

REFUGEE

... gives back to nation that embraced him

PAGES 16-17



Balance takes perspective, communication



Commentary by Lt. Col. Katrina Curtis
60TH CONTRACTING SQUADRON

Balance is a word we hear used in leadership frequently. The question is, though, what does balance mean? Does anyone really know what balance looks like? How do others gauge what the perfect balance to you would look like, especially if they are family? Some may see balance as equal time spent with work and family. Is a perfect balance always achievable? I have had a lot of advice and mentorship over the years and one piece of advice has stuck with me. Achieving overall balance in your life may just look like a teeter

Commander's Commentary

totter, finding the right rhythm that works for you. Sometimes, you are going to be pushed to one side or another. A big deadline coming up for work or family may send you to one side for a while, but on other days, you are in the middle again. You must find the rhythm that fits you, your family and those you work with. We all know that it's not good for you or your family or the mission to be stuck on one

side or the other too long. You have to know that some weeks may suck and be overwhelming and others may be amazing or rewarding.

The biggest way you can help yourself and those around you is through communication. As my mentor puts it, we must share to get care. Remember you always have people in your corner when you need a helping hand to get back in a balanced rhythm. Even if you think you are in this alone, you are not.

In this community we call our military family and in your own

family, people are here for you. We just have to communicate. Communication must be applied on both the family and professional side. Find the timing when your mind and body can go and when it needs a rest.

Watch out for those around you who may seem to be a step or two out of balance for none of us can carry the world on our shoulders alone. You can help by communicating with them and bring awareness. Find your rhythm, communicate and define what a balanced life looks like for you.

Where did all of the time go? Pursue personal goals

I've been doing a lot of self-reflecting the past few weeks. In doing so, I've evaluated where I am in my personal and professional life. How did I get to where I am? Have I met my goals? Would I do anything differently?



Commentary by Senior Master Sgt. Kimberly LaPierre
60TH CONTRACTING SQUADRON

making master sergeant and working on my master's degree. I've always had a short- and long-term goal and stuck with it. I was so busy with growing up and being the best Airman that I believed I should be. However, it wasn't until my attendance to Senior Non-Commissioned Officer Academy that I realized after introducing myself to my flight and sharing my children's names and their ages that it really hit me, how did my children get so old? Where did all the time go?

Time seems to have flown by, as the saying goes, and while I feel like I've progressed through my career and can remember, in some detail, certain events, I had a harder

Enlisted Commentary

time reflecting on how my children seemed to have grown up so fast from elementary age and into middle and high school ages.

My current position requires a lot of dedication to my squadron and I absolutely love it along with the Airmen, military and civilian, I serve. Yet, I feel like I've lost much quality time due to my own fault. This time I'm speaking of isn't the weekend fun times or the family vacations. I'm speaking of those times when you're just sitting at home. Those times when you're just hanging out in the living room or at the dinner table and simply conversing with family.

I can't tell you how many times I've come home from work and was too tired

to do anything - too tired to cook, too tired to take the kids to the playground, too tired to simply talk. In essence, I have missed a lot of the small and simple quality times with my children.

So in closing, my advice is that you keep pursuing your short- and long-term goals. Keep working at being the best Airman you can be through duty, experience, education or whatever it is that helps you reach your full potential. However, do the same in your personal life. If you have a family, spouse, kids, etc., make sure you spend even more time with them than you do at work if at all possible. If you don't, make sure you spend quality time with your friends and keep in touch with and visit all those who you love back home. If you don't, you may end up wondering like I did, "Where did all that time go?"

Defense updates parental leave policy

Airman 1st Class Christian Conrad 60TH AIR MOBILITY WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Travis Air Force Base, California, Airmen who are expecting or planning to adopt can enjoy an extra bit of leave thanks to an updated parental leave policy courtesy of the Department of Defense Military Parental Leave Program.

The policy, which goes into effect immediately and is retroactive to Dec. 23, 2016, applies to Total Force Airmen who are birth mothers and fathers, same-sex couples, as well as adoptive and surrogate parents. Reserve Component Airmen should refer to Air Force Instruction 36-3003 for specific eligibility requirements.

Master Sgt. Michael Richardson, 60th Air Mobility Wing Staff Agencies first sergeant, says the policy is just another example of the DoD's commitment to the welfare of military families.

"The Air Force has always had a high interest in taking care of our families and this was just another way to ensure that was happening," said Richardson. "You also see a lot of these changes happening outside the military, so as the military is having to compete to recruit the best Airmen, we need to make sure our policies aren't too outdated with what the private sector is going by."

For Tech. Sgt. Susan Blasco, 60th AMW weapons safety manager, the ability to take the leave afforded to her through the new policy was a great benefit after the birth of her son.

"I felt that everyone I encountered wanted the best for me and my family," said Blasco. "My work center was very accommodating to my appointments and leave, which I don't think those in



Savannah Ruiz, left, and her husband, Senior Airman Ruben Ruiz, right, 921st Contingency Response Squadron aerial porter, pose for a photo with their children outside their home April 26 at Travis Air Force Base, Calif.

the private sector are as fortunate (to receive). They have to use their vacation time to go to appointments."

Although the vast majority of Americans favor the idea of paid parental leave, only 14 percent of employees in the private sector have access to

it, according to a 2016 National Compensation Survey. This contrasts with the DoD's new policy, which allows six weeks of maternity convalescent leave to all birth mothers, six additional weeks to the primary caregiver and three weeks to the secondary caregiver.

The leave, the policy continues, needs to be taken all at once and cannot be split up. Despite that, though, the policy allows parents to take that leave at any point within the first year after a child's birth or adoption in order to

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Tailwind

Travis AFB, Calif.
60th Air Mobility Wing

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60th Air Mobility Wing commander

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

Airman 1st Class
Jonathon D. A. Carnell
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On the cover
Mustak Keval, 60th Force Support Squadron Airman and Family Readiness Center flight chief, poses for a photo July 23 at Travis Air Force Base, Calif.

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



U.S. Air Force photo/Jan Kim

WARRIOR OF THE WEEK

Name: Airman 1st Class Justin T. Wood.	Time in service: Two years.	network analysis.
Unit: 60th Communication Squadron.	Family: None.	What are your hobbies? Video games, hunting, fishing and hiking.
Duty title: Knowledge management.	What are your goals? Retire after 20 years of service in the United States Air Force, as well as obtaining a master's degree in	What is your greatest achievement? Got into the finals within an international business organization competition.
Hometown: Washington Court House, Ohio.		

Avoid animal bites, be cautious

60th Medical Group
Public Health Flight

It's 85 degrees with a cool delta breeze rustling through the leaves in your backyard. The barbecue pit is fired up and the savory aroma of the hickory dangles in the air.

The kids are running around while the grownups share deployment stories at the table. But then a teen sets off a firecracker and the next sound you hear is a loud barking noise followed by a child's high-pitched cry. Your heart sinks as you realize that a dog just bit a child.

If you think this scenario is uncommon or improbable, think again.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, dogs bite more than 4 million people every year, of which 800,000 require medical attention.

At Travis Air Force Base, California, an average of 100 bites from dogs, cats, possums, bats, raccoons and skunks are treated and evaluated every year. Although dog bites are the most common, dogs rarely transfer serious diseases.

That's not the case with other animals.

For example, rabies is typically transmitted through the bite or scratch of an infected mammal. Left untreated, rabies is an aggressive disease that carries a nearly 100 percent fatality rate once neurological symptoms occur in unvaccinated humans.

Vaccination after exposure is highly successful in preventing the development of rabies if initiated no more than six days after the incident.

The vast majority of rabies cases reported each year in the United States are from

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U.S. Air Force photo/Master Sgt. Scott MacKay

Maj. (Dr.) Noel Colls discusses care of a patient with Senior Airman Camille Chang and Senior Airman Victoria Thompson during a major accident response exercise July 25, 2012, at the 380th Air Expeditionary Wing. Colls, now with the 60th Medical Operations Squadron at Travis Air Force Base, Calif., was selected July 20 to join the United States Air Force Thunderbirds for the 2019 demonstration season.

Thunderbirds pick Travis surgeon

Daily Republic Staff

Lt. Col. (Dr.) Noel Colls, a flight surgeon and family practice resident assigned to the 60th Medical Operations Squadron at Travis Air Force Base, has been named the flight surgeon for the 2019 demonstration season of the Air Force Thunderbirds, according to a Travis Air Force Base social media post.

He will become Thunderbird No. 9 and provide medical care for more than 130 squadron members.

The commander of Air Combat Command, Gen. Mike Holmes, selected the officers. They are:

- Lt. Col. John Caldwell, 28th Test and Evaluation Squadron commander, Eglin

Air Force Base, Florida, who will become Thunderbird No. 1, the squadron's commander/leader. His responsibilities will include commanding a force of more than 120 enlisted personnel and 11 commissioned officers assigned to the Thunderbirds, along with leading all demonstration flights.

- Capt. Michael Brewer, 334th Fighter Squadron, Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, North Carolina, who will serve as Thunderbird No. 3, the team's right wing pilot. He will fly as close as 3 feet from the No. 1 jet during flight formations.

- Maj. Whit Collins, the current lead solo pilot, will transition to the slot pilot position as Thunderbird No. 4. Collins will also fly in close

formation with the other demonstration pilots, just aft of the No. 1 aircraft and between the two wingmen.

- Capt. Michelle Curran, 355th Fighter Squadron, Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Fort Worth, Texas, will serve as Thunderbird No. 6, the team's opposing solo pilot. The solo pilots perform maneuvers that showcase the maximum capabilities of the F-16 aircraft.

- Maj. Matt Kimmel, the current opposing solo pilot, will transition to the lead solo position in 2019.

- Maj. Jason Markzon, 35th Maintenance Operations Flight commander and F-16 Fighting Falcon pilot assigned to the 13th Fighter Squadron, Misawa Air Base, Japan, will

serve as Thunderbird No. 8, the team's advance pilot and narrator. His duties will include advancing to show sites ahead of the team, coordinating logistical details with the local show organizers and narrating to the crowd during performances.

"This year's exceptional officer applicant pool reflects the incredible degree of talent, motivation and diversity that exists throughout our Air Force. It was a tough selection process, but ultimately these officers rose to the top." Lt. Col. Kevin Walsh said in the social media post.

Walsh is the Thunderbirds leader/commander.

"The Thunderbirds are

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Knucklebuster Café serves Travis

Airman 1st Class Oscar Lazos, 60th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron crew chief, purchases a water bottle at Knucklebuster Café July 23 at Travis Air Force Base, Calif. The Knucklebuster Café is open 24 hours a day, supporting Airmen with hot and cold meals, drinks and snacks.

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



AF participates in English air show

Secretary of the Air Force
Public Affairs

WASHINGTON — While the Royal International Air Tattoo is famous for its impressive flying displays and significance of being the largest military air show in the world, the annual event also provides a hub for aerospace excellence, bringing military and civilian leaders in aviation together to discuss airpower and the future of innovation.

In addition, this year's Air Tattoo, held July 13-14, at RAF Fairford in Gloucestershire, England, served as the official international celebration of the RAF's 100th anniversary.

Seventy-nine military delegations, including 64 military

chiefs from around the world, were on hand to commemorate the RAF centennial, among them U.S. Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David L. Goldfein.

Reflecting on the relationship between the two nations and their militaries, Goldfein said, "The USAF and the RAF

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Kadena plays role in Thailand rescue

Staff Sgt. Jessica H. Smith
18TH WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

KADENA AIR BASE, Japan — Twelve boys ranging from age 11 to 16, along with their soccer coach, found themselves stranded June 23 in a cave in Thailand's Chiang Rai province.

After 17 days entrapment, an international rescue team successfully ended a nearly three-week operation.

At the request of the Royal Thai government, members of the 320th Special Tactics Squadron from the 353rd Special Operations Group, and members of the 31st Rescue Squadron from the 18th Wing at Kadena Air Base, Japan were ready to go.

Upon arrival, members were divided into teams to help the mission. Some assessed possible rescue operations at the mouth of the cave while others created helicopter landing zones by clearing areas of the surrounding jungle and planned for scuba tank cache locations.

With 24-hour operations and 16- to 18-hour shifts, the international rescue team worked

around the clock to overcome the many challenges they faced.

"It's important for people to understand that this kind of rescue had never been attempted by anyone in the world," said Tech. Sgt. Adam Lopez, 31st RQS pararescueman. "It was the most technically difficult mission any of us have ever been involved with."

Confined space diving is considered to be extremely hazardous for even the most highly trained and competent divers, making it a high-risk mission for the rescuers and those trapped in the cave, he explained.

Unsure of where the children were within the cave, and whether they were even alive, the team needed to operate with a problem-solving mindset and communicate with all others in the mission — regardless of the inevitable communication barriers — to determine what efforts could be provided and by who.

"It was important for all the different supporting players to come together because everyone brought a different expertise to the table — no single entity

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1A inspections keep KC-10s soaring



Senior Airman Andrew Dashler, 60th Maintenance Squadron KC-10 Extender inspection technician, checks the tension cable on the boom of a KC-10 Extender July 23 at Travis Air Force Base, Calif. The inspection crew was performing 1A inspections where they depanel, lubricate, check flight controls and follow through with in-depth inspections of all major areas, which include the aircraft tail, boom, wings and gear components.

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

AF formalizes deal to replace Air Force One

Secretary of the Air Force
Public Affairs

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Air Force awarded a contract to The Boeing Company to design, modify, test, certify and deliver two presidential, mission-ready aircraft by 2024.

This contract action formalizes President Donald Trump's agreement reached Feb. 20 with Dennis Muilenburg, Boeing chairman, president and CEO. This sets \$3.9 billion as the price for the two completed

Air Force One replacement aircraft, saving the taxpayers over \$1.4 billion.

This contract modification is firm fixed-price and contains over-and-above provisions to address both presidential quality items, or additional test effort induced by the government above the planned program baseline.

The Air Force looks forward to partnering with Boeing on the VC-25B program to deliver the next Air Force One fleet by 2024.

Team Dover works to combat pilot shortage

Airman 1st Class
Zoe M. Wockenfuss

436TH AIRLIFT WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

DOVER AIR FORCE BASE, Del. — Dover Airmen hosted students from the Aviation Character Education Flight Program for a tour July 19 at Dover Air Force Base, Delaware.

The ACE Flight Program is ran through an agreement between the Air Force and Delaware State University. During the three-week camp, students receive 15 hours of flight instruction and five to 10 hours of simulation instruction.

According to the Federal Aviation Administration, only 5.7 percent of Air Force pilots are women, 1.7 percent are African-American and 2 percent are Asian. The goal of the

program is to motivate minorities and women to pursue careers in aviation while receiving mentorship from a diverse Total Force cadre.

"We have a wide spread, from age to ethnicity to gender, and I think that's the strength of America, and that's definitely the strength of our Air Force," said Lt. Col. Kenyatta Ruffin, Division Chief of Outreach and Engagement for Air Force Aircrew Crisis Task Force.

Of the 24 students participating, there are 11 from high schoolers, eight Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps cadets and three second lieutenants.

During the tour of the base, the ACE Flight Program students saw the air traffic control

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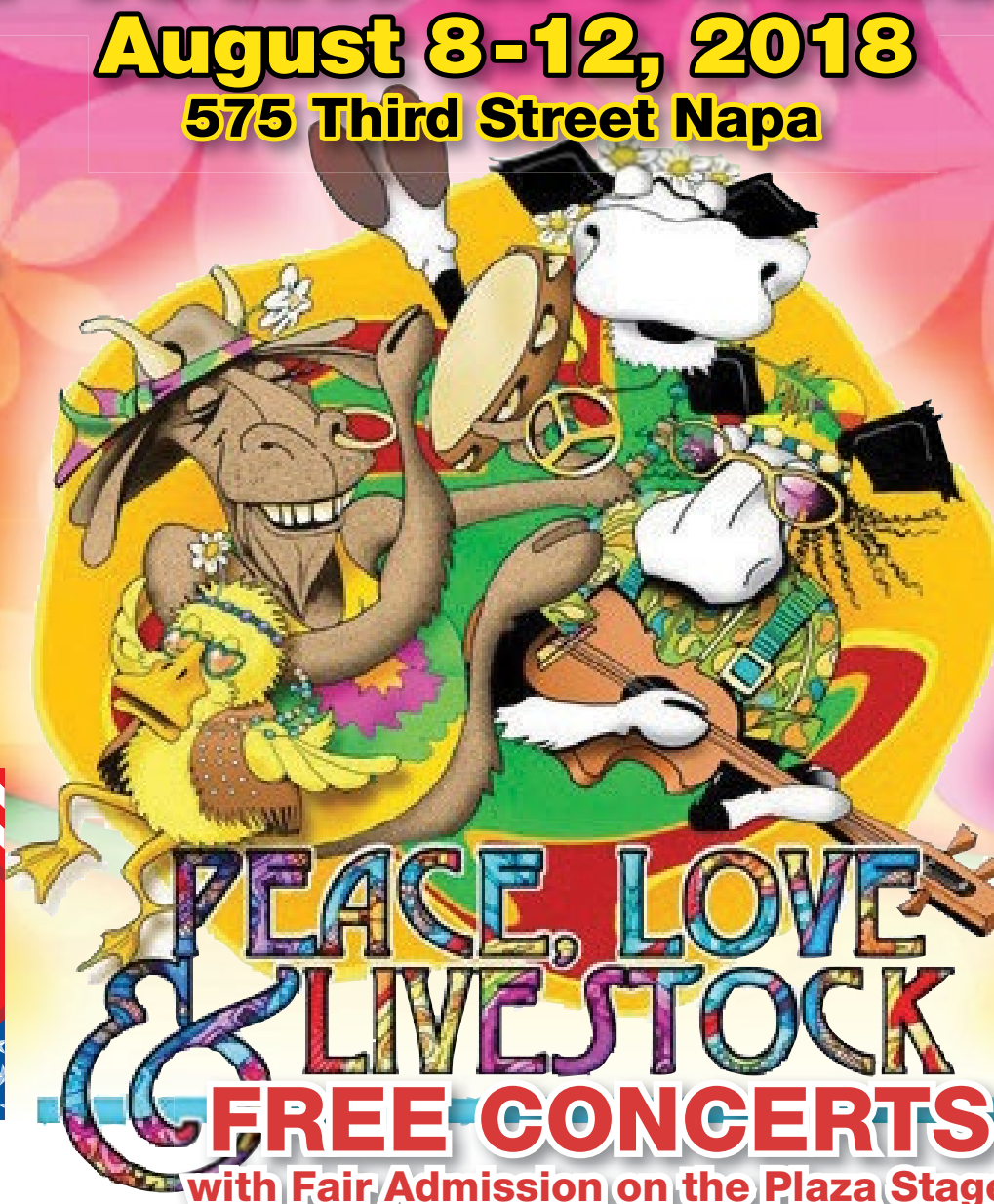
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Fairchild hosts school district superintendents

Airman 1st Class Jesenia Landaverde

92ND AIR REFUELING WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

FAIRCHILD AIR FORCE BASE, Wash. — Team Fairchild hosted Spokane-area school district superintendents to experience and learn about the 92nd Air Refueling Wing mission first hand July 18.

Airmen dedicate their lives to support their country and the communities within it. Educating surrounding community leaders on the Air Force mission helps build a support network for current service members and their families while providing insight into the military mission to recruit future Airmen.

“Many of us have children and students who are interested in joining the military and learning about everything it takes to serve,” said Kimberly Headrick, Medical Lake School District assistant superintendent. “The flight was an

amazing opportunity and helps us, as school leaders, to better understand the Air Force to prepare students interested in joining.”

The percentage of new military recruits has decreased; less than 0.4 percent serves today, according to a Defense Manpower Data Center report. This has brought about the rise of a “Warrior Caste.” While the United States possesses a more ready and professional military than ever before, the majority of current service members come from multigenerational military families, according to The Center for a New American Security.

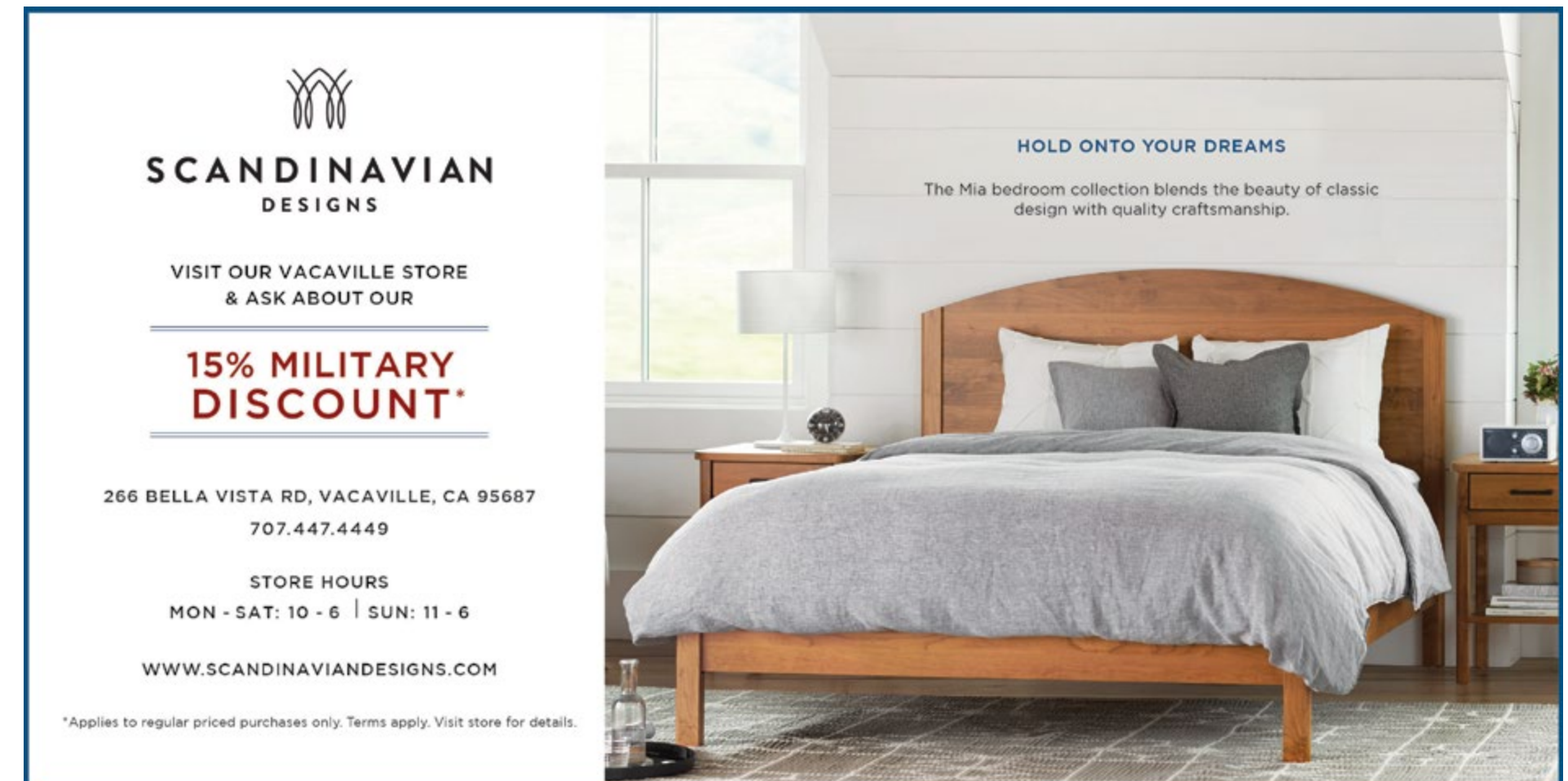
As the Air Force enhances their partnerships with schools, educators gain more insight into Air Force opportunities and can enhance student’s educational experiences. This partnership benefits recruiting while creating a more efficient

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U.S. Air Force photo/Airman Jesenia Landaverde

Four 93rd Air Refueling Squadron aircrew members and a group of Spokane-area school district superintendents pose for a photo after an orientation flight July 18 at Fairchild Air Force Base, Wash.



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EOD Airman aids Army forensics team

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

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait — Visiting the Central Command Forensic Exploitation Laboratory, located at Camp Arifjan, is an experience similar to watching a television show like ‘CSI’ or ‘NCIS,’ at least in appearance. From particle separators to a ballistics lab, the location seems to have everything a team would need to crack the case, solve the crime and ride off into the sunset.

However, according to Master Sgt. Michael Breive, Forensic Exploitation Laboratory – CENTCOM non-commissioned officer in charge, television shows are not even close to capturing the uniqueness of their mission, the team dynamic, or how much work there is to accomplish.

“This is nothing like the TV shows where one or two characters solves the case alone,” Breive said. “It is a team effort where every single person brings something unique and important to the table. There are multiple supporting roles that all have a hand in processing just one piece of evidence. And unlike television,



U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Christopher Stoltz

Master Sgt. Michael Breive, Forensic Exploitation Laboratory – CENTCOM non-commissioned officer in charge, prepares to photograph a piece of evidence June 27 at the FXL-C lab, located on Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. Breive is the sole Airman at the FXL-C office, serving in a joint expeditionary tasked and individual augmentee role.

we produce real-world results.”

Breive, who serves as an explosive ordnance disposal technician from the 99th Civil Engineer Squadron at Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada, said this deployment is a much

welcomed change of pace. Instead of suiting up and disarming improvised explosive devices, he is lending his near-decade of experience to FXL-C by overseeing the activities of the forensics laboratory.

“As an EOD Airman, we are usually the ones out there in the field,” he said. “We don’t usually get a chance to see the ‘behind-the-scenes’ action that happens after we collect a sample, or finish our job.”

According to Army Maj. Allen Spence, FXL-C officer in charge, Breive’s role isn’t just important – it is paramount for his office’s success. He said Breive is responsible for conducting forensic exploitation of all captured enemy material throughout the CENTCOM area of responsibility. Furthermore, he is directly responsible for the safety of the lab itself and all of the personnel, allowing his team to direct all focus on processing evidence for forensics and intel.

Spence said the results his team provides helps investigators across the Department of Defense identify the contents of an explosive by detecting trace elements of materials. This helps the investigative teams identify patterns and determine if the explosives are being made by the same person or persons. He also stressed the importance of a ‘good’ sample.

“Providing a quality sample to the lab for evidence purposes can literally make or break an investigation,” Spence said. “From visiting physical blast sites, to routing the proper paperwork and coordinating the actual movement of assets, it is the NCOIC’s job to ensure a

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AMC announces test program

Air Mobility Command
Public Affairs

SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, Ill. — The application window is open for active duty mobility pilots to pioneer a new Aviator Technical Track program, Air Mobility Command officials announced July 20.

AMC is seeking mobility pilot participants with the right blend of skills, knowledge and abilities to mentor the next generation of aviators. The command aims to retain rated expertise by reducing developmental requirements and non-flying related duties.

“We heard our pilots, we listened and we’re doing something about it,” said Gen.

Carlton D. Everhart II, AMC commander. “While long-term solutions to build experience are necessary, we cannot wait. This is an immediate effort to keep an initial cadre of our talented pilots flying while offering the stability they’ve been asking for. This is about Air Force leadership listening to the needs of our Airmen and making timely decisions to retain capability, revitalize squadrons and deliver the right warfighting effects.”

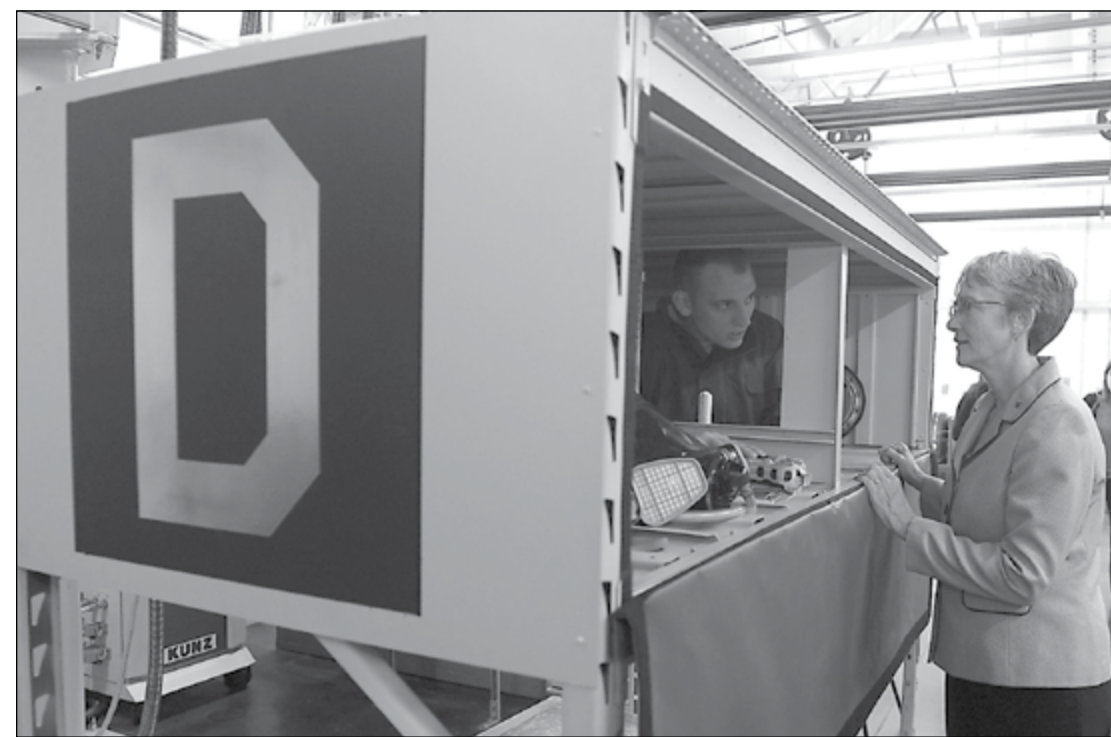
Applications from the mobility air forces will be accepted through Aug. 17. A panel of senior officers is scheduled to convene Aug. 29, to select the command’s first program participants. The selection board

will consider applicants using established criteria. Notification of selection is anticipated for mid-September.

“Our pilots have been clear that work-life balance and the quality of their service are concerns for them when they face the choice to separate or continue serving,” said Brig. Gen. Mike Koscheski, Air Force Aircrew Crisis Task Force director. “We already implemented several initiatives to enable pilots to focus on their primary duties, and AMC’s beta test is an effort to determine if we can retain more pilots by offering flexibility in how they serve.”

Selectees are required to maintain all Air Force

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U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Alexandria Lee

Secretary of the Air Force Heather Wilson speaks with Airmen from the 100th Maintenance Squadron July 12 about the new innovation used for maintaining the KC-135 Stratotankers assigned to RAF Mildenhall, England. Wilson visited RAF Mildenhall to engage with Airmen from the 100th Air Refueling Wing.

Wilson returns to Mildenhall

Airman 1st Class Alexandria Lee
100TH AIR REFUELING WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

RAF MILDENHALL, England — When then-2nd Lt. Heather Wilson joined the Air Force in 1985, her very first assignment was to the 3rd Air Force at RAF Mildenhall.

Now, Secretary of the Air Force Wilson returned to RAF Mildenhall July 12, to learn about the new innovations the Airmen have since created, and to speak about the National Defense Strategy.

“It’s been 30 years since I’ve been at RAF Mildenhall, and seeing how much it has changed, I can see that driving innovation is still one of our top priorities,” Wilson said.

RAF Mildenhall won the fourth annual “Innovation Madness” competition hosted across U.S. Air Forces in Europe and Air Forces Africa in 2018. Wilson had the opportunity to see how innovation is part of the base’s culture.

“The most important organization in the Air Force is the squadron. It’s not the wing or the chief of staff,” Wilson said. “If you have a great first sergeant and a great squadron

commander, it will create a great culture in the Air Force and encourage innovation. It will drive and push Airmen to be better. During my tour, I could tell this is the environment that Team Mildenhall has produced.”

Wilson also talked about the important role RAF Mildenhall Airmen occupy in the defensive structure within Europe.

“This wing here is our overseas base power projection platform for Europe and Africa, as well as the Middle East,” Wilson said. “It is strategically important and we don’t get anywhere without tankers. Where we’re really short in many of our operations is tankers, so this is a strategic asset that enables America to project power.”

Wilson went on to discuss how maintaining relationships with allies like the United Kingdom is an important part of the national defense strategy.

“Strengthening our alliances is a key goal,” Wilson said. “This is the first time that I remember our national defense strategy specifically saying one of our key elements is to strengthen our alliances with our partners. It is a strategic advantage

of the U.S.”

The reason, Wilson explained, is that we’re stronger together.

“Our adversaries intimidate their neighbors,” she said. “They don’t have countries that inspire the kind of freedom that America represents and that takes strength. We are stronger together. Joining with our allies creates more dilemmas for the adversary than if we try to operate alone.”

Looking back on her past as an Air Force officer and speaking to the future of RAF Mildenhall’s Airmen, Wilson recalled a story when she was asked by an Airman, “Secretary Wilson, what do you expect from us?”

“I expect our Airmen to live in accordance with the core values and to lead in accordance with our core values: integrity first, service before self and excellence in all we do. Now, excellence doesn’t mean perfection, and integrity first doesn’t mean sainthood, but those values are the foundation of who we are as Airmen. If we are mission focused, value-driven and people-oriented, we will continue to be the most formidable fighting force on the planet.”

Secretary pays visit to Mobility Airmen

Master Sgt. Kristine Dreyer
AIR MOBILITY COMMAND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, Ill. — The 24th Secretary of the Air Force Heather Wilson visited July 19-20 with Mobility Airman at Scott Air Force Base, Illinois.

During her visit, Wilson engaged with local leaders, received an Air Mobility Command tour highlighting the command’s successes and capabilities, and held a town hall meeting where she spoke about her priorities and engaged in a question and answer session with attendees.

“I am third generation Air Force,” Wilson said during the town hall. “My grandfather was one of the founding fathers in the Royal Air Force. He joined the RAF a month after its establishment in 1918. He then came to America and flew for the United States in the Second World War.”

Wilson continued the family tradition by serving in the Air Force from 1982 to 1989. Because of her service, Wilson understands how the U.S.

Air Force will continue to win in an evolving environment.

“I expect you to live in accordance with our values,” said Wilson. “If we are an organization that is values-driven, mission-focused and people-oriented, we will continue to be the most dominant Air Force in the world.”

Wilson also stressed how important it is for new ideas to be heard and good ideas to be implemented as quickly as possible.

“We have to innovate faster than our adversaries,” said Wilson. “That means we are going have to free up some of the constraints on how we change the Air Force overtime. ... We should be able to do things faster so we can get capabilities to the warfighter faster.”

More rapid innovation also applies to aircraft modernization. With the anticipation of the initial KC-46 delivery to AMC in October, Wilson shared the Air Force’s expectation for the new tanker aircraft.

See SECRETARY Page 25

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F-22 pilots fire live missiles at exercise

2nd Lt. Savannah Bray

633RD AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

JOINT BASE LANGLEY-EUSTIS, Va. — More than 200 pilots, maintainers and operations support staff from the 1st Fighter Wing are gaining firsthand experience in loading and firing live missiles July 6-20 at Tyndall Air Force Base, Florida.

During these two weeks, the 1st FW from Joint Base Langley Eustis, participated in Combat Archer as part of the Weapons System Evaluation Program, in conjunction with Checkered Flag 18-2. The goal of these combined exercises is to train and evaluate the F-22 Raptor and other weapons systems under simulated combat environments, to include firing live missiles against remotely piloted targets. While many units and military aircraft come together for major exercises a few times a year, Combat Archer is unique because it's one of the few opportunities pilots have to fire live missiles in training.

"Outside of combat

missions and operational or developmental test flights, the 1st FW doesn't train with live missiles," said Capt. Robert Pupilis, 1st FW project officer for Combat Archer/Checkered Flag 18-2. "It's an opportunity that is not taken for granted, and for some pilots, this exercise is the first time they have ever fired a live missile."

Pupilis said, the experience of firing a live missile is difficult to explain.

"You prepare yourself, study your shot profile and every possible thing that could go wrong," Pupilis said. "When flying (in position to take the shot), you are soda straw-focused, and you tend to experience temporal distortion. When you hit the button (that fires the missile), it takes only a few moments for the missile to leave the jet and launch in a smoke trail across your nose. For my first shot, those few seconds seemed like 100, but once you catch up to reality, the feeling of awe is hard to forget."

According to a welcome letter from the host unit,

See **MISSILES Page 24**



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Whitney Laine

Senior Airman Stetson Vigil, 93rd Air Refueling Squadron boom operator, dons a new Joint Service Aircrew Mask July 17 at Fairchild Air Force Base, Wash., during the first KC-135 Stratotanker in-field use and test. The JSAM is a new chemical and biological defense mask/hood combination designed to replace former six-decades-old aircrew masks in the Department of Defense inventory.

Airmen test new mask

Airman 1st Class Whitney Laine

92ND AIR REFUELING WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

FAIRCHILD AIR FORCE BASE, Wash. — In the midst of calm or chaos, there lies a potential for aircrews to fight the faceless combatants of chemical and biological agents. U.S. military personnel actively operate within areas that maintain the capability to employ these agents, making individual protective equipment imperative to mission readiness.

Fairchild aircrew members performed the first-ever test of the Joint Service Aircrew Mask on a KC-135 Stratotanker during a night-flight July 17.

The JSAM is a new chemical and biological defense mask/hood combination designed to replace the former six-decades-old aircrew masks in the Department of Defense inventory. The mask provides an advanced and efficient safety measure tailored to be interchangeable between all services.

"The new gear provides a

greater capability for aircrew to operate in contested environments," said Lt. Col. Sean Howlett, 93rd Air Refueling Squadron KC-135 evaluator pilot. "The current Aircrew Eye and Respiratory Protection System has a multitude of limitations due to the mass and limited function of its design. The cumbersome tasks of donning the gear, transporting to the jet, conducting pre-flight inspections, air refueling and landing has been averted through the new design and functional values of the JSAM."

While protection takes precedence, Airmen from the 92nd, 93rd and 384th ARS evaluated additional crucial areas of improvement including comfort, weight, durability, heat stress, function and donning and doffing ease for every flight task.

The gear enhances the ability to operate because of the reduced footprint of the gear while still allowing maximum protection for each crewmember. It also gives users a secure

fit, broader field of view and minimal hose attachments, Howlett said.

Equipment undergoing in-field testing represents an initial capability based upon the best available technology, but is not yet the perfect solution. Constantly evolving threat environments demand continual improvements.

"Although the JSAM is still in development, it is already more efficient and easier to use in comparison to AERPS," said Senior Airman Stetson Vigil, 93rd ARS boom operator. "We will be better prepared for combat if anything does happen because we will be able to be anywhere at any time."

The development of the JSAM contributes to the continuous investments in Mobility Air Force capabilities and readiness, which is essential to ensuring the Air Force maintains range, speed and agility advantages over potential adversaries, and in support of global mobility operations.

US, Italian air forces, NATO work together



U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Rachel Waller

Maj. Gen. Jon Thomas, left, Headquarters U.S. Air Forces in Europe and Air Forces Africa Operations, Strategic Deterrence and Nuclear Integration director, and Italian Capt. Tormase Nugnes and Gabriele Nobili, both pilots, monitor and record coordinates during exercise Spartan Alliance 18-8, July 19 at Einsiedlerhof, Germany.

Airmen, medical researchers team up for in-flight training

Airman 1st Class

Joshua R. Maund

JOINT BASE CHARLESTON PUBLIC AFFAIRS

JOINT BASE CHARLESTON, S.C. — Airmen from the 628th and 375th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadrons from Joint Base Charleston and Scott Air Force Base, Illinois, along with medical researchers from universities in Indiana and Nebraska, conducted Transportation Isolation System training July 18, on a flight from JB Charleston to Offutt AFB, Nebraska.

The goal of the collaborative training was to implement and evaluate procedures for transporting highly infectious patients from one location to another via aeromedical evacuation.

Engineered and implemented after the Ebola virus outbreak in 2014, the TIS is an enclosure the Department of Defense can use to safely transport patients with highly contagious diseases.

"For the last three months we have been working with multiple bases to improve the process of transporting highly infectious patients," said John Lowe, University of Nebraska Medical Research Center researcher. "The University of Nebraska is really committed to the global health community. This collaboration with the Air Force allows the medical community to observe and improve its capabilities."

For the first time, the training utilized two TIS pods on one C-17 Globemaster III. One system was used to quarantine a simulated highly infectious patient, while the other was used for monitoring and observation of two additional simulated patients who had been exposed to the infectious patient.

"The University of Nebraska is considered to be the leading experts of biological contamination in the United States," said Maj. Heather Cohen, Air Mobility Command deputy

See **TRAINING Page 25**

Tech. Sgt. Rachel Waller

U.S. AIR FORCES IN EUROPE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

EINSIEDLERHOF, Germany — More than 80 service members, civilians and contractors from U.S. Air Forces in Europe, the Italian air force and NATO participated in exercise Spartan Alliance 18-8, July 17-20 from three locations in Germany and Italy.

Spartan Alliance 18-8 is a large command and control weapon system, air and ground simulator training exercise with virtual and constructive aircraft.

"(The crews) complete the mission together, but networked from their own bases," said Lt. Col. Steven Storch, Warrior Preparation Center special projects officer. "This is important because it offers a much lower cost method of training together, ensuring we can communicate effectively, and successfully, to complete the mission together. In an alliance that speaks many different languages,

this is important."

Since its inception in 2015, Spartan Alliance has continued to grow. This iteration is the first time the IAF has participated in this type of exercise outside of their country.

Italy started working in the field of simulations and simulators last year, said Lt. Gen. Settimo Caputo, IAF deputy chief of staff. He stated using the simulators is beneficial to the IAF because they are able to create complex scenarios that aircrews wouldn't have been able to practice in the past.

"This is a very great opportunity to start seeing what we can do in this field," said Caputo. "We are participating with many simulators because we believe in this area and we are planning for the future and next year, we can provide more effort to this field, so thank you for this great opportunity for the Italian air force."

Spartan Alliance will continue with two more iterations this year.

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Deaf intern thrives in civilian service

Estella Holmes

AIR FORCE MATERIEL COMMAND
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio — Tina Banerjee is an Air Force Materiel Command intern with a unique challenge: she was born unable to hear.

Banerjee works as a summer intern through the Air Force Premier College Intern Program as a management analyst in manpower and organization, 88th Force Support Squadron Manpower and Organization Office, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio. She is a senior at the Rochester Institute of Technology in Rochester, New York, studying criminal justice and will be graduating in May 2019.

“Most people don’t know sign language or anything about deaf culture, but when I came in to the organization, the staff was so welcoming and warm and open. They wanted to learn different ways to communicate with me,” she said.

Banerjee is one of more than 300 Air Force interns who have been placed in AFMC wings and centers through the Secretary of the Air Force PCIP initiative, which focuses on the recruitment and retention of high-caliber candidates to fill professional and wage grade positions across the Air Force. Designed as a summer internship experience, the program participants work side-by-side with Air Force employee

mentors and gain exposure to cutting-edge technology and projects. Upon successful completion of program requirements, participants may have the chance to obtain future employment with the Air Force after graduation.

This is the fourth internship for Banerjee, who has volunteered or been employed as an intern in both government and civilian organizations. She has interned at the Department of the Treasury in Cincinnati, the Department of Homeland Security in the District of Columbia, Helping Educate to Advance the Rights of Deaf Communities (HEARD), and the Rochester Institute of Technology National Technical Institute for the Deaf Office of Public Safety.

“I have always wanted to work for the government, to serve people and protect our homeland. The Air Force feels the most compelling to me because of its values and mission,” said Banerjee.

On daily projects, she works most closely with team member, Darian Jeri-Greene, who in order to enable better communication with Banerjee learned a few words of sign language.

Greene views working with a deaf teammate as a unique opportunity to develop his process more by being able to speak to someone who is hard of hearing.

“As a member of the team, she just welcomed herself in and began. There were

See **INTERN Page 22**



U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Louis Vega Jr.

Maj. Kiyun Jung, Republic of Korea Air Force F-35A pilot, prepares for his first solo mission July 20 at Luke Air Force Base, Ariz. Jung prepared for this flight through months of intensive academic, simulator and hands-on training with the 944th Operations Group Detachment 2 and the 56th Fighter Wing.

South Korean pilot takes F-35 flight

Senior Airman Alexandria Slade

944TH FIGHTER WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

LUKE AIR FORCE BASE, Ariz. — The first South Korean Air Force F-35A pilot soared into history when he took to the skies July 20 at Luke Air Force Base, Arizona.

After a year of preparation and instruction through the 944th Operations Group Detachment 2, Lockheed Martin and their active duty team members at the 56th Fighter Wing, Maj. Kiyun Jung, F-35A pilot, flew his first solo mission.

“I felt so excited for this flight, and because of my instruction, this aircraft felt familiar and I was able to have a smooth experience,” said Jung. “This is my job and it felt great to finally take off and work on becoming the best F-35 pilot I can be. My goals moving forward as an F-35 pilot is to lead and teach my fellow pilots in Korea to become the best in the world.”

Jung prepared for this flight through months of intensive academic, simulator and hands-on training with the 56th FW 944th and the OG Det. 2.

“This flight is a huge



U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Louis Vega Jr.

A Republic of Korea Air Force F-35A taxis onto the runway July 20, at Luke Air Force Base, Ariz. The event marked a milestone as Maj. Kiyun Jung, ROKAF pilot, flew his first solo mission.

milestone for (South Korea), and for us to be a part of that is an amazing honor because we realize the magnitude of this event for both countries,” said Lt. Col. Eric Puels, 944th OG Det. 2 commander. “For us to be able to forge these relationships and get to know these pilots during their journey toward fifth-generation airpower is incredible.”

During the historical event, South Korean, 944th and 56th

FWs and Lockheed Martin staff all worked together to ensure a safe and efficient flight for Jung.

“It’s very rewarding to work with and witness these pilots grow through the course,” said Maj. Michael Hobbson, 944th OG Det. 2 chief of training and South Korean flying course manager. “Over the past year, I’ve been involved with not only

See **PILOT Page 24**

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Serving with gratitude: Ugandan refugee finds home in US Air Force

1) Mustak Keval, 60th Force Support Squadron Airman and Family Readiness Center flight chief, poses for a Basic Military Training photo at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, September 1980. Keval, a Ugandan refugee, spent more than 20 years in the U.S. Air Force and continues to serve Airmen and their families at the A&FRC. 2) Keval, left, poses for a photo with his brother, retired Lt. Col. Azad Keval, in June 1996. 3) Jason Gunnarson and Keval, A&FRC, hand out prizes at the base theater during the Military Saves briefing Feb. 23, 2007.



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U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Donald Osborn

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

"We really are a nation of immigrants," said Mustak Keval, 60th Force Support Squadron Airman and Family Readiness Center flight chief. "I am driven by my need to give back because of what my family and I owe this great nation for taking us in."

Keval joined the Air Force in 1980 to serve the country that provided a safe place for his family to grow and thrive after becoming a Ugandan refugee when he was 13 years old.

In 1972, a military coup d'état was staged by Idi Amin Dada, a violent dictator who forced non-Africans to leave the country on a short deadline. Amin launched a ruthless eight-year regime in which an estimated 300,000 civilians were massacred.

"When the military coup happened, he initially started by expelling all of the Europeans, mostly British," said Keval. "Then he proceeded to expel anyone who was not African and gave us 90 days to get out."

Keval's grandfather emigrated from India to Africa in the early 1900s. Keval's mother was born in Ethiopia, and his father was born in Kenya. Their family packed up shortly after his birth in Ethiopia and moved to Uganda, where they settled down.

"We were Ugandan citizens," he said. "We all went to school there, my father owned various businesses and we were established Ugandan citizens. So, when we were kicked out of the country, we were considered stateless."

Keval's large family with 11 kids had to quickly find a country that would accept political refugees and had space for all of them.

"We ended up in a camp in Naples, Italy," he said. "I remember it being crowded and I remember a temperature change, since we had moved from a tropical environment to the cold of Italy. I remember feeling uncertain about where we would end up and, at the same time, relieved that we had escaped the

impending violence in Uganda." The refugee camp became a temporary home for Keval's family.

"We established a community (during our 40 days at the camp), but we were all awaiting our fate to see where we would end up," said Keval.

While at the refugee camp, his family was sponsored by the Lutheran World Federation and originally thought they might end up in Pakistan, but a little town in middle-America, United States, banded together to help.

"The churches in the small town of Cedarburg, Wisconsin, got together and decided to sponsor us by dividing us among three different churches; Catholic, Lutheran and Methodist," he said. "It was really amazing what that community did for us. We were all in the same city and they would make an effort to ensure we could see each other at least once or twice a month. We assimilated very quickly."

The churches helped his mother by providing a tutor for her to learn English and she began work at a McDonald's, while his dad worked at a factory. After attending school, Keval wanted to return the favor and decided that serving in the U.S. Air Force would be the best way to give back to the community.

"This community wrapped their arms around us," he said. "My brother, Azad, and I both joined and served until retirement. He retired as a lieutenant colonel."

During Keval's 22 years in the Air Force, he was a military police officer, retrained into social actions and dealt with alcohol abuse awareness, served as a postal worker overseas and retired in 2001 as the NCO in charge of the Airman and Family Readiness Center at Travis Air Force Base, California.

"I had no obstacles while serving," he said. "In our Air Force, if you work hard, you can achieve anything."

He then began life outside of the military, but found himself returning to the base often.

"It was so different being

out," he said. "I missed the camaraderie and the military environment. I missed serving the country and it felt like a magnet was pulling me back."

Remembering how much he loved working at the A&FRC, he applied for a job in 2004 and has been working with the A&FRC ever since, where he provides relocation and transition assistance, financial assistance, resilience training as well as multiple other programs for Airmen and their families.

"He is the epitome of the Air Force Core Values," said Brian Floyd, 60th FSS deputy director. "His integrity is beyond reproach and his abilities as a supervisor, employee and leader are some of the best I have seen in anyone I have worked with over my 38-year career. He will work nights, weekends and extended hours without ever complaining and, instead, takes pride in getting the job done the right way no matter what it takes."

"Mustak has a great way of working with each of his employees," Floyd continued. "He is very keen of their strengths and weaknesses and he knows how to get the most out of them as well as instill pride in them for the important work they do."

The Travis FSS deputy expressed his appreciation of Keval's skills and his ability to help the team achieve their goals.

"The Travis A&FRC has been awarded the (Air Mobility Command) and Air Force A&FRC of the Year award several times during Mustak's tenure, and I am convinced that it was Mustak's leadership that was the key factor in our selection as the best."

Keval wants to continue serving the country he loves.

"Every year that I have served, I am grateful," he said. "If there is any country in the world where a person has a chance, it's this one. There is so much good here. My future plan is to keep working with military families, which is what drives me. I love helping our Airmen and serving them is truly what I love doing."



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U.S. Air Force photo/
Louis Briscese

4) Mustak Keval, 60th Force Support Squadron Airman and Family Readiness Center flight chief, assists Master Sgt. Erine Gallant, 60th FSS A&FRC NCO in charge, July 23 at Travis Air Force Base, Calif. 5) Keval provides remarks Oct. 16, 2017, during a town hall meeting for family and service members of the 621st Contingency Response Wing at Travis Air Force Base, Calif.

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



U.S. Air Force photos/Senior Airman Christine Groening

Airman 1st Class Dennis Fite, left, and Airman 1st Class Brinkley Owens, 100th Logistics Readiness Squadron ground transportation operators, tie down vehicles July 20 at Royal Air Force Mildenhall, England.

Mildenhall critical to mission

**Senior Airman
Christine Groening**

100TH AIR REFUELING WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

ROYAL AIR FORCE MILDENHALL, England — Whether it is driving a distinguished visitor around base or delivering equipment too heavy to fit in a sedan, Airmen from the 100th Logistics Readiness Squadron ensure the base is fully functional.

The ground transportation element's mission is to provide quick, safe and cost-efficient transportation.

"Our main customers are our flying units, whether they're TDY or local aircrews, in and outbound. But we essentially assist every organization on base," said Tech. Sgt. Ryin Rader, 100th LRS Ground Operations chief dispatcher.

The element also transports mail to and from RAF Alconbury daily.

The section works closely with Traffic Management Office, inbound and outbound cargo and the cargo deployment function.

"They'll get cargo in that we'll then distribute out to the customers" Rader said. "Anything from a CV-22 blade to a



Airman 1st Class Dennis Fite, left, and Airman 1st Class Brinkley Owens, 100th Logistics Readiness Squadron ground transportation operators, secure vehicle to a trailer July 20 at Royal Air Force Mildenhall, England.

Humvee. Anything a customer orders, that's oversized, we can transport to them."

Drivers operate pickup trucks, buses, tractor trailers and forklifts to accomplish the mission.

"My favorite part of the job has to be tractor trailer runs," said Airman 1st Class Dennis Fite, 100th LRS ground transportation operator. "It's like putting a puzzle together with the pieces you're given -

making sure everything on the trailer is equally balanced, weighed and strapped down ready to go. That's what I find most fulfilling about the job."

One of the most memorable missions, according to Rader, was when a major snow storm hit the base in February 2018, and the vehicle operations Airmen had to drive several hundred miles north for de-icing solution. By doing this they were able get the airfield clear of ice and snow.

New office seeks to drive down maintenance costs

**Secretary of the Air Force
Public Affairs**

WASHINGTON — Secretary of the Air Force Heather Wilson announced the establishment of the Air Force Rapid Sustainment Office July 25.

The two-year test program will address sustainment of aging fleets in a way that is both efficient and responsible to the U.S. taxpayer. It will focus on rapid sustainment that will drive down costs and deliver faster solutions to the field.

If the office demonstrates positive return on investment over time, the service will consider a transition to a permanent office.

"We will no longer pay premiums for things we can

manufacture on our own," said Wilson. "We will leverage agile manufacturing and reform legacy sustainment processes to drive down costs and meet warfighter needs rapidly."

Focus areas for the RSO include predictive maintenance and agile manufacturing techniques, such as additive manufacturing and cold spray repair technologies. Focus areas also include robotics and automation, corrosion detection and repair, nondestructive inspection, and advanced composite repair technologies.

Wilson added the Air Force will implement and immediately scale any opportunities to address sustainment challenges at lower costs discovered by the Rapid Sustainment Office.

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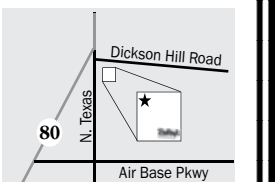
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USNS Mercy returns following Pacific Partnership

Navy Hospital Corpsman Tianna Garcia, assigned to Naval Medical Center San Diego, is greeted by her husband Aaron Garcia during the homecoming ceremony for the hospital ship USNS Mercy.

U.S. Navy photo/Petty Officer 2nd Class Indra Beaufort



Sarah Burford
MILITARY SEALIFT COMMAND PACIFIC
SAN DIEGO — The Military Sealift Command hospital ship USNS Mercy returned July 21 to San Diego, California, following its support of Pacific Partnership 2018. The ship's crew is composed of MSC civil service mariners who operated the

ship, and Navy medical and support personnel who staffed and oversaw the ship's hospital and treated patients. This year's iteration of the annual humanitarian mission included stops throughout Southeast Asia, including Indonesia, Malaysia, Sri Lanka and Vietnam. Pacific Partnership is the largest multinational humanitarian assistance and disaster relief preparedness mission in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region. The Navy and civilian sailors were joined by personnel from nongovernmental organizations and regional partners at the various mission stops. Mercy provided medical, dental, veterinary, public health services, engineering and disaster response to host
See MERCY Page 24

Soldiers test Army's telemedicine technology

Ellen Crown
U.S. ARMY MEDICAL MATERIEL AGENCY
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

FORT BRAGG, N.C. — Army Medicine is developing a technology to improve patient triage and communication during medical evacuations – and looking for units willing to test the system. The 44th Medical Brigade

and Womack Army Medical Center at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, have already signed up to user test Medical Hands-free Unified Broadcast, or MEDHUB. MEDHUB leverages wearable sensors, accelerometers and other technology cleared by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to improve the communication flow between patients, medics and

receiving field hospitals. "Civilian emergency departments and [emergency medical] crews are using similar technology via phone apps to alert of incoming patients," said Army Maj. Rosie Bennett, chief nurse at the Department of Emergency Medicine at WAMC. "We have such tight security with our networks that makes such apps not reasonable to use."

MEDHUB's suite of technology autonomously collects, stores and transmits non-personally identifiable patient information from a device, such as a hand-held tablet, to the receiving field hospital via existing long-range Department of Defense communication systems. At the receiving hospital, the information sent from MEDHUB is displayed on a large screen

so clinicians can see what is inbound, including the number of patients and their vital statistics. "MEDHUB is really about life-saving situational awareness," said Transport Telemedicine Product Manager Jay Wang. "The system is designed to give receiving medical teams more information so they can
See TELEMEDICINE Page 22

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Telemedicine

From Page 21

better prepare for incoming patients by gathering the necessary staff and supplies.”

MEDHUB is being developed through a project with the U.S. Army Medical Materiel Agency and the U.S. Army Medical Materiel Development Activity, both subordinate organizations of the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command. According to Wang, the MEDHUB project began as a way to address issues reported from military medics who needed a better way to communicate. In an operational environment, medics are often caring for multiple patients and

“I just think about every time I was in the back of a helicopter and I could not call and didn’t have time to call the hospital.”

— Jeff Jones

have limited bandwidth to radio ahead to hospitals and provide them with information about patients en route.

“Imagine you are a medic on the battlefield and you just pick up six of your wounded battle buddies for a casualty evacuation. You are busy trying to save their lives and get them to the next level of care, which is a nearby field hospital that has no idea how many patients you are bringing or their conditions,” said Wang. “The goal is to keep

the medic focused for performing life-saving tasks for multiple patients and remain unencumbered from documentation and reporting.”

Retired Army flight paramedic Jeff Jones said he doesn’t have to imagine that kind of scenario; he has lived it.

“I just think about every time I was in the back of a helicopter and I could not call and didn’t have time to call the hospital,” said Jones. “I was just too busy taking care of humans.”

Jones retired from active duty in 2017 and now teaches at the School of Army Aviation Medicine in Huntsville, Alabama. To keep his medic skills sharp, he also volunteers in his community as an emergency medical care provider.

“I could see MEDHUB having civilian application,” Jones said. “Even though flight paramedics and civilian EMS don’t necessarily face the same issues, they both struggle with getting communication to the receiving facility and patient care documentation. MEDHUB could help solve some of those problems.”

Wang and his team have been traveling the globe to demonstrate MEDHUB to military leadership, potential end-users

and private industry. Most recently the team demonstrated MEDHUB at the Biotechnology Industry Organization Conference June 5-7, in Boston, Massachusetts. BIO is the largest biotech conference in the U.S., attracting approximately 17,000 participants this year.

“When we first started telling people about the MEDHUB system a year or so ago, some people didn’t think it was real or even possible in an operational environment,” said Wang. “When we go out now and show people that MEDHUB works, we generate greater synergy around advancing transport telemedicine and the importance of efficient, effective communication during medical evacuation.”



U.S. Air Force photo

Tina Banerjee, 88th Force Support Squadron summer intern at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, communicates with a combination of speech and signing during a meeting with co-workers.

Intern

From Page 14

no hurdles, whatsoever. She brings a unique perspective to the job and the Air Force mission,” said Greene.

Banerjee labels herself as a deaf/hard-of-hearing person who speaks and uses American Sign Language. Growing up in the public school system in Neptune, New Jersey, she flourished in a deaf education program. Through the mainstreaming process, she had the opportunity to attend regular classes and interact with her hearing peers. Services such as speech therapy were provided to help her be successful.

“I was born unable to hear. My father is hearing, but my

mother and four siblings have hearing loss. It is a genetic condition,” she said.

As a deaf person, Banerjee has moved through life seeking what some might view as unattainable for her.

“If you are someone like me who struggled, or still struggles with their identity, regardless of your disabilities, color of your skin, gender, background-breaking barriers starts with you. Step out of your comfort zone, and open that door. Be flexible, and go for it!” said Banerjee.

Banerjee plans to return to Wright-Patterson in 2019 as a Palace Acquire intern.

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Mercy

From Page 20

countries who invited the ship to visit and provided services to the local populations.

Mercy was joined on the Pacific Partnership mission by the MSC expeditionary fast transport ship USNS Fall River. The Fall River made separate mission stops in Yap, Palau, Malaysian Borneo and Thailand, supporting public diplomacy, community outreach, and theater security cooperation initiatives.

All-around success

"This has been one of those deployments I will never forget," said Julie Flaherty, Mercy's civil service navigator. "Pacific Partnership touches so many lives, not just the people who receive our services.

"It has been an amazing five months," she added, "and while I am sorry to see all our good work come to an

end, I am really happy to be back in San Diego and home. I'm ready to be still and stay put for a while."

Mercy wrapped up its Pacific Partnership mission with a stop in Tokyo in June. Before returning to San Diego, the ship stopped in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, where it participated in a humanitarian response and disaster recovery exercise as part of the multinational maritime exercise Rim of the Pacific 2018.

"This year's mission was a success all around," said Capt. Brian Mershon, Mercy's civil service master. "I couldn't be happier with my crew and all their hard work. They are a true group of professionals and it was a pleasure to sail with them on this historic mission."

Now in its 13th year, Pacific Partnership 2018 included more than 800 military and civilian personnel from the U.S., Australia, Canada, France, Japan, Singapore, South Korea and the United Kingdom.

Missiles

From Page 12

the 53rd Weapons Evaluation Group, Combat Archer is not just a training event; it is a formal evaluation of the total weapon system, man, machine, and missile and a squadron's ability to conduct air-to-air missions. It is a rare opportunity for squadrons to load live weapons and shoot them at threat-realistic targets. The goal is to maximize live-fire experience throughout the combat Air Force, so priority is given to first-time shooters.

This training and live-fire experience is critical to Raptor pilots, as air superiority is the primary mission for the F-22. In addition to the experience pilots and maintainers gain from loading and launching live missiles during Combat Archer, Checkered Flag provides the opportunity to work alongside multiple weapons systems and services.

"In one fight, more than 50 aircraft may participate from multiple services, including fourth- and fifth-generation fighter jets, bomber platforms,



U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Sergio A. Gamboa

An F-22 Raptor from Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Va., travels down the flightline July 11 at Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla.

refueling aircraft, and command and control aircraft," Pupilis said. "At Langley, typical training consists of only F-22s and T-38 Talons. Being able to integrate with the other fighters on the same side of the fight, and fight against different platforms on the enemy side provides great training for all involved."

In total, the JB Langley-Eustis's F-22s and T-38s were scheduled to fly 300 sorties.

Pilot

From Page 14

creating and executing their course material, but working with their leaders in Korea and helping them to have the best possible experience in our country as they worked toward this point where we were able to take that first flight."

Jung is the first student in the Korean chapter of flight training for the five-year FMS program. Two more classes of ROK students are scheduled to be trained as F-35A pilots.

"Each of us in the wings played an important part in making this momentous event happen; civilian and Airmen alike," said Lt. Col. Jason Bartels, 56th Operations Group Foreign Military Sales director. "Many others in Pacific Air Forces, Korea, and the F-35 Joint Program Office also contributed to arrive at today. Together we are building the future of airpower not only for the United States, but with our great allies around the world."



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Training

From Page 13

chief of medical modernization. "An exercise like this provides extremely important readiness training to our aeromedical Airmen. The Airmen were able to familiarize themselves with the various procedures and personal protective equipment required for this type of mission."

Once the team landed at Offut AFB, the patients were transferred into the care of Omaha safety officials. In a real-world scenario, patients would be transferred to one of 10 facilities in the U.S. equipped to house highly infectious patients, such as the University of

Nebraska Medical Center.

"The most important thing, when it comes to the TIS, is making sure the patients and crew members are transported as safely as possible," said Master Sgt. Latresia Pugh, AMC aeromedical evacuation technician. "We've made tremendous strides in improving the plans and procedures through our collaboration with various agencies."

Continuous innovation with the TIS and training involved with its use helps provide the most effective and safest form of transportation for patients and their medical professionals.

"We don't know what the bug of the future might be," said Cohen. "This is the next step in preparing for as many scenarios as possible."

Test program

From Page 10

standards, including health and fitness and readiness requirements. Participants will also compete for promotion while participating in the program.

"Longer assignments coupled with continuous placement in active flying positions offers a more predictable lifestyle and an opportunity to primarily focus on flying skills for those wishing to participate," said Maj. Gen. Sam C. Barrett, AMC director of Operations, Strategic Deterrence and Nuclear Integration."

Forensics

From Page 10

quality sample is ready for the team to review."

"You can't fake a DNA profile or fingerprint," Breive said. "Our analysis provides mission partners the ammo they need to conduct their investigations and complete the mission. Working here has been eye-opening, as this team places the scientific method over opinions and speculation - allowing the truth to be discovered."

In addition to his work functions, Breive said he also serves somewhat as the shop's de-facto first sergeant, assuming numerous additional duties to help other members of

Participant feedback will be used to inform a full-scale implementation of the technical track concept across the Air Force.

"This initial cadre of pioneers will influence the future designs of an aviation-focused career and will have the opportunity to shape the program for potential broader implementation in the future," Everhart said. "We must fully leverage the expertise and talents of our aviators to ensure a lethal mobility force."

Detailed application procedures and eligibility requirements will be available at myPers.af.mil.

his team. In these duties, he ensures lodging and meal cards for personnel as well as providing solutions for logistics and personnel issues.

Breive said the workload and immersion in the U.S. Army culture is nothing new to him. With dozens of joint-missions and several deployments under his belt, Breive said working for FXL-C is one of the most rewarding and eye-opening experiences in his entire Air Force career.

"Working with this team has helped me grow as an NCO," he said. "Having the chance to work in this office, I now see all of the effort that goes into an investigation - and I feel I have a lot more to offer my Airmen once I return home."

Secretary

From Page 11

"We are keeping the pressure on Boeing to deliver the KC-46) aircraft, which will improve and expand our capability. They are in the final stages of testing and they have an aggressive but achievable schedule to deliver it in October."

Although this was her first visit to Headquarters AMC as secretary, Wilson is no stranger to the command's mission.

"Thank you all for what you do," said Wilson, "for serving in the Air Force and for being part of this command. It has been a wonderful year for your community. Serving as your secretary of the Air Force, I am extremely proud to be associated with all of you as Airmen."



U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Michael Cossaboom

Secretary of the Air Force Heather Wilson tours the Transport Isolation System with Airmen assigned to the 375th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron July 20 at Scott Air Force Base, Ill.

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Thailand

From Page 5

had all the skills or answers to be able to complete the rescue,” said Tech. Sgt. Michael Smith, 31st RQS pararescueman. “We all had something to offer and we needed to be united to complete the mission.”

As soon as the location of the children was determined, safety and risk mitigation became a priority for the rescue team and all others involved, to ensure the best possible outcome, explained Staff Sgt. Jamie Brisbin, 31st RQS pararescueman.

Having found the children, the international rescue team began the real prep work for fulfilling the rescue plan. However, because of the complexity of the effort, the team feared the loss of some of the children, unsure if everyone would survive.

“Due to the technical difficulty of this mission, we didn’t expect all of the children to survive the rescue,” Lopez said. “However, we had the right people and equipment in place, and we knew that due to the low oxygen levels in the cave, as well as the worsening weather that was sure to further flood the cave, we had a small window of time to execute a rescue. The risk mitigation that went into planning this rescue was done with such a high level of attention to detail that we



U.S. Air Force photo/Capt. Jessica Tait

Airmen from the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command prepare for dive operations July 2 in Chiang Rai, Thailand. At the request of the Royal Thai government, USINOPACOM sent a search-and-rescue team from Okinawa, Japan, to assist Thai rescue authorities in locating 12 youth football players and their coach.

knew the plan was solid.”

Kadena AB Airmen took on the role of executing logistics dives to pre-position scuba tanks that would later be used for divers to swap used tanks for full

tanks, explained Master Sgt. Christopher Uriarte, 31st RQS pararescueman. The team placed over 200 strategically throughout the cave on the first day.

Another role performed by members

of Kadena AB involved carrying the children from chamber to chamber and diving with them from the third chamber to the second chamber where they were handed off to Australian team members before being further guided by Thai members.

“It was an amazing experience to have so many people, regardless of nationality or culture, working together towards a common goal,” said Stephen Drakes, 31st RQS SERE specialist. “Obviously communication is the immediate barrier to any multi-national effort, and that was true during this rescue as well – we were able to overcome communication barriers by building solid relationships with the folks we worked with day-in and day-out. By the time we were pulling the kids out of the cave, we were operating as a cohesive team.”

While almost everyone involved had a personal sense of pride in their contribution to the success of the life-saving mission, many also found professional value in it.

“What I took away from this mission was gratitude toward our leadership; because this mission was so high risk, I expected that our involvement – specifically the confined space diving – would be restricted,” Uriarte said, “But we kept our leadership up to speed on our decision-making process and how we planned to mitigate risks, and they fully supported our decisions on how to execute at the tactical level.”

JULY 27, 2018

JULY 27, 2018

Shortage

From Page 6

tower, radar approach control, aircrew flight equipment, toured a C-17 Globemaster III, had the chance to speak with some of Team Dover’s officers and pilots, and visited the Air Mobility Command Museum.

“It was really nice to see the different aspects of the Air Force, not just the pilot side of things; especially for the high schoolers,” said Caleigh McLean, Air Force Academy student, of the tour. “I think it’s important for them to see the other options the Air Force has for them.”

The ACE Flight Program, whose staff includes Air Force officers and pilots that commissioned from a variety of sources, provide insight to the students and answer any questions concerning the Air Force. The training was tailored to provide a broad overview of all things aviation to cater to the full spectrum of participants’ ages.

A key take-away for the ROTC cadets was the networking connections they received from the officers and enlisted



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

Mary Verda, Air Force Academy senior, pilots a PA-28 Piper Warrior July 23 at the Delaware Airpark in Dover, Del. The students of the Aviation Character and Education Flight Program had the opportunity to get up to 15 hours of flying experience during the three-week camp.

members they met throughout the camp.

“At first I was very overwhelmed,” McLean said. “During the first flight the aircraft was flying me; I can’t really say I was flying it. I wasn’t sure I could do it but the second flight was completely different. I was flying and had total control, it was amazing to see the jump in improvement in just 24 hours.”

status should be made as early as possible and follow DoD guidance. Each parent can only hold one caregiver status per birth event or adoption; for example, a secondary cannot transfer their leave to the primary caregiver.

“That’s the biggest heartache I see right now,” said Richardson. “Trying to figure out who can be a primary caregiver and who can be a secondary caregiver isn’t easy. The big thing for parents to know is they need to identify this up front and be prepared to possibly explain why they chose one over the other to their leadership.”

As Blasco begins her maternity convalescent leave what thoughts she has are for her son.

It’s a relief to know that bonding with your baby doesn’t have to be a worry when coming back to work, she said.

“Being a new mother is hard,” she said. “Not only did I come home with a newborn and have to learn how to care for him, I had to deal with

In addition to the flight hours, the students receive aviation ground training and utilized virtual reality simulation technology to enhance their skills.

“This program has shown me that this is definitely the job I want for myself; being up in the air and being in control of an aircraft is amazing,” said Joanna Winborn, The Citadel, student.

the emotional changes that my body was going through. Knowing that I have been given this time off is a huge deal. This time off lets me build a good foundation with my son and I feel that when I go back to work, I know I’ll have already established a connection with him that will only be made stronger through his life.”

Airmen should submit their caregiver leave as determined by their local unit commanders. Until LeaveWeb is altered to allow for a caregiver leave category, members will request the nonchargeable caregiver leave by selecting (T) Permissive on the type dropdown menu, and then choosing rule 18 for primary and rule 19 for secondary.

The Air Force Personnel Center will send out guidance via MyPers on the process for requesting restoration of qualifying non-chargeable leave.

For additional information regarding the Military Leave Program, contact Air Force Total Force Service Center at 1-800-565-0102.

TAILWIND 27

English

From Page 5

share a bond unlike any other – a bond born in the crucible of war against tyranny and nurtured over decades of commitment to our shared values of peace, security and prosperity.”

“The depth of this partnership will only grow as – together – we face increasingly complex, high-end threats,” he added. “I am proud that the RAF – as a technological aviation leader and tier-one partner in the development of the joint strike fighter – will be flying on our wing as we train harder, deter adversaries and when required, defeat threats to global peace and security.”

The U.S. Air Force participates in RIAT annually, a symbol of U.S. commitment to the security of Europe and the ever-strong bond between the U.S. and England.

This year, the U.S. Air Force made a particularly strong showing, with the F-35 Lighting II, KC-135 Stratotanker, MC-130 Commando II, F-15E Strike Eagle and F-15 Eagle, B-1 Lancer, C-17 Globemaster III, HH-60 Pave Hawk and KC-10 Extender in attendance, and special performances by the F-35 Heritage Flight Team and B-2

Spirit to commemorate the RAF centenary.

Following the Air Tattoo, the week-long Farnborough International Air Show was held in Farnborough, England, July 16-22.

Held every two years, the event includes an international trade show that allows the aerospace industry to demonstrate the latest in both civilian and military aircraft capabilities, while the public air show offers an opportunity for the U.S., along with other military allies, to showcase leadership in aerospace technologies to an international audience.

U.S. aircraft featured at this year’s FIA included the AH-64 Apache, F-16 Fighting Falcon, C-130 Super Hercules, C-130 Hercules, P-8 Poseidon, C-17 Globemaster III and CH-47 Chinook.

U.S. Air Force participation in international airshows such as RIAT and FIA promotes standardization and interoperability of equipment with NATO Allies and other potential coalition partners.

“No nation will be able to combat future threats alone. Innovation and the interoperability of our combined efforts will allow us to find ways to address these challenges,” said Goldfein of the value of U.S. Air Force involvement in the events.

Bites

From Page 4

wild animals such as raccoons, skunks, bats and foxes. Wild animals usually avoid people, whereas an infected animal may attack if sick, feels threatened or is protecting its young or territory.

The rabies virus is a major public health concern. In 2017, Solano County reported only one case of animal rabies, but the state reported 231 cases, primarily from bats. Increased awareness and education are key to preventing dog and wild animal bites. Below are precautions you can take to keep your friends and family safe:

- Be a responsible pet owner. Keep pets leashed when outside or in public areas. Remember, not everyone is animal-friendly. Some people get startled and react negatively to an approaching dog.

Train your dog to obey and respond to basic commands like sit, stay, come and no. A

well-trained animal is less likely to act aggressively toward other people or animals. Ensure your pets are vaccinated against rabies and other infectious diseases. If you live on base, schedule an appointment with the veterinarian as soon as possible to register your pet.

- Avoid stray and wild animals. Do not handle sick, injured or dead wild animals. Assume they have an infectious disease and keep your distance. Seal small openings around your house and living spaces to keep out bats, raccoons and other wild animals. Do not feed wild or stray animals and discourage them from seeking food near your home. Do not store foods outdoors and cover trash cans.

- Report bites to the proper officials. Contact security forces, the local rabies control authority, animal control or the health department. Teach your children to tell you or a teacher if they are bitten. If bitten by a dog or cat, get proof of rabies vaccination from the owner. Clean the wound with soap

and water and seek immediate medical treatment. The sooner you received medical care, the more effective the treatment will be.

- Teach children about animals. Children are the most common victims of animal bites. Teach your child not to approach an unfamiliar animal, even if it appears friendly. Teach them how to behave around a familiar animal to avoid being bitten. For example, children should not pull the animal’s ears or tail, tease it or bother it while it’s sleeping or eating. Children should not get close to an unfamiliar animal or try to play with its offspring. Also, teach children to be cautious of strange dogs, and animals in general, and to get the pet owner’s permission to pet or play with the animal.

Remember, show respect and caution when interacting with animals.

For more information, contact the Public Health Flight at 707-423-5470, the Veterinary Clinic at 707-424-3010 or security forces at 707-424-3294.

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Surgeon

From Page 4

proud to welcome these leaders aboard as they assume responsibility for showcasing the pride, precision and professionalism of more than 660,000 total force airmen serving

around the world," Walsh said.

The 12 officer positions on the team are two-year tours of duty. By design, the position openings are staggered, allowing the squadron to maintain continuity of experience and leadership. Thunderbird Nos. 2, 4, 6, 7, 10 and 12 will be replaced in 2020.



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Jesenia Landaverde
Airman 1st Class Conner O'Connell, 93rd Air Refueling Squadron boom operator, explains how a KC-135 Stratotanker boom works to Marcus Morgan, Reardon School District superintendent, during an orientation flight July 18 at Fairchild Air Force Base, Wash. This year marks the 60th year the KC-135 has been at Fairchild.

Fairchild

From Page 9

way for Airmen and their families to address education concerns.

"We are all here to put forth for our military children and students," said Steve McMullen, Airman & Family Readiness Center school liaison specialist. "Fairchild is proud to partner with our local school districts; they have a stake in our children's future and we trust them to provide a good education."

This year marks the 60th year the KC-135 Stratotanker has been at Fairchild AFB. With nearly 155 KC-135s assigned to active-duty and more than 170 assigned to the Air

National Guard, Fairchild's 44 birds make it the largest tanker fleet in the world.

"The Air Force is a technological service, always seeking innovation and cutting edge ideas, always trying to drive forward," said Col. Derek Salmi, 92nd ARW commander. "We're invested in making sure we have the best education for our Airmen now and for those in the future who will join the Air Force. We appreciate this opportunity to show our mission and continue to build those partnerships going forward."

The tanker fleet is what gives the Air Force air superiority. It can get to any part of the world, whether it be to deliver justice or hope and a helping hand to those in need and Airmen are all proud to be a part of that mission, said Salmi.

1) Col. Kristen Beals, 60th Medical Group commander, receives her first salute during the change-of-command ceremony July 24 at Travis Air Force Base, Calif. 2) Col. Michael Higgins, outgoing 60th MDG commander, relinquishes his squadron guidon to Col. Ethan Griffin, 60th Air Mobility Wing commander during the ceremony. Higgins commanded the 60th MDG for two years. 3) Beals and Higgins listen to remarks from Griffin during the ceremony. Griffin was the presiding officer for the ceremony. 4) Beals and Higgins listen as Griffin speaks during the ceremony. David Grant USAF Medical Center is the largest hospital in the Air Force.



U.S. Air Force photo/Louis Briscose

New 60th MDG leader greeted base with... SALUTE



U.S. Air Force photo/Louis Briscose



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