



Exercise puts spotlight on ...

READINESS

PAGES 14-15



Tankers akin to bass players of Air Force

I've been a tanker pilot for almost my entire 18-year military career.

I am also an avid bass player. It occurred to me that there are many similarities between these two passions.

There are several reasons why tanker pilots are like bass players

Warning: If you are not into aviation or music, stop here. However, if you like flying or play an instrument – this is probably for you.

Size

Let's start with the obvious. A bass is a large instrument. Tankers are big airplanes. Simple enough.



Commentary by Lt. Col. Stew Welch

9TH AIR REFUELING SQUADRON

Variety
Tankers refuel everything that flies: fighters, cargo planes, bombers, reconnaissance platforms, even each-other. Everyone in the fight relies on refueling. Similarly, the bass-player lays down the groove for every type of soloist: horns, vocalists, guitars...you name it.

Type

There are two types of basses: electric and upright. There are also two kinds of tankers, the KC-135 Stratotanker and the KC-10 Extender. The electric bass is comparable to the KC-135, because they are ubiquitous and smaller. The upright bass is more like a KC-10: larger, harder to come by and in

Commander's Commentary

high demand.

Difficulty

Flying a tanker looks easy, but it's tough to do really well. The same is true of the bass. Any guitar player can pick up a bass and play some notes, but playing the bass well—with feeling—this is a skill that takes years of deliberate practice and experience to develop.

Foundation

Bass players serve a key function in any band—they have to hold down the bottom and establish the groove. As a rhythm instrument, the bass must lock in with the drums, providing a solid foundation for

the other instruments to perform on in order to sound their best. The same is true in the air: tankers are the foundation of any planned air operation. Everyone depends on them. Take the bass out of the band and the bottom drops out, leaving the sound empty and void. Likewise, go to war without tankers and you're in for a pretty short fight.

Scope

Tanker crews and bassists must have a wide breadth of knowledge. Air Force tanker crews are trained to operate multi-million dollar aircraft in any environment, anywhere in the world. This means flying over the United States, over any ocean, in active war zones, in uncontrolled airspace, and over unique areas like the polar ice caps in Greenland where the

magnetic variation can wreak havoc on navigational instruments. This is comparable to the seemingly endless range of styles that a professional bassist must strive to master: jazz, classical, rock, blues, salsa, bossa-nova, gospel and numerous international genres. Both require an attitude of constant learning and self-improvement.

Team players

Tanker crews and bassists must be team players. They are active listeners, sensitive, and people who work well in groups. They normally have high emotional intelligence. The good tanker pilot is always thinking about things outside of his or her airplane like the receiver he or she is meeting to refuel, or that pesky slot time that must be met upon landing. This

See WELCH Page 23



Commentary by Chief Master Sgt. Anthony Green

436TH AIRLIFT WING COMMAND CHIEF

Transformation makes exciting time to serve

DOVER AIR FORCE BASE, Del. — Reflecting back on the last decade of the Air Force, just like everything in life, there have been a few highs and lows.

However, I believe this is a very exciting time to serve in the United States Air Force. We are focusing on re-growing the force, developing our Airmen, and transforming our service; and the exciting part is that each and every one of us has a

Chief's Commentary

role to play in making these changes happen successfully.

Re-grow

As we posture our Air Force for tomorrow's fight, it is apparent that we need to re-grow our force. The regrowth does not only incorporate adding 20,000 people, it has

secondary effects that our Airmen will benefit from.

As we grow our force there is an in-flux in new personnel that creates a demand for mid-level supervision. This has increased our promotion rates and even increased our "Stripes for Exceptional Performers" or STEP numbers.

The high demands have opened up areas like the Enlisted Pilot Program, which was never an option a

few years back. Most recently, senior leaders are looking into the expansion of High Year Tenure to staff sergeants to 20 years of military service and the Selective Re-enlistment Bonus update.

Develop

However, as we grow our force, it is important to focus on developing our Airmen into the leaders we

See GREEN Page 22

Nelson to take command of 60th AMW



Nelson

Ian Thompson

DAILY REPUBLIC

Col. Jeff Nelson is expected to assume command Sept. 18 of the 60th Air Mobility Wing at Travis, local community leaders were told this week.

Nelson is currently commander of the 628th Air Base Wing and Joint Base Charleston, South Carolina,

which serves as host to more than 60 Department of Defense and federal agencies.

He replaces Col. Ethan Griffin, who had assumed command July 10 of the 60th Air Mobility Wing, but was relieved of command Aug. 6. Griffin is being investigated for alleged personal financial misconduct.

Nelson is a 1997 distinguished graduate of the U.S. Air Force

Academy where he was awarded a bachelor of science degree in civil engineering, according to his biography on the Joint Base Charleston website.

He has extensive background with the C-17, flying 135 combat missions supporting operations in areas that included Kosovo, Afghanistan and Iraq.

Nelson's staff assignments

include service as a Strategic Planner at Central Command and as the chief of the Strategy Division at the 607th Air Operations Center, Osan Air Base, South Korea. Prior to his current position, he was vice commander of the 437th Airlift Wing at Joint Base Charleston.

Nelson is a command pilot with more than 4,100 flight hours in the C-17A, T-1A and T-37B.

Travis firefighters help extinguish blaze

Tech. Sgt. James Hodgman

60TH AIR MOBILITY WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

At 4:56 p.m. Aug. 10, a call came into the Fairfield, California Fire Department about a fast-moving fire near Interstate 80 between Nelson and Cherry Glenn roads.

Within minutes after arriving on scene, Larry Palmer, a battalion chief with the Fairfield Fire Department and the incident commander for the Nelson Fire, said he knew more resources would be needed to extinguish the blaze.

"The fire was growing rapidly for several reasons," said Palmer. "It was grass fed and grass fires accelerate quickly because grass is highly flammable. The fire also started at the base of a large hill, which wasn't good because fire travels faster uphill. The wind also didn't help."

The fire quickly grew to 1,000 acres and threatened homes in the Paradise Valley and Gold Ridge neighborhoods in Fairfield, as well as the Foxboro community in Vacaville, California. The fire also burned power poles along Peabody Road in Vacaville, which knocked out power to more than 2,800 homes. This prompted the closure of Peabody Road between Chuck Hammond Drive and Foxboro Parkway, as well as the evacuation of 75 homes and hundreds of people.

"Ensuring public safety, as well as the safety of our firefighters is our top priority," said Palmer. "Incident stabilization and stopping forward progress



Courtesy photo/Matthew Henderson

Firefighters from Travis Air Force Base, Calif., work Aug. 10 to prevent the spread of the Nelson Fire in Fairfield, Calif. Travis dispatched 12 firefighters, two fire engines and one water tender to support firefighting efforts. The fire scorched 2,162 acres before it was extinguished.

of the fire is also one of our main priorities. We have a robust mutual aid system in California where we can request multiple resources. This system enables us to exercise mutual aid agreements within our jurisdiction and once those resources are exhausted, helps us request support from outside Solano County

quickly."

Palmer requested support from Solano County, as well as Contra Costa County and Yolo County. Early in the response, officials at Travis Air Force Base, California, offered to provide resources to aid in firefighting efforts.

"I told Travis to send

whatever they could," said Palmer.

The base dispatched 12 firefighters, two fire engines and one water tender capable of holding 5,000 gallons of water.

"Our team supported structural protection efforts along with the overall firefighting effort," said Master Sgt. Kevin

Wasiewski, 60th Civil Engineer Squadron Fire Emergency Services superintendent of operations.

"The fire came pretty close to several homes, so one area our Airmen were focused on was preventing the fire from spreading to those homes," said

See BLAZE Page 22

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On the cover

An Airman with the 60th Medical Group participates Aug. 20 in an Ability to Survive and Operate Rodeo at Travis Air Force Base, Calif.

U.S. Air Force photo/Louis Briscoe

Travis AFB, Calif.
60th Air Mobility Wing

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Travis updates on-base drone policy

60th Air Mobility Wing
Public Affairs

Per policy from the office of the Secretary of Defense, recreational use of small Unmanned Aircraft Systems, or sUAS, is banned on Travis Air Force Base, California, effective immediately.

Typically referred to as drones, sUAS were allowed limited use on the installation, specifically in pre-coordinated and commander-approved capacities where the drone pilots were under stringent operational guidelines.

This policy, however, was at odds with the Department of Defense's official guideline that was sent down May 18. The DoD's policy, created in conjunction with the Federal Aviation Administration, placed a blanket ban of commercial off-the-shelf sUAS on or near select military installations.

According to a Pentagon spokesperson, "the increased use of commercial and privately owned small unmanned aircraft systems has raised DoD concerns for the safety and security of its installations, its aviation and its people."

The ban extends to dependents and guests of Travis AFB personnel.

Specific guidelines on the proper use of drones are listed on the FAA website at www.faa.gov/uas/.

Please report all activity to 60th Security Forces at 707-424-2800. For any questions, call the 60th Air Mobility Wing Public Affairs office at 707-424-2011.



Lt. Gen. Maryanne Miller, chief of Air Force Reserve and commander of Air Force Reserve Command, testifies with fellow Guard and Reserve component chiefs during the U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations hearing April 17 at the Dirksen Senate Office Building, in Washington, D.C. Miller will be the first four-star general of AFRC.

Miller makes history with 4th star

General who led 349th AMW in 2000s first to rank in AFRC

Headquarters Air Force Reserve
Command Public Affairs

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. — Lt. Gen. Maryanne Miller was nominated by President Donald Trump and confirmed by the U.S. Senate for

promotion to the rank of general Aug. 20.

Miller formerly served as the commander of the 349th Air Mobility Wing at Travis Air Force Base, California, from January 2008 to November 2009.

Miller will become the first Airman in the history of the Air Force Reserve to pin on a fourth star.

In 2016, she became the first female chief of the Air Force Reserve and commander of the Air Force Reserve Command.

She joined the Air Force in 1981, a

distinguished graduate of the ROTC program at Ohio State University. She is a command pilot with more than 4,800 flying hours in numerous aircraft. Prior to her current assignment, she was the deputy to the chief of the Air Force Reserve in Washington, D.C., commanded two wings and held numerous staff positions at the unit, Air Staff and Joint Staff levels.

Miller will become the first reservist to lead Air Mobility Command, a total force mission supported by the Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve.

System reduces strikes by birds

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

SOUTHWEST ASIA — The U.S. Department of Agriculture works with safety teams around the Air Force to limit the presence of birds on and around airfields to protect aircraft from bird strikes, an issue that costs the Air Force millions of dollars every year in damages.

At an undisclosed location in Southwest Asia, the USDA team has taken a system for catching birds used at a few stateside installations in the Air Force and created one fitted for use at the busiest aerial port in U.S. Air Forces Central Command.

Ted Pepps, USDA wildlife biologist, designed a drop net system for this area of operations and worked with the base's combat metals shop to build it in-house.

"The drop net is a mass capture device," said Pepps. "It allows us to catch more birds in a shorter amount of time. It is more efficient and effective. Back home we use it for bird control and wildlife research, and we hope to do the same here."

The simple design horizontally suspends a 15-by-15 foot net between electromagnets powered by a car battery. The operator drops the net flat to the ground on unsuspecting birds using a remote similar to a garage door opener with a range up to about a football field.

"This is a big deal in the AOR because there are a lot of sensitive areas," said Pepps. "Areas that we can't shoot guns or pyrotechnics, so this (system) will fill that void."

Most birds are skeptical of changes in their environments, so USDA members do not drop the net daily.

Training readies boom ops for future

Louis Briscese
60TH AIR MOBILITY WING

Within the past year, KC-10 Extender boom operators have been receiving cutting-edge three-dimensional simulator training and life-size cargo load training that are benefitting career field around the world. The training is a welcomed site since KC-10s, aircrews and maintainers have continuously deployed since Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

Travis Air Force Base, California, was the first base in Air Mobility Command to receive the upgraded 3D simulator and is the only base in AMC with the new state-of-the-art cargo load trainer.

The Boom Operator Trainer, referred to as BOT, has been upgraded with an advanced Visual System Replacement. The new BOT-VST provides greater capabilities than the old one, said Rob Tabor, KC-10 Extender boom operator instructor and contractor with FlightSafety International.

"The new system has the ability now to produce a three-dimensional visual image, we've gone from a flat



Airman 1st Class Mark Moore, 2nd Air Refueling Squadron KC-10 Extender boom operator at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J., uses the cargo load trainer Aug. 15 at Travis Air Force Base, Calif.

rear projection display to a culminated 4K display," said Tabor. "Instead of projecting an image onto a flat screen,

we're now projecting the image onto an 11-foot mirror."

The upgraded image now provides boom operators a sense of depth that they could

previously only experience in an aircraft.

"The whole environment is much more realistic," said

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Travis partners with JBLM to paint C-17

Senior Airman Tryphena Mayhugh
62ND AIRLIFT WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

JOINT BASE LEWIS-MCCHORD, Wash. — Renewing a paint job may not seem like an important task to some, but for aircraft, it can be the difference between continuing to fly and being decommissioned.

For the 60th Maintenance Squadron from Travis Air Force Base, California, they are unable to spray paint to renew their C-17s' paint and have to roll the paint onto the aircraft. Airmen at McChord Field are able to spray paint and are working toward building a partnership with Travis and other C-17 bases to use McChord facilities to meet this requirement.

Travis Airmen visited McChord to use their paint barn for the first time from July 31 to Aug. 9, as it takes about 10 days to prepare and paint the jet while providing enough time for the paint to cure.

“McChord has arguably the best C-17 field level paint barn in Air Mobility Command (AMC),” said 1st Lt. Joshua Fugle, 62nd MXS fabrication flight commander. “The facility as it stands is good, but it needs upgrades to continue to be reliable and those upgrades cost money. Travis and many other bases not only don't have a paint barn but are also extremely limited as to how and how much the base can paint.”

With McChord's paint barn being a step above what most AMC bases have, and the need for other bases to paint their C-17s, McChord is sharing their facilities. The increase in traffic also helps further justify the needed paint barn upgrades.

“What we hope is this will be a mutually beneficial partnership,” said 2nd Lt. Krista Kelly, 60th MXS fabrication flight commander. “Long term, our goal is to get every single one of our jets touched up (at McChord) at least once in the next

See PAINT Page 19



U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Tryphena Mayhugh
Tech. Sgt. Salvador Ynostraza, left, and Staff Sgt. Adrian Catalan, both 60th Maintenance Squadron aircraft structural maintenance technicians, maneuver a platform under the wing of a C-17 Globemaster III from Travis Air Force Base, Calif., Aug. 6 at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash.

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Program gives taste for active duty

Senior Airman Grace Nichols
19TH AIRLIFT WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

LITTLE ROCK AIR FORCE BASE, Ark. — With 850 miles in the rearview, a 22-year-old pulled up to Little Rock Air Force Base, Arkansas, with a mixture of nerves and excitement as he focused on the road before him.

When greeted by a smiling Airman, he knew this moment marked the start of a journey he had been seeking for the past year.

This was his first active-duty location, but it wasn't the beginning of his Air Force career. Senior Airman Gregory Cantoni, previously a 69th Aerial Port Squadron aerial porter at Andrews Air Force Base, Maryland, had made another nerve-wracking journey to Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland for Basic Military Training previously. Similar to only 20 percent of the 1 percent who join the military, he served with the U.S. Air Force Reserve.

"My family has a long



U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Gregory Cantoni, 19th Logistics Readiness Squadron aerial delivery element member, secures a high-mobility multipurpose wheeled vehicle July 31 inside a C-130J at Little Rock Air Force Base, Ark.

military history, and it was something I admired," Cantoni said. "But I wasn't entirely certain I wanted to

fully commit to the Air Force, and I thought going to college through the Air Force Reserves would be easier than trying to do that active." After getting a full-time See PROGRAM Page 17

Fairchild launches tanker support program

Staff Sgt. Samantha Krolikowski
92ND AIR REFUELING WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

FAIRCHILD AIR FORCE BASE, Wash. — The 92nd Air Refueling Wing was recently the first wing in Air Mobility Command to implement contract support for operational squadrons.

The Tanker Squadron Operations Support program has been a major turning point in quality of life for the 92nd ARW Airmen.

The TSOS program was initiated at the 92nd ARW by the 384th Air Refueling Squadron to help scheduling, training, standardization and evaluation programs, and readiness sections maintain continuity in the face of a high operations tempo.

The program provides easier access to hands-on training for aircrew members and reduces process errors. Contractors help track and update databases about aircrew readiness, temporary duty assignments, local training and upgrade programs, said Lt. Col. Aaron Strode, 384th ARS director of operations.

As a result, Airmen are more effectively utilized and guided through the processes for deployments, exercises and other mission related activities.

"Within the first three weeks of this program, our shops cleared an incredible amount of back-logged paperwork," said Lt. Col. Sean McClune, 384th ARS commander. "This program is not something we want to keep to ourselves. We're in our first month and the increase to quality of life and service has been a night-and-day change."

The 384th ARS teamed with the 92nd Contracting Squadron

See TANKER Page 18

Air Force releases staff sergeant promotion stats

Kat Bailey
AIR FORCE'S PERSONNEL CENTER
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas — The Air Force has selected 15,669 senior airmen for promotion to staff sergeant out of 30,651 eligible for a selection rate of 51.12 percent in the 18E5 promotion cycle.

The 18E5/staff sergeant promotion rate is an increase from previous years because of the requirements to provide capabilities for a growing force.

Of the 15,669 selected, 11.7 percent had "Promote Now" recommendations, 29.7 percent had "Must Promote" recommendations and 58.5 percent had "Promote" recommendations.

Selectees' average time in grade was 1.90 years and time in service was 4.37 years. The average selectee overall score was 343.48, based on point averages of 209.67 for enlisted performance reports, 0.71 for

decorations, 66.24 for the promotion fitness examination and 66.07 for the specialty knowledge test.

The staff sergeant promotion list is available on the Enlisted Promotions page of the Air Force's Personnel Center website, the Air Force Portal and myPers. Airmen can access their score notices on the virtual Military Personnel Flight via the Air Force's Personnel Center secure applications page.

Those selected will be promoted beginning Sept. 1 according to their promotion sequence number. Prior to posting the list on myPers, the Air Force's Personnel Center provided commanders, senior raters and trusted agents with advanced knowledge of their Airmen's selection with the intention that selects be notified no earlier than one day before the public release.

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



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Ray takes command of AFGSC

Joe K. Thomas
AIR FORCE GLOBAL STRIKE COMMAND
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

BARKSDALE AIR FORCE BASE, La. — Gen. Timothy Ray took command of Air Force Global Strike Command from Gen. Robin Rand, outgoing AFGSC commander, during a ceremony, Aug. 21. He is the newest leader of the Air Force's portion of the nuclear enterprise, which maintains the nation's only force of Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missiles and strategic bombers.

Chief of Staff of the Air Force Gen. David L. Goldfein presided over the ceremony and said Ray was the obvious choice to serve as the newest commander of AFGSC.

"He brings the perfect blend of operational expertise, proven combat leadership and passion for people to take this team to new heights," Goldfein said. "And to the Airmen of Air Force Global Strike Command, thank you for your dedication to the mission and your spirit to



U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Philip Bryant

Gen. Timothy Ray accepts the Air Force Global Strike Command guidon from the Chief of Staff of the Air Force Gen. David L. Goldfein during a change of command ceremony Aug. 21 at Barksdale Air Force Base, La.

serve. Make no mistake, America sleeps well at night because our Air Force Global Strike Command doesn't. You are our nation's sentinels, sword and shield."

U.S. Strategic Command Commander Gen. John E. Hyten, also in attendance, spoke of the command's mission and role in world affairs.

"Our mission is a serious mission," Hyten said. "Strategic deterrence is the Department of Defense's most important mission that we do and it's enabled, in great part, by the great combat power of Global Strike Command. Since its inception, our strategic deterrent

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Success of Air Force logistics begins with training

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82ND TRAINING WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

SHEPPARD AIR FORCE BASE, Texas — Lt. Gen. Leo Marquez, often referred to as the "godfather of logistics" in the Air Force, once said, "If our aircraft, missiles and weapons are the teeth of our military might, then logistics is the muscle, tendons and sinews that make the teeth bite down and hold on — logistics is the jawbone."

Just as logistics is the jawbone to global military operations, Sheppard Air Force Base is the foundation by which the Air Force is able to produce logisticians in a myriad of specialties to ensure aircraft can take to the air, complete their mission and come home.

Brig. Gen. Ronald E. Jolly Sr., 82nd Training Wing commander and 27-year veteran of Air Force logistics, said much is made of operations as they happen and their results, combat and humanitarian. But those outcomes begin and end with components that get the force in theater and sustain operations.

The successful implementation and detailed coordination of people and equipment is something that takes more than the snap of a finger and a military order. It takes a skilled set of people to carry out the tasks at hand.

The majority of Sheppard AFB's training mission in North Texas, at what Jolly calls "Logistics University," includes logistics functions such as aircraft maintenance, maintenance and munitions officers, civil engineering,



U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Kevin Clites

Airmen from the 366th Training Squadron electrical systems apprentice course prepare to set a power line pole as their instructor cleans an auger used to bore the hole July 25 at Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas.

and petroleum, oils and lubricants, to name a few. Its reach goes beyond the Lone Star state with missions such as heavy equipment operators at Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri and F-35 maintainers at the 359th Training Squadron at Eglin AFB, Florida, as well as units in Asia and Europe.

"We've trained those individuals in our initial-skills training for all of our

maintainers, equivalent initial-skills training for our logistics officers — so we gave them the foundation, and now they're out there honing their skills," he said. "We are also involved in our advanced training for members with our field training detachments that are out globally helping those Airmen attain the 5- and 7-level skills."

While producing quality logisticians

is paramount, Jolly said it's important to get feedback from logisticians in the field to keep up with changing times and needs of those down range.

"Getting that feedback from the field helps us improve the training that we are accomplishing here," he said. "So, we need to adapt to the changing environment — the changing world environment and the changing environment of each one of the missions that we're out there executing."

From a big-picture standpoint, the success of logistics operations in the Air Force and the support provided for sister services begins in the schoolhouses at Sheppard AFB. Bringing more of the logistics training enterprise to Sheppard AFB as part of an overarching Logistics University for the Air Force would create a "synergy" and "commonality" that creates a bond within the community, Jolly said.

The general said he can see having a majority of logistics training based at Sheppard AFB in the next 10 to 20 years.

"Now, understand that some of that is not possible just because of space and infrastructure, but when you think across the logistics board — and it's not just aircraft maintenance, you have LRS (logistics readiness squadron) entities with POL, transportation, civil engineering — you look across the board, we'd like to bring most of that right here so that we can become known as the, no kidding, Logistics University and have a campus dedicated to that," he said.

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JB Charleston hosts national robot rodeo

Staff Sgt. Devan Trammel, 628th Civil Engineer Squadron explosive ordnance disposal technician, observes Jeremy Stafford, Ideal Blasting vice president, as he operates a drone during a demonstration Aug. 13 at the 2018 Eastern National Robot Rodeo at the Charleston convention center in Charleston, S.C.



U.S. Air Force photo

Airman 1st Class Joshua R. Maund

JOINT BASE CHARLESTON PUBLIC AFFAIRS

JOINT BASE CHARLESTON, S.C. — Members of the 628th Civil Engineer Squadron Explosive Ordnance Disposal coordinated and hosted the 2018 Eastern National Robot Rodeo Aug. 13-17 at Joint Base Charleston, S.C.

The ENRR, which was hosted here for the first time, showcased revolutionary robotics technology in the arena of ordnance disposal. Hosting events such as this promotes the incorporation of science, technology, engineering and math into the U.S. military, which reinforces its role as a leader in innovation.

“The Eastern National Robot Rodeo helps vendors in their research and development,” said Staff Sgt. Devan Trammel, 628th Civil Engineer Squadron, EOD technician. “It also helps technicians familiarize ourselves with cutting edge robotics platforms.”

With the help of 628th EOD members, vendors set up various scenarios around Charleston in order to provide realistic demonstrations of their products. The teams from various ordnance disposal agencies then cycled through the scenarios throughout the week, putting their skills to the test in a friendly competition while also familiarizing themselves with the latest and

See **ROBOT** Page 17

Big Brother program builds lasting bond

Angelina Casarez

AIR FORCE INSTALLATION AND MISSION SUPPORT CENTER PUBLIC AFFAIRS

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-LACKLAND, Texas — He was only 3 years old when he unexpectedly lost his father to a heart attack in 1986.

Although too young to understand how to grieve for his dad, Richard Cooper's life changed in an instant. After the loss of his father, he experienced more upheaval when he was separated from his three older brothers and raised as an only child by his mother.

His father figures came primarily in the form of coaches and teachers.

Today, Cooper, a marketing specialist with the Air Force Services Activity, has become a father figure himself as a volunteer with Big Brothers Big Sisters of San Antonio.

After the mortgage crisis of 2008 caused a career change, Cooper began pursuing his bachelor's degree in marketing which required 120 hours of community service. While his classmates volunteered at local food banks and pursued administrative opportunities, Cooper wanted to do something more meaningful.

He remembered driving

past Big Brothers Big Sisters and wanting to see what it was about. He applied, interviewed and was selected as a “big” to be matched with a “little.”

Then, Dec. 9, 2012, Cooper met his new 5-year-old little brother, Rashawn. The youngster was only 9 months old when his father was killed in action in Afghanistan in 2007. Rashawn's father never had an opportunity to meet or hold him.

Rashawn's widowed mother, Liz Lewis, an advocate for Wounded Warriors and Gold Star families, found herself focused on providing opportunities for Rashawn to connect.

She reached out to the Big Brothers Big Sisters organization in 2012 and a few months later Rashawn was matched with Cooper.

Lewis says one of the greatest gifts she could give her son is the opportunity for him to have an amazing man such as Cooper in his life.

“The program is so worth it. It's no cost to the parent and for single-parent homes it's a blessing,” she said.

Prior to his match with Rashawn, Cooper didn't have a direct connection with the military.

See **BOND** Page 21

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Base hosts ATSO training

U.S. Air Force photos by Louis Briscese



Airmen with the 60th Air Mobility Wing participate Aug. 20 in an Ability to Survive and Operate Rodeo at Travis Air Force Base, Calif. The rodeo involved participants wearing different stages of mission-oriented protective posture gear and going through various areas of training to include self-aid and buddy care and post-attack reconnaissance.



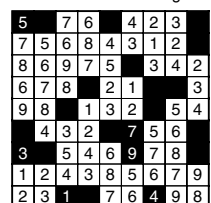
Puzzles

STR8TS

No. 400 Medium



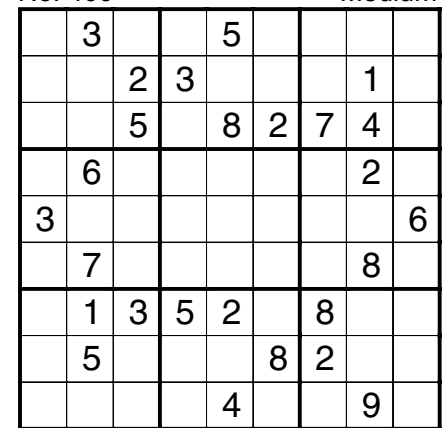
Previous solution - Tough



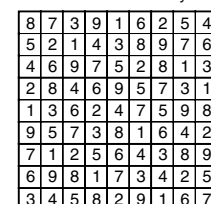
How to beat Str8ts – Like Sudoku, no single number can repeat in any row or column. But... rows and columns are divided by black squares into compartments. These need to be filled in with numbers that complete a 'straight'. A straight is a set of numbers with no gaps but can be in any order, eg [4,2,3,5]. 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. 400 Medium



Previous solution - Easy



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

60th FSS

Freebies and discounts

Free baby and pre-K story time. Sing songs and play at Baby Bounce for children up to 18 months 10 to 11 a.m. Monday. Kids up to age 5 can enjoy crafts and socialize at Pre-K Story Time from 10-10:30 a.m. every Tuesday. For more information, call 424-3279.

Free T-shirt with climbing challenge. Train and take the "Climb the Nose" Challenge at Outdoor Recreation. Active duty can begin training today by climbing the free monster climbing wall. From Sept. 7 to Nov. 2, take the challenge by climbing 3,000 feet or 136 climbs. If you meet your goal by Nov. 2, you will receive a free custom T-shirt. For more information, call 424-0969.

Sports and fitness fun
Oktoberfest half-marathon and 5K fun run. On Sept. 22, the Fitness Center will host its Oktoberfest half-marathon & 5K fun run. Activities and fun include root beergarten, bounce houses, prizes and more. Early bird pricing from Aug. 20 to Sept. 14 is \$10 for adults and \$5 kids. Late registration prices from Sept. 15-22 is \$15 for adults and kids. For more information, call 424-2008.

Youth sports volunteer coaches needed. The Youth Center is looking for volunteer coaches for youth sports. Volunteers have the option to be a coach for baseball, basketball, flag football and/or soccer. After completing a season of coaching, receive a free Youth Sport's registration voucher for volunteering your time with Youth Sports. For more information, call 707-424-5392.

Smooth Landing hours extended. Smooth Landing, located at the Fitness Center, has new extended hours to blend up cool, refreshing goodness from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday to Friday. Whether you are an early bird needing a smoothie before work or an athlete needing a cold post-workout drink in the evening, Smooth Landing is open to serve you. For more information, call 424-2008.

Upcoming events

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

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 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. The office will close every Thursday. Business hours are 7:30 a.m. 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>.

In the next week ...

fri

Paint night at Cypress Lakes Golf Course. On Aug. 24, Arts & Crafts is hosting paint night for ages 18 and older at Cypress Lakes Golf Course. The class fee is \$20 for R4R eligible and \$60 for general pricing. Starting at 6 p.m., make and take your own masterpiece painting of

the beautiful "Highway 1." Paint night events are very popular, so register today. For details, call 424-2929.

wed

Commissioning briefing. 2 p.m. Aug. 29 in Room 133, the C-17 training room at Bldg. 165.

Chapel programs

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 inquiries, 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.

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. Tuesdays 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, 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.

Civilian Health Promotion Services.

Will perform free wellness screenings from 7:30-9:30 a.m. every Monday for all DoD federal civilians. Screenings include cholesterol, glucose, blood pressure and body composition analysis. For more information, visit www.AFMCwellness.com or contact CHPS at 707-424-CHPS or CHPSTravis@foh.hhs.gov.

Crisis text line. Free, confidential, 24/7 counseling for teens and young adults. Text 741-741 anywhere in the United States and a live, trained crisis counselor responds quickly.

Employee-Vehicle Certification and Reporting System.

Civilian and military personnel must maintain emissions information with the Web-based ECARS system. For more information, call Xuyen Lieu at 707-424-5103.

Exceptional Family Member Program Sensory Play Group.

This group meets from 2 to 4 p.m. the second and fourth Wednesdays at the Balfour Beatty Community Center. For more information, call 707-424-4342 or visit the Facebook page "EFMP Travis AFB."

Family Advocacy Parent/Child Playgroups.

Toddlers to the Max Playgroup for children ages 1 to 3 meets from 9:30 to 11 a.m. Wednesdays at the First Street Chapel Annex. The Rattles to Raspberries Playgroup for infants 8 weeks to 1 year meets 9:30 to 11 a.m. Thursdays at the First Street Chapel Annex. For more information, call 707-423-5168.

Family and Friends Combat Stress Peer Support Group.

Meets from noon to 1 p.m. the first Tuesday of every month at the Balfour Beatty Community Center and from 1 to 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 travstopcombatstsd@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



at website <https://pptform.state.gov> and/or <https://travel.state.gov>. For more information, call 707-424-5324.

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

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

Mare Island Museum. 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.

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

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

Photocopying of military identification.

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

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

Today

- 6:30 p.m. "Skyscraper" (PG-13)
- 9 p.m. "The First Purge" (R)

Saturday

- 6:30 p.m. Free advance screening

Sunday

- 2 p.m. "Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again" (PG-13)

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.

60th Air Mobility Wing Information Protection Office.

All requests are done on Thursdays and by appointment only. Schedule an appointment by calling 707-424-3114 or by emailing 60amw.ip@us.af.mil. Fingerprinting is only for federal employment and for agencies with a valid support agreement. For emergencies, call 707-424-3114.

Solano/Napa Habitat for Humanity.

This organization welcomes volunteers and supporters from all backgrounds. There are recurring events Tuesday through Saturday. For more information, email Staff Sgt. Mathew Clayton at mathew.clayton@us.af.mil.

Travis Community Thrift Shop. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday. Ongoing need for volunteers to organize, sort and price donations. For more information, contact the Thrift Shop at 707-437-2370.

Travis Composite Squadron 22 Civil Air Patrol.

Open to youth from 12 to 18, as well as adults ages 18 or older who train and serve as the volunteer component of the total force. UTA is 6:30 to 9 p.m. Monday, Bldg. 241-B-2. Open to all students with a 2.0 or higher grade-point average. For more information, contact CAP 1st Lt. Jo Nash at 707-424-3996 or recruiting@sqadron22-cap.us, visit during a UTA or check out <http://sqadron22-cap.us>.

Travis Heritage Center.

The facility is looking to add to its historical collection. It is missing the past 15 years of conflict in which Travis was involved. Do you have something special to donate for generations to appreciate? The center also seeks volunteers. The gift shop is open 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. For more information, call Rick Shea at 707-424-5598 or email richard.shea@us.af.mil.

Voluntary Leave Transfer Program.

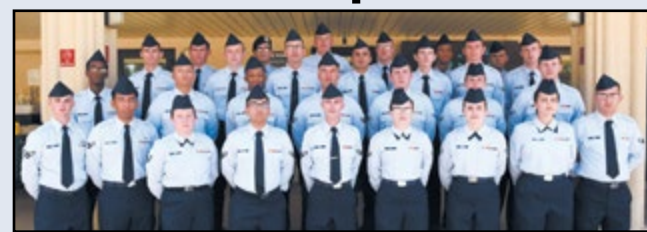
The following Travis employees are approved as leave recipients through the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program:

- Kelley D. Brown, Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey.
- Erin Duniway, 60th Operations Support Squadron.
- 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 Logan Billiter, 660th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron; Airman 1st Class Kayle Chrislyn, 660th AMXS; Airman 1st Class Tristan Cole, 60th AMXS; Airman 1st Class Grant Coleman, 60th Aerial Port Squadron; Airman Xavier Collado, 860th AMXS; Airman 1st Class Evaristo Diarte, 6th Air Refueling Squadron; Airman Eric Duran, 660th AMXS; Airman 1st Class Justin Ellis, 60th Operations Support Squadron; Airman 1st Class Ryan Hill, 660th AMXS; Airman 1st Class Solomon Holman, 660th AMXS; Airman 1st Class David Kelley, 660th AMXS; Airman 1st Class Dakota MacGowan, 660th AMXS; Airman 1st Class Nathaniel McKay, U.S. Air Force Band of the Golden West; Airman 1st Class Scott Miller, 60th Wing Staff Agency; Airman Adam Mills, 60th Communications Squadron; Airman 1st Class Tyler Monroe, 60th APS; Airman 1st Class Leander Monte, 60th Maintenance Squadron; Airman Chelsey Pelkey, 60th Surgical Operations Squadron; Airman Basic Lamont Pierce, 60th Dental Squadron; Airman 1st Class Rachel Price, 60th Medical Support Squadron; Airman 1st Class Francis Raymundo, 60th Diagnostics and Therapeutics Squadron; Airman 1st Class Calob Rose, 660th AMXS; Airman 1st Class James Sartin, 60th Logistics Readiness Squadron; Airman 1st Class Nicholas Sasso, 60th Security Forces Squadron; Airman 1st Class Britanni Spangrud, 60th Inpatient Squadron; Airman 1st Class Vladislav Tsarkov, 660th AMXS; Airman 1st Class Jesus Vasquez, 860th AMXS; Airman 1st Class Kiarra Venderlinolen, 60th Air Mobility Command; Airman 1st Class David Wetherill, 60th AMXS; and Airman 1st Class Artis White, 60th MDSS.

Retiree Corner

AFAS to award more than \$6M in grants, scholarships

WASHINGTON — The Air Force Aid Society will award more than \$6 million in Gen. Henry "Hap" Arnold education grants and AFAS merit scholarships to the dependents of active duty and retired Airmen.

A total of 2,556 college and university students will receive the education grants and merit-based scholarships, ranging from \$500 to \$5,000, during the 2018-19 academic year.

"Providing ongoing educational support to the families of Airmen is the generational impact that our

founders General Henry "Hap" and Mrs. Bee Arnold envisioned when AFAS was established over 76 years ago," said retired Maj. Gen. and AFAS board president Judge William A. Moorman.

The General Henry Hap Arnold education grants are awarded based on financial need and take into consideration a family's income and the student's educational costs. Each year, named grants are awarded to students in honor of individuals or organizations that have exemplified extraordinary service to the U.S. Air Force.

— Air Force News Service

Robot

From Page 12

greatest innovations in robotic technology.

"Some of the scenarios are quite challenging but all are definitely viable scenarios," said John Moniz, Charleston County Sheriff's Department detective. "We are always looking for the newest technology to keep our men and women as safe as possible, and this event has introduced us to some innovative technologies, which minimize the dangers of our job."

Prior to the use of robotics, human reconnaissance and ordinance disarmament was the only plan of attack when encountering explosives. Robotics started appearing on the battlefield during WWII and through innovation have become a valuable asset to the military.

"Having been in the ordinance disposal field for about nine years, I've seen the technology grow and it's incredible," said Moniz. "These robots can have a big impact on keeping our communities safe."

The use of robotics is becoming more common as technology advances. Innovations like this in the fields of STEM provide the Department of Defense and other agencies an avenue to protect their most valuable assets, their people.

"This is a great opportunity to showcase our latest advancements in robotics that could potentially be lifesaving one day," said Paul Bosscher Harris Corporation chief robotics engineer. "It's great to see the Air Force and the other agencies here, wanting to put the best tools in the hands of our service member to keep them as safe as possible."



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.

Program

From Page 8

job with a technology company traveling the U.S. in addition to his reservist job as an aerial porter, he found it nearly impossible to achieve his education goals.

"There were a lot of stressful moments in my personal life," Cantoni said. "I had to put college on hold to get a more secure job. I realized I joined the reserves partly for education and I was doing all this stuff to go to college, and I couldn't even do that because of what was going on in my life."

Cantoni continued to work hard in the reserves, which propelled him toward multiple opportunities and kept education as an option despite his personal challenges. Part of the Air Force Reserve mission to take care of Airmen is a seasonal training program which allows top-notch reservists to go active duty for 90 days at participating installations.

It was during one of these assignments to Charleston, South Carolina, that the wanderlust-stricken Cantoni received a different perspective and a solution to his problem.

"I was essentially active duty for 90 days in Charleston, and I absolutely loved it," Cantoni said. "A year later, I came back from my two-week annual tour from Ramstein Air Base, Germany, and I was put on orders for the commander support staff in my unit; I was active duty for another three months."

It was at this point the seed was planted and the aerial porter realized he needed more.

"It was through moments



U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Grace Nichols

Senior Airman Gregory Cantoni, 19th Logistics Readiness Squadron aerial delivery element member, operates a high-mobility multipurpose wheeled vehicle July 31 while loading it onto a C-130J at Little Rock Air Force Base, Ark.

of realizing I liked the structure of military life and the fact that every civilian job I had didn't give me that or job security that pushed me toward active duty."

With very few exceptions, one cannot simply transfer from the Reserve component to active duty. One must get an approved discharge from the Reserves component of service and then separately process for enlistment or commission for an active-duty service.

A member of good standing can apply to the reserves for a conditional release, a document stating that the Reserve component agrees to release them from the remainder of their commitment if they are accepted for enlistment or appointment to an active-duty service component.

Cantoni's unit didn't let him go it alone. His years of dedication motivated his commanders and coworkers to share the load, and Cantoni's stars changed.

"I got an email from my recruiter saying that the Air

Force was making a push for a limited number of reservists to go active duty," the prior reservist remembered. "I immediately called and told him I wanted to sign up."

It turned out that his unit had unknowingly prepared him for this transition nearly a year before by placing him in CSS. Cantoni's knowledge about paperwork and receiving information aided in his quest.

"Day after day, Airman

Cantoni proved how capable and valuable he was," said U.S. Air Force Reserves Tech. Sgt. Antony Lee, Cantoni's CSS supervisor and 69th Aerial Port Squadron Ramp Services supervisor at Joint-Base Andrews, Maryland. "I once thought it was a shame Airman Cantoni didn't join active duty in the first place because he has so much to contribute. When I found out he was going from Reserve to active duty, I was extremely proud and happy for him."

With this encouragement, and his knowledge from his time in CSS, six months of paper work, qualifications, tests and more, Cantoni had finally achieved his goal: transition from the Reserve component to active duty.

Fast forward to the present, Cantoni is celebrating one year on active duty as an element member of the 19th Logistics Readiness Squadron aerial delivery operations center in his original careerfield.

Part of a unified team of professional Airmen, Cantoni uses his knowledge to ensure installation excellence and mentor the Airmen in his shop.



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Tanker

From Page 8

for roughly eight months to implement the program.

"Getting these contractors has been a collaborative effort," McClune said. "We have four contractors assigned to my squadron and 12 total in all the air refueling squadrons at Fairchild. They have helped greatly reduce the chance of errors. They've also kept our aircrew progressing and help forecast our operational requirements."

This program has kept critical processes moving, rather than stalling-out for a period of time due to deployments or missions. When Airmen return from a deployment, instead of not knowing where the last Airman left off, they're now able to get a clear answer from support personnel who can say "this is where we are today, this is where we're going and this is what needs to get done," McClune said.

"Airmen are able to do their jobs more effectively and efficiently with the support of this program," he added. "It doesn't remove additional duties, but

it makes their jobs easier to be completed, and done proficiently."

TSOS has greatly improved the quality of life and service for Fairchild Airmen through bringing continuity into the squadron.

"When our continuity breaks down, stability for our Airmen then breaks down, which leads to a break down in quality of life and service," McClune said.

For example, with the help of TSOS Airmen may get a seven-day notice instead of two for a local mission, or extra time to prepare for an upcoming deployment. It helps Airmen plan their lives ahead of time.

The results have been benchmarked by AMC for success, and their products have been shared with eight wings to help them implement similar support for their Airmen.

"We had this idea and weren't sure at first how to make it happen," said McClune. "Luckily for us, the 92nd Contracting Squadron is very much a 'yes-oriented' organization. If it weren't for our relationship with them and the support of Air Mobility Command, none of this would have been possible."



U.S. Air Force photo/Louis Briscose

Airman 1st Class Meghan Sylvia, 32nd Air Refueling Squadron KC-10 Extender boom operator at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J., uses the cargo load trainer Aug. 15 at Travis Air Force Base, Calif.

Future

From Page 5

Tabor. "That transition from simulator to aircraft is much more believable visually than it was in the past."

This is a welcomed upgrade since the simulator hosts many students throughout the year.

"We train all active duty and reserve Airmen here at Travis and other locations, we also train foreign students from Italy and the Netherlands who have air refueling capabilities," said Tabor. "We train over 600 students each year."

Training courses include the initial qualification course, an instructor upgrade course and a requalification course. Every boom operator is required to complete the two-day refresher course every quarter once certified. The most demanding and time-consuming course is the initial training course.

"The initial qualification course is a 38-day intense scenario-based simulator training," said Tabor. "Students must pass the course, then pass the Air Force administered evaluation in the simulator before they can start refueling in the aircraft."

So far, the upgrade is seen as a success among those boom operators who have trained

under both systems. Staff Sgt. Derrell Vann, 60th Operation Support Squadron, KC-10 Extender boom operator instructor appreciates what the new upgrade brings to the table.

"I like the new system compared to the old one," said Vann. "The visuals give you a more realistic view of what it actually feels like refueling aircraft."

Vann is responsible for training other boom operators at Travis and has received mostly positive feedback from those who have used the new system.

"The upgrades are definitely worth it," said Vann. "I've gotten a lot of good feedback from other boom operators that the training is better than what we used in the past."

Another training upgrade that is now better from what was used in the past is the new cargo load trainer. The CLT is a life-size model that allows boom operators to become proficient at loading cargo. This is extremely important since boom operators are dual-hatted and serve as loadmasters on the KC-10. Ricky Jackson, aerial port lead for Pinnacle Solutions oversees the training.

"It's a mock KC-10 Extender aircraft from the cockpit door back which was built from the ground up," said Jackson. "The Air Force did an amazing

job purchasing everything we needed to make the training as realistic as possible."

Although training has only been in place less than a year, course instructors have already built a variety of courses. There's an initial qualification course, a requalification course and a refresher training course. And since this is the only CLT in AMC, the trainer is getting a lot of use.

Because the 60th MXS does not have the permission or ability to spray-paint their C-17s, the Airmen stationed at Travis then do not have the means to train on how to use the spray paint equipment or prepare the jet for the process. Collaborating with the 62nd MXS to paint their C-17s at McChord Field provides their Airmen with the opportunity to learn those skill sets, making them better qualified Airmen.

"We built this CLT for boom operators so they could experience different types of load configurations," said Jackson. "The 21-day initial qualification course allows students from all over to experience scenarios they'll potentially see on the aircraft."

For one student, the training has been valuable as a new boom operator in the Air Force. Airman 1st Class Meghan Sylvia, 32nd Air Refueling Squadron KC-10 Extender boom operator, Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey, said she's more prepared now having used the CLT.

"This is my third temporary duty to Travis training on the CLT, we don't have one at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst," said Sylvia. "Having a full-scale CLT is very advantageous. The training provides us a foundation on how to properly load equipment before going out and doing the real thing."

Paint

From Page 7

few years. We'll probably do about three a year; at least that is what our hopes are, but we don't know if that will happen."

The paint on the C-17 protects the aircraft from water entrapment, provides ultraviolet protection, aids in fuel efficiency and, most importantly, is a form of corrosion control. Without the paint as a protective layer, the metal components, such as the panels, hinges, rivets, etc., would be eaten away by rust and potentially fall off. Spraying is much more effective in bonding the paint to the metal versus rolling it on, and can provide protection for a longer amount of time.

"It's making sure we're extending the life of our jet, and corrosion is the number one killer of jets," Kelly said. "We don't have anything else coming down the line to replace our C-17s, so we have to take the best care of them we can. That plane flies because of paint; corrosion prevention is vital. It's a huge part of what we do."

Because the 60th MXS does not have the permission or ability to spray-paint their C-17s, the Airmen stationed at Travis then do not have the means to train on how to use the spray paint equipment or prepare the jet for the process. Collaborating with the 62nd MXS to paint their C-17s at McChord Field provides their Airmen with the opportunity to learn those skill sets, making them better qualified Airmen.

"This is our first time painting here, and for a lot of these guys, this is the first time they are going to be spraying at all," Kelly said. "Some of our [less experienced] members, and even some of our [more experienced], have never sprayed before because we can't do it in California. We're taking it pretty slow so they have all the training they need."

This is Travis' first trip to McChord for this purpose, and is a test to see how everything will go and if it will be a viable option to meet future needs.

"The 62nd Airlift Wing has been fabulous in regards to making sure we have all of the supplies we may need," Kelly said. "Working with them

has been a dream. A lot of this trip is specifically going back and making sure we know what we need for next time. Lessons learned, like things that we didn't bring enough of or at all."

The ultimate plan is to have multiple bases using McChord's paint barn to maintain their C-17s.

"The initial test run was a great success," Fugle said. "This was just one of many to come as we are working with almost every C-17 base to make McChord the AMC C-17 regional paint facility. Travis was first due to proximity, interest in the program and the EPA hardships they face in California."

"Like any program this regional paint facility can either be a huge benefit to AMC or it can become the bane of the corrosion control program, it all depends on how it is treated and how we as leaders treat our assets," Fugle continued. "If not properly managed, we will have a great idea with high expectations turn into a total flop. I fully believe our leadership team is on track to make this program a success and the greater Air Force will benefit from this partnership."

Every base is like a wheel or cog in the engine that is the Air Force. It is when they work together that the Air Force can be most efficient and achieve its goals.

"I think it will be beneficial for us to come up here and use these resources," said Staff Sgt. Fernando Ortiz, 60th MXS aircraft structural maintenance technician. "We're all one Air Force. I know there are different bases and subcultures, but at the end of the day we're all in the same Air Force and should be helping each other out."

McChord is working on building a new partnership with all of the bases in its command that will help extend the life of one of their vital assets to better the Air Force for everyone involved.

"MXS is a great team and we all believe in being good teammates across the C-17 community," said Anthony Babcock, 62nd Maintenance Group commander. We're really pleased that we can help out other units across the Air Force."

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Bond

From Page 12

"(Being matched with Rashawn) gave me a better appreciation for our armed forces," Cooper said. "Sometimes we hear about good and bad things happening but a lot of people don't really see or understand the day-to-day sacrifices military families make."

When Cooper and Rashawn, or RJ for short, became brothers, they connected instantly.

"Becoming a big brother was the best decision I've ever made," Cooper said. "At first, I figured I'd volunteer a little on the weekends and give back like so many of the male role models did for me as a young boy, but RJ truly enriched my life and I immediately became invested in him. It was a humbling experience. RJ inspired me to be a better man."

According to its website, Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Texas' vision is that "all children achieve success in life."

In an effort to help children succeed, Big Brothers Big Sisters recommends mentors provide a minimum 12-month commitment in an effort to provide consistency, trust and mentorship to a little brother or sister. However, there are many bigs and littles who stay connected far beyond a year.

"RJ has been in my life for nearly six years. We are family. We will always be a part of each other's lives and share a special bond," Cooper said.

Big Brothers Big Sisters has

been connecting mentors and children for more than a century. The organization matches children ages 6 through 18 with adult mentors, operating in all 50 United States and in 12 countries around the world with the belief every child has the ability to succeed and thrive in life.

The program offers an opportunity to connect adults and children together, however, with a shortage of mentors and such high demand, male mentors like Cooper are especially

crucial to the organization.

Cooper remains a committed part of RJ's life and is excited to see what his future holds.

"I never imagined the impact I would have on a child, but I also never realized the impact this resilient little boy would have on me," he said. "I am proud to be part of this military family, I am proud to be part of Big Brothers Big Sisters and, most importantly, I am proud to be here for Rashawn."

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Blaze

From Page 3

Wasiewski. "They put themselves between the fire and the homes and put out spot fires."

Resources from Travis were utilized until the early afternoon of Aug. 11, providing nearly 20 hours of support.

"Our tender truck didn't return until Saturday afternoon around 2 p.m.," said Wasiewski. "It was used to refill several trucks with water numerous times."

The Nelson Fire grew to 2,162 acres, destroyed one home and resulted in one injury before it was extinguished. It took a team of approximately 200 firefighters, 70 engines and four aircraft working together for three hours before the fire was contained and several

more hours before the fire was out.

Palmer said he's thankful for the support his team received, especially from Travis AFB.

"It's important to know we can rely on Travis to respond quickly when we need them," he said. "They're always willing to provide whatever support we need and they have the capability to respond quickly."

Wasiewski credits how well his firefighters worked with their civilian counterparts to the relationship Travis has established with Solano County.

"We engage monthly with our counterparts across Solano County," he said. "We participate in joint training, attend monthly meetings and often work together in response to emergencies."

"These relationships enable

us to form a team quickly, implement a plan and be successful," he said. "If we didn't have those relationships established, coming together the way we did would be difficult. When called to respond to an emergency, we don't have time to worry about how we are going to communicate or how we are going to integrate. We just have to step up and do it."

Residents in Fairfield and Vacaville appreciated the effort to put out the fire and save their homes.

"Shout out to our first responders for getting the Nelson Fire so quickly contained," said Deann Baker, a Fairfield resident, in a social media post. "So grateful for your diligence and hard work. We appreciate you."

"Thanks for keeping us safe," said Gigi Newland Warshawsky of Vacaville. "It doesn't go unappreciated."

Green

From Page 2

need them to be. Although professional development is not always spoken about with the same level of excitement, it should be, because the development of our enlisted personnel is what makes us stand out as a force and is imperative to keeping up with the growth.

Our Air Force senior leaders have taken the time to make our development manageable and meaningful. There are only 99 days of in-resident training required over a 30-year career and Course 14 and Course 15 are now not mandatory. That should not only get you excited, but should relieve education anxieties for some.

Now, we can focus on First Term Airmen Courses, Airmen Leadership School, Noncommissioned Officer Academy, Senior Noncommissioned Officer Academy and Chief Master Sergeant Leadership Course.

Another exciting change is the Developmental Special Duty Program. Now there are 10 developmental positions that our Airmen can be vectored into and these are highlighted in the new 36-2618 Enlisted Force Structure Handbook previously known as "the little brown book."

Transform

Although transformation might seem like a strong word for what we are currently going through, when you consider all of the programs changing at once, I definitely think it applies. One example is the Parental Leave policy change for primary and secondary

caregivers.

The Base of Preference program is testing out some updates on select career fields with more to come soon. And of course the update to AFI 36-2903 Dress and Personal Appearance of Air Force Personnel; it includes updates to tattoos, hair, earrings, medals, ribbons, hand bags, and everyone's favorite the Occupational Camouflage Pattern uniform.

The transfer from the Airman Battle Uniforms to OCPs starting in October is a great example of a change to be excited about because it shows you that Air Force leadership is listening to your feedback.

Additionally, a heroic effort to revitalize the squadrons is underway. And if all of that is not enough to get you excited, the planned 2.6 percent pay raise next year will at least make you smile.

We are making huge strides forward but we have to do it together. What I ask from you is to figure out what your role is. At times like these there are anchors and assets. The anchors tie the boat to keep it from adjusting or moving. An asset is what helps the team move along, brings solutions instead of problems and does it with a great attitude.

As you are asked to move forward and assist with these changes in our Air Force, ask yourself "which one am I?" Are you resisting the changes like an anchor? Or are you helping take our Air Force to the next level with excitement and focus like an asset? I ask you to be an asset. After all, I think it's about time we stop focusing on what we're doing wrong and get excited about what we're doing right.

Ray

From Page 10

has fostered world peace by preventing major power conflicts."

After receiving the guidon, Ray addressed his new command at Barksdale Air Force Base's Hoban Hall.

"When I come here to Hoban Hall, there is a lot that comes with it," Ray said. "A lot has happened in this room. It was in this room that I saw

the last SAC bomb competition. It's also in this room that I got to see some of my heroes take command and then later retire. It was in this room too that I got to see the stand up of Air Force Global Strike Command, when we rebuilt the command from scratch. It was in this room as well where we had the Global Strike Challenge, when we reinvigorated that particular heritage. So, to stand here on this stage, taking command of the mightiest arsenal on the planet, it's very humbling."

Welch

From Page 2

others-centeredness is precisely the attitude of the seasoned bassist: always listening and aware of what's happening around him or her.

Style

Tanker crews and bassists carry themselves in a similar way. They have a certain attitude, their own swag. They are typically quiet professionals, awesome at what they do, but rarely ever in the limelight. Good tanker crews can get the gas to their receivers on time, on target and they often find an extra 15,000 pounds of gas to give to receiver aircraft. In the same way, a good bassist is the consummate professional, he or she shows up on time, is always prepared and lays down that fat bassline.

Dedication

Tankers and bassists can handle monotony. James

Brown's bassist may play the same six-note phrase for 19 minutes like a robot, but if that sets the groove and keeps it funky, that's what he'll do. This is the parallel to 'drilling holes in the sky' in between activities on a combat sortie: you're there to support. Tankers and bassists do what it takes and they do it without complaining.

Cool

Finally, bass players are cool. Tanker crews are cool, too. Fighter pilots and lead guitarists may get lots of attention at concerts and air shows, but that's OK. The tanker crew dog is content knowing who got him to the fight and back.

I love flying air refueling missions in the KC-10 just as much as I love playing bass in a tight jazz trio or on a Sunday morning at church. I'm thankful for the opportunity to do both. Flying in the Air Force has enabled me to directly support our nation's freedom and that same freedom allows me to play music. It's a beautiful thing.

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U.S. Air Force photos by Lan Kim



1) A group of single-engine propeller aircraft belonging to local aviation community members stand ready for takeoff Aug. 18 at Travis Air Force Base, Calif. The 60th Air Mobility Wing Safety Office hosted the seminar to raise awareness of the mission and promote best safety aerial practices in and around the airspace surrounding Travis. 2) Col. Matthew Leard, 60th Air Mobility Wing commander, addresses the community. 3) Local aviation community members attending the Midair Collision Avoidance Safety Seminar tour a C-5M Super Galaxy.

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