



NINERS

... welcome Airmen, families

PAGES 14-15

High-touch leadership crucial to leaders

Commentary by
Lt. Col. Chris Carnduff
628TH CIVIL ENGINEER SQUADRON

JOINT BASE CHARLESTON, S.C. — Technology has revolutionized our lives and the Air Force.

Our high-tech culture and military are capable of unprecedented effectiveness and agility due to the speed of communication. In many facets of our personal and professional lives, technology gives us the ability to communicate rapidly and accomplish a variety of tasks with minimal personal interaction. However, this high-tech world introduces a risk of leaders losing touch with those under their command. To reduce the potential of technological isolationism, leaders must focus

on using high-touch tactics, including learning about subordinates, providing continuous performance feedback and taking ownership of the organization's actions.

Leaders cannot lead effectively by sending a barrage of e-mails; it takes time, effort, creativity and, most of all, requires genuinely caring about the welfare and development of their personnel. In the age of social media and mass e-mails, it is easy to think we know people based on what we see on a computer screen but learning about an individual demands face-to-face interaction, understanding their non-verbal communications and gauging their motivations. Only through the process of learning about an individual can leaders understand how to

Commander's Commentary

motivate and mentor their Airmen to achieve excellence.

Deliberate performance feedback is critical to correcting substandard performance, rewarding excellence and putting individuals on a path to being outstanding contributors to the goals of the organization. Virtual feedback is not sufficient. Performance feedback must be a face-to-face communication capitalizing on the knowledge a leader gains from learning about the subordinate. It is easy for leaders to think they provide continuous feedback because they give guidance via e-mail or through another virtual means but those

mechanisms are ineffective in comparison to focused personal interactions aimed at guidance and mentorship. Without engaging in interactive and personal performance feedback, leaders risk abdicating the responsibility of taking unbiased ownership of each member's actions.

A critical component of effective leadership is taking complete ownership of the intent and execution of the organization's mission. One can only achieve such ownership through high-touch interactions. In an age of digital work accomplishment and communication, a leader can fail to take responsibility for subordinates' work. Many times that failing is due to not wanting to micromanage Airmen, a noble intent. However, a leader can make the motivation clearer

by involving themselves in their subordinates' actions personally instead of virtually. Additionally, being involved personally, leaders enable an open dialogue which enhances communications of intent.

The technological revolution our society has undertaken over the past few decades is awesome and the application of new technologies has contributed to the U.S. Air Force's dominance in air, space and cyberspace. However, we must never forget our people are, and will always be, our greatest asset. Regardless of the generation, people are best understood by, mentored by and led by people...not ones and zeros. A high-tech organization deserves high-touch leadership to maximize the effectiveness of its people.

Night on town turns into life-altering incident



Commentary by Airman 1st Class
Katrina Walter
90TH MISSILE WING

F. E. WARREN AIR FORCE BASE, Wyo. — As Airmen, we are constantly preparing to be ready for the worst days of our lives. We live by a fit to fight ethos and maintain readiness for the most extreme of emergency situations. Though, sometimes we realize we aren't just prepared to fight for our lives and remember that we are trained to fight for every free life in the United States.

My night came on Aug. 28, 2018. I found myself in San Antonio, Texas,

Enlisted Commentary

with a group of Airmen the 90th Missile Wing had dubbed the best of the best. We were attending the annual Air Force Sergeants Association Conference and Professional Airman's Conference.

During the day we would hear from some of the most renowned members of the Armed Forces and at night we would build camaradery and explore San Antonio as a group.

As most know from graduating Basic Military Training, San Antonio has an enticing nightlife surrounding the River Walk. Locals and tourists label the River Walk as the "place to be" and a "must-see."

I looked at my phone, and saw the time was nearly 1 a.m. Wednesday. Not used to staying out this late, I began to weigh the pros and cons of returning to my hotel due to the early morning ahead of us. I turned to my friend, Airman 1st Class Nicole Reed, and saw she was exchanging

stories with a woman who was making the transition from enlisted to officer and decided the lack of sleep would be worth the memories made.

Reed, Master Sgt. Jason Myers and I had all arrived together and were standing on the second story balcony of a piano bar overlooking the River Walk. We were socializing, laughing and enjoying ourselves while meeting other Airmen who were also attending the conference.

The atmosphere of the night

See WALTER Page 17

Muslim sergeant with CRW shares spiritual path

Tech. Sgt. Liliana Moreno

621ST CONTINGENCY RESPONSE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

A U.S. Air Force Airman from the 821st Contingency Response Squadron is among the first to be granted a religious accommodation for a shaving waiver based on his Muslim faith after the Air Force released new guidance in 2016 to accommodate individuals with religious requests.

In 2011, while stationed in a remote part of Turkey, in the ancient town of Izmir, Staff Sgt. Abdul Rahman Gaitan found himself exposed to a new culture and in a town with deep religious history.

"I was surrounded by very deep Christian history, so I naturally felt I needed to strengthen my spiritual life," he said. "I began to read the Bible from a different perspective and mindset, with this I was pulled into the theology of Christianity."

Gaitan understood the importance of resiliency, specifically spiritual resiliency which is defined as the ability to sustain an individual's sense of self and purpose through a set of beliefs, principles or values.

Spiritual resiliency, along with mental, physical and social, are recognized as the four pillars that comprise the Comprehensive Airmen Fitness initiative intended on maximizing the whole Airman concept. Each domain has separate key concepts, but all add together to create a checklist that can help one drive toward success.

Raised in a Catholic environment, Gaitan's family followed the traditional formalities that came with the religion.

"As a Hispanic, Catholicism is intertwined with our culture, food and way of life," Gaitan explained. "Religiously, I only went to church because I felt I had to. I followed the Catholic 'playbook'



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

Staff Sgt. Abdul Rahman Gaitan, 821st Contingency Response Squadron aerial porter, has become the first Airman to be granted a religious accommodation for a shaving waiver based on his Muslim faith.

growing up. ... I was part of Bible Clubs, I went to many youth retreats, and tried hard to be a person of faith, but it always felt unnatural, no matter how hard I tried."

During his quest to find the answer he needed to develop his spiritual life, Gaitan began to feel uncomfortable with some of the fundamental tenets of

Christianity, so he left the faith.

As time passed, Gaitan began to grow a friendship with an older Turkish man and his son who ran a small shop at the bottom of the building where he lived.

"This family was always reading the Quran and I was so moved by their relationship with their religion. When the call to prayer went on they stopped

everything and began to pray," Gaitan said. "Every time I heard the call to prayer and saw men and women going to the mosque or praying in their shop, I felt the peace and tranquility the five daily prayers gave them."

The following year, Gaitan moved to

See MUSLIM Page 23

Tailwind



Travis AFB, Calif.
60th Air Mobility Wing

Air Force

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60th Air Mobility Wing commander

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The Tailwind is published by the Daily Republic, Fairfield, California, a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. Air Force.

While most of the editorial content of the Tailwind is prepared by the 60th Air Mobility Wing Public Affairs office for its Web-based product, the content for the Tailwind is edited and prepared for print by the Daily Republic staff.

Content of the Tailwind is not necessarily the official view of, nor is it endorsed by the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense or

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60amwpa@us.af.mil.

Deadline for copy is 4:30 p.m. Friday for the following Friday's issue. Swap ads must be brought to Bldg. 51 by noon Monday for possible print in that Friday's issue. Emailed or faxed Swap Ads are not accepted.

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Visit the Travis public web site at <http://www.travis.af.mil>. Read the Tailwind online at <http://tailwind.dailyrepublic.net> or by accessing the Travis SharePoint.

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On the cover

Fred Warner, San Francisco 49ers linebacker, greets the Pipers, a dual-military family from Travis Air Force Base, Calif., on Nov. 11 at Levi's Stadium in Santa Clara, Calif.

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



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

WARRIOR OF THE WEEK

Name:
Senior Airman David Miley.

Unit:
60th Logistics Readiness Squadron.

Duty title:
Mission Support Group commander's action group administrator.

Hometown:
Hudson, Florida.

Time in service:
Three years.

Family:
Spouse, Brittany Miley; son, Maverick Miley.

What are your goals?
Complete Community College of

the Air Force by the new year and complete a Bachelor of Arts in organizational leadership.

What are your hobbies?
White water rafting, anything outdoors, softball, golf, bowling, and volleyball.

What is your greatest achievement?
Enlisting in the Air Force.

Exchange extends holiday return policy

Lorraine Harris-Ortega

ARMY & AIR FORCE EXCHANGE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

To make this holiday season less stressful for military shoppers, the Travis Air Force Base Exchange is extending its return policy for items purchased between Nov. 1 and Dec. 24.

The Exchange's standard policy allows returns 15 to 90 days after purchase with a sales receipt or online order confirmation depending on the item. The holiday return policy extends these terms through Jan. 31.

"Sometimes you get that perfect gift and sometimes you don't," said Phonda Bishop, Exchange store manager. "With the Exchange's extended return policy, military service members, retirees and veterans will have plenty of time to make an effortless exchange or a trouble-free return."

Veterans who have registered to shop online at ShopMyExchange.com can use the extended holiday return policy. They can return ShopMyExchange.com merchandise purchased between Nov. 1 and Dec. 24 by mail or by calling 1-800-527-2345 for assistance through Jan. 31.

Shoppers can find out more information or return items purchased in-store or online by visiting Travis Air Force Base Exchange customer service.



Visit the Travis **FACEBOOK** at facebook.com/TravisAirForceBase



U.S. Air Force photo/Louis Briscese

Airmen who reside in the dorms are treated to a home cooked meal during an event at the Peak Airman Ministry Center sponsored by the chapel team Nov. 13 at Travis Air Force Base, Calif. The Travis chapel team is the recipient of the Charles I. Carpenter award, which recognizes the best chapel team in the Air Force.

Chapel team best in Air Force

Louis Briscese

60TH AIR MOBILITY WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Being selected as the top in your career field for the Air Force is an amazing accomplishment.

Recently, the Chapel Team at Travis AFB won the Charles I. Carpenter award, which recognizes the best large chapel team in the AF. The award is named after Chaplain (Maj. Gen.) Charles I. Carpenter, who was the first chief of Air Force chaplains, serving from August 1949 to August 1958.

Winning the award validates the exceptional services the chapel team provides to Travis. Maj. Todd Leathermon, 60th Air Mobility Wing, deputy wing chaplain says this is a total team effort.

"The team we have is extraordinary," said Leathermon. "The amount of work being done year after year has a profound impact on the base and local community."

Despite having one-third of the chaplains deployed during the award period, the team still managed to

provide the same services and programs. One of those programs is the Clinical Pastoral Education program, which is the only one offered in Air Mobility Command. Last year, 28 students graduated from the program accumulating more than 8,400 hours of training time.

"Our CPE program is the only one in AMC and prepares individuals to be chaplains in a hospital setting," said Leathermon. "It's a 10-month program for students already enrolled in seminary or ministry."

Taking care of the warfighters who perform the mission is the number one priority for the chapel team. They do this by sponsoring events, putting on support programs and being on location in the units speaking with Airmen face-to-face.

It's very easy for Airmen to focus on the mission while ignoring their own needs or problems they may be dealing with, he said.

"The operations tempo is so high here and there's an enormous expectation for

See **CHAPEL** Page 23

Exchange offers coupons

Lorraine Ortega

ARMY & AIR FORCE EXCHANGE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

For the third time this year, the Army & Air Force Exchange Service is giving Travis Air Force Base Exchange shoppers an opportunity to help Soldiers, Airmen and military families in need.

From Nov. 30 to Dec. 5, Exchange shoppers can make donations to Army Emergency Relief and Air Force Assistance Fund. A coupon is granted for \$5 off a \$25 purchase.

The first two "Give & Get Back" donation periods of 2018 garnered more than \$212,000 for the support funds. AER and

AFAF provide emergency assistance, sponsor educational and community programs that improve the quality of life for service members and their families.

"The Travis AFB community is always quick to help those in need - it's in their DNA," said Flor B. Payton, Exchange general manager. "The Exchange is honored to be a part of this wonderful program to support service members and their families who are going through tough times."

The coupons are valid Dec. 6-12. There's not a limit to the number of coupons shoppers can earn and the coupons can be redeemed in stores or online at ShopMyExchange.com.

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Safety issues mobile app

Keith Wright

AIR FORCE SAFETY CENTER PUBLIC AFFAIRS

KIRTLAND AIR FORCE BASE, N.M. — The Air Force Safety Center released a mobile version of the Airman Safety App, Nov. 15, enabling Airmen at installations Air Force-wide to voluntarily report safety issues with their devices as they encounter them.

A capability designed to advance the Airman Safety Action Program, this simple proactive tool utilizes every Airman as a sensor to identify hazards in their workplace

and throughout the installation for the purpose of mishap prevention.

"We are leveraging technology to capture those unintentional errors, hazardous situations and high-risk activities that may not be identified through traditional safety reporting channels," said Kevin Tibbs, AFSEC Airman Safety Action Program manager. "The Safety Center receives more than 60 reports a month that may not have been revealed otherwise."

Submissions to ASAP using the Airman Safety App are designed to encourage open

reporting of safety concerns and information that might be critical to identifying precursors to accidents.

This includes initiating reports identifying the existence of hazards, events or conditions negatively affecting nuclear surety and chronic, work-related occupational illnesses.

As of Nov. 1, more than 4,500 ASAP reports have been filed since 2009. Of those, 858 in fiscal year 2018 were remote submissions via the URL-based app.

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Smoke from fire fills air over Travis



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

A U.S. Air Force C-17 Globemaster III aircraft from the 60th Air Mobility Wing is prepared for a sortie as smoke from a wildfire in Butte County, California, fills the air Nov. 15 at Travis Air Force Base. The Camp Fire is over 120 miles from the base, has burned over 142,000 acres, destroyed 11,860 structures and caused 79 deaths as of Nov. 20.

Horses bring solace to Airman, reservist

Staff Sgt. Daniel Phelps
349TH AIR MOBILITY WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The clip-clop of horse hooves fills the air as the heat of the summer sun beats down on the parched California earth.

Dust blows with a gentle breeze that does nothing to cool the air, but everything to fill one's mouth. The lowing of cattle echoes throughout the arena from various herds scattered around the plot.

Master Sgt. Tania McGuire, 349th Force Support Squadron first sergeant, takes a slow, deep breath to calm herself and her horse before she enters the arena.

McGuire is an amateur competitor in cutting, a

western-style equestrian competition. Horse and rider work as a team before a judge or panel of judges to demonstrate the horse's athleticism and ability to handle cattle during a two and a half minute performance, called a "run." Each contestant is assisted by four helpers: two are designated as turnback help to keep cattle from running off to the back of the arena, and the other two are designated as herd holders to keep the cattle bunched together and prevent potential strays from escaping into the work area.

"Cutting is an amazing sport," McGuire explained. "In every equine discipline that is ridden, the rider has control of

See HORSES Page 18



U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Daniel Phelps

Master Sgt. Tania McGuire, 349th Force Support Squadron first sergeant, prepares her horse for a practice Sept. 2 at her home in Placerville, Calif., prior to a competition later in the day.

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U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. James Hodgman
Staff Sgt. Linda Blake, back left, 60th Security Forces Squadron assistant NCO in charge of the Visitor Control Center, and her husband, Tech. Sgt. Michael Blake, 60th SFS flight chief, watch as their children play inside the Mitchell Memorial Library Nov. 9 at Travis Air Force Base, Calif.

Couple shares life, service

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

Editor's note: This is the first in a two-part series.

Military life can be stressful and provide numerous challenges to families.

For dual military couples, where both spouses serve in the military, finding the right balance between serving the mission and caring for family can be difficult.

"The military wants so much from you and the mission will always come first," said Tech. Sgt. Michael Blake, a 60th Security Forces Squadron flight chief. "You have to find a way to balance everything and that can be tough."

Michael has served 14 years in the U.S. Air Force and he has spent the past five years in a dual military marriage with his wife, Staff Sgt. Linda Blake, 60th SFS assistant noncommissioned officer in charge of the Visitor Control Center.

During his career, the father of three has served in a variety of positions at three bases from Korea to the United States. During his first assignment at

Travis Air Force Base from 2007 to 2013 he met Linda, who enlisted in the Air Force in June 2010.

It was an awkward first encounter.

At the time, she was told to go to the 615th Contingency Response Group to meet with squadron personnel. She saw then-Staff Sgt. Blake in the hall and asked where she should go. Michael didn't have the nicest response, Linda said.

"Maybe he was having a bad day," she said.

"I was a little stressed out," said Michael with a laugh.

The two didn't speak for a year. In February 2012, Linda and Michael were completing pre-deployment training in North Carolina. The two were assigned to the same fire team and had to work together during several 12-hour shifts.

"To help us stay awake and alert, we talked to one another and I soon realized he wasn't a jerk," said Linda. "We talked about everything from work to family and what we do in our off-time. We also talked about that first encounter. Michael apologized for what he said and I apologized for not giving him

another chance."

Shortly after the training was over, Linda and Michael started dating and after about a year passed, Michael asked Linda to marry him during a visit to San Francisco.

"I was so happy with her and I always wanted to be around her," he said. "I never want to lose her. She is my everything."

The couple said communication is essential to making their marriage work.

"We have to plan things," Michael said. "We try to plan a date night once a week which usually turns into more like once a month, but we always do little things for one another."

"Date night may be simply cooking dinner at home, just the two of us and watching a movie while the kids are sleeping," added Linda. "We also make time for church every Sunday."

Linda said ensuring their relationship is strong helps her and her husband support the mission.

"We are supporting something much bigger than ourselves," she said.

While the Blakes are committed to serving, they said

See COUPLE Page 19



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Tristan D. Vigilanco
Tech. Sgt. Roy Davis and Tech. Sgt. Matt Lemaire, 234th Intelligence Squadron intelligence analysts, participate in a conference call with various civilian and military agencies regarding the California wildfires Nov. 14 at Beale Air Force Base, Calif. The 234th IS Airmen are providing aerial imagery support to agencies battling the Camp and Woolsey fires.

Beale helps monitor fires

Airman 1st Class
Tristan D. Vigilanco
9TH RECONNAISSANCE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

BEALE AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. — Air National Guardsmen from the 195th Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Group provided aerial imagery support to agencies battling fires in California since Nov. 8, at Beale Air Force Base.

The 195th ISRG team, known as a processing, assessment and distribution (PAD) cell, have continued their support since their activation last week by Gov. Jerry Brown. The Airmen analyzing video and other intelligence collected on the Camp and Woolsey Fires.

"We are using imagery analysts to look at full motion video coming from medium altitude assets supporting the fire," said Tech. Sgt. Roy Davis, 234th Intelligence Squadron intelligence analyst. "Our analysts are looking at that and doing damage assessment. They are

also doing fire perimeter support, so ground agencies have an idea of how big the fire is, where it is at, and whether or not is breaching."

According to Davis, there are also fusion analysts going through other forms of intelligence, including social media, online data, and info collected by responding agencies.

All of this isn't possible without the help of communication troops in their units and in other cooperating agencies.

"We give comm support, whether it is maintaining the internet network, fixing technical issues, or installing software on the computers," said Staff Sgt. Olivia McCray, 222nd Intelligence Support Squadron communication support. "We are also out in the field doing the same thing so the pilots can communicate to the different platforms."

The team of analysts are working with a variety of local and national civilian and

military agencies, including the Army National Guard, the Air Force Reserve, CAL FIRE, and California Office of Emergency Services.

"It is not just the state of California using its agencies," Davis said. "It is really a national effort at this point."

According to CAL FIRE, the Woolsey Fire has killed 3 people, destroyed approximately 500 structures, and is 57 percent contained. The Camp Fire has killed 56 people, destroyed approximately 9,000 structures, and is 40 percent contained. The Camp Fire is now the deadliest and most destructive fire in California history.

"There has been so much loss and with that an element of emotions," Davis said. "As guard members we are civilians most of the month, but to be able to step into a full-time function and know we are supporting people who are members of our community is a humbling experience."

Foreign navy officers dive into air mobility

Staff Sgt. Andrea Salazar
JOINT BASE CHARLESTON PUBLIC AFFAIRS

JOINT BASE CHARLESTON, S.C. — Approximately 56 foreign and joint military officers from 52 foreign naval services from around the world visited Joint Base Charleston Nov. 13 to learn about the mission and capabilities of Air Mobility Command as well as JB Charleston's role as the gateway to the Atlantic.

This is the first time international students from the Naval Command College's Arleigh Burke Fellowship have visited JB Charleston. The program is one of several at the NCC, which is part of the U.S. Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island. It is the Navy's flagship senior developmental education program, focusing on educating and developing future leaders by building strategic and cultural perspective — as well as trust, confidence and cooperation — between American and international officers.

"Part of the program focuses not only on teaching these officers American defense, but also integrating them into American culture by traveling all over the U.S.," said U.S. Lt. Col. Chris Stephens, Naval War College student. "This

visit gave our foreign nation partners an opportunity to see firsthand how U.S. Transportation Command connects all the way down to the tactical level. It was also great to get a feel for what the mission is like for an airlift unit in the U.S."

For some students, seeing the large amount of C-17 Globemaster III aircraft and mobility assets was a high point of the trip.

"Coming from a small country, it's amazing to see the mammoth capabilities the U.S. Air Force has in terms of size, infrastructure and abilities," said Capt. Joseph Rohan, a Sri Lankan naval officer. "I can see how they're truly able to make a global reach because that is something very few countries can accomplish."

Although the majority of the class are naval officers, Rohan expressed the importance of understanding air operations.

"As naval planners, especially at the operational level, we do need to understand the unique characteristics air mobility brings into future operations," said Rohan. "Contingency operations are not one-dimensional, so gaining insight into the air and land components helps us consider that for future planning."

number of aircraft to support the national defense mission at a moment's notice.

"We are ready to fight tonight, and exercising with multiple squadrons of F-35s can demonstrate our ability to defeat potential adversaries wherever they may arise," said Maj. Caleb Guthmann, 34th Fighter Squadron assistant director of operations and exercise project officer.

The wings fly between 30-60 sorties per day from Hill's flight line.

Hill launches dozens of F-35As in exercise

388th Fighter Wing
Public Affairs

HILL AIR FORCE BASE, Utah — The active duty 388th Fighter Wing and Air Force Reserve 419th Fighter Wing conducted a combat power exercise Nov. 19, launching dozens of F-35A Lightning IIs within a condensed period of time.

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Charleston hosts new leadership course

Senior Airman Christian Sullivan
 JOINT BASE CHARLESTON PUBLIC AFFAIRS

JOINT BASE CHARLESTON, S.C. — Company-grade officers and senior NCOs at Joint Base Charleston, South Carolina, hosted Flight Commander's Edge, a new flight leadership training program, from Nov. 6-8.

JB Charleston was selected as the first Air Mobility Command base to lead Flight Commander's Edge because of its current resources and capabilities to train and develop flight leaders.

"Joint Base Charleston reached out to us earlier about updating their own flight commander's course," said William Hammerli, Air Mobility Command learning office strategic planner. "I let them know when the Edge program was coming out and asked if they wanted to be part of the beta test. I wanted to give them that opportunity since they wanted to take charge and lead the way."

The program supports the Air Force's priority to revitalize squadrons, as noted by Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David Goldfein. Goldfein said squadrons are the beating heart of the Air Force and hammered home the need for flight leadership with more experienced and trained leaders.

"I think the class could have a huge impact on the chief of staff's goal to revitalize the squadrons," said Lt. Col. Rose Stoor, Air University's eSchool of Graduate Professional Military Education director of program integration. "Our most significant goal is to support the development of flight commander courses across the Air Force."

Maj. Dan Cascio, 437th Air-lift Wing Commander's Action Group chief and an instructor for the course, seeing firsthand the soon-to-be benefits of the course for future flight leaders. In the course, students learned about topics every flight commander and chief should know such as officer performance reports and awards packages and situations a leader will be faced with.

"The Flight Commander's Edge uses a targeted method to teach upcoming flight leadership to understand the roles and responsibilities they're getting ready to get into," said Cascio. "The course serves as an aggregate treatment of the elements of their job, to teach them the dos and don'ts, as well as a theoretical approach to leadership."

One of the goals is teaching leadership to take care of their Airmen while helping revitalize squadrons and Cascio sees flight commanders as the first line of supervision in any given squadron.

"We're putting our best foot forward with the course," he said. "Our primary focus is to make sure we set our flight leadership up as best we can to lead our Airmen. It's absolutely imperative to make sure they are equipped to execute the duties of their office to the best of their ability. We owe that to them."

Capt. Jeff Wagenius, 315th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron aircraft maintenance unit officer in charge, who has already served as a flight commander, said he took things from this course he hopes to put in his tool belt.



Students engage each other during a group discussion portion of the new Flight Commander's Edge course, Nov. 7 at Joint Base Charleston, S.C.

"For me, taking this course was a great opportunity to grow in learning how to gain Airmen's buy-in for organizational change," said Wagenius. "When we have changes coming down from commanders, I've got to get my 120-plus Airmen onboard. I was looking for tools to enable me to accomplish that for my commanders."

"I hope through feedback from the participants, we can develop something that can set up young flight commanders, like myself, to not just make organizations more efficient, but make our Airmen more satisfied in their jobs."

Although it's a beta test and there will be learning curves along the way, Hammerli said he believes JB Charleston did

well in the course, creating a learning experience for the students and the instructors, while also reaching what he believes to be the number one goal: taking care of Airmen.

"Take care of Airmen and they'll take care of the mission, I truly believe that," said Hammerli. "If they know you care about them, they'll move heaven and earth for you."

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Goldfein underscores importance of alliance

Charles Pope

SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

BOGOTA, Columbia — Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David L. Goldfein concluded a two-day visit to Colombia on Thursday, reinforcing bonds with one of the United States' closest allies in Latin America and pledging to accelerate joint training activities with an air force he called the "gold standard" in the region.

The visit was Goldfein's first as the Air Force's highest-ranking officer to a country that has worked closely with the United States on an assortment of regional and security concerns for decades. At the same time, Goldfein's visit took place amid heightened regional concerns that underscored the importance of maintaining the longstanding ties the countries share.

"Colombia is the gold

standard when it comes to securing a country and forging a positive way forward," Goldfein said during an address to a collection of senior leaders, junior officers and non-commissioned officers, noting that the Colombian Air Force participated in the last U.S. Air Force Red Flag exercise.

As he did throughout the two-day visit in Bogota, Goldfein praised the Colombian military — and specifically its air force — for its high performance and partnership.

"As our national defense strategy states, we cannot win without coalition partners. ... Colombia has been, and will continue to be, a capable and willing partner of the United States," Goldfein said.

In a ceremony at the Memorial Heroes Caidos en Combate, or Fallen Heroes Memorial, Goldfein laid a wreath to honor Colombian troops lost in battle.



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49ers meet Airmen: Different uniforms, similar goals



1) Senior Master Sgt. Scott Piper, 60th Air Mobility Wing career assistance adviser, describes to his son, Sean, 11, how football formations work Nov. 11 at Levi's Stadium in Santa Clara, Calif. 2) Piper describes an experience about football to members of the San Francisco 49ers.

Airman 1st Class Jonathon D. A. Carnell
60TH AIR MOBILITY WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

This Veterans Day, 10 Airmen from Travis Air Force Base, California, were invited to the home of the San Francisco 49ers, Levi's Stadium, Santa Clara, Nov. 11.

The Airmen and their families had the opportunity to view of the 49ers practice. They were able to meet with the players one-on-one and converse with each other.

For one family, this experience was more than amazing and why Senior Master Sgt. Scott Piper, 60th Air Mobility Wing career assistance advisor, says, "Everything happens for a reason."

"Growing up in the military, I didn't have a 'local' team and in the 1980s, the 'Niners' were on national TV. quite a bit, so I started watching and following them," said Scott.

Scott and his wife, Master Sgt. Luciana Piper, 60th Medical Support Squadron information systems flight chief, have been stationed all around the world.

Having the opportunity to be in the same local area as his favorite team was a dream come true. Meeting and getting a personal connection with the players was just an added benefit and awesome for the kids, he said.

"This is really about my kids," said Scott. "I have four boys and just like me, growing up in the military, they don't have a 'hometown' team."

The two youngest boys reciprocated their dad's love for the 49ers and now call them their favorite team.

"Meeting the 49ers is an experience the kids will never forget," said Luciana. "The kids had so much fun and loved being able to talk to their favorite players."

The 49ers felt just as privileged to have Airmen and their families on the field to connect with them after the practice.

"We appreciate the support from all of our fans," said D.J. Reed, San Francisco 49ers defensive back. "Meeting some of the men and women who protect our freedom every day is truly incredible."

This experience with the 49ers is different from other events service members are fortunate to do in that the athletes and service members were able to hear each other's stories.

"Speaking to the players was incredible," said Scott.

These athletes have a lot of heart. They don't give up, and when it comes to Monday Night Football, they play hard, they hit hard, they get knocked down, but they get back up with intensity – striving to hit and play harder, he said.

There are many reasons why Scott loves the 49ers and football.

"In the mid-80s, I fell in love with the game of football and idolized a man named Jerry Rice," said Scott. "I appreciated the pride he took in his appearance, and I absolutely admired the work ethic he displayed in practices and his legendary off season workouts. He was not the tallest or the fastest, but he worked the hardest. As a result, he became the best to ever play the game."

It's from Jerry Rice where Scott learned a strong work ethic and leadership skills. It has paid dividends for the Airmen and civilians learning from Scott.

"I have coached sports for the last 19 years and the game of football and its team dynamics shares many parallels with executing a military mission," said Scott. "While all team sports have individual responsibilities to ensure a team success, football is unique in that if a single person doesn't do their job to the best of their ability, not only does it jeopardize the success of that play, but it could affect the health and the livelihood of their teammates."

Pairing up with the San Francisco 49ers showed how the men and women of Travis aren't just people in a uniform and it showed that the 49ers aren't just men in jerseys.

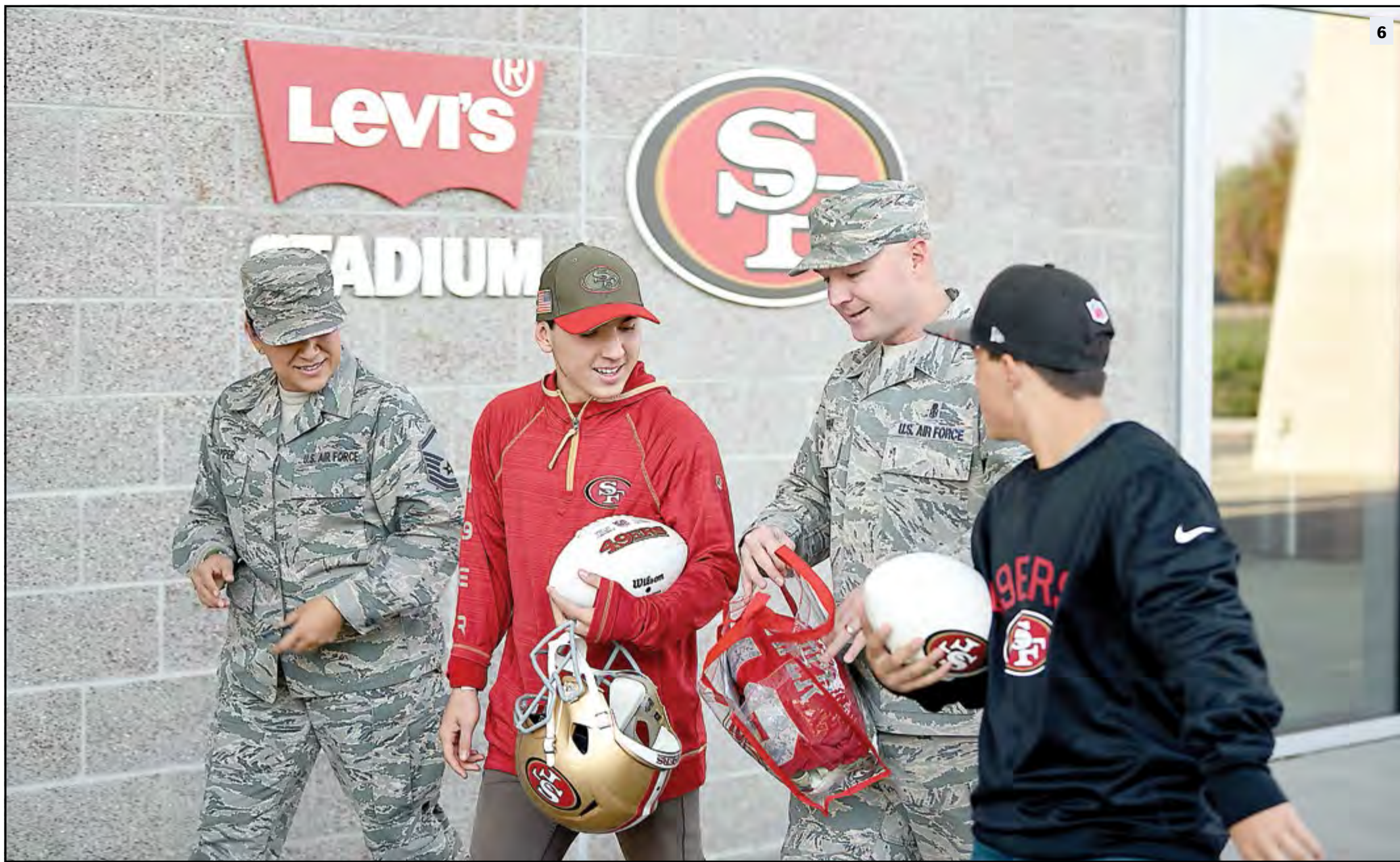
"I think it provides perspective for both the military and the community partners," he said. "Getting involved with the community reminds us as military members that our communities are ultimately why our military exists. We don the nation's cloth to allow our citizens to participate in public activities such as sporting events. It also provides an opportunity for military members to be reminded that their service is appreciated."

This Veterans Day was a great experience for the entire family, said Scott.

"It's a freedom to play this amazing sport," said Reed. "I wish our military received more of a spotlight for the service they do. It's nice to meet the people serving and an honor to have them as fans as I'm a fan of them."



3) Senior Master Sgt. Scott Piper, 60th Air Mobility Wing career assistance advisor, takes a photo of his family Nov. 11 at Levi's Stadium in Santa Clara, Calif. 4) Piper, his wife, Master Sgt. Luciana Piper, 60th Medical Support Squadron information systems flight chief, and their family pose for a photo Nov. 11 at Levi's Stadium. 5) D.J. Reed, San Francisco 49ers linebacker, signs a football Nov. 11 for a U.S. Air Force family at Levi's Stadium. 6) Scott Piper, Luciana Piper and their family enter Levi's Stadium Nov. 11.



Walter

From Page 2

immediately changed as a woman began to point and scream over the side of the balcony, "She's being raped!"

As soon as the words left the woman's mouth I turned and reached for the door. I did not know who she was talking about or where the incident was happening, but I knew it was in the vicinity of the River Walk and that someone needed help.

I ran through the door and right in front of me was Tech. Sgt. Wil Carrico. Carrico is the ideal hero, at 6 feet, 6 inches, with a hobby for volunteer firefighting, it is in his heart and nature to protect those who cannot protect themselves.

We ran through the bar, down two flights of stairs and found ourselves on the River Walk to no avail. As we searched, I could hear Reed giving direct instruction on the balcony to call the police, keeping everyone calm and shouting to the perpetrator that the authorities were being contacted.

I looked toward the balcony at the sound of Myers' voice and he began to give us directions on the location of the incident, allowing us to arrive on the scene.

As I ran up to the assault, I noted there was a group of

bystanders around two men in a physical altercation. I scanned the crowd and identified the victim of the alleged sexual assault. She was easily identifiable because her dress was disheveled in a manner that was indicative of sexual activity and she was leaning into another woman who seemed uncomfortable.

I approached and asked the uncomfortable bystander if she was friends with the woman leaning on her. When she replied "No," I quickly took control of the intoxicated victim by telling the bystander to, "Give her to me."

I laid the victim down over my lap and held her so she could look at me. I asked her if she had an ID and a man from the crowd came forward with her wallet and produced her military common access card. From her military identification, she was identified as a lieutenant in the Navy and my perception of time slowed to almost complete stillness.

I looked in the eyes of the naval officer laying on my lap, unable to speak or keep her eyes open. Suddenly, I understood every second of training, every weekend safety briefing, all the deployment and weapons training and what it means to be fit to fight.

After I finished asking her questions and receiving "yes" and "no" head nods, she began

to cry and said, "Please don't rape me." I began to comfort her and promised her that no one was going to hurt her while we were on the scene and that she would get the help that she needed.

When I finally looked up, she and I were alone on the ground, surrounded by police tape and the local authorities were taking control of the situation. In the next moments, I answered police questions about the incident, maintained control of the victim and mediated between her and the police until the ambulance arrived and her parents were located.

Even at this moment, none of my fellow Airmen who responded to the scene has any of the answers or know what became of our sister-in-arms after the incident. We do know her fate would have been much worse if we were not there.

Reflecting on the incidents of the evening, it is incredible that without prompt or training, each of our members were able to play a vital role in keeping the woman safe. Without Reed and Myers having a bird's eye view from the second floor balcony of the piano bar, we may not have made it there in time.

Without Carrico by my side, I may not have been able to take care of the victim while there was a fight happening right next to me. Every second

counted and our team instinctually knew exactly what to do when it mattered.

Chief Master Sgt. Kristian Farve, 90th MW command chief, found out about the incident after one of our members wasn't able to make it to the first session of the conference the next morning due to a lack of sleep. When he asked about the incident, we were honest and forthcoming and explained everything to him.

Since the event, we have been recognized by MAJCOM command chief, Chief Master Sgt. Tommy Mazzone, and received coins for our courage. It is true that we went in blind, we didn't have a strategy or know what enemy we were facing.

In the military, we are not just trained for war between countries. We are here so each member of the United States of America can fall asleep knowing they and their children are safe and free because of the sacrifices we made and the training we have.

It is incredible to be recognized for our actions, though we were executing our duties as Airmen and American citizens. We hope that anyone else in our situation would respond with the same instinct and genuine care.

In the words of the Air Force's pararescuemen, "These things we do, that others may live."

Safety

From Page 5

The Airman Safety App, once downloaded from the major app stores – Apple or Android – is accessible anywhere, anytime and focuses on minimizing the most common obstacles, making reporting quicker and easier to accomplish.

"The main advantage of the downloadable app versus the web-based app is that it is self-contained," said Frank Svet, AFSEC Analysis and Cyberspace Operations Division deputy chief. "It does not need a data connection or a browser to enter and store inputs to the application, while the web-based app requires a data connection to reach the URL initially via a browser, then the app is cached and can be utilized from that point on without a data connection."

The application brings a modernized touch to the Air Force's safety reporting by providing a paper-free connection between the submitter and the safety professional at their own installation saving countless hours in the process. Additionally, the report will be instantaneously available for that safety office to triage the issue and start mitigating identified hazards.

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Horses

From Page 7

the horse by their hands on the reins and directs the horse to the areas they want to go, they have that constant control of them. With cutting horses, the only thing you get to use is your legs. You have to trust in that animal to do their job. Their bloodlines' breed is to read cattle and understand them. The trainer's job is to go in and perfect those movements. All we do is guide them to pick the cow we want and they do the rest, we just go for the ride. It's all on the horse."

As a child, McGuire was always fascinated with horses.

"I used to draw them; I used to pretend I was a horse," she said. "If I was playing with Barbies or G.I. Joes, horses had to be involved."

She grew up in Southern California in the Los Angeles suburbs. In her neighborhood was small lot with horses she would often walk to.

"I would just go down there and stare at them," she said.

One day, the people who owned the lot saw her and asked if she wanted to ride them. The family also had a daughter around McGuire's age, and they became close friends. Eventually, the family moved up north, but McGuire would still visit during the summers and ride the horses.

Growing up and into adulthood, McGuire dove deeper and deeper into the horse world, becoming involved in various aspects. She did Western Pleasure showing, worked in racing stables exercising the horses, and took care of halter horses. McGuire toured the U.S. participating in shows and competitions.

Eventually, McGuire wound up in Texas and got a job as a loper at a cutting horse business. A loper is someone who grooms, prepares and exercises the horses prior to shows.

One day, a trainer asked McGuire if she wanted to try cutting on a horse. She leapt at the opportunity, and almost fell off. "They are very quick," she said. "They'll go 190 miles-an-hour one direction, and stop and turn really fast going the other way."

This was her first taste of the



U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Daniel Phelps

Master Sgt. Tania McGuire, 349th Force Support Squadron first sergeant, rides her horse as it cuts a cow from the herd during a cutting competition Sept. 2 in Lincoln, Calif.

cutting horse world. For years, she worked as a loper, and ended up marrying a trainer.

"I got hooked on it," she said. "I worked with some of the top stallions in the cutting horse world."

One day, her marriage came to an end and she had to take a break from horses. And, with the break up, McGuire moved from Texas back home to California.

"I was burnt out from being with him and the stresses of his training," she said.

The break only lasted about six months.

"Horses have always been my 'woosah,'" she explained. "They help me de-stress and calm down. Whenever something would happen, I would go to horses. When you are riding a horse, you have to concentrate on what you are doing. You can't dream off, because they are a 1,000-pound animal and you could get hurt."

Finally, she met her current husband, and they made a deal since he knew her passion for horses. She bought a horse for her husband and just enjoyed having it.

"I wasn't doing cutting, just some barrel racing," she said.

"I was just happy to have a horse back and have fun."

Around this time she joined the Air Force Reserve, and due to the demands on her time, she had to sell him.

"He was a really good horse, and it just wasn't fair to him to be kind of wasting away," she said. "I was attached to him, but he went to a great family."

Soon after, McGuire and her family bought a new house on a 19-acre property. They also bought a new horse, but not a cutting horse.

"I didn't think I would ever join that world again," she said. "It's very expensive."

The competitors in the cutting world she came out often had horses that ran in the price range of millions of dollars, she explained.

Then, the day came when she bought a new horse for her husband to ride.

"When I look at horses, I look at their breeding," she said. "The lady I bought this horse from had mentioned it would be good for cutting. She planted the seed."

She went to her son and asked if he could pretend to be a cow. She wanted to see if the horse could cut.

"And oh, he did," she said.

Last year was the first time McGuire had shown in 13 years, and missed first place in her league by three points for the season. This year, she locked in the championship early on.

"The one thing I love about the cutting horse community is that it's all over the world, but it is a tight knit community," McGuire said. "They are like a family. Everybody takes care of each other. We're all competing, but we all help each other."

McGuire said this family aspect is a huge connection between the military world and horse world.

"There is this familial closeness in the cutting world, just like the military is my family," she explained.

One of the key lessons she learned from working with horses that carried into her Air Force career is patience.

Working with horses, you need patience, she explained. It's easy to get frustrated because they can be just like little kids at times.

"You're going to fight with them; and you're going to argue with them; and you're going to go back and forth," she

explained. "I learned so much from the years I worked with horses on how to stay calm, cool, collected. Especially with emergencies that would happen."

Likewise, in the military you learn patience in your work processes, McGuire said.

"I'm a maintainer by heart," she said. "It's easy to get frustrated with trying to work on an aircraft and things aren't working right. Or, you don't have patience because you want to go, go, go, and get things done, or you're trying to rush things. You have to learn to calm down. Especially if there is a major incident and they gotta go. So, if you're trying to get things done, and you don't have that calmness in the storm, it's going to affect how things are going to happen. So, I think being with horses as long as I have, that has taught me to stay calm when there is that storm that is just all around you."

With a final deep breath, McGuire guides her horse forward to enter the arena, watching for the cow the judge had pointed out from the herd, ready to begin her run.

Couple

From Page 8

living up to the Air Force core value of service before self can be difficult.

"There may be a demand for both of us to be in the same place at the same time and we have to work with our bosses to try and work something out so one of us can take care of the kids," said Linda.

The Blakes welcomed their first child, Lilliana, into the world in June 2013. About a month later, they left Travis for F.E. Warren Air Force Base, Wyoming, where the family would grow again. In June 2015, the Blakes welcomed their second daughter, Layla, followed by their son, Michael Jr., in November 2016.

Like most parents, the Blakes want the best for their children, however, due to the high operations tempo of military life, they don't always have the luxury of time.

The hardest thing for me as a mother was to find my children a provider I thought was best for them before I had to return to work, said Linda. "Some

civilian families have the freedom to take advantage of stay at home moms. While some people in the military can make that decision too, for me, my Airmen are also a part of my family and I want to be there for them as well."

"As a supervisor, I enjoy mentoring Airmen, even those who may have made a bad decision and may not have had good mentors," she said. "Some may be depressed and others may be suicidal. It's important for me to continue serving, to mentor them so they know better days are ahead."

While the Blakes were assigned to F.E. Warren there were times when Michael and Linda worked opposite security shifts requiring them to be away from home for up to five days at a time.

"We would high-five one another on the way in or out and say 'Hey, dinner is in the oven, make sure you pick up the kids,'" said Michael. "We had to take advantage of extended care providers and I often picked up my kids after I got off work at 10 or 11 p.m."

During this time, the Blakes relied heavily on a support system of friends who found

themselves in the same situation.

"We had a close group of friends and we would hang out every Friday night we had off," said Linda. "We would go bowling or out to dinner and if we ever needed anything we always supported one another."

The Blakes arrived for their second tour at Travis in June 2018. Shortly after in-processing into the 60th SFS, they learned they were about to be assigned to the same shift on the same flight.

"We told them that can't happen because we have to take care of three children," said Linda. "I was kind of shocked by our leadership's response. They immediately took steps to work everything out so we were able to support the mission and our family."

"The leadership at the 60th SFS worked with us, said Linda. This led to me working days at the VCC and working swing shifts periodically while Michael worked nights."

Up next for the Blakes is a trip to Disneyland over their children's winter break from school.

"We are really looking forward to it," they said.

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Children's Church: 11:30 a.m.

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

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

BAPTIST

TRINITY baptist church

Southern Baptist Convention

401 W. Monte Vista Ave., Vacaville
707-448-5430
www.tbvacaville.com
Greg Davidson, Senior Pastor

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

Wednesday:
Dinner (Sept-May).....4:45 pm
AWANA (Sept-May).....6:00 pm
Youth.....6:00 pm
Choir.....6:30 am
Bible Study...10:00 am, 1:30 pm, 3:30 pm & 6:30 pm
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Dr. Claybon Lea, Jr. - Senior Pastor

Fairfield Campus
1735 Enterprise Drive, Bldg. 3
Fairfield, CA 94533

Sunday Worship Services
7:00am & 9:30am.

Bible Study
Tuesdays @ 7:00pm (Youth Sanctuary)

Suisun Campus
601 Whispering Bay Lane,
Suisun City, CA 94585

Sunday Worship Services, 11:00am
Bible Study
Tuesdays @ 12:00noon
707-425-1849
www.mcibcs.org for more information

BAPTIST

orchard baptist church

itsallaboutfamilies.org
301 N. Orchard Ave., Vacaville
707.448.5848

SUNDAY
Classes for all ages..... 10:00 am
Worship11:00 am
CORE Bible Studies 12:30 & 5:00 pm
(2nd & 4th Sunday)

WEDNESDAY
Adult Studies.....2:00 pm
AWANA for Kids6:15 pm
Adult & Youth Studies.....6:30 pm

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8am and 11am

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8am and 11am service

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at 9:30am

Awana on
Wednesdays at 6pm

1127 Davis Street, Vacaville
707-448-6209
www.fbcvv.com

CHURCH OF CHRIST

CHURCH of CHRIST
Meets at Rockville Cemetery Stone Chapel

4221 Suisun Valley Rd, Fairfield
9:00 a.m. Sunday Morning Bible Study
9:50 a.m. Sunday Morning Worship
5:30 p.m. Sunday Evening Worship
7:00 p.m. Wednesday Evening Bible Study

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"And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved." Acts 4:12

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

Sunday Morning Bible Study 9 AM
Sunday Morning Worship10 AM
Sunday Evening Worship6 PM
Wed. Evening Bible Study7 PM
Homeless ministry at Mission Solano
Rescue Mission 1st Friday of month 6-8 PM

CHURCH OF CHRIST - SOLANO
1201 Marshall Road, Vacaville, CA 95687
707-451-9301 • www.churchofchristsolano.com

EPISCOPAL

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1st & Kentucky Streets, Fairfield
(Just off W. Texas St.)
425-4481

Sunday Services:
8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist Rite I
9:15 a.m.
Pastor's Forum
10:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist Rite II
Tuesday Service:
10:00 a.m.
Healing Eucharist

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621 South Orchard Ave.
Vacaville, CA 95688
(707) 451-6675
mychurch@gobethany.com

Worship Services:
Sunday: 10:00am with Bible Studies and Sunday School for all ages at 9:00am
Fellowship: 11:15am
Communion on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month @ 6:21 S. Orchard Ave., VV

Pastor Dann Etnner
Bethany Lutheran Preschool
451-6678
myschool@gobethany.com
www.gobethany.com

Bethany Lutheran School
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Children's Church during 10 AM Service
Adult Bible Study: 8:45 AM
2075 Dover Ave., Fairfield
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(707) 425-2944
www.tlcp.org
Rev. Dr. Dan Molyneux, Pastor

NON-DENOMINATIONAL

Church of Christ
1500 Alamo Drive
Vacaville, CA 95687
(707) 448-8838
www.vacavillechurchofchristalamodrive.com

Sunday Morning
Bible Classes.....9:30 am
Assembly Worship.....10:45 am
Evening Assembly Worship .5:00 pm

Wednesday Evening
Bible Classes.....7:00 pm

Classes also by appointment
Elders:
Mark McCallister (707) 446-7477
Ed Sanderson Sr. (707) 446-0536

NON-DENOMINATIONAL

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Worship God • Love People • Share Christ
A Non-Denominational Bible Teaching Church

Sunday Worship Services
8:15am • 9:45am • 11:15am

We offer:
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• Youth Ministries
• AWANA Program
• Men's & Women's Bible Studies
• Prime Timers (Seniors Ministry)
• In Home Mid-Week Bible Studies
• Celebrate Recovery

Bruce Gallaher, Lead Pastor
707-446-9838
www.cccv.me
190 Butcher Road, Vacaville, CA 95687
(off of Alamo, Just South of I-80)

NON-DENOMINATIONAL

FAITH Community Church
To God be the Glory

Bible Based Expository Preaching
Sunday Worship Services
9 AM, 10:45 AM & 6 PM

Pastor Jon Kile
192 Bella Vista Road, Vacaville
707-451-2026

Nursery & Children's Classes Provided
Adult & Youth Sunday School -
9 AM & 10:45 AM

Check our website for more information on other ministries offered
www.vacavillefaith.org

DIRECTORY OF

Local worship services

For advertising information about this directory, call Classifieds at 707-427-6940 or email: cjohnson@dailyrepublic.net

NON-DENOMINATIONAL

TFH THE FATHER'S HOUSE

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

Service Times
Saturday: 6pm
Sunday: 9am & 11am

NON-DENOMINATIONAL

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(707) 437-2257
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Praise & Worship
Ministry in the Word
Children's Ministry
THURSDAYS
Prayer - 6:00PM
Family time in the Word - 7:00PM
Kingdom Men - Men's Ministry
TNT - Women's Ministry
New Beginnings Youth Ministry
Children's Ministry
LIVE STREAMING
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FOR LIVE AUDIO CALL
(641) 715-3640
access code=673239#

NON-DENOMINATIONAL

VACAVILLE BIBLE CHURCH

"To know Him, and to make Him known"

490 Brown Street
Vacaville, CA 95688
707-446-8684

Sunday Services:
Sunday School 9:45am
Morning Worship 11am
Evening Worship 5pm

Thursday Service:
Prayer Meeting 7pm
Bible Studies throughout the week

Pastor Ben Smith
www.vacavillebiblechurch.com
office@vacavillebiblechurch.com

NON-DENOMINATIONAL

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0900 and 1300

Base Sacrament Services
DGMC Chapel
(1st Floor North entrance)
Sunday 1600-1630

Inquires: Call LDS Military Relations Missionaries
707-535-6979

NON-DENOMINATIONAL

Vacaville Church of Christ
401 Fir St., Vacaville, CA 95688
(707) 448-5085
Minister: Ryan Brewer

Sunday Morning Bible Study
9:30 AM

Sunday Morning Worship
10:30 AM

Sunday Evening Worship
6:00 PM

Wed. Evening Bible Study
7:00 PM
www.vacavillecofc.com

If you would like to take a free Bible correspondence course contact:
Know Your Bible Program
401 Fir Street • Vacaville, CA 95688
(707) 448-5085

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Traditional with Choir 9:00 a.m.
Praise Service with Band 10:30 a.m.
Sunday School for children at both services
Youth Sunday School at 10:30 a.m.
Adult Christian Education (ACE) 10:20 a.m.
Nursery care is available during both Worship Services.

Interim Pastor Joanne Martindale
Alyson Barrett, Youth Director
Youth Group:
High School Youth (9th-12th grade)
meet from 6-7pm on Tuesdays
Junior High Youth (6th-8th grade)
meet from 5:30-6:15pm on Wednesdays

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350 N. Orchard Ave, Vacaville - 447-0521
unityvv@pacbell.net
www.unityvacaville.org

Sunday Morning
8:00 am Coffee with God
10:00 am Contemporary Celebration with Youth Education

Wednesday Evening
6:30 pm Non-Denominational Meditation Time
7:00 pm Contemplative Prayer

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Website: cumcfairfieldca.org

Pastor Ron Swisher
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Sunday School for Children during the Worship Service
Communion is held the 1st Sunday of every month

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Adult Bible and Book Studies
United Methodist Women
Sunday Morning Bible Studies at 9:00 A.M.

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U.S. Air Force photo/Louis Briscose

1st Lt. Johann Choi, 60th Air Mobility Wing chaplain, prays prior to dinner service for Airmen who reside in the dorms at the Peak Airman Ministry Center sponsored by the chapel team Nov. 13 at Travis Air Force Base, Calif. The Travis chapel team is the recipient of the Charles I. Carpenter award which recognizes the best large chapel team in the Air Force.

Chapel

From Page 4

success,” said Leathermon. “Those expectations bring stress and pressure, so if things in your life are adding to those pressures, it makes things much tougher.”

When the chapel team received feedback from the community action plan that not enough financial planning was being provided to families, they took immediate action. Their creation of the “Financial Peace” course helped Travis families manage their money more efficiently.

“One of the community action plan priorities was to help families with their finances,” said Leathermon. “We had 32 families to participate and collectively paid off over \$280,000 in debt and they saved over \$129,000.”

One of the ways chaplains get out to see Airmen is by providing meals for dormitory residents every Tuesday night. The Peak is

a centralized café located within the dormitory campus that provides a place for Airmen to relax and socialize.

“We hosted 324 airmen events mostly through our Airman Ministry Center, the Peak,” said Leathermon. “Providing home-cooked meals to our single Airmen in the dorms has had a huge impact on their morale.”

These meals are a welcomed sight for Airmen living in the dorms who, for one night, have another option for the dining facility. For Airman 1st Class Alyssa Palomares, 60th Medical Support Squadron admissions technician, the meals bring Airmen together in an inviting atmosphere.

“I love it, I’ve been to many dinners here at the Peak,” said Palomares. “My friends and I hang out and we get an outstanding meal. “It has a huge impact on us dorm residents.”

Other accomplishments that helped garner the best large chapel team in the AF

award include hosting marriage events for 116 Travis couples, sponsoring 700 kids for vacation bible school and their first block party that attracted more than 2,200 participants.

“If you don’t have programs like this in place, it’s tough to do your job,” said Leathermon. “We’re trying to get Airmen to be proud to have that connectivity with one another again.”

Although awards are nice, their success is not predicated on hardware but rather is measured on the service they provide the people of Travis. The chapel team is committed to ensuring that Travis Airmen and their families are taken care of by working as a team to come up with new and inviting ways to improve what they’ve already built upon.

“Travis is such a huge base you have to dream big with a ‘wow’ factor,” said Leathermon. “Providing for the Travis community whether they are people of faith or not is a priority here.”

Muslim

From Page 3

Hawaii for his next duty station and found himself longing for the peace, tranquility and brotherhood he felt Islam offered him in Turkey.

“When I left Turkey, I felt as if a little bit of myself was left behind,” he said. “I began to read the Quran and the more I learned, the more I was drawn to its teachings. It was something so simple, but yet so breathtaking to me, everything felt so natural and the way it was supposed to be.”

As Gaitan began his journey to learn more about the faith of Islam, he visited a mosque in Hawaii and met with the Imam to talk about his experience and to discuss questions he had about the religion.

“I took the Shahada, which is the declaration of faith, and never looked back,” he said.

As a practicing Muslim who’s made the conscious choice to follow Islam, Gaitan said he understands he will be faced with challenges and religious barriers he will have to overcome.

The biggest challenge yet, was getting approval for his shaving waiver from Air Force headquarters. This required endorsement by the unit commander, base chaplain, installation commander up to the Air Force Deputy Chief of Staff, Personnel Division. This process took Gaitan almost four years to accomplish.

The Air Force has many resources available to Airmen that provide help in strengthening the four pillars of wellness, such as the Airman and Family Readiness Center, Base Chapel, Health and Wellness Center, Family Advocacy and many others.

“Being in the military, I feel like many people don’t understand Islam and are only going by opinions formulated from every breaking news headline about extremist Muslims or relating the term Muslim from a recent deployment experience,” Gaitan said. “Many times, people are only exposed to one side of Islam and they draw an image from only negative information.”

Gaitan said he wishes others would understand that Muslims grow their beards in an act of worship and devotion to God, it is not just a status or a fashion symbol.

“Beards in Islam are considered Al-Fitrah, meaning the natural way man was created. Islam is an Abrahamic faith and we consider the prophets and messengers role models whom we look up to. When we follow the actions of Prophet

Muhammed, it is considered following the Sunnah. Following the Sunnah is an act of worship and big emphasis is put on it,” Gaitan said. “It is a constant reminder of our faith and who we are as Muslims.”

Being able to grow a beard while in the military has been a huge milestone for Gaitan, but he has also faced some religious backlash because of it.

“A month after I started growing my beard, someone shooed me away with their hand saying very negative things because I was a Muslim. A week later, another person from a different squadron felt comfortable enough to ask me if I had joined ISIS,” Gaitan said. “These two incidents weren’t the only ones, earlier that year someone openly questioned if I was a terrorist.”

Luckily, Gaitan feels fortunate to be surrounded by great peers and leadership who support him.

“The silver lining to all this was the reaction from my peers when this incident happened,” he said. “Like a lion jumping to rescue a member of their pack, another Airman stood to my defense. I will never forget what she did for the rest of my life.”

As news traveled up the chain-of-command, Gaitan felt a sense of protection and brotherhood from those around him.

“The incident shot straight to the commander, like a lightning bolt, and the following morning I was called into his office with the chief and first sergeant waiting for me,” he said. “In my entire career, I’ve never had a commander look me in the eyes like he did...his look, tone, words and posture were shouting at me, ‘don’t worry, we have your back.’”

After the incident, the commander held an all-call and in-front of everyone resonated the Air Force’s “zero tolerance” for discrimination against any person no matter the race, color, religion, age, cultural heritage or chosen identity.

The commander began the all-call saying, “we all work for one Air Force, we serve the same country and we are part of the same family.”

“I was moved beyond words,” Gaitan said. “For seven years, I’ve heard negative things about my religion, but that day after the commander passionately defended everyone who feels they are ‘different,’ I walked out of there with a feeling I had never felt as a Hispanic Muslim Airman. I finally felt like I was fully part of the Air Force family and that my peers and my leadership would fight to protect me.”



1) A rainbow appears over F-16 Fighting Falcons from the New Jersey Air National Guard's 177th Fighter Wing, on the flight line Nov. 9 at Boca Chica Naval Air Station, Fla. Maintenance, operations, logistics and security personnel from the 177th FW traveled to the Key West Naval facility to take advantage of the weather and fly numerous training sorties, as well as incentive flights for deserving Airmen.

U.S. Air National Guard photo/Senior Master Sgt. Andrew J. Moseley

Air Force experiences span globe, color ... SPECTRUM

2) View of a U.S. Air Force F-35A Lightning II, with the 34th Fighter Squadron, 388th Fighter Wing, out of Hill Air Force Base, Utah, being refueled by a KC-10 Extender flown by the 76th Air Refuel Squadron with the 514th Air Mobility Wing, over Texas, Nov. 9.
3) An F-16 Fighting Falcon assigned to the 480th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron sits on the flight line under the Aurora Borealis during exercise Trident Juncture 18 Nov. 5 at Kallax Air Base, Sweden.



U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Michael Ki Hong



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

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