



60th AMW greets new ...

# LEADER

PAGE 3



# Hit-and-run accident puts life into focus

On June 23, 2012, I was hit by a truck as I crossed the street in St. Louis, Missouri. A white pickup truck ran a red light, hit me and then rolled over top of me. It was a hit and run and the police were unable to identify the driver. The last thing I remember is seeing a flash of headlights out of the corner of my eye.



**Commentary by Lt. Col. John Berger**

321ST AIR MOBILITY OPERATIONS SQUADRON

bleeding. When I came through I was on a breathing machine in the intensive care unit at Barnes Jewish Hospital and my entire family was gathered around the bed. They drove through the night from South Dakota to be there because doctors didn't know if I would live.

I opened my eyes the next day and saw my family and thought, "I'm alive." Next, I wiggled my fingers and toes and ran through the St. Louis Cardinals lineup and realized that my spine and brain

## Commander's Commentary

worked. I thought to myself, "Ok, I can do this."

Exactly one year later I finished an Ironman in Nice, France. One of my best friends and the doctor that saved my life did the Ironman too. My mom and a friend who was with me the night I was hit jumped over the barrier and ran the last 100 yards of the race by my side. As I crossed the finish line, I was overwhelmed with feelings of love, accomplishment and good fortune.

I share this story because

the accident reminded me of some valuable life lessons. First, life is short. Approach every day with vigor and enthusiasm. Whether it's in the office, at home or elsewhere, show up with a positive attitude and a desire to make things better. You never know how long you have.

Second, resilience matters. I was able to recover from the accident because I worked hard at building my four pillars of resilience before I was hit. I was in a good place mentally and spiritually. Countless doctors and nurses commented that I was able to recover so quickly because I was in excellent physical shape. Finally, I

had an incredibly supportive social network made up of family and friends who helped me every step of the way.

The third and most important lesson I took from the accident is to remember what really matters in life. Our profession and mission are critically important to our nation's defense. However, our time in the Air Force is limited. When your time is up, ensure that your family is still there. Do your best to attend your kids' baseball games and dance recitals. Don't let problems at work bleed into your home life. And don't pass up an opportunity to tell your spouse and family that you love them.

# Healthy relationships matter, strengthen force



**Commentary by Chief Master Sgt. Richard J. Corey**

621ST AIR MOBILITY ADVISORY GROUP

In 2015, while stationed at Langley Air Force Base, Virginia, I was approached by the 1st Fighter Wing command chief who offered me the opportunity to work with NATO. I would be working in Allied Command Transformation's Command senior enlisted leader's office with Command Chief Master Sgt. Jack Johnson Jr.

My policy is to jump at any opportunities, so I quickly answered, "Yes." My next thought was, "Did I just commit to a permanent change of station to Europe without speaking to my wife?"

She is in the U.S. Navy and requesting a join assignment can be

## Chief's Commentary

quite difficult. Fortunately, like most of us, I did not know as much as I should about the NATO alliance. Even though I had previous experience with NATO exercises and deployed on one of their missions, I didn't know their organizational structure or that there are 29 independent nations and two headquarters in NATO, with one of them being just minutes from my home in Norfolk, Virginia.

I sat down with Johnson and he explained what we would be doing and stressed what I had always

known, but never really stated, "relationships matter." The chief was correct. I was a people person and being stationed overseas prepared me a little for my time at NATO, but I needed to take the time to develop relationships. Taking the time to speak with people, grab a coffee or lunch helped give me a greater understanding of cultural differences and where people were from, which led to a mutual respect for one another. But this concept is not only relevant to NATO. Our states, borders and territories span thousands of miles. Americans come from many different origins, much of which were

influenced by migration throughout the years and all of which makes our nation great.

My advice to you is to embrace differences and foster relationships to create an inclusive environment where all personnel that fuel our complex machine can contribute to the Air Force and help us thrive. This includes our sister services, active, guard, reserve, and civilian Airmen, as well as our international and community partners.

Take the time to get to know the personnel you interact with,

See COREY Page 25

# Griffin takes command of wing

## Airman 1st Class Christian Conrad

60TH AIR MOBILITY COMMAND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Ask Airmen what they like doing on warm, summer mornings and more than likely, you won't hear, "Get in my blues and stand at attention for two hours."

For members of the 60th Air Mobility Wing, though, that's exactly what they did, but for good reason. They, among many Airmen around Travis Air Force Base, California, were given the opportunity to bid a final farewell to departing 60th AMW commander, Col. John Klein, as well as welcome his replacement, incoming 60th AMW commander, Col. Ethan Griffin, during a change of command ceremony July 10.

Griffin, who previously served as base commander at Dover Air Force Base, Delaware, is no newcomer to Travis. Having held the position of commander of the 21st Airlift Squadron from 2009 to 2011, Griffin made it apparent in his opening speech how keenly attune he was to the Travis mission.

"The energy of our American and Air Force pioneers is most certainly alive and well at Travis AFB where our innovative DNA knows no bounds," said Griffin. "In actions large and small, our Airmen and

See GRIFFIN Page 23



U.S. Air Force photo/Heide Couch

Col. Ethan Griffin delivers his first speech as commander of the 60th Air Mobility Wing during a change of command ceremony July 10 at Travis Air Force Base, Calif. Griffin accepted the lead of Air Mobility Command's largest wing from Col. John Klein.

## Tailwind

Travis AFB, Calif.  
60th Air Mobility Wing

**Air Force**  
Col. Ethan Griffin

**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

**Lt. Gen. GI Tuck, 18th Air Force commander, Scott Air Force Base, Ill., hands the 60th Air Mobility Wing guidon to incoming wing commander Col. Ethan Griffin July 10 at Travis Air Force Base, Calif., during a change-of-command ceremony.**

U.S. Air Force photo/Heide Couch



U.S. Air Force photo

## WARRIOR OF THE WEEK

**Name:**  
Tech. Sgt. Donald Hecker.

**Unit:**  
60th Medical Operations Squadron.

**Hometown:**  
Miami, Florida.

**Duty title:**  
Internal medicine and

subspecialties.

**Time in service:**  
14 years.

**Family:**  
Sasha Hecker.

**What are your goals?**  
Complete bachelor's degree, obtain licensed vocational nurse, promote to master sergeant.

**What are your hobbies?**  
Body building competitions and sports.

**What is your greatest achievement?**  
Helping an Airman who called right before he was about to kill himself. I was able to get him the help he needed. It was a very humbling moment in my life.



U.S. Air Force photo/Master Sgt. Joey Swafford  
**Matt Stevens, right, a U.S. Department of Agriculture airport biologist, and Capt. Sean Harte, 60th Air Mobility Wing Safety Office flight commander, go over C-17 Globemaster III pre-flight procedures July 2 at Travis Air Force Base, Calif. The flight allowed Stevens, who helps manage the Bird/Wildlife Aircraft Strike Program at Travis, to get a firsthand view of what the pilots see during training flights near the base.**

## USDA biologists take flight

**Capt. Sean Harte**

60TH AIR MOBILITY WING SAFETY OFFICE

At Travis Air Force Base, California, United States Department of Agriculture wildlife biologists Matthew Thomas and Matthew Stevens are getting a bird's-eye view of the airfield they protect.

The two were recently given authorization to fly with crews on any of the base's aircraft in an effort to improve the wildlife mitigation program, a benchmark practice for Air Mobility Command. The flights are part of a proactive safety initiative embraced by the base's flight safety office, but it's merely a small piece of a complex wildlife

management effort at one of AMC's largest bases.

Wildlife strikes cost the Air Force more than \$30 million in Fiscal Year 2017, so to say the biologists' job is important is an understatement.

"Our USDA biologists play a vital role in safe flight operations so including them on local flights only enhances the wildlife mitigation program by affording them a more comprehensive view of local area threats," said Maj. Kimberly Bracken, the 60th Air Mobility Wing deputy chief of safety.

"As an added benefit, the flights help our USDA members observe flight operations outside of Travis AFB," she said. "Observing low levels and other local

airfields used by our crews allows our biologists insight into the bird strike risks our aircraft face off station."

Every day before sunrise and every night after sunset, the airfield is patrolled by "the Matts" as they're affectionately called. In general, their job includes airfield management from a wildlife perspective. This involves trapping and relocating wildlife, bird dispersal and depredation.

Stevens recently flew with a C-17 Globemaster III crew and commented on the experience.

"It was eye-opening to see how busy crews are when they're flying," said Stevens. "Birds are just one of many concerns for pilots.

When flying with crews in the local pattern, I have the opportunity to observe hazards around the airfield that I can't always see from the ground. Flying helps me spot trouble areas that I can address later."

The result is a wildlife mitigation program that has seen a 46 percent decrease in bird strikes. The Travis flight safety office hopes their program can open the door for wildlife management personnel at other bases across the Air Force to begin flying with the aircrew members they support.

"It was eye-opening to see how busy crews are when they're flying," said Stevens. "Birds are just one of many concerns for pilots.

## Defense gives officers scholar program

**Richard Salomon**

AIR FORCE'S PERSONNEL CENTER  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas — Active-duty officers interested in developing language skills and regional cultural knowledge are encouraged to apply for the Department of Defense Olmsted Scholar Program.

The Olmsted Foundation offers outstanding young military officers the opportunity to become fluent in a foreign language, pursue graduate studies at an overseas university, and develop an understanding of foreign cultures.

According to the Olmsted website at <http://www.olmsted-foundation.org>, scholars interact daily with the local population and immerse themselves in the culture of their host country. They receive their normal pay and allowances and, if applicable, are normally accompanied by their families.

Historically, Olmsted scholars have benefited from this leadership development experience as they return to their primary military specialties and assume greater responsibilities as senior commanders and policy makers.

Applicants must be active-duty line officers with at least three years of commissioned service, but no more than 11 years of total active federal military service as of April 1, 2019. Application packages are due to the Air Force Personnel Center by Aug. 10 to begin language training, if required, in 2019.

For application information, visit myPers. Select "Any" from the dropdown menu and search "Olmsted."

## Prolonged exposure therapy helps recovery from PTSD

**Tech. Sgt. James Hodgman**

60TH AIR MOBILITY WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Suffering from post-traumatic stress is an unfortunate reality for many service members.

Post-traumatic stress disorder it is a mental health problem that some people develop after experiencing or witnessing a life-threatening event, such as combat, a natural disaster, a car accident or sexual assault. People often have upsetting memories, feel on edge, or have trouble sleeping for extended periods of time after experiencing trauma.

Left untreated, PTSD can lead to severe depression and anxiety. According to [ptsdunit-ed.org](http://ptsdunit-ed.org), an estimated 24 million people suffer from the disorder at any given time.

For active-duty service members suffering from PTSD and post-traumatic type symptoms, help is available at David Grant USAF Medical Center's Mental Health Clinic at Travis Air Force Base, California.

"Our goal is to provide the best care to our patients with evidence-based and ethical, effective care," said Capt. Felicia Keith, 60th Medical Operations Squadron director of psychological health.

Keith said for patients being treated for PTSD, prolonged exposure therapy is often an effective method used to treat the disorder.

"Prolonged exposure therapy is an evidence-based practice that has been found to be a beneficial treatment for PTSD," she said. "With PTSD, the trauma often has affectively got the patient stuck, they're responding to cues of the trauma even though the trauma isn't occurring anymore."

The purpose of prolonged exposure therapy is to expose an individual to those cues under safe conditions so he or she can relearn those cues and no longer connect them to the trauma, she said. The treatment allows people to go about their lives again without having



U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. James Hodgman (badge altered for security purposes)

**Capt. Felicia Keith, 60th Medical Operations Squadron director of psychological health, listens to one of her patients during a treatment session at David Grant USAF Medical Center June 25 at Travis Air Force Base, Calif. Keith and her team of professionals have treated more than 200 people who displayed post-traumatic stress symptoms over the past year.**

a physiological or psychological response to cues that occurred during the traumatic event.

Keith said she wants to educate the Travis community about what exposure therapy is and how beneficial it can be.

The first step is to explain everything to the patient, she said.

"With exposure therapy, we create an in-vivo exposure hierarchy," said Keith. "A situation that's not distressing we label a zero. From there we identify what is the most distressing situation for someone and we'll label that a 100. For

## Exchange expands layaway program

**Jessica Jones**

ARMY AND AIR FORCE EXCHANGE  
SERVICE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service at Travis Air Force Base, California, is helping military families go back to school while sticking to a budget by extending its layaway program to include computers and tablets needed to succeed in the classroom.

From July 1 to Aug. 31, Airmen and other military shoppers can use layaway at the Travis AFB Exchange to hold computers, notebooks, tablets and iPads – items that

are not typically eligible for the layaway program.

"Using up-to-date technology is vital to succeeding in the classroom," said Phonda Bishop, Exchange manager.

A \$3 service fee and a deposit of 15 percent are required to hold items on layaway. Items must be picked up by Aug. 31. Shoppers can visit Exchange customer service for complete details.

The Exchange is responsible for more than 3,700 facilities worldwide in more than 30 countries.

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# Air Force selects 8,416 for E-6

**Kat Bailey**

AIR FORCE'S PERSONNEL CENTER  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS



JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas — Air Force officials have selected 8,416 staff sergeants for promotion to technical sergeant out of 27,555 eligible for a selection rate of 30.54 percent.

The technical sergeant promotion list will be available on the Air Force Personnel Center's website Enlisted Promotions page, the Air Force Portal and myPers July 19 at 8 a.m. CDT. Airmen will also be able to access their score notices on the virtual Military Personnel Flight via the AFPC secure applications page.

Those selected for technical sergeant will be promoted

beginning August 1, according to their promotion sequence number.

Commanders will receive notice of their selects from their senior rater's agent starting July 12, with the intent to notify their selects no earlier than one day before the public release.

For more information about Air Force personnel programs, visit the AFPC public website.



Daily Republic photo/Aaron Rosenblatt

**A total of 230 Navy enlisted personnel and 30 officers are temporarily residing at Travis Air Force Base, Calif., while their ship, the USS Emory S. Land, undergoes scheduled maintenance to the deck, turbines, heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems at Mare Island, Calif. The ship is shown July 11.**

## Sailors make temporary home at Travis during maintenance

**Merrie Schilter-Lowe**

60TH AIR MOBILITY WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Some 230 Navy enlisted members and 30 officers are temporarily residing at Travis Air Force Base, California, while their ship, the USS Emory S. Land (AS 39), undergoes scheduled maintenance to the deck, turbines, heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems at Mare Island in Vallejo, California.

The Land is a submarine tender assigned to Commander, Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet. The ship, and its sister ship, the USS Frank Cable, provide expeditionary intermediate level maintenance and repairs, hotel services and logistical support to submarines and surface ships in the U.S. 5th and 7th Fleet areas of operation.

The crew arrived at Travis in June and will reside on base until early September, said Navy Lt. Daniel Moore, the ship's judge advocate and public affairs officer. The Land's

homeport is Guam.

"We are the first Navy ship to dock at Mare Island since the base closed in 1996," said Moore. "Normally, we would dock near an active duty shipyard since we are required to provide rations for our enlisted members."

Since Travis is the nearest active duty military installation, Navy and Air Force officials signed a memorandum of understanding allowing enlisted members to reside in two vacant dormitories on base and mess in the dining facility. The officers are billeted in the Westwind Inn on base.

"Securing the dormitory accommodations on Travis has provided the Navy with a significant convenience and cost savings versus the alternative of staying in hotels dispersed throughout the Bay area, which would have also raised logistical and force protection concerns," said Matthew Foster, 60th Civil Engineer Squadron housing management chief.

The 60th CES spent more than 500 man-hours repairing hot water boilers and air conditioning systems and replacing and cleaning carpets to make the 150 dormitory rooms in buildings 1331 and 1332 ready for the sailors, said Foster. Both dormitories had been recommended for demolition.

"We saved a lot of money by doing the work in-house," said Master Sgt. Joshua Hicks, 60th CES unaccompanied housing management superintendent. "It was a massive team effort."

Hicks explained that a group of 15 Sailors assisted with the project.

"The Navy also purchased additional furniture, including beds, mattresses, refrigerators and microwave sets, chairs and televisions for the dorms," said Hicks.

The coordination across the 60th Mission Support Group is "a testament of Travis Air Force Base's ability to quickly organize, coordinate, and

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# Cargo City in Kuwait nearing completion



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

**Senior Airman Kelsie Burt, 379th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron cable and antenna systems technician, deployed from Zanesville, Ohio, re-spools communications line June 25 at Cargo City, located at Abdullah Al Mubarak Air Base, Kuwait. Burt and her team are forward deployed from Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar.**

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

ABDULLAH AL-MUBARAK AIR BASE, Kuwait — Construction is nearly complete on "Cargo City," a new operating location for U.S. and coalition forces to conduct aerial port operations in Kuwait. This aerial port will continue to serve as a major, military logistics point, and also functions as the largest aerial port of debarkation in the Middle East.

Cargo City, located adjacent to a vacant aircraft parking ramp at Kuwait International Airport, will serve as home to both Kuwait Air Force, U.S. military and coalition personnel during the airport's massive expansion. The location will serve as a temporary operating location until its replacement, West Al-Mubarak Air Base, is complete which is projected to be in 2023.

"Once finished, the total functional space at Cargo City will feature an area of nearly

33,000 square meters," said Capt. Sean Murphy, 387th Expeditionary Support Squadron civil engineering flight officer in charge. "We are optimizing our workspace by reducing our footprint from 230,000 square meters, excluding the flightline."

Murphy said the consolidation of joint-service units and personnel will provide a higher ceiling of capability, as it enables direct contact with coalition and host-nation partners, streamlining communications processes by proximity alone. While the project will benefit all parties involved, it did not come without its initial set of challenges.

"Moving everything to an entirely new location does not seem ideal at first, and building an entire base from scratch is a different conversation altogether," he said. "The current base personnel also have to overcome the displacement of staff — all while still executing their mission."

The move wasn't all bad news

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U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Christopher Stoltz  
**Tech. Sgt. Julian Tayag, 386th Expeditionary Medical Group pharmacy noncommissioned officer in charge, provides medication to a coworker June 22 at an undisclosed location in Southwest Asia. In early May, Tayag was selected to attend the Interservice Physician Assistant Program.**

## Act molds Airman's future

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

**SOUTHWEST ASIA** — Three years ago, Tech. Sgt. Julian Tayag was closing the pharmacy for the duty day with his wingman when tragedy nearly struck. Three years later, this event would culminate in his acceptance into the Interservice Physician Assistant Program.

“My wingman and I were just about to lock the doors for the day when we noticed a man exhibiting strange signs,” said Tayag, 386th Expeditionary Medical Group pharmacy noncommissioned officer in charge. “We approached him and asked him if he needed assistance to his car.”

Little did Tayag know, the man would need more than help to his car. Before the man could answer, he collapsed — falling lifelessly to the ground. The two Airmen immediately searched for a pulse, but had no success. In response, Tayag immediately began CPR and instructed his wingman to call for emergency transport to the closest emergency room.

Fortunately, he was able to resuscitate the patient and keep the situation under control until paramedics arrived.

“Although I serve in a medical capacity, I have always wanted to pursue a career in higher levels of healthcare,” said Tayag, who is deployed from the 59th Medical Diagnostic and Therapeutics Squadron at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland. “That event left me feeling deeply rewarded and only furthered this desire. It is probably the catalyst of why I pushed myself to apply for IPAP. I took it as a sign.”

The program, which was created as a joint effort in 1996 by the Air Force, Army and Navy, serves as a bridge for service members to attend school with the end goal of becoming physician assistants, medical professionals who are nationally certified and state licensed to practice medicine with the supervision of a physician.

Based at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston's U.S. Army Medical Department Center and School, IPAP consists primarily of enlisted active-duty members who, upon graduation, are commissioned as first lieutenants into the officer corps of their respective service.

Although Tayag's story has a rewarding conclusion, it did not come without at least one hurdle.

“I applied for the program

only five months ago, but the process actually took me nearly two years to finish,” he said. “The longest part was completing the science prerequisites. I actually had many of them complete, but there was a caveat. Since the classes were completed more than five years ago, I actually had to retake every single one.”

Shortly after his deployment ends, Tayag will have to jump back into the classroom and begin phase one of IPAP. This phase includes a rigorous curriculum of 40 courses and 101 semester hours over only 16 months. The schedule will serve as a gauntlet, as he must complete courses in biochemistry, microbiology, orthopedics, rheumatology and dermatology.

Upon completion of phase one, Tayag will receive a Bachelor of Science degree, but will immediately move to a Master's-level curriculum, which will culminate during phase two. During this phase, which spans 13 months, he will be assigned to an Air Force or Army hospital to gain specialty knowledge and experience during a series of clinical rotations.

While the act of saving a man's life helped shape and

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## Waivers for LASIK, PRK not required

**Merrie Schilter-Lowe**  
 60TH AIR MOBILITY WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Aviation applicants and current aircrew members no longer need a waiver for duties if they have laser-assisted in-situ keratomileusis or photorefractive keratectomy surgery once their vision has stabilized, according to a recent policy change. Individuals also no longer need waiver recertification every three years.

The change affects about 300 aircrew members and some 500 applicants annually, according to Dr. Steve Wright, Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.

“Historically, LASIK and PRK waivers for aircrew members actively flying were required to ensure the member's vision had fully recovered and was stable before returning to flight and that the member had no complications that would require further treatment or follow up,” said Wright. “The primary reason for discontinuing the waiver was due to the high success rate of the procedures.”

LASIK and PRK surgery help patients suffering from nearsightedness, farsightedness and astigmatism to have sharper vision. Most patients undergoing LASIK or PRK achieve somewhere between 20/20 and 20/40 vision without the need for contact lenses or glasses, according to a 2014 Navy research study.

“The Food and Drug Administration approved PRK in December 1995 and the Air Force approved it for accessions with a waiver in 1999,” said Lt. Col. (Dr.) Richard Rubin, 60th Medical Group deputy chief of aerospace medicine and senior flight surgeon at Travis AFB, California.

Air Force approved PRK for aviation and special-duty personnel in 2000 with a waiver; however, LASIK was not approved for aviation and special-duty personnel with a waiver until 2007, said Rubin.

PRK is the most requested refractive surgery procedure in the Air Force, said Lt. Col. (Dr.) Jared Kelstrom, 60th Medical Group, Warfighter Refractive

**See WAIVERS Page 25**

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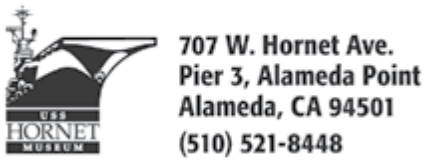
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U.S. Air Force photo/Maj. Marnee A.C. Losurdo

**Tech. Sgt. Zachary Ziemann, 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron loadmaster and dropsonde operator, assists the aircrew with the engine startup prior to takeoff for a mission into Tropical Storm Chris July 8 to gather weather data for the National Hurricane Center.**

## Hurricane Hunters fly tropical storms

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

KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE, Miss. — The Air Force Reserve's Hurricane Hunters spent the weekend flying weather reconnaissance missions into Tropical Storm Chris off the North Carolina coastline and Tropical Storm Beryl in the Caribbean Sea to gather data for the National Hurricane Center in Miami.

The 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron began flying missions out of Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi, July 7, into then-Tropical Depression Three, which developed into TS Chris Sunday. That same day, three Hurricane Hunter aircraft departed for Curacao where they staged operations

and began flying into TS Beryl July 8, which weakened into a tropical wave later that day.

The 53rd WRS, the only Department of Defense organization that flies weather reconnaissance, is expected to continue flying into TS Chris for the rest of the week, sending weather data by satellite communication to the NHC to improve their computer models that forecast movement and intensity, said Col. Robert J. Stanton, 403rd Wing vice commander and navigator who flew into TS Chris.

"We collect data such as pressure, wind speed, wind direction, relative humidity and temperature, as well as other information, and provide it to the NHC to assist them with

See **STORMS Page 22**

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## AFCENT A1 gives time back to pre-deploying Airmen

**Staff Sgt. Caitlin Conner**  
U.S. AIR FORCES CENTRAL COMMAND  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

AL UDEID AIR BASE, Qatar — The U.S. Air Forces Central Command's Manpower, Personnel and Services Directorate (A1) began the second phase of decreasing pre-deployment requirements for Airmen preparing to enter AFCENT's area of responsibility. AFCENT Deployment Streamlining version 2.0 was released and became effective June 15.

In March, the first phase began with the reduction of the 23-page AFCENT Reporting Instructions document, reducing it to nine pages. The second phase further reduces the number of checklist items deploying Airmen must complete, greater extends the currency of computer based training and streamlines local reporting instructions for countries in the AOR.

"The intent was to make policies and processes that said less but meant more," said Maj. Tamekia Payne, AFCENT A1 (forward) deputy director. "It gives people their time back; it pushes authorities down to the right levels."

The updated pre-deployment checklist has been reduced even



U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Caitlin Conner

**Senior Airman Joshua Glazier, U.S. Air Force Central Command deliberate and crisis action planning and execution segment operator, and Staff Sgt. Eric Alvarez, AFCENT personnel operator, review pre-deployment checklists June 12 at Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar. The Manpower, Personnel and Services Directorate recently reduced the length of pre-deployment checklists in order to reduce redundancy and give more time for Airmen to spend with their families.**

further by incorporating a medical portion. Originally, medical pre-deployment requirements were in the form of a six-page stand alone document. Under the new version, the medical

portion is now part of a streamlined one-page AFCENT checklist.

Other improvements to AFCENT's pre-deployment process included reducing the

current through the term of the deployment. The Air Force's Cyber Enterprise gave approval for the Cyber Awareness Challenge Training course to also be handled this way. Now, unit training managers are directed to update a deploying Airman's training to be valid through the term of the deployment plus 30 days after they return. By doing this, the member has less training to be concerned with, and more free time to focus on family and mission-related tasks.

"Everything we did in our reduction of training and making training count through the term of the deployment was adopted as the Air Force's standard for all AORs," said Col. Devin Statham, AFCENT's Director of Manpower, Personnel, and Services at Shaw (Air Force Base), South Carolina. "Essentially, the Air Force took our model and expanded it to every deployment worldwide."

A final change during this phase includes editing location-specific reporting instructions. Previously, there were 35 different reporting instructions, with each locale providing its own version of information. Sometimes this information was not integral to the deployment process, and often contained

See **AFCENT Page 22**

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# AF civilians presented awards

**Secretary of the Air Force  
Public Affairs**

WASHINGTON — Nine senior civilians were recognized during the annual Presidential Rank Awards Ceremony July 6 at the Pentagon in Arlington, Virginia.

“Each of you has developed deep competence in your area of expertise,” said Secretary of the Air Force Heather Wilson, who presided over the ceremony. “You’re recognized and respected for that by your peers, your subordinates and by other leaders in the Air

Force and the Department of Defense.”

Presidential Rank Awards recognize extraordinary achievements by career executives in Federal service. These awards recognize the top individuals who have made significant and lasting contributions to their agency and the federal government.

In addition to delivering meaningful results, nominees must demonstrate the highest level of leadership competencies including leading change and leading people. Extraordinary executive leaders model these critical abilities

by taking on some of the most difficult organizational challenges as well as developing a strong and diverse workforce for the 21st century.

“There are a lot of people who want to work for and with you,” Wilson said. “You create high performing teams dedicated to something that’s important, something that’s beyond each of us as individuals.”

The awards feature two categories: distinguished and meritorious. Nominations are evaluated by boards of private citizens and approved by the president.



U.S. Air Force photo/Todd Cromar

**A storage container used for maintaining missile launch facilities and control centers is displayed at Hill Air Force Base, Utah.**

# Merger streamlines logistics, resources

**Marisa Alia-Novobilski**  
AIR FORCE MATERIEL COMMAND

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio — In an effort to increase synergy and coordination in support of the Air Force’s nuclear modernization efforts, two Air Force Materiel Command directorates merged to form a single Logistics, Civil Engineering, Force Protection and Nuclear Integration Directorate. The organizational change took effect June 25.

“This change will enable us to better streamline and coordinate logistics support for the Air Force as it modernizes and continuously improves the nuclear enterprise,” said Brig. Gen. Allan Day, director of the newly merged organization. “This merger will help synchronize our nuclear integration efforts with our other relevant core competencies of maintenance, logistics, force protection and civil engineering.”

The combined directorate’s mission is to shape the workforce and infrastructure to provide logistics, sustainment and installation support for Air Force weapon systems, acquisition logistics, supply management, depot maintenance and nuclear integration.

The reorganization aligns AFMC to other major command structures such as that of Air Mobility Command and the U.S. Air Forces in Europe, each of which has a combined

directorates to oversee Operations, Strategic Deterrence and Nuclear Integration. The merger also raised the grade of the AFMC headquarters staff nuclear principal to that of flag officer, helping to better posture the command to support nuclear enterprise capabilities that span logistics and product support to oversight of weapons storage facilities and maintenance of ground based strategic deterrent systems.

“New as well as legacy nuclear enterprise systems require resources and personnel to support fielding and sustainment, which considerably impacts our oversight responsibilities and resourcing decisions,” said Day. “This merger will allow us to reallocate our resources more efficiently to meet the Air Force nuclear modernization efforts.”

The new directorate has eight divisions, which include Civil Engineering, Product Support Management, Maintenance, Systems, Resource Integration, Logistics Readiness, Security Forces and Nuclear Integration. There were no changes in manpower numbers as a result of the reorganization.

The two merged directorates were formerly known individually as the Logistics, Civil Engineering and Force Protection Directorate, or A4, and the Strategic Deterrence and Nuclear Integration Directorate, or A10. The new directorate retains the A4/10 designation.

# Hurricane Hunters assist with monsoon research

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

KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE, Miss. — The U.S. Air Force Reserve’s 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron spent part of June in Sri Lanka flying missions over the Indian Ocean as part of a research project to study the island’s atmosphere and predict monsoon patterns.

The Hurricane Hunter crew arrived June 15 to assist with research in the Bay of Bengal on Monsoon Intraseasonal Oscillations, or MISO, which occur in the Indian Ocean on a 20 to 60 day cycle of heavy, or ‘active,’ rainfall and dry, or ‘break,’ periods during the monsoon season.

They worked with the University of Notre Dame and Government of Sri Lanka, which are partnering on a five-year study, funded by the U.S. Office of Naval Research, of oceanic conditions across the Indian Ocean to better understand how the atmosphere and ocean interact with setting up MISO events to better predict weather and save lives.

The 53rd WRS is the only Department of Defense unit that flies into storms to gather weather data for National Hurricane Center forecasts. However, this time they flew missions in conjunction with research vessel Thomas G. Thompson in the Bay of Bengal to gather information on complex phenomena across an air-sea boundary and how they set up rainfall patterns, said Harindra Fernando, a mechanical engineer at the University of Notre Dame and one of the project’s leaders.

“The crews released

See HUNTERS Page 30

# AFRL collaborates with Ohio State

**Donna Lindner**  
AIR FORCE RESEARCH LABORATORY

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio — Collaboration: What better way to get the job done?

The Materials and Manufacturing Directorate at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, and the Ohio State University Center for Electron Microscopy and Analysis have a congressionally directed collaborative research agreement in the works.

The agreement pushes the limits of advanced characterization techniques over a wide range of material classes and fosters long-standing research collaboration between OSU’s CEMAS and the directorate.

Characterization is the broad process by which a material’s underlying structure and properties are probed and measured. Investigating these phenomena with advanced, high-powered electron microscopes enables the researchers to dive deeper into detail when addressing how these fundamental characteristics influence material performance in various environments.

The program will contribute to a multitude of research



Courtesy photo

**The Air Force Research Laboratory’s remote station allows access to scientific instruments located at Ohio State University. This permits access to CEMAS facilities while maximizing efficiency.**

topics aligned directly to respective research teams within the directorate.

The idea is to explore a wide range of structural, functional and/or biological materials in innovative ways,

providing innovative solutions to promote the warfighter advantage.

“This collaborative effort expands the envelope of what’s possible within the realm of advanced materials

characterization,” said Dr. Todd Butler, researcher in the Metals Branch and Materials Characterization Facility manager. “This facilitates both expedited and unique

See AFRL Page 22

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# JBLE Airman helps save drowning girl

**Airman 1st Class  
Anthony Nin Leclerc**

633RD AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

JOINT BASE LANGLEY-EUSTIS, Va. — A child was drowning May 13 at Fort Monroe Beach, Virginia.

When medical services arrived, they found a young girl who had been rescued from the water and was safe in her mother's arms. The 9-year-old had gone swimming, when the current took her into deeper waters where she could no longer stand and was getting closer to the rocks.

"My friend got up and said 'that little girl is in the water,'" said Tech Sgt. Richard Penny, 633rd Air Base Wing Inspector General management internal control toolset administrator and special access program manager. "My back was towards the water so I couldn't see what was going on, but she took off

sprinting so I just started sprinting with her."

It was at that moment that Penny, along with friends Ashley Staley and Adam Bradshaw, sprang into action.

At first, Penny and his friends couldn't locate the girl. He remembers getting to the top of the rocks and seeing her still conscious, floating in the water.

"Then we heard her mom come sprinting and shouting, 'help my daughter, she can't swim, and I can't either,'" Penny said.

Penny and Staley started climbing down the sharp, slippery rocks until they reached what they thought was shallow water.

"We weren't expecting for the water to be so deep that close to the rocks, but it was over our heads," Penny said.

He said, this was the first time he remembers being afraid for himself – even after



Courtesy photo

**Tech Sgt. Richard Penny, 633rd Air Base Wing Inspector General management internal control toolset administrator and special access program manager, Adam Bradshaw and Ashley Staley receive Citizen Lifesaving certificates June 7 at Fort Monroe, Va.**

four deployments.

"I don't know if I ever would have done that if I wasn't in the military," Penny said. "The way the Air Force molds you into

being a leader, the mentality and mindset given in the military, helped me through that."

Soon after, Bradshaw arrived after swimming around

the rocks in search for the girl and helped bring her back to the edge of the rocks.

"At this point, the water was just beating us against the rocks," Penny said. "The water was just crazy. It was really, really rough that day."

After getting the little girl and Staley out of the water, Penny and Bradshaw were met by friends that had remained on shore to help them out of the water.

In the aftermath of the rescue, beach marker signs have been installed to help emergency responders locate incidents on the beach quicker. The brown signs with reflective numbers will assist 911 callers to accurately identify the area to responding units.

The Hampton, Virginia, Division of Fire and Rescue recognized Penny, Staley and Bradshaw with Citizen Lifesaving certificates June 7.

## Squadron supports rocket launch

**Tech. Sgt. Kelly Goonan**

920TH RESCUE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

PATRICK AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. — Airmen from the 301st Rescue Squadron supported the successful launch of a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket June 29.

The launch of the Falcon 9 marked its 15th commercial re-supply services mission lifting off at 5:42:42 a.m. EDT, from Space Launch Complex 40 at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Florida.

This unmanned mission brought supplies and instruments as well as a floating robotic head called CIMON, which stands for Crew Interactive Mobile Companion.

"This was the first launch I've participated in," said 1st Lt. Josh Civelli, 301st Rescue Squadron Pilot. "Everything went smoothly and I feel very confident in our abilities to do these launches, effectively and safely."

Airmen from the 920th See **ROCKET** Page 22



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

**Airmen from the 301st Rescue Squadron supported the successful launch of a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket June 29.**

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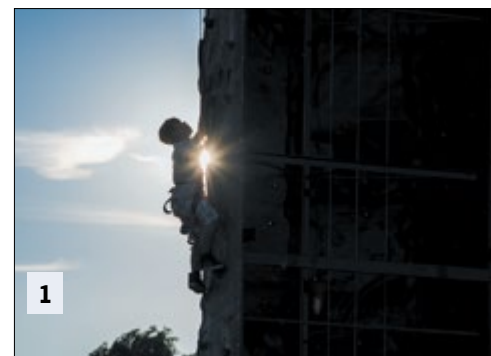
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# Drones entertain hundreds in first large production at US base



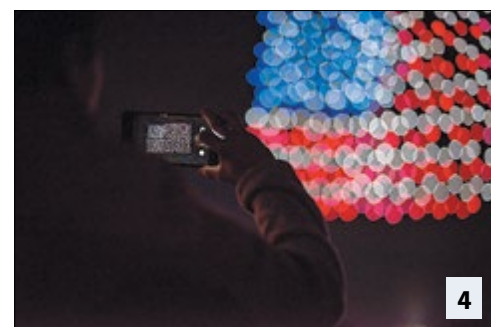
U.S. Air Force photo/Master Sgt. Joey Swafford



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



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Christian Conrad



U.S. Air Force photo/Master Sgt. Joey Swafford

**1) A child climbs up a rock wall July 5 prior to an Intel Shooting Star Drone Light Show at Travis Air Force Base, Calif. 2) Hundreds of drones form the California bear over Travis during the performance. 3) Hundreds of people await the show. 4) An audience member takes a photo during the light show. 5) A view of Travis' Intel Shooting Star light show wherein Travis families were shown the choreographed capabilities of 500 drones during an Independence Day celebration July 5.**

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

Intel Shooting Star drones entertained service members and their families with a light show July 5 over Travis Air Force Base, California, to celebrate Independence Day.

The show, which was pushed back from July 4 due to high winds, featured 500 drones affixed with LED lights capable of creating more than 4 billion color combinations in an eight-minute production.

During the performance, the drones were flown into multiple formations including the Travis 75th anniversary symbol, aircraft and the California bear.

"This was an amazing thing to experience," said Airman 1st Class Joshua Arreaga, 60th Aerial Port Squadron air transportation journeyman, who saw the show with his wife, Jessica, and son, Jonah. "It's outstanding and wonderful that Intel took the time to put this show on for us.

"We typically see the fireworks in Suisun City, California, and this provided us an opportunity to see something unique."

The show was awesome, said Jessica.

"The technology on display and colorful formations the drones were able to represent was impressive, so precise," she said.

Travis partnered with Intel to foster patriotism and cultivate innovation among Airmen and the community surrounding Travis. The culmination of those efforts led to a performance that was the first of its kind on a U.S. military base.

"We are honored to have the opportunity to be the first to debut a drone light show on a U.S. military installation," said Natalie Cheung, Intel Drone Light Show general manager. "We wanted to showcase

a new form of nighttime entertainment that could allow families and pets to enjoy our version of fireworks and experience something that wasn't available at Travis before."

"We also wanted to help celebrate the 75th anniversary of Travis and the amazing work service personnel, both past and present, have committed to over the years," she said.

Capt. Kaitlyn Bogan, 21st Airlift Squadron C-17 Globemaster III pilot and a member of the 60th Air Mobility Wing's commander's action group, was part of the team that planned for two months to host the drones at Travis.

"I'm incredibly honored to have had a role in bringing the show to Travis, but I'm more proud of the team that came together to make this show a reality in a very short amount of time," said Bogan. "I hope that, above all, people loved the experience and were in awe of the show like I was the first time I saw it. I want Travis Airmen and the community to feel proud of the fact that this was the first drone show on a Department of Defense installation.

"Travis is continuing to blaze trails in the world of innovation and this show was one way to demonstrate that fact in a beautiful, remarkable way."

The drone team arrived June 26 at Travis to prepare for the performance. During its time at Travis, the team conducted numerous rehearsals as well as provided a demonstration June 28 for families who are enrolled in the Exceptional Family Member Program.

The company's drones have performed in more than 300 shows in 15 countries, including the Olympic Games in Pyeongchang, South Korea.

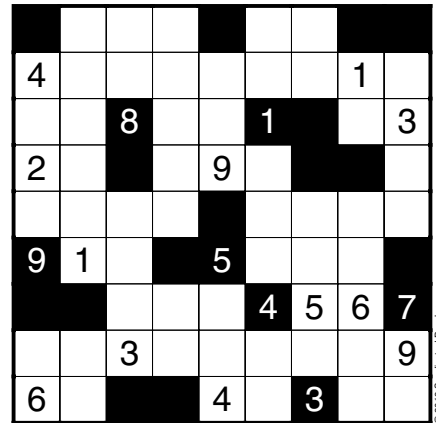


U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Christian Conrad

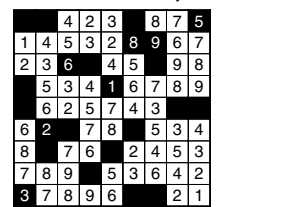
### Puzzles

#### STR8TS

No. 394 Medium



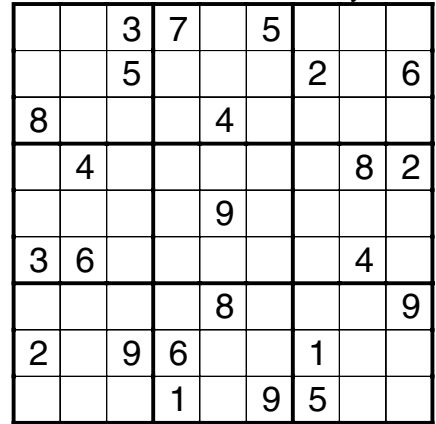
Previous solution - Easy



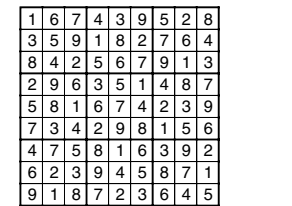
How to beat Str8ts - Like Sudoku, no single number can repeat in any row or column. But... rows and columns are divided by black squares into compartments. These need to be filled in with numbers that complete a 'straight'. A straight is a set of numbers with no gaps but can be in any order, eg [4,2,3,5].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

#### SUDOKU

No. 394 Very Hard



Previous solution - Tough



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

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

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

The solutions will be published here in the next issue.

### News Notes

**Commissioning Briefing.** A commissioning briefing takes place at 2 p.m. July 25 in David Grant USAF Medical Center's Group and Education Training/Life Support Room No. 3. The briefing will provide information on how to begin the commissioning process. A company grade officer panel will be available to answer questions and share their experiences.

**Education Fair.** An education fair will take place at the Delta Breeze Club July 27 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Multiple schools will be present.

**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.

### 60th FSS

#### Upcoming events

**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.

**Country Karaoke.** 8 p.m. July 20 at Cypress Lakes Golf Course.

**Cosmic Bowl Night.** 6 to 9:30 p.m. July 22 at Travis Bowl. \$4 per game.

**Club member breakfast.** 6:39 to 9 a.m. July 26 at the Delta Breeze Club. Special menu that includes chicken and waffles.

**Designer Handbag Bingo.** 6 p.m. July 27 at Cypress Lakes Golf Course. Pre-sale pricing ends July 20. First round free.

**Education Fair.** 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. July 27 at the Delta Breeze Club.

**Rock the Block.** 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Aug. 3 at the Delta Breeze Club parking lots. Music, food and family fun.

**Rock the Block After Party.** 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Aug. 3 at the Vacaville Creek Walk Concert. Help celebrate the 75th anniversary of Travis AFB.

#### Summer activities for children

**Missoula Children's Theatre Camp.** July 30 to Aug. 3 for ages 5-18. Children and youth will learn basic skills in theatre production, acting, stage presence and team building throughout the week. Space is limited to the 60 participants. To register, call 424-5392.

**Say It with Music Camp.** Aug. 13-17 for ages 9-12 and 13-18. Children will learn everything from music production to music writing and poetry. Space is limited to the 35 participants. To register, call 424-5392.

**Archery Camp.** Sept 24-28 for ages 9-12 and 13-18. This camp will instruct on and demonstrate the ability to participate in activities to enhance targeting accuracy, strategy, tactical analysis and physical fitness. Space is limited to the 35 participants. To register, call 424-5392.

#### 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.**

### In the next week...

**fri Food Truck Friday.** 5 p.m. July 13 at the Duck Pond.

**mon Sideline Sports Camp.** July 16-20 for ages 9-12 and 13-18. Participants will be instructed on and demonstrate the ability to participate in sports like Ultimate Frisbee, badminton, fencing and lacrosse. Space is limited to the 35 participants. To register, call 424-5392.

**tue Education Open House.** Come learn about educational opportunities that are available to you to take your career to the next level. Travis Education Center representatives and base schools will be on hand to answer questions about your next step in education. This will take place from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. July 17 at the Education Center, Bldg. 249.

**thu Throwback Thursdays.** 4:30 p.m. July 19 at the Delta Breeze Club. \$3 PBR with appetizers.

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

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

### Chapel programs

#### Available positions

**Catholic parish coordinator.** Duties include coordinating activities with the Chapel Catholic pastor for St. Michael Catholic Community. Self-starter with strong organizational skills a must. Proficiency with MS Office software, able to learn online programs and regularly update Catholic community web page. Familiarity with organizational financial budgets important. No demonstration of skills is required. Contract will be awarded based on "Best Value" to the government. Required to be re-bid every three years. Must have a contractor background check for contact with children below 18 years. Sealed bid due by 4:30 p.m. July 24. Interviews take place July 26 with public bid opening that at 3 p.m. Contact the Twin Peaks Chapel at 424-3217 for bid documents, including a copy of the statement of work.

#### 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

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

#### Twin Peaks Chapel

- Protestant Women of the Chapel: 9:30 to 11 a.m. Tuesday.
- DGMC Chapel**
- Protestant Traditional Service: 10 to 11 a.m. Sunday.

#### Airmen's Ministry Center

- The Peak is open from 6 to 9 p.m. Monday through Friday at Bldg. 1348. Home-cooked meal at 6 p.m. Tuesday's followed at 7 p.m. by Bible study.
- ◆◆◆
- For more information about chapel programs, call Twin Peaks Chapel at 707-424-3217.

### Recurring

**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 Recruiting Office.** Now open at the Solano Town Center mall. Learn more about what the Air Force has to offer, such as up to 100 percent tuition assistance, 30 days paid vacation per year, free medical and dental care, tax-free housing and food allowance and much more. Contact Tech. Sgt. George Yardley at 707-889-3088 or stop by the office located at 1350 Travis Blvd. Suite P2, Fairfield CA 94533 in the Solano Mall.

**Air Force Sergeants Association "Walter E. Scott" Chapter 1320.** General membership meetings are at 2 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.



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

**Today**

- 6:30 p.m. "Drift" (PG-13)
- 9 p.m. "Superfly" (R)

**Saturday**

- 6:30 p.m. "Ocean's 8" (PG-13)
- 9 p.m. "Tag" (R)

**Sunday**

- 2 p.m. "Ant-Man and the Wasp" (PG-13, 3-D)

**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 travscombatptsd@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://pftform.state.gov> and/or <https://travel.state.gov>. For more information, call 707-424-5324.

**Hometown News Releases.** To submit a Hometown News Release, visit <https://jhrs.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 Michaels 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/2mR1gI2>. This program is limited only for renewing dependents' IDs. For all other services, visit MPF during duty hours or call 707-424-8483.

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

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

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

**Retiree Activities Office.** Openings for 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.

**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 Force Base, Kansas.

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

# THE FLIP SIDE

### Airmen complete FTAC



U.S. Air Force photo

Congratulations to the latest Airmen to complete the First Term Airman Center course. Alphabetically: Airman 1st Class Gabriel Alvarez, 60th Logistics Readiness Squadron; Airman 1st Class Rachel Brabant, 60th Civil Engineer Squadron; Airman 1st Class Alexandria Brown, 60th Medical Support Squadron; Airman 1st Class Max Brunwasser, 660th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron; Airman 1st Class Blare Burkholder, 921st Contingency Response Squadron; Airman 1st Class Nicholas Cabrera, 660th AMXS; Airman 1st Class Tracy Calmeyn, 60th Operations Support Squadron; Airman Mark Garcia, 60th Aerospace Medicine Squadron; Airman 1st Class Junathaen Hager, 22st Airlift Squadron; Airman Jakob Jones, 660th AMXS; Airman 1st Class Jacquelyn Josefowicz, 921st CRS; Airman Nickolis Kemp, 60th Communications Squadron; Airman 1st Class James Kennedy, 60th Medical Operations Squadron; Airman 1st Class Gabriel Kerlegan, 821st CRS; Airman 1st Class Julian Machado, 22nd AS; Airman 1st Class Charles Moore, 60th Aerial Port Squadron; Airman 1st Class Alejandro Munoz, 60th Surgical Operations Squadron; Airman 1st Class Brian Ortega, 60th LRS; Airman 1st Class Daesha Pearson, 60th Force Support Squadron; Airman Chase Penny, 60th LRS; Airman 1st Class Blake Reid, 660th AMXS; Airman 1st Class Kyle Schmigel, 860th AMXS; Airman 1st Class Nathan Scott, 60th OSS; Airman 1st Class Cameron Stapleton, 921st CRS; Airman 1st Class Nikkolas Thompson, 60th APS; Airman 1st Class Bailey Turbyfill, 660th AMXS; Airman 1st Class Mackenzie Wenham, 821st CRS; and Airman 1st Class Andrew Ziolkowski, 60th LRS.

### Retiree Corner

VA issues policy to protect veteran homeowners

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has issued a new policy implementing the May 2018 Economic Growth, Regulatory Relief, and Consumer Protection Act, to protect veteran homeowners from predatory lending practices when obtaining a VA-guaranteed refinance loan.

The act helps protect veterans and service members from the dangers associated with repeatedly refinancing their home loans, requiring, among other things, the seasoning of the original

loan and a recoupment period for fees, closing costs, and expenses related to the refinance.

The VA Home Loan Program's mission is to maximize veterans' opportunity to obtain, retain, and adapt homes by providing a viable and fiscally responsible benefit program in recognition of their service to the nation.

For more information, including eligibility criteria, visit Housing Grants for Disabled Veterans at <https://www.benefits.va.gov/home-loans/adaptedhousing.asp>.

— Air Force Retiree News Service



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Monica Roybal

**Staff Sgt. Matthew Bryles, 633rd Civil Engineer Squadron emergency management technician, and Senior Airman Bryce Carter, 633rd CES heating, ventilation and air conditioning technician, assemble tent components June 20 at Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Va. Exercise volunteers learned which new components worked interchangeably with both tents on display.**

## Squadron tests equipment



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Monica Roybal

**An Expeditionary Medical Systems exercise Airman assembles tent components June 20 at Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Va. A core group of Airmen was trained on tent assembly prior to the exercise and was then tasked with teaching exercise volunteers on the newly learned procedures.**

**Airman 1st Class Monica Roybal**  
633RD AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

JOINT BASE LANGLEY-EUSTIS, Va. — The Air Combat Command Surgeon General Office partnered with representatives from the Air Force Life Cycle Management Center to conduct an exercise testing new joint expeditionary collective protection tent systems June 20 at Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Virginia.

During the event, Airmen compared current chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear defense capabilities equipment to new Expeditionary Medical Systems equipment.

The primary focus of the exercise was to employ the new EMEDS tent liner that incorporates an airlock system to create an over-pressurized environment that protects from

See **EQUIPMENT** Page 20

## Leaders to share stage at service's conference

**Phil Berube**  
AIR UNIVERSITY PUBLIC AFFAIRS

MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE, Ala. — Secretary of the Air Force Heather Wilson and the service's new assistant secretary for acquisitions, technology and logistics, Dr. Will Roper, are two of the military keynote speakers sharing the stage with industry leaders at this year's Air Force Information Technology and Cyberpower Conference.

The 2018 AFITC Conference will be Aug. 27-29 in Alabama's capital city of Montgomery.

With a theme of "Cyber-Vision of the Future: Mission Defense and Trusted Information," the conference will highlight the importance of the continuing need for industry partners, decision makers, academia and government professionals to collaborate on joint ventures in the IT and cyber domains.

Among the government keynote speakers joining Wilson and Roper are Lt. Gen. Bradford Shwedo, Air Force chief, Information

Dominance, and chief information officer; and Vice Admiral Nancy Norton, director, Defense Information Systems Agency and commander, Joint Force Headquarters-DoD Information Network.

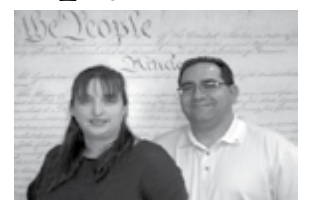
"This conference ranks as one of the Air Force's most prestigious national events," said AFITC chair Marcie Rhodes, chief of the Core Financial Systems Branch at the Air Force Program Executive Office-Business Enterprise Systems here, a conference co-sponsor. "Where else can you assemble professionals from cyber, IT, operational and academia sectors with stakeholders, decision makers and end-users in one forum? Our conference offers a unique marriage between Air Force strategic goals and burgeoning IT technologies that are being discussed and implemented every day within government and industry circles."

Through an aggressive schedule of cyber and IT breakout and plenary sessions and panel discussions, See **CONFERENCE** Page 21

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# Equipment

From Page 19

CBRNE agents outside of a contained area.

The toxic-free enclosure will enable medical personnel to work comfortably and efficiently while treating patients in a clean environment without having to wear full mission-oriented protective posture.

"Anyone who has been out there doing an exercise on a hot day in the summer, or even a cold

day in the winter, knows how terrible it can be after wearing chemical protective equipment for even a short period of time," said Maj. Ben Schumacher, Air Force Life Cycle Management Center CBRNE protective systems program manager. "There is also an increased risk of exposing or contaminating others, including patients, due to fatigue or stress of trying to operate while wearing chemical protective equipment."

Prior to the demonstration, a select group of Airmen from

the 633rd Medical Support Squadron attended training to learn the new components and discern which parts can be used interchangeably with the Tent Kit 2 units and the Stand Alone Large units.

Those who attended the initial training instructed exercise participants on how to assemble both tent models, most of whom have never used the new components.

"There was a little bit of a learning curve with the little intricacies, but otherwise

everything went great," said Staff Sgt. Chad Dellamonica, 633rd MDSS medical logistics technician. "The hands-on experience allows us to see the little things that are easily missed when reading about procedures."

One of the main concerns with collective protection is the limited time frame of use for chemical and biological protective measures. The new tent liners will allow medical personnel to work for extended periods of time without a need to swap out chemically

protective ensembles.

Results from the demonstration will impact medical decisions for Air Force collective protection systems and aid in Airman readiness in a deployed environment.

"Collective protection is a part of every major wartime scenario," said Schumacher. "With the training and equipment exhibited during this exercise, we can be ready to protect the medical mission during an attack, and this can directly result in saving lives."

# Conference

From Page 19

attendees will gain insight to and an understanding of all aspects of DoD and Air Force cyberspace and IT, including enterprise architecture, cyber security and governance, identity management and acquisitions and spectrum management.

AFITC started nearly three decades ago as the Air Force Small Computer Conference,

bringing together Air Force communications experts and industry vendors.

The purpose of the conference then was for industry to show the Air Force the latest technologies in personal computers and networking components. This event occurred in late August to take advantage of "end of fiscal year" funds, and personnel brought their unit credit cards to make purchases on the spot, said Richard Aldridge, director, AF-PEO-BES.

"Now, 30 years later, AFITC brings together Air Force cyber and IT experts with commercial partners and thought leaders in academia to understand current and innovative technologies and form future strategy," said Aldridge. "The breakout sessions regarding cyber policy, doctrine, acquisition and operations serve as information and decision making forums. Every cyber and IT issue impacting the Air Force over the next 12 months will be discussed at AFITC 2018."



**TRAVIS FITNESS CENTER** is open 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday and 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

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  - KID'z CHURCH Grades K-5th
  - 10:00 AM WEDNESDAY SENIOR PRAYER
  - 7:00 PM WEDNESDAY NIGHT Adult Bible Study
  - Girl's Club
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www.tbvacaville.com  
Greg Davidson, Senior Pastor

Sunday:

Worship Service & Bible Study.....9:00 am  
Worship Service & Bible Study.....10:30 am  
Evening Worship & Prayer.....6:00 pm

Wednesday:

Dinner (Sept-May).....4:45 pm  
AWANA (Sept-May).....6:00 pm  
Youth.....6:00 pm  
Choir.....6:30 am  
Bible Study...10:00 am, 1:30 pm, 3:30 pm & 6:30 pm

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**WEDNESDAY**  
Adult Studies.....2:00 pm  
AWANA for Kids.....6:15 pm  
Adult & Youth Studies.....6:30 pm

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5:30 p.m. Sunday Evening Worship  
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425-4481

**Sunday Services:**  
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621 South Orchard Ave. Vacaville, CA 95688  
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bethanychurch@pacbell.net  
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Pastor Gregory Stringer  
Bethany Lutheran Preschool  
451-6678  
bethanypreschool@pacbell.net  
www.gobethany.com

**Bethany Lutheran School**  
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bethanyschool@pacbell.net  
www.gobethany.com

YOU are the one that God loves the most. Come worship with us so we can learn from YOU.



Jesus said, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live; John 11:25

**Sunday Morning Bible Study..... 9 AM**  
**Sunday Morning Worship.....10 AM**  
**Sunday Evening Worship.....6 PM**  
**Wed. Evening Bible Study.....7 PM**  
Homeless ministry at Mission Solano  
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## BAPTIST



St. Paul Baptist Church

2500 N Texas Street, Suite H  
Fairfield, CA 94533  
Rev. Dr. Terry Long, Pastor

**Sunday**  
Sunday School: 10:00 a.m.  
Morning Worship Service: 11:00 a.m.  
Children's Church: 11:30 a.m.

Prayer Meeting: 6:30-7:00 p.m.  
Bible Study: 7:00-8:00 p.m.

Web Site: www.stpaulfairfield.com  
Email: stpaulbfairfield@comcast.net  
Church Phone: 707-422-2003

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(Childcare provided for ages 1-4 at 11:45 Only)  
Children's Church for ages 2-12 on 1st, 2nd, and 4th Sundays  
Youth & Collegiate Church 1st, 2nd, & 5th Sundays

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Sunday School Classes (Adults) 8:30 a.m.  
Sunday School for Children and Youth (Ages 2 years through high school) 9:30 a.m.  
Discipleship Classes (Adults only) 8:30 a.m.

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Communion and Baptism  
All Services Every 1st Sunday (Baptism)  
All Services Every 2nd Sunday (Communion)  
Bible Study  
Tuesday Night - 7:00 p.m. - All ages welcome  
**Suisun Campus**  
601 Whispering Bay Lane, Suisun City, CA 94585  
Sunday Worship Services, 10:30 a.m.  
Christian Education Hour  
9:15 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.  
Adult Bible Class  
Youth Bible Class (ages 12-18)  
Children's Bible Class (ages 5-11)  
Discipleship Class (adults)  
Ordinance  
Every 2nd Sunday (Communion)  
Bible Study  
Tuesday Noon Teaching - 12:00 Noon

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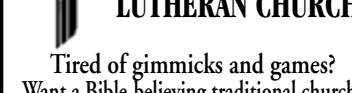
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www.tlcp.org  
Rev. Dr. Dan Molyneux, Pastor

## NON-DENOMINATIONAL



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Pastor Jon Kile  
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Adult & Youth Sunday School - 9 AM & 10:45 AM  
Check our website for more information on other ministries offered  
www.vacavillefaith.org

## NON-DENOMINATIONAL



The Father's House  
4800 Horse Creek Drive  
Vacaville, CA 95688  
(707) 455-7790

www.tfh.org  
Service Times  
Saturday: 6pm  
Sunday: 9am & 11am

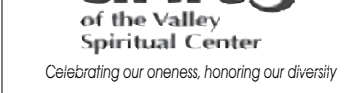
## NON-DENOMINATIONAL



401 Fir St., Vacaville, CA 95688  
(707) 448-5085  
Minister: Garrett Sander

Sunday Morning Bible Study 9:30 AM  
Sunday Morning Worship 10:30 AM  
Sunday Evening Worship 6:00 PM  
Wed. Evening Bible Study 7:00 PM  
www.vacavillecofc.com  
If you would like to take a free Bible correspondence course contact: Know Your Bible Program 401 Fir Street • Vacaville, CA 95688 (707) 448-5085

## UNITY



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unityvv@pacbell.net  
www.unityvacaville.org

**Sunday Morning**  
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10:00 am Contemporary Celebration with Youth Education  
**Wednesday Evening**  
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7:00 pm Contemplative Prayer  
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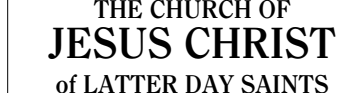


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Communion is held the 1st Sunday of every month  
Adult and Bell Choirs  
Adult Bible and Book Studies  
United Methodist Women  
Sunday Morning Bible Studies at 9:00 A.M.

## Molds

From Page 9

fuel his vision of becoming a physician's assistant, the prospective IPAP student said his vision would have remained one if not for a little bit of help.

"I have some amazing people in my life who helped me

get selected," he said. "I want to thank God, my beautiful wife, my family and supervisors, mentors, civilian instructors, professors, leadership, peers and co-workers who always pushed me forward. They helped me overcome my failures and only served to aid in my successes. My achievements are only possible because of them."

## AFCENT

From Page 11

information found elsewhere. With the new update, each country will only have one set of reporting instructions that will be limited to include points of contacts for each respective unit and the minimum information necessary to facilitate transitioning from home station to the deployed workspace. Local Reporting

Instructions have been cut from 35 to 13 with the page count reduced from 295 to 40.

These changes are an ongoing process to evolve and better fit Airmen's needs.

"This isn't really anything dramatically different than what we have done before," said Statham. "We are just doubling down on our efforts, giving more time back, reducing guidance and empowering commanders to make decisions."

## Rocket

From Page 14

Rescue Wing serve to clear and secure the Eastern Range by overflight in Air Force HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopters during a majority of Space Coast rocket launches.

CIMON, a German Aerospace Center, Airbus, and IBM project, will act as a flying camera and uses fans and maneuvering fins to move

around the station to monitor experiments and repairs. Additionally, CIMON has the ability to chat with the crew using IBM's Watson AI.

The Dragon spacecraft separated from Falcon 9's second stage about nine minutes and thirty seconds after liftoff and arrived at the International Space Station July 2.

The Dragon will return to Earth with more than 4,000 pounds of cargo after a one-month stay at the ISS.

## AFRL

From Page 13

breakthroughs that strengthen our understanding of the intricate relationship between material structure, processing and performance."

The program will support a cohort of post-doctoral research fellows focused on precision measurement tools for advanced functional and structural materials characterization. They will be embedded in the research groups at Wright-Patterson AFB and will have a faculty advisor at CEMAS to ensure access to the latest developments and capabilities.

"These outstanding young researchers will be the conduit between our two research enterprises," said CEMAS Director David McComb. "There they will learn the materials and advanced manufacturing challenges that impede AFRL's progress. They will have access to state-of-the-art microscopy equipment and the nation's leading experts in materials characterization to help solve those challenges and innovate to improve our national defense."

World-class expertise from researchers at AFRL, CEMAS staff and OSU faculty all play a significant role in the success of this effort, as will be exhibited by the direct application of state-of-the-art characterization



Courtesy photo

**Julia Deitz, Ohio State University student, uses state-of-the-art electron microscopes to push the boundaries of precision metrology techniques for advanced materials characterization.**

techniques to Air Force materials related challenges.

"Forming a partnership with AFRL is not new to us," said Frank Scheltens, of OSU/CEMAS. "We have been working with AFRL for years on team efforts and the outcome has always been a success."

The results of this quest will help the Air Force to pair

state-of-the-art characterization expertise and capabilities to answer challenging research questions within the research teams at the Materials and Manufacturing Directorate.

In this manner, research breakthroughs are expedited and taken to new levels, giving warfighters a competitive advantage.

## Storms

From Page 10

their forecast and storm warnings and advisories," said Maj. Ryan Rickert, 53rd WRS aerial reconnaissance weather officer.

Weather forecasters rely on satellites for information. However, oceans can be data sparse environments and satellites can't provide information such as the interior sea level pressure of a hurricane or wind speed information, which is needed to predict hurricane development and movement, said Rickert.

According to NHC forecasts, TS Chris is expected to develop into a hurricane off the North Carolina coast July 9, and begin moving northeast July 10.

The Hurricane Hunters flew one mission into TS Beryl, which weakened into a tropical storm from a hurricane July 7 and degenerated into a tropical wave July 8.

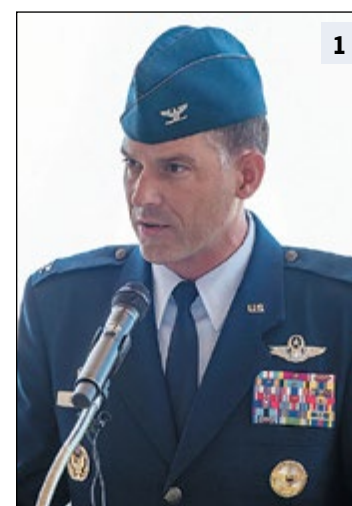
Providing information to the NHC has kept the squadron busy this week, and it's not unusual for the Hurricane Hunters to fly multiple storms at the same time, said Stanton.

Their area of operation is large, extending from the middle of the Atlantic to just past the Hawaiian Islands, he said. And, through an interagency agreement, tropical weather reconnaissance is governed by the National Hurricane Operations Plan, which requires the squadron to support 24-hour a day continuous operations with the ability to fly up to three storms simultaneously and with a response time of 16

hours. Last year, the 10th busiest hurricane season on record, the squadron flew three hurricanes simultaneously which were Katia, Jose, and Irma.

Forecasters have projected this hurricane season to be an average one; however, whether it's a busy or slow season, it only takes one storm with devastating impacts to a community to make it a bad one, so it's important to be prepared, said Lt. Col. Jon Fox, 53rd WRS navigator, who flew into Katrina in 2005 and experienced the aftermath of a devastating storm.

"When in doubt, evacuate. Make sure you stay safe because hindsight is 20/20," he said, adding the unit collects weather data for forecasts and advisories to assist the public with their hurricane preparedness and evacuation plans to ensure their safety.



U.S. Air Force photos/Heide Couch

**1) Col. Ethan Griffin delivers his first speech as commander of the 60th Air Mobility Wing during a change of command ceremony, July 10 at Travis Air Force Base, Calif. 2) Airmen render a final salute to Col. John Klein, 60th AMW outgoing commander. Klein relinquished command to Griffin. 3) Lt. Gen. GI Tuck, left, 18th Air Force commander at Scott Air Force Base Ill., presides over the ceremony.**



## Griffin

From Page 3

service members, families and community partners work together to pioneer beyond bounds and find better, more efficient ways of accomplishing our respective jobs."

Griffin went on to underscore the responsibility each member of Team Travis has in "upholding the calling to protect (the United States) gateway to the Pacific."

There was, perhaps, no better person to understand the breadth of that responsibility than Klein in his eventful two-year tenure as Travis commander.

Amid natural disasters, security incidents and a sometimes unpredictable diplomatic climate, it's no exaggeration to say that Klein's time at Travis has been storied. Though, it wasn't his almost 24-year career that Klein chose to chalk his success up to, but to those

who succeeded with him.

From Airmen from the 60th AMW, the 349th AMW and the 621st Contingency Response Wing to family, friends and mentors, both past and present, Klein took time to laud all those who he said made him into the Airman he is today. It's a praise that he carries with him even in the simplest of interactions.

"As I've been getting ready to depart, people have asked me, 'What has been your best day at Travis?'" said Klein. "And my answer to them is: 'Yesterday.' Yesterday because every day we're a little bit better. We're more ready, more resilient and more relentless. And yesterday because I appreciate you all and what you do more and more each day."

Ending his official time at Travis, it was the responsibility of Klein in the ceremony to hand off the 60th AMW guidon, representing, he said, the privilege of its command, to Griffin. Mediating the assumption, and assuring those in attendance

of the continued resolve of Travis' leadership, was Lt. Gen. GI Tuck, 18th Air Force commander.

"The command of Travis Air Force Base is an extremely important one," said Tuck. "Not only is Travis the largest mobility platform in our major command, but it's also strategically located as a jumping-off point for our many critical missions in the Pacific. We could not have picked a better commander to fill the immense shoes left behind by Col. Klein than Col. Griffin."

Before closing the ceremony, Griffin wished to impart a few last words to his new command.

"You can count on me to serve each of you, Airman, Soldier, Marine, Sailor, civilian, family member, retiree, veteran, community partner and more, with commitment, positive energy and the best interests of Team Travis in mind," he said. "It's good to be back home. Let's get to work and let's have some fun doing it."

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## Cargo City

From Page 7

for Murphy and the 386th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron team, however. Their victories included more than just turning a blank slate into a fully functional operating location.

“During the build process, we were able to form friendships and build bonds with our generous host-nation partners,” he said. “We wanted to go into this project with the clear intentions of building not just an operating location, but a lasting partnership.”

This partnership was evident during the build and construction process, as the 386 ECES and 387 ESPTS relied on their Kuwaiti counterparts for a colossal project – importing more than 1.24 million cubic meters of fill for the construction site.

“When we first arrived, the build site was not even close to ideal for our goals,” said Capt. Jesse Lantz, 386 ECES deputy commander. “The entire site was pretty much a 10-foot-deep hole and needed to be filled in

and graded properly, which is a huge project in itself. After a few meetings, we were able to hammer out a logistics plan for the site and get to work alongside the Kuwaitis.”

And get to work they did. To make the land suitable for construction, a team of local trucking companies performed 24-hour transport operations, transporting nearly 400 trucks of soil, dirt and rock every day. This operation lasted nearly four months.

After the task to fill, level, and compact the construction site was complete, the ECES began constructing the War-Reserve Material shelters, which is slated to serve as the new operating location for the 5th Expeditionary Air Mobility Squadron’s Aircraft Maintenance mission.

In addition to constructing the base’s facilities, the 386 ECES, the 387 ESPTS, 1st Expeditionary Civil Engineer Group, and the Army’s 505th Engineer Battalion partners teamed up to install the heart and soul of the base – electricity and communications lines.

“After the site was prepared, we had three months to have the base move-in ready,”

said Lantz, who has an extensive background in construction and project management. “Just a short time ago, there was nothing here but a patch of land. It is amazing to see something of this scale develop in front of your eyes.”

Lantz said while he may not be able to see the end result of this \$32 million project in person, he plans on contacting his replacement to request photos. With the Kuwait-contracted effort to complete the aircraft parking ramp slated to be complete in August and the connecting taxiway slated for a November completion, there will be plenty of photos for his successor to send.

While Cargo City will be replaced eventually, he said the project will ease the transition to the final destination, West Al-Mubarak Air Base – once it is complete.

“Cargo City was built with the intention of being a temporary solution, but will have long-lasting benefits,” he said. “This is one of the projects I am most proud of in my career. The teams here did an incredible job and I look forward to what this location will be capable of in the very near future.”

## Waivers

From Page 9

Surgery Center director.

“A patient may request LASIK, but not be a good candidate for it, but may be able to have PRK instead,” he said.

With PRK, a thin outer layer of the cornea – called the epithelium – is removed and discarded before the corneal tissue is reshaped with an excimer laser. Protective soft contact lenses are applied after the treatment and left in place for several days while the epithelium heals.

“It takes several weeks for the patient’s vision to stabilize and the patient will be on steroid drops from one to four months,” said Kelstrom.

With LASIK, the epithelium is left intact. A surgeon uses a special knife – called a femtosecond laser – to cut a thin flap on the outer layer of the cornea, leaving a hinge at one end. The flap is folded back to reveal corneal tissue. An excimer laser cuts and reshapes the cornea and the flap is replaced.

“The patient’s vision is usually 20/20 the next day, but the patient will be on a profile for a week,”

**“The primary reason for discontinuing the waiver was due to the high success rate of the procedures.”**

— Steve Wright

said Kelstrom.

Initially, Air Force surgeons were concerned with corneal-flap related complications, especially for pilots and aircrew members who might have to eject at high altitudes. However, studies showed there was little to no effect.

“The administrative burden of requiring a waiver for LASIK and PRK was not commensurate with the number of cases where a waiver was critical in making the decision to return to flight or when to allow an applicant to come into flight training,” said Wright.

Although the change is relatively transparent to aircrew, “it means they can potentially return to flight days to weeks earlier,” he said.

## Corey

From Page 2

break away from the computers and go look them in the eye and introduce yourself. Say thank you for what they do. Regardless of the demeanor of the person you are interacting with, follow the golden rule and treat others as you want to be treated. Always maintain your military bearing and don’t let your emotions drive the conversation. Building relationships and networking is a critical skill that we all need to perfect. It is often who you know that enables operational success.

My father always told me, “If it is worth doing, it is worth doing right.” We know it as, “Excellence in all we do.” I can promise you what we do is worth doing. After all, security of the free world depends upon our strength and unity. Thank you for what you bring to the fight. Remember, “If you want to go fast, go alone, but if you want to go far, go together.”



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# Therapy

From Page 5

a 100 obviously, because that could be too distressing. PTSD treatment is going to make you uncomfortable, but we're going to work through it. I start my patients typically at a 40. Going to the commissary at 5 p.m., may be a 40 for someone because it's crowded and more difficult to exit quickly. I'll have my patient go there and stay there for at least 45 minutes or until their distress level has decreased by half."

While at the commissary, the patient documents how he or she feels. Did their heart-rate increase? Did they feel anxious? What did they think in those moments and did their distress level go up or down? These are all questions Keith has the patient answer.

Patients slowly work themselves up their hierarchy until they hit their most distressing situation, which in most cases, is the trauma that person experienced. In the meantime, during their sessions, patients will begin imaginal exposure. Imaginal exposure is where the patients will disclose the trauma to the therapist.

"I ask you to repeat the trauma that happened over and over and over again," said Keith. "You sit in my office

for about 45 minutes and you just tell me over and over and over again what happened. We call this imaginal exposure. This traumatic memory often causes people to do all they can to not experience that memory again because it's so distressing. What they don't realize is, by doing that, they've given that memory so much power over them."

They may feel disconnected from their spouse because of a sexual trauma and they may avoid kissing or touching because doing so reminds them of that incident, she said. A combat veteran who experienced a firefight may avoid going to concerts, fireworks shows or large gatherings because they may want to avoid the noise or they may become anxious in large crowds.

"By confronting the trauma head-on and having you tell me about it, we are not only processing the emotion that's there, we are showing you that you've made it through the worst thing," said Keith. "This is a memory, that's all it is. It doesn't have to be as terrifying as it was any more. This is all done to help patients experience that emotion and work through it. Through that discomfort they can begin to grow and move on."

Over the past year, more than 204 patients were treated

for PTSD at DGMC's Mental Health Clinic. Staff Sgt. Jasmine Smith, whose name is changed to protect the privacy of the patient, a member of the 621st Contingency Response Wing, is one of them.

Smith joined the Air Force in April 2012 and arrived at Travis in February 2013. In August 2015, she deployed to Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan.

"Before the deployment life was great," she said. "My husband and I were assigned to Travis together and had a baby, I made senior airman before the zone and shortly after, tested for staff sergeant. I learned a few days after arriving at my deployed location that I had made staff my first time testing. Things were going well."

Shortly after arriving at Bagram, Smith met the members of her unit and learned about her job. One thing she didn't feel prepared for, though, was the frequent attacks launched at the base.

"It can get crazy," she said. "I never saw an attack before and we were mortared nearly every week."

Having to constantly be ready to take cover at any moment wore on Smith over time. So much so that she has difficulty dealing with crowds, which makes shopping quite an experience.

"When I'm in a store I have to immediately locate each exit, know how many exits are in the store and know if something went down and an aisle was blocked, how I would get out," she said. "Knowing my plan to get out is important."

Going to the "Happiest Place on Earth" can also be quite a struggle, said Smith.

"The day after I got home my family surprised me with a trip to Disneyland, which is my favorite place in the world; I was excited until we got there," she said. "I had a panic attack because I was constantly on guard looking at the ground, people's expressions, wondering if someone was reaching in their pockets and if they were, why? There were so many noises, lights and so many people. That never used to get to me. Now, that was all I could think about. I don't remember half the time I was there because I was so paranoid the entire time."

Smith was also struggling with something tragic, the loss of Airmen she knew.

Four aircrew members of her deployed unit joined Smith for dinner before flying a supply delivery mission to a forward operating base in Afghanistan. After dinner, the crew left for their mission and Smith went to bed.

At 3 a.m., Smith learned the Airmen wouldn't be coming back.

"I was woken up to come down to one of the tents for a commander's call because something happened," she said. "We knew something was up because the people in there were supposed to be on crew rest and you usually don't disturb that for anything that's not serious. We also noticed empty chairs."

Smith's commander informed her that her friends were killed in a crash after the pilot lost control of the plane shortly after take-off.

"It felt like an out of body experience," said Smith. "You don't expect that to happen to you or the people that are around you. We didn't know what caused the crash until months later and the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria was claiming it. Being on edge for so long just gets to you. At first I felt shock, I became physically sick and I was unable to eat. I had extreme anxiety and I thought the worst case scenario for everything from then on."

Then, Smith was struck by serious sadness during a moment when she realized her friends were gone.

"When we loaded their caskets into a C-5M Super Galaxy it really hit me," she said. "That's when it really sunk in. I felt so much sadness for the families and I felt guilty, because I was going to get to go home and they weren't."

Smith wrestled with this guilt, extreme anxiety and nightmares for several months after returning from her deployment. In August 2015, she contacted the Mental Health Clinic at Travis to get help and has made a great deal of progress.

"I meet with Capt. Keith on a near weekly basis and I take a behavioral health assessment before each appointment so

she can see how I'm feeling," said Smith.

"Keith helped me understand that beating myself up isn't helping," she said. "It's not doing me any good to stall on one piece of negative information and allow that to control me."

After many months of treatment, Smith's nightmares have stopped and her anxiety has been reduced. She's even been able to conquer her 'Level 100,' flying in an airplane on trips to Michigan, Hawaii and Mississippi.

"It's about small rewards for me," said Smith. "I'm getting there. Every single time I'm in an airplane, it's like being zip tied in a bag and being suffocated. Still to this day, every single time I'm in the air I wonder why am I doing this? Why didn't I just drive, does the pilot know what he or she is doing, is that noise normal, is this turbulence normal and are the air traffic controllers in control of the situation?"

"I'm still learning how to control my breathing when I'm having a moment," she said. "It is a continuous struggle. I still get anxious but not nearly as bad as what I did before. I have to say to myself, 'You're safe.' 'Nothing is going to happen, just go.'"

Smith encourages people who are suffering from distress to get help.

"I know that sometimes you can feel so alone especially when you're grappling with something," she said. "You're not alone. Someone you know is struggling with something and nobody is perfect. There's nothing wrong with seeking help or talking to someone. It's such a great display of strength to seek help. I encourage everyone to seek help if they need it."

Keith said seeing the positive change in Smith's life and the impact she has on her patients is the best part of her job.

"I love working with patients and seeing them improve over time," she said. "It's amazing seeing the positive change they can make and being there for people who may be in an immense amount of pain, to listen to them and use my training to help them; that's the best thing about my job."

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The USS Emory S. Land is undergoing scheduled maintenance to the deck, turbines, heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems at Mare Island, Calif. The ship is shown July 11.

## Sailors

From Page 6

stand-up a contingency housing operation on short notice," said Foster.

For example, the 60th Force Support Squadron extended breakfast and dinner hours to accommodate the Land's crew who are standing watch aboard the ship in 12-hour shifts.

"We started opening at 5 a.m. to make sure they have a hot meal before departing for the ship," said Master Sgt. Derick Westfall, 60th FSS Sustainment Flight Services chief. "We have to be flexible with the evening meal because they come back in waves. And, sometimes the traffic is backed up on (Interstate) 80."

Westfall said their biggest challenge was providing hot

lunches and the midnight meal for those aboard the ship.

"Unless they go downtown, there's no place nearby to eat so, for the first 10 days, we prepared boxed meals," said Westfall. "Now, we've worked out a system to send hot food."

The Navy contributed to the solution, said Westfall.

"We have a staff of 40, but we didn't have to bring in help since the Navy offered up a couple people to help package their meals, transport them to the ship and make sure we get the containers back," said Westfall. "Since they are all on meal cards, the Navy provides people to make sure everyone signs in for their meals on the ship."

"We've developed a very close relationship with the Navy so we know how many meals to prepare each day," he said. "With 100 to 150 Sailors

and all the cadets here for the summer, we're feeding about 330 more people per day."

The Land's complement normally is 800 people, including 150 civilian mariners. Although the ship is commanded by a Navy captain, civilians provide navigation, deck operations, hull maintenance, engineering, galley and steward services and supply functions, said Moore.

While the Land is in California, the rest of its crew are serving at their homeport or temporarily on the Cable, said Moore. The members at Travis will be here until early September.

"I don't have the numbers but, it makes sense economically for us to stay at Travis," said Moore. "We're grateful for the accommodations. We're really impressed with the (fitness center)."

## Hunters

From Page 13

dropsondes and buoys to collect both atmospheric and oceanic data," said 1st Lt. Garrett Black, 53rd WRS aerial weather reconnaissance officer. "It's a great and rare opportunity to be able to sample monsoonal conditions in the Bay of Bengal with both air and sea assets. The data will better help with understanding the dynamics and atmospheric setups that drive these seasonal, heavy rain events that are vital to the agriculture and economy for coastal Indian Ocean communities."

"This project also has large scale socioeconomic impact since this weather phenomena impacts 1 billion people," said Lt. Col. Kaitlyn Woods, 53rd WRS chief meteorologist.

Much of the Indian subcontinent is dependent on monsoon rainfall and are affected by the flood and droughts that can be created from MISO BOB, she added.

"Active and break phases of monsoons determine the amount of water available in a given season as well as times they will be available," said Fernando. "As such, prediction

of MISO events are of utmost importance for water resources planning in the region."

The break phases are associated with drought periods, and the torrential rains associated with active phases of the monsoons cause floods and landslides, and hence predictions of MISO events are of great interest for disaster management, said Fernando.

"This research is also of importance to the U.S. Naval 5th Fleet, which operates in the Indian Ocean," said Woods. "The 5th Fleet's operations often hinge on the forecasting of atmospheric and oceanic weather events."

The weather patterns in the Indian Ocean are very energetic and impact weather in other parts of the world, especially in Pacific, said Fernando.

"MISOs have a role in global weather, and hence the missions 53rd WRS flew have implications in improving the prediction of global weather patterns," said Fernando.

A second comprehensive MISO BOB field study will be conducted next summer, which will involve measurements using research vessels, land stations in multiple countries, and hopefully aircraft measurements involving the 53rd WRS, said Fernando.

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Airmen from Travis Air Force Base, Calif., march in the Vallejo, Calif., July 4th parade. Airmen from Travis have supported the parade for years. This year, the base was represented by members of the Travis Honor Guard color team, the 60th Medical Group and the 621st Contingency Response Wing.

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