, parachute rigging and airdrop mission instruction, and they feel prepared to support similar airdrops in the future.

"We are really proud because we are going to help our soldiers," Froton said. "It's part of our mission. When our soldiers are faced with lack of supplies, we are ready to support from the air."

Established in 2015, Resolute Support is a NATO-led, non-combat mission to train, advise and assist the Afghan national defense and security forces, who assumed nationwide responsibility for Afghanistan's security following the conclusion of the previous NATO-led International Security Assistance Force mission.

Overturf

From Page 2

leadership, fellow chief master sergeants and friends. For leaders to be effective, we must take care of ourselves. If we are distracted or preoccupied by something that is happening in our personal lives,

it can diminish our ability to take care and lead our Airmen. Sharing what you are experiencing with someone you trust may be enough to stay focused.

One of the Air Force's most important assets is its people, so I ask you this: Are you ready? If you aren't sure or the answer is no, take the steps needed whether that would be

talking to a friend, supervisor or utilizing one of the numerous programs offered through the base and community. Life will happen to us, and it is how we handle those situations while balancing the demands of the military that will allow us to be ready for any challenge we may face in the Air Force.



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

Nick DeCicco, Tailwind editor, poses for a photo May 4 at the Daily Republic newspaper office in Fairfield, Calif. DeCicco works at the Daily Republic, which houses the printing press where the Tailwind is printed.

DeCicco

From Page 7

and innocence, that you have achieved artistry."

I see parallels between my field of journalism and military life as well as artists of many stripes, including those such as Stipe. I think there's an important truth in the lesson he passes on from Klee: Not to forget what it was like to be a beginner – to retain the awareness of someone who has not mastered their craft.

I was closer to being that beginner back when I started as Tailwind editor in 2007 at Travis Air Force Base, California. I was 25 and my knowledge of the military life was informed by visual media such as "M*A*S*H," "Band of Brothers" and "Good Morning,

Vietnam." They're enjoyable works, but don't paint an accurate picture of what it's like to work in today's Air Force.

Around that age, I worked with someone who repeatedly told me I had nothing to offer because I was inexperienced. I remember how that felt, the anger and frustration that any ideas I brought to the table were worthless.

But now, at age 36 in 2018, I keep the Klee lesson related by Stipe close. Last fall, when an Airman in the 60th Air Mobility Wing Public Affairs shop told me he appreciated my experience, I told this Airman that although I know a lot, there is always more to learn. Public affairs is full of surprises.

I think this lesson applies not just to public affairs, artistry or journalism, but to all realms of our lives. No matter

how much knowledge and experience we gain, it's important to retain that naiveté and innocence – to never reach a point when we think we have stopped adapting, growing and learning.

This must be more than words, but practice. Beginners look to those with experience to lead. That's a reasonable expectation.

But it's also important for the experienced to remember what it was like to be the beginner, to stay open to a fresh perspective, to use their shared knowledge to inform the way we move into the future together.

In the same way, taking life advice from an expressionist painter via a rock star might raise an eyebrow. It's important to entertain new ideas no matter how experienced we become.

Exchange

From Page 5

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Safranek

From Page 8

are dedicated to thanking people, and I really want to take a moment today to talk about that," Safranek said. "Commanders thanking people is very common today. ... My fear is that you've all heard it so often for the great things you do and continue to do every day, that any sort of heartfelt appreciation may be overlooked. Please know that the immense amount of time and work put into such a special event as this is not taken lightly on my or my family's behalf."

While serving as the 621st CRW commander, Safranek led 1,500 Airmen assigned to two contingency response groups and one air mobility advisory group, whose deployed Airmen provide theater-wide air mobility command and control, airbase opening, airfield assessments and contingency load planning. His team also served as air mobility liaisons with the sister services and advised international partners on air mobility issues.

Griffin is slated to depart for Travis AFB, California, where he will assume command of the 60th Air Mobility Wing.

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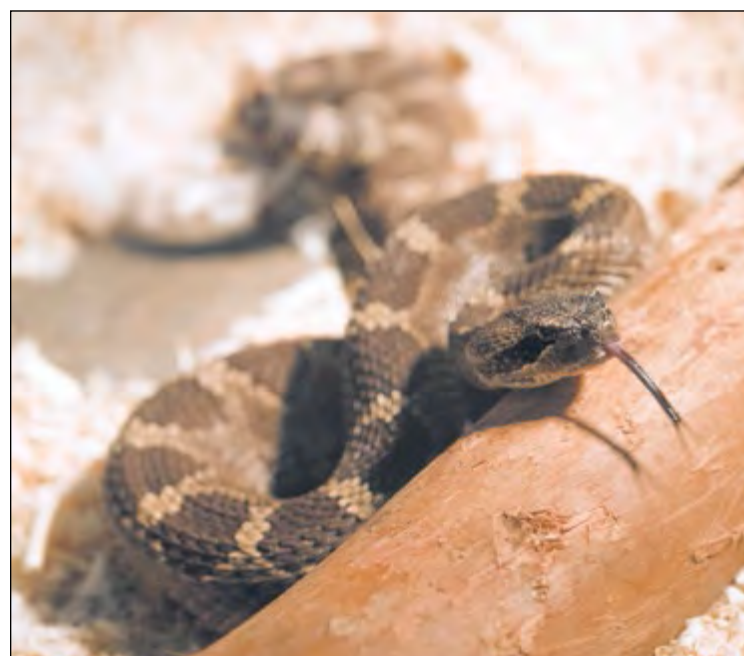
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A western diamondback rattlesnake collected by 60th Civil Engineer Squadron pest management facility staff resides in a glass enclosure, May 24 at Travis Air Force Base, Calif.

Snakes

From Page 3

we decided to keep it," said Brazier. "Since this is not the python's natural environment, we cannot release it."

Even juvenile rattlesnakes are venomous.

"They are actually more dangerous than the adults because they cannot control how much or how little venom they inject into their victim," said Brazier. "Their natural survival instincts kick in and they inject all the venom they have if they feel threatened."

Although snakes help control the rodent population, base regulations prohibit people from having poisonous reptiles and large constricting-type snakes on base, said Brazier.

If bitten by a snake, the victim should take several steps, said Maj. Michael Galante, 60th Medical Group emergency medical services director.

"First, they should get away from the snake so they are not bitten again," said Galante. "They should do their best to stay calm and seek immediate medical assistance."

The David Grant USAF Medical Center pharmacy has a supply of anti-venom, he said.

If the victim is unable to obtain immediate medical care, they should immobilize the affected area to decrease the

spread of venom, clean the wound and watch for changes such as continued swelling, increased pain, the bite site turning purple or black and blisters.

"They should watch for systemic symptoms including nausea, vomiting or a tingling sensation," said Galante. "It will be important for the victim to get medical attention as quickly as possible so they can be properly treated."

"Finally, the victim should remove rings, watches, jewelry or other tight-fitting clothing near the bite site as there is likely to be swelling and you don't want those items to become stuck on the patient."

There also are several things snake bite victims should not do, including cutting into the wound or attempting to suck out the venom.

"This will only serve to spread the venom," said Galante.

Additionally, the person should not place a tourniquet or other constrictive dressings around the wound because it will decrease blood supply in the bite area, increase pain and subject the victim to further tissue damage.

Only if the person can safely do so should they try to kill the snake or take pictures to help medical personnel prescribe the appropriate treatment.

"Chasing a snake could mean getting bit again," said Galante.



1) A pilot assigned to the 60th Operations Group at Travis Air Force Base, Calif., guides a KC-10 boom operator as they initiate a mid-air refueling during a 60th OG honorary commander tour June 1. Along with the flight, the tour included a KC-10 walk-through with a 60th OG boom operator as well as opening remarks by Travis' outgoing commander, Col. John Klein. 2) Master Sgt. James Cain, 60th OG boom operator, explains the specifications of a KC-10 Extender to a group of 60th OG honorary commanders before a simulated mission June 1. 3) Travis honorary commanders walk back from the Travis flightline after a flight inside a KC-10 during which they experienced a mid-air refueling supported by members of their squadron June 1.

Honorary commanders take to ...
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