

# NIGHT

...training

PAGES 14-15





# Art, science both vital parts of leadership

When I came into the Air Force, I had amassed 160 semester hours of college credit. Of the 160 hours, only three were in humanities and arts. The majority of my time in college was spent focused on what now is called STEM, science, technology, engineering and math. It took a mentor to set me on the path of life-long learning and professional reading.



**Commentary by Maj. Kort Koser**  
60TH AIR MOBILITY WING DIRECTOR OF STAFF'S OFFICE

literary classics. He recognized that a STEM-heavy background is best complemented with art and humanities. This made me think about the joke: "How do you tell if an engineer is an extrovert? The extroverted engineer will stare at your shoes versus their own shoes."

Joking aside, the leaders of the next industrial-technological revolution are those who will have expertise in seemingly unconnected knowledge domains of STEM and humanities. This is a difficult balance to achieve, but I have seen great success in my career with teams that have

## Commander's Commentary

diversity of thought and background. Professional reading is a great way to encourage diversity of thought in your teams.

I try to read 20 books a year, with the operative word being "try." One of the ways I attempt this annual goal is by listening to audiobooks on my commute. I am blessed to live only 15 minutes from my workplace. A normal work week yields two and a half hours of listening time, which goes a long way to getting after a reading list if your schedule is tight. The Air Force Digital Media Program is my go-to

source for audiobooks as it is free to active-duty military personnel and has a good selection. I have also used LibriVox, which has around 12,000 public domain audiobooks, mostly classics, free for download. Others have had success with listening to audiobooks while running, walking or performing other cardio activities. I've even tried listening to audiobooks on family trips. The challenges have been finding a book that everyone can enjoy and one that is age-appropriate for my son. Challenges aside, I think road trip audio books are now a family tradition.

Creating a professional reading list isn't rocket science. A good starting place is to ask your supervisor, mentor or senior

leader which books have influenced them or changed their thinking. Additionally, the Army and Air Force Chiefs of Staff have published professional reading lists in the past that are chocked full of insightful options. Just like most things in life, too much of one thing can be bad for your health. Binging on one category of books will lead to burn out and abandoned books. Instead, a well-balanced reading list will challenge your view points, your thought processes and even your leadership skills.

I am thankful that a mentor changed my life with suggesting a professional reading list. I try to pay it forward by passing on books I have finished to team members in my life.

# Chief urges Airmen to know retirement options



**Commentary by Chief Master Sgt. Kaleth O. Wright**  
CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT OF THE AIR FORCE

ARLINGTON, Va. — The opt-in deadline for the Blended Retirement System is Dec. 31.

Make your decision knowing only you can determine which system is best for you, and understand that if you opt into BRS, it is irrevocable. You only have one chance to make this choice, so it's imperative you and those involved in making financial decisions for your family fully understand the pros and cons of both retirement systems.

I encourage each of you to take all of the training available on ADLS and utilize the BRS comparison calculator on the Military

## Chief's Commentary

Compensation website before making an appointment with your base financial counselor. The calculator provides a comparison between the current retirement system and the BRS. Doing your homework and preparing your questions ahead of time will help you get the most from your financial counseling appointment. I would like to see all eligible Airmen trained as soon as possible to give everyone time to really think about their options and be fully prepared before making this life-impacting

decision.

If I had to pick just one thing I'm most passionate about as the chief master sergeant of the Air Force, without a doubt it would be taking care of our Airmen and their families professionally, physically, spiritually and financially. I'm a firm believer that these four things go hand in hand. In order to be the best, most resilient Airman possible, you have to balance your professional, physical, spiritual and financial wellness. This is why I'm always looking to arm our Airmen with knowledge to help them grow and make the best decisions possible in their lives.

Part of arming our Airmen with knowledge means providing them the tools necessary to understand and smartly plan their long-range financial goals. But this planning isn't just for Airmen with families; it's vital for all Airmen.

Beginning Jan. 1, 2019, the Department of Defense will transition to the Blended Retirement System. If you haven't heard about BRS, you need to get up to speed now and learn all you can. I need each of you to take an active interest in your financial planning by using every

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# Family weathers deployments, being separated

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

*Editor's note: This is the third in a three-part series.*

For military family members who serve on active duty, being separated from loved ones is part of the job.

The U.S. armed forces often requires service members to leave their families to defend freedom and advance the national interests of the United States.

The Gibson family knows this reality well. The matriarch of the family is U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Angela Gibson, 60th Surgical Operations Squadron flight chief of anesthesia and a mother of two with 16 years of service. Her husband, Air Force Master Sgt. Mike Gibson, 60th Security Forces Squadron NCO in charge of operations, has accumulated nearly two decades of service.

The senior noncommissioned officers said throughout their careers, the most challenging thing they've had to overcome is being away from the ones they love most.

"I met Mike in 2007 right before I left for combat arms school," said Angela, who was working in the security forces career field at the time. "He worked in the confinement section while I worked in the training section. I provided him with some vehicle training one day. A few days after that meeting, we met up at a party where we were able to connect. He got my number and it all went from there."

This all occurred at the Gibsons' first duty station, F.E. Warren Air Force Base, Wyoming. They dated for a while but would face separation in February 2008 when Angela took an assignment to Creech AFB, Nevada, while Mike had to continue serving at F.E. Warren.

Six months later, the two married in



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

**Master Sgt. Mike Gibson, left, 60th Security Forces Squadron NCO in charge of operations, and his wife, Master Sgt. Angela Gibson, 60th Surgical Operations Squadron flight chief of anesthesia, pose with their children, Taylor and Carter, Nov. 27 at Travis Air Force Base, Calif. The Gibsons have been a dual-military couple for more than a decade.**

Las Vegas. Approximately two weeks after their wedding, their daughter, Taylor, was born.

"We applied for a join spouse assignment but we were denied because at the time, no positions were available at Creech AFB for my husband," said Angela.

A join spouse assignment allows married active-duty military couples the opportunity to be stationed together at the same installation. If positions are not available for both members at the same installation, they may be assigned to different installations within 50 miles of each other and maintain a

joint residence. "The Air Force will try to keep a military couple together," said Cristi Bowes, Assignment Policy and Procedures section at the Air Force Personnel Center. "The most common hurdle to a join spouse assignment lies in meeting the

See **FAMILY** Page 18

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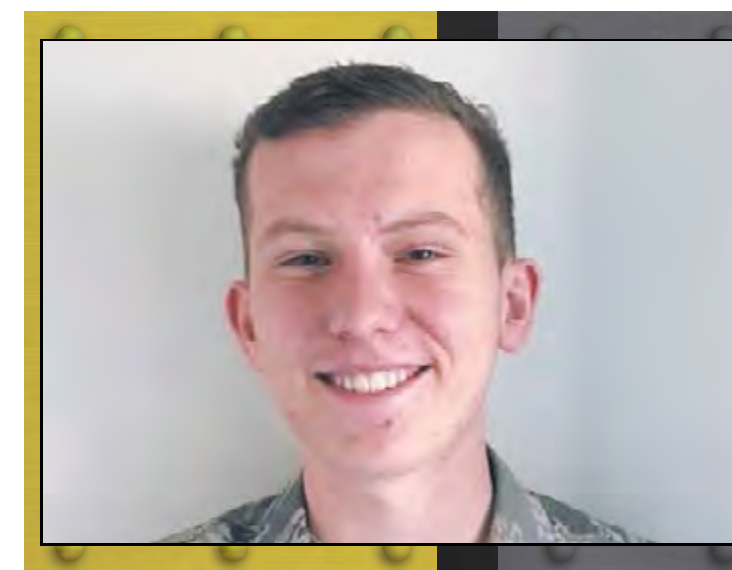
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### On the cover

**A U.S. Air Force KC-10 Extender aircraft from the 6th Air Refueling Squadron conducts aerial refueling training with another KC-10 from the 9th ARS over California, Nov. 26, 2018. Travis Airmen conduct training events to stay current and be prepared for future mobility operations.**

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



U.S. Air Force photo

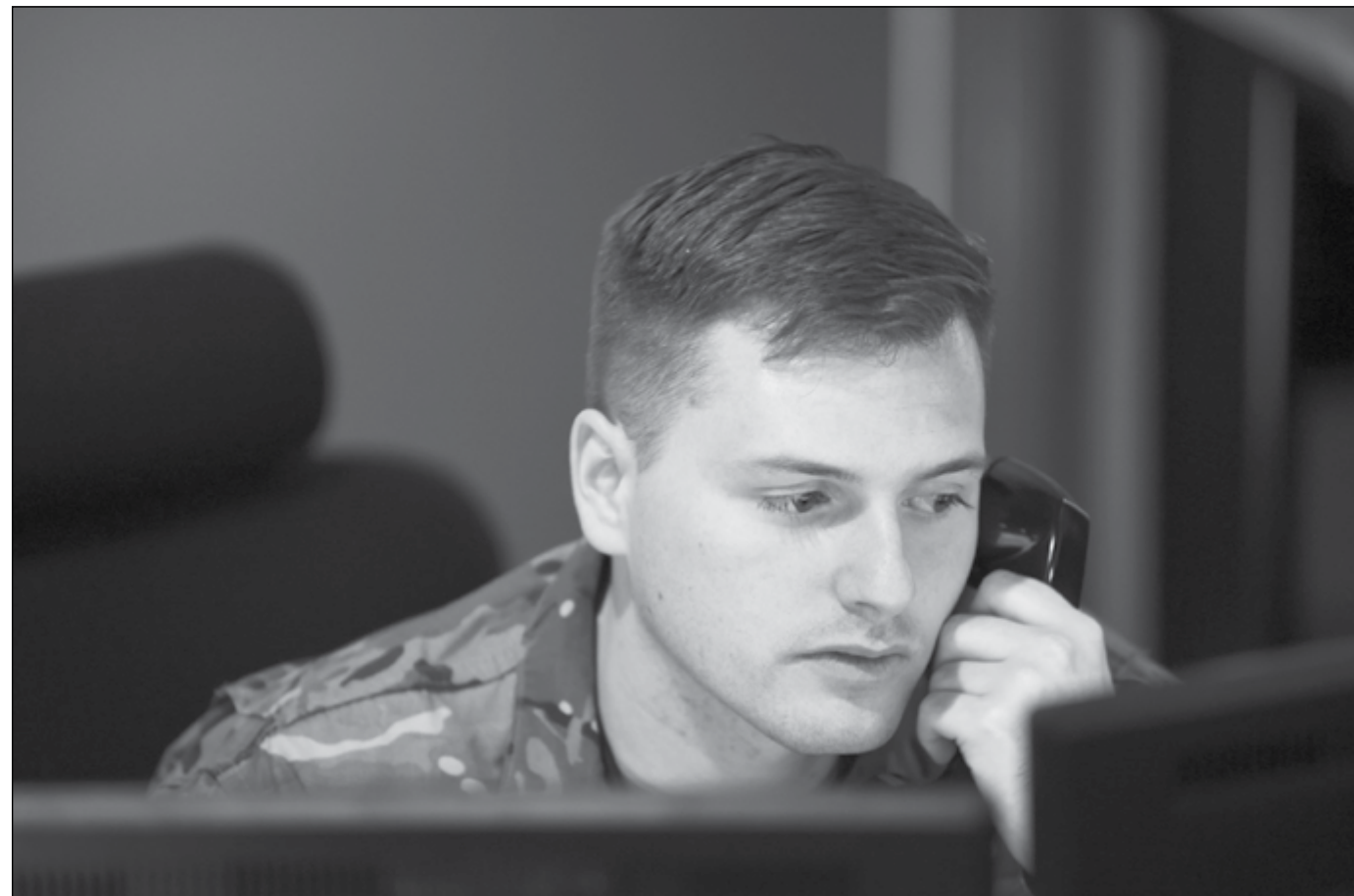
## WARRIOR OF THE WEEK

<b>Name:</b> Senior Airman Talon Green.	<b>Duty title:</b> Air traffic controller.
<b>Unit:</b> 60th Operations Support Squadron.	<b>Time in service:</b> Three years.

**Travis AFB, Calif.**  
**60th Air Mobility Wing**  
**Air Force**  
**Col. Jeff Nelson**  
60th Air Mobility Wing commander  
**2nd Lt. Rachel Brinegar**  
Officer in charge of command information  
**Tech. Sgt. Traci Keller**  
NCO in charge of command information  
**Airman 1st Class Jonathon D. A. Carnell**  
Command information staff writer  
**Airman 1st Class Christian Conrad**  
Command information staff writer

**Daily Republic**  
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U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Amber Carter

**Staff Sgt. Jon Schexnyder, 60th Air Mobility Wing Command Post emergency actions controller, answers a phone call Nov. 21 at Travis Air Force Base, Calif. The command post can field more than 500 phone calls per shift requiring them to respond to a multitude of requests and incidents.**

## Command Post more than ‘giant voice’

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

The first step to accessing the Travis Air Force Base Command Post is through a large, metal, unwelcoming door with brightly colored warning signs. On the wall hangs a phone containing preset numbers and a guide to help determine which section to call as well as give the person accessing the area time to consider if they are even in the right place.

After the self-assessment, you dial the command post controller and request entry through door number one. This leads you into a small room with more warning signs, a storage unit directing you to store your cell-phone or any other recording devices you may have

and a glass window where the friendly controller, a welcomed warmth to the stark coldness of the entry process, asks to see identification before letting you in.

Once you gain entry, you are provided with a visitor badge and escorted to the room that houses the command post, the maintenance operations center and the air terminal operations center. There are no windows and the big television screens on the wall that show different parts of the base.

This security process is required for the command post because it is the information superhighway for the entire base, where command post Airmen are tasked with providing

command, control, communications and information support.

“The command post mission differs quite drastically from base to base,” said Senior Airman Barbara Roberts, 60th Air Mobility Wing Command Post emergency actions controller. “In some locations, we are responsible for reporting readiness to, and executing direct orders from, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. While at other locations, our focus is predominantly on nuclear operations, contingency response or flight following.”

For the largest base in Air Mobility Command, the command post mission revolves around tracking the three weapons systems - C-17 Globemaster III, C-5M Super Galaxy, KC-10

Extender – at Travis as well as any transient aircraft that pass through the base.

“We also are the (command and control) node for the David Grant (USAF) Medical Center, the Contingency Response mission and AMC’s busiest aerial port,” said Maj. Steven Chandler, 60th AMW Command Post command and control operations chief. “Just last year alone, we executed over 3,700 missions, delivering 200 million pounds of fuel, and transported 129 million pounds of cargo, as well as 48,000 passengers. More so, we are now gearing up to take on the mission of the Air Force’s newest tanker, the KC-46 (Pegasus).”

With the large number of

**See MORE Page 17**

## Base power outage scheduled Dec. 16

**60th Air Mobility Wing Public Affairs**

A base-wide power outage is scheduled from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Dec. 16.

PG&E, the installation’s power provider, will be shutting off power to conduct critical maintenance on power lines and the main substation that provides power to the base. The outage will include Balfour-Beatty privatized housing and all Exchange facilities. The Commissary plans to remain open and David Grant USAF Medical Center will not be impacted.

For questions regarding the outage, contact 60th Air Mobility Wing Public Affairs at 707-424-2011, ext. 3 or 60AMWPA@us.af.mil.

## Ohio base picked to host F-35 support

**Office of the Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs**

WASHINGTON — The Air Force selected Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, as the preferred location for the F-35 Lightning II Hybrid Product Support Integrator organization which supports the entire F-35 enterprise to include joint and international partners.

Air Force officials said Robins AFB, Georgia, was named as a reasonable alternative.

“Wright-Patterson Air Force Base has the trained acquisition professionals with the right fighter aircraft experience

**See F-35 Page 22**

## Nation mourns its 41st president

**Jim Garamone**  
DEFENSE.GOV

WASHINGTON — President Donald J. Trump declared Dec. 5 as a national day of mourning for former President George H.W. Bush, who died Friday at the age of 94.

Trump joined countless others in paying tribute to Bush and his lifetime of service as a Navy pilot in World War II, congressman, ambassador to the United Nations, CIA director, vice president and president.

“Through his essential authenticity, disarming wit and unwavering commitment to faith, family and country, President Bush inspired generations of his fellow Americans to public service – to be, in his words, ‘a thousand points of light’ illuminating the greatness, hope and opportunity of America to the world,” Trump said in a statement released by the White House Dec. 3.

“With sound judgment, common sense and unflappable leadership, President Bush guided our nation, and the world, to a peaceful and victorious conclusion of the Cold War,” he said. “As president, he set the stage for the decades of prosperity that have followed. And through all that he accomplished, he remained humble, following the quiet call to service that gave him a clear sense of direction.”

Defense Secretary James N. Mattis said Bush “took his experience in war to build a better world as our commander in chief. His service to our nation demonstrated how we as a people can draw on our humility, diversity and devotion to our country to meet every challenge with fortitude and confidence.”

“We will miss him, but at the

**See PRESIDENT Page 23**

## Commander holds first all-calls since taking charge



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

**Col. Jeff Nelson, 60th Air Mobility Wing commander, speaks during a commanders all-call Nov. 27 at Travis Air Force Base, Calif. Nelson and Chief Master Sgt. Derek Crowder, 60th Air Mobility Wing command chief, had their first series of commander calls since taking over as the leadership team at Travis. During the calls they communicated with Travis Airmen and provided them with their background, expectations and mission priorities for the base.**

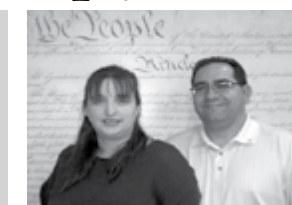
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# Sergeant recovers from crash

**Airman 1st Class Michael S. Murphy**  
11TH WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

JOINT BASE ANDREWS, Md. — Senior Master Sgt. David Snyder put on his physical training uniform and fought the tension inside his chest. It was the day of his annual PT test. Like all his tests before, he had been preparing for months. But this time, he was a lot more nervous.

He bent down and tied his single black shoe, mentally preparing himself to push himself harder than he ever had before.

He drove himself to the site. He did as many push-ups and sit-ups as he could in 60 seconds; he ran a mile and a half; and he got his waist measured. In the end, he easily passed the test with a score of 84.4 – with a prosthetic where one of his legs

used to be.

Five months earlier, Snyder had lost his left leg in a motorcycle accident.

“It’s a series of unfortunate events that led to it,” he said, recalling a change to his planned route. “I have an Apple iPhone, and of course it want[ed] to save me 7 minutes.”

Riding his sleek black Harley Davidson on an empty back road in Alabama, Snyder was heading back from a weekend trip to Florida with his uncle. The California native was on his way to Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama, where he was attending Senior NCO Academy.

He said the morning ride was going well as they passed a lake.

“I have cruise control set on 55,” said Snyder, currently the Air Combat Command

command propulsion program manager on Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Virginia. “I’m doing everything right, and here comes this silver Malibu.”

The oncoming car quickly caught his attention and he became defensive.

“I saw his wheel start to point out and I knew it was too late,” he said. “I tried as smoothly as possible to veer around him. I get all the way to the edge, as far as I can, and he catches me.”

Snyder had his legs propped on the crash pegs, a cylindrical spoke that normally extends four to five inches to protect the bike from falling over. The car caught the peg and drove it into the bike. The bike tipped sideways, but didn’t go down. Shaken but steady, Snyder kept going until he found a house about

See **RECOVERS** Page 12



Courtesy photo

Senior Master Sgt. David Snyder, Air Combat Command propulsion program manager, performs physical therapy at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Md.

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# Idea could improve service

**Catherine White**  
363RD INTELLIGENCE, SURVEILLANCE  
AND RECONNAISSANCE WING

*Editor's note: Some last names have been removed for security reasons.*

JOINT BASE LANGLEY-EUSTIS, Va. — An Airman from the 363rd Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Wing stepped outside the box this spring and proposed an idea that significantly improved local mission assurance.

Thanks to a platform set up by the 363rd ISRW leadership team, he was able to pursue his idea and benefit not only the wing, but also potentially the entire Air Force.

Tech. Sgt. Ken, 363rd Intelligence Support Squadron special missions section NCO in charge, was tasked with identifying ways to protect the mission of the units that comprise the wing's Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Virginia, campus. After reviewing the wing's current use of a tape backup system, which is used to store and back-up data to physical magnetic tapes, Ken grew concerned about the potential loss of mission data stored on these tapes.

"Just because someone says you can do something doesn't mean you shouldn't try to do something new," said Ken. "Eliminate the tape backup system and transfer all that information into the cloud."

To jump-start his idea, Ken submitted a proposal to the 363rd ISRW LION board, a platform for Airmen to pitch innovative ideas to the wing's leadership for possible funding. He proposed leveraging a secure commercial cloud services contract, commonly known as C2S, to transition the wing from a legacy tape backup to a cloud-based backup system.

By leveraging the C2S contract, the wing would have on-demand access to mission data.

"The write-up for his idea was so good that our wing's O-6s, who comprise the LION Board, said we didn't even need to hear his pitch," said U.S. Air Force Col. Patrick Sutherland, 363rd ISRW vice commander.

**"This entire initiative is beyond just the 363rd ISR Wing."**  
— Tech. Sgt. Ken

"We all just said, 'Yes, that's a fantastic idea, and he should just get started.'"

With his leadership's support, Ken hit the ground running. In May, he and fellow members of the 363rd ISS met with the Air Force Intelligence Community Mission Modernization Office, or M2O, to begin the process of getting a task order for C2S.

By June, the 363rd ISS had used \$17,000 of squadron innovation funds to acquire a high-speed data transfer capability, which consisted of software that enables the two-way transfer of information from the wing's shared drive at JB Langley-Eustis and the cloud.

Just seven weeks after meeting with the M2O, the 363rd ISRW became the first Air Force entity to be awarded a task order for the secret classification level on the C2S contract.

"We're the first ones," said Ken. "We're leading the way in getting out there and figuring out all the growing pains in getting access to the secure cloud environment."

In the span of several months, Ken's mission assurance initiative blossomed from his initial concept of a disaster recovery and data backup solution to include two more efforts: procuring a dedicated circuit for transferring data to and from the cloud environment for Langley and another location, and migrating mission applications from on-site to being hosted on the cloud network.

With the data stored in a virtual space, other groups and wings at Langley can access the data via the same circuit.

"The overarching effects of the project transition is not just disaster recovery; it's now mission assurance for the entire wing," Ken added. "And then, it's not just for our wing; we're

setting up the infrastructure for any organization at Langley and at our alternate location to access cloud resources."

The final piece of Ken's mission assurance initiative moves mission applications used by the warfighter for target development into the cloud. This enables warfighters around the world to access the targeting data generated by the wing. Ken worked with the M2O to open access to the cloud through the 24th Air Force change management process to ensure other Air Force customers who follow the 363rd ISRW will have fewer steps to complete to gain access.

The entire initiative has been a collaborative effort between Ken and his team, who worked with 12 different organizations ranging from the Air Force Intelligence Community M2O at Lackland Air Force Base, the Air Force intelligence community chief information officer's office at the Pentagon and multiple organizations that comprise the 24th and the 25th Air Force.

"This entire initiative is beyond just the 363rd ISR Wing," said Ken. "This is beyond even Air Force ISR — this is to support the Air Force overall."

Wing leadership echoed Ken's sentiments.

"When I think about what Tech. Sgt. Ken has done, I am so proud," said Sutherland. "It really is a case study in the impact that one single, determined Airman can have across our Air Force when given the freedom to solve big problems."

"Ken's success is a fantastic exemplar of the Lion Way," said U.S. Air Force Col. Jon Rice, 363rd ISRW commander. "We have created an entrepreneurial ecosystem to unleash audaciously innovative Airmen like Ken and pair them with resources and leadership support to solve our most challenging problems."

Just five months after Ken voiced his idea to wing leadership, he and his team were granted an interim approval to test, a major step in making his mission assurance initiatives a reality. Ken plans to be fully operational by July 2019.



Col. David Mounkes, 123rd Airlift Wing commander, presented the Bronze Star Medal to 1) Master Sgt. Benjamin K. Pelster 2) Master Sgt. Blair A. Baerny 3) Tech. Sgt. Joshua C. Bush 4) Staff Sgt. Robert W. Willging and 5) Staff Sgt. Daniel P. Keller, 123rd Special Tactics Squadron members, during a ceremony Nov. 17 at the Kentucky Air National Guard Base.

U.S. Air Force photos/Staff Sgt. Joshua Horton

# Guardsmen earn Bronze Stars

**Airman 1st Class Chloe Ochs**  
123RD AIRLIFT WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Five members of the 123rd Special Tactics Squadron were awarded Bronze Star Medals during a ceremony at the Kentucky Air National Guard Base Nov. 17, for outstanding selflessness and bravery in the defense of the United States.

The Bronze Star Medal, bestowed for heroism or meritorious service in a combat zone, was awarded to Master Sgt. Blair A. Baerny, Master Sgt. Benjamin K. Pelster, Tech. Sgt. Joshua C. Busch, Staff Sgt. Daniel P. Keller and Staff Sgt. Robert W. Willging.

Col. David J. Mounkes, Kentucky's 123rd Airlift Wing commander, presented the awards before a crowd of more than 100 coworkers, friends and family members.

"I am extremely honored and humbled to be able to be a part of these ceremonies for what was accomplished," Mounkes told the audience. "Since 9/11, every guard unit has struggled with becoming more operational, but with an STS unit in this wing, they lead the way. They are — by nature, by their mission — always operational."

Baerny distinguished himself for meritorious service as a pararescue team leader during Operation Freedom's Sentinel from Aug. 22 through Nov. 15, 2015. His outstanding performance, expertise



U.S. Air National Guard photo/Staff Sgt. Joshua Horton

Staff Sgt. Robert W. Willging, right, 123rd Airlift Special Tactics Squadron combat controller, is pinned with the Bronze Star Medal by Col. David Mounkes, 123rd Airlift Wing commander, during a Nov. 17 ceremony at the Kentucky Air National Guard Base in Louisville, Ky.

and dedication to duty greatly contributed to the success of the unit's mission, according to the citation. Baerny's leadership ensured effective combat search and rescue coverage, mitigating risk and degrading the enemy's capabilities, the citation said.

Pelster, a combat control craftsman, distinguished himself by meritorious achievement as the noncommissioned officer in charge of an assault zone reconnaissance team from June 26 through Nov. 1, 2014. Pelster was instrumental in the execution of nine missions across five countries, which led to the establishment and expansion of critical air infrastructure in support of Operation Inherent Resolve,

according to the citation. He supervised a 53-man team during a night infiltration and assessment of a strategic airfield in Southern Iraq. In addition to coordinating with Marine Corps force reconnaissance operators, Pelster also supervised a 12-man team that helped enable partner nation forces to maintain momentum and re-supply forces in their fight against Al Qaeda, the citation said.

Busch, a combat control craftsman, served as key senior tactical advisor for 17 ground combat operations that helped prevent Islamic State of Iraq and Syria insurgents from overrunning dozens of critical checkpoints during

See BRONZE STARS Page 26

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U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Malcolm Mayfield

A pilot assign 493rd Fighter Squadron pilot and a Belgian pilot shake hands Nov. 30 at a media event during the NATO Tactical Leadership Programme 18-4 at Amendola Air Base, Italy. This event marks the first time the course has been held in Italy, from its normal host location at Albacete Air Base, Spain.

## Program brings allies together

Senior Airman Malcolm Mayfield  
 48TH FIGHTER WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

AMENDOLA AIR BASE, Italy — Above the mountainous landscape of Amendola Air Base, Italy, F-15C Eagle pilots

assigned to the 493rd Fighter Squadron are training side by side with NATO allies from Germany, Spain, Italy, the Netherlands and Belgium in

See ALLIES Page 11

# Sounds OF THE Season

TICKETS AT [SOLANOWINDS.ORG](http://SOLANOWINDS.ORG)

Friday December 7, 2018 8PM  
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## Wright

From Page 2

resource we've made available to learn about the BRS.

The BRS gives Airmen an opportunity to save their money in a portable Thrift Savings Plan while receiving matching government funds at the same time. This is the most basic layman's description of the program, which is why I need you

to arm yourselves with all of the research and information available. To help you, our Air Force leaders have put together a team of experts ready to provide extensive training. Certified personal financial counselors are available at your Airman and Family Readiness Center. These experts cannot decide for you, but they can help you evaluate which retirement plan is best for you. Every Airman's situation is different, financial goals

are unique to each Airman and there is no "one size fits all" decision. Airmen who enter the Air Force on or after Jan. 1, 2018, are automatically covered by the BRS. Active component Airmen serving now and those who enter the Air Force on or before Dec. 31 will be grandfathered under the current retirement system. Airmen with fewer than 12 years of active service on Dec. 31 or reserve component

Airmen with fewer than 4,320 retirement points as of Dec. 31 have the choice to opt into the BRS. Reserve component members' "retirement points" and retirement eligibility for the defined benefit are the same under the BRS as under the current retirement systems. There are pros and cons to every major decision we make, and this holds true for both retirement plans. I can't tell you what to do. I can't tell you what's

best for your family. All I can tell you is that you need to arm yourself with knowledge. Check out the training, talk to people who can provide you with objective advice, talk to those who will be most impacted by your decision and execute your plan knowing you made the best decision for you and your family. For more information about the BRS, visit the BRS website at <http://militarypay.defense.gov/BlendedRetirement/>.

## Allies

From Page 10

support of Tactical Leadership Programme 18-4.

The month-long program gives participants a chance to see how others get the job done. TLP builds familiarization and strengthens interoperability within NATO through combined training in the classroom and in European airspace.

"Our methods may be different, but the end goal is all the same," said an Italian Air Force F-35 pilot assigned to the 32nd Stormo. "We share a commitment to maintaining security and enhancing our air readiness within NATO. Training opportunities like TLP allow us to come together and learn from one another, giving us an

edge in the future with a deep partnership to lean on."

During the course, some pilots noticed more similarities than differences in how each country got things done. TLP is designed to bridge the gaps and help form cohesiveness between allies.

"Building partnerships here will make us more effective in the future," said a 493rd FS flight commander. "There are a lot of similarities to the way we all operate, and exercises like this help us find those similarities and break down any language or cultural barriers that appear."

The effectiveness cultivated by the training has molded NATO and allied forces' flight leaders into the mission commanders of today, creating skilled and competent leaders able to tactically and

operationally work within the NATO alliance.

"The program condenses the mission planning process and then adds everything that comes with working with our international partners," said a 493rd FS flight commander.

"We are constantly pulled in different directions and you have to learn how to prioritize and work effectively with the whole team."

TLP is the focal point for NATO's Allied Air Forces tactical training. The hundreds of NATO mission commanders developed by the program are able to lead coalition force air strike packages, instruct allied flying and non-flying personnel in matters related to tactical composite air operations, and provide tactical air expertise to NATO agencies.

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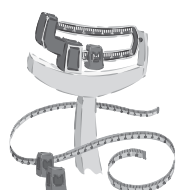
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## Recovers

From Page 6

a 100 yards down the road and pulled over.

Finally off the road, he assessed the damage.

"[I] looked down and my foot was facing the wrong way," he said. "I could see a huge bulge in my sock."

Snyder asked his uncle to help him off of his bike. He looked down and noticed blood was pooling next to him as he sat in a stranger's driveway.

Remembering his emergency response training, he quickly took action.

"I'm looking at my leg and I think a tourniquet is my only option," he said. "I don't know when anyone is going to get here. So I take my shirt off and I start making a tourniquet."

It took about 30 minutes for first responders to arrive. After they saw the severity of his injuries, they air evacuated Snyder to Baptist Medical Center South Hospital in Montgomery, Alabama, where they did an external fix on his leg. They told Snyder he had a Pilon fracture, which meant that his tibia and fibula had exploded on impact.

"There were pieces missing, probably out on the Alabama highway somewhere," he recalled.

"Bones were turned and facing the wrong way. [The surgeons] took everything in there and ground it all up, put it back in there and hoped it took. They gave me four plates and about 20 screws that day."

After working on his leg, doctors laid out his recovery options. They could opt for limb salvage or amputation. Snyder pursued one round of limb salvage, but said he didn't put much hope into it after hearing about failed recoveries that ended in amputation.

At the first checkup three months after surgery, the hardware in his leg looked good and the prognosis on his leg was promising. However, things started to turn at the six month mark. The hardware started collapsing and everything shifting down in his leg. Things weren't improving and amputation started to seem like the right choice for Snyder and his family.

"I was just ready to get on

with the next step," said Melissa Snyder, David's wife and high school sweetheart. "He wasn't able to do what he wanted to do. He could deal with the pain, but he didn't like not being able to live his life."

Snyder and Melissa both decided that amputation was the best option and set a date for May 8, 2018. "Before going into it, I told my wife I didn't know how long it would take for me to look [at my foot]," he said. "I was like [screw] it. I pull the sheet back and I'm like, 'Yup, it's gone.'"

In the aftermath of his events, Snyder's character was given a true chance to shine.

"From the get go, he had a very positive attitude," Melissa said. "We have always kind of lived that way. In the end it is going to work out somehow."

After the surgery, Snyder spent five months at Walter Reed National Military Center in Bethesda, Maryland, for physical rehabilitation, under Air Force District of Washington's Airman Medical Transition Unit.

Snyder decided how he wanted to handle those five months right from the gurney, when he first needed to use the bathroom.

"It starts now," he said. "Can I get up? Yeah, I can get up if I want. I got up, and took a walker to the bathroom."

He spent the next five months pushing the limits in his recovery, so that he could make it back home sooner.

Snyder worked out almost every day, doing varying exercises to improve mobility and muscle control in his leg. He would run on the track at Walter Reed, swim, and bike along with other basic function exercises.

After all the hard work – and with the PT test in the rearview mirror – Snyder said he is thankful he can still serve in the Air Force. He said he knows active-duty service members with amputations have barriers while serving. His goal is to break through those barriers and continue to grow.

"I want to prove that I'm better," he said. "I don't care how severe my injury is, I want to be worldwide qualified as soon as I possibly can. It's my job. I signed up for it."

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# Training keeps Airmen focused

U.S. Air Force photos by Master Sgt. Joey Swafford



1) Maj. Matt Ables, 9th Air Refueling Squadron KC-10 Extender pilot, conducts preflight checks on a mask before a training sortie Nov. 26 at Travis Air Force Base, Calif. Travis Airmen conducted training events to stay current and be prepared for future mobility operations. 2) A U.S. Air Force KC-10 from the 6th Air Refueling Squadron conducts aerial refueling training Nov. 26 with another KC-10 from the 9th ARS over California. 3) A KC-10 from the 60th Air Mobility Wing is prepared for training sorties Nov. 26 at Travis.



4) Staff Sgt. Keith Perry, 9th Air Refueling Squadron KC-10 Extender flight engineer, conducts a preflight inspection on a KC-10 from the 60th Air Mobility Wing before a training sortie Nov. 26 at Travis Air Force Base, Calif. 5) Perry conducts a pre-flight inspection on a KC-10 from the 60th AMW before a training sortie Nov. 26 at Travis. 6) A U.S. Air Force KC-10 from the 9th Air Refueling Squadron prepares to refuel a U.S. Air National Guard F-15 Eagle from the 144th Fighter Wing during a training sortie Nov. 26 over California. 7) Airman 1st Class Philip Nadela, 9th ARS KC-10 Extender boom operator, goes over preflight checks on a KC-10 before an aerial refueling training mission Nov. 26 at Travis.



## Swap Ads

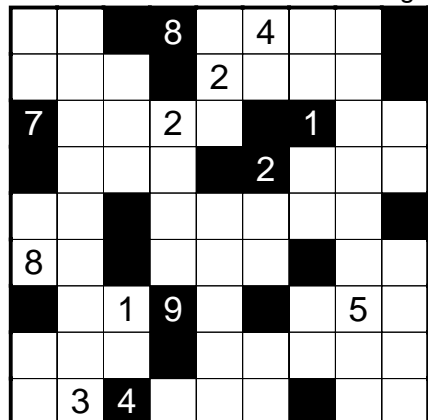
### For rent

3/2 home, very clean, 3 mins. to Travis. Living room, dining room, family room, fire place, dish-washer, microwave, custom draperies. Top-of-the-line carpet. 3 patios. A/C. No pets, no Sec. 8. \$2,000 plus deposit. 707-425-5679.

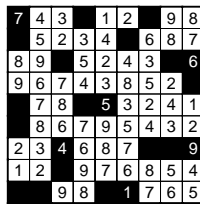
## Puzzles

### STR8TS

No. 415 Tough



Previous solution - Medium

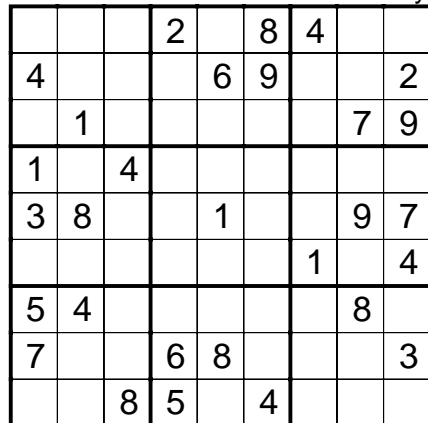


How to beat **Str8ts** – Like Sudoku, no single number can repeat in any row or column. But... rows and columns are divided by black squares into **compartments**. These need to be filled in with numbers that complete a 'straight'. A **straight** is a set of numbers with no gaps but can be in any order,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

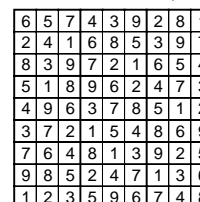
You can find more help, tips and hints at [www.str8ts.com](http://www.str8ts.com)

### SUDOKU

No. 415 Easy



Previous solution - Very Hard



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](http://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](http://www.str8ts.com)

## Retiree Corner

59th Medical Wing takes patriotism to the court

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-LACKLAND, Texas — Nearly 30 Airmen from the 59th Medical Wing took to the court at the AT&T Center on Dec. 2 to serve in the Living Flag detail before the San Antonio Spurs took on the Portland Trailblazers. For the detail, Airmen

were responsible for holding an American flag that stretched across nearly the entire length and breadth of the basketball court, remaining in place during the singing of the national anthem.

The Airmen participated in the special detail as part of the Spurs organization's special salute to the Air Force night.

— **59th Medical Wing Public Affairs**

## 60th FSS

### Events and upcoming

**Free Holiday Facebook Bingo.** This season, 60th FSS will give away \$1,000 cash every week. Everyone 18 and older can pick up Holiday Facebook Bingo cards at the Airman and Family Readiness Center, Arts & Crafts, Cypress Lakes Golf Course, Mitchell Memorial Library, Outdoor Recreation and Travis Bowl. Don't forget to "LIKE" us on Facebook (@60FSS) to play and win \$1,000 cash. For more information, visit [TravisFSS.com](http://TravisFSS.com).

**Home for the Holiday Reservations at Westwind Inn.** Westwind Inn is now available for holiday reservations! From now through Jan. 4, 2019, you can book and reserve loved ones' stay for up to 14 nights (excluding TLFs, pet TLFs and business suites). Reservation based on availability. To make reservations or for more details, call 424-8000.

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

## 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.

## In the next week...

### fri Tree lighting.

Content. Travis Air Force Base is scheduled to hold a tree lighting ceremony at 5 p.m. Dec. 7 at the Airman and Family Readiness Center.

**Solano Winds.** 8 p.m. Dec. 7, Downtown Theatre, 1035 Texas St., Fairfield. [www.solanowinds.org](http://www.solanowinds.org).

**sat Congregation B'nai Israel.** Chanukah Sing A-Long Haimish Music Band, 2 to 4 p.m. Dec. 8; 1256 Nebraska St., Vallejo. [www.bnaisrael.com](http://www.bnaisrael.com).

### Protestant

#### First Street Chapel

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

#### Twin Peaks Chapel

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

#### Airmen's Ministry Center

- The Peak is open from 5:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Friday at Bldg. 1348.
- Home-cooked meal from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays followed 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. 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 numbers.** 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 to 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](http://www.AFMCWELLNESS.com) or contact CHPS at 707-424-CHPS or CHPS/Travis@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 play groups.** Toddlers to the Max play group 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 play group 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 [travspocombatstpsd@gmail.com](mailto:travspocombatstpsd@gmail.com).

**Government no-fee passports.** All submissions of applications for government no-fee passports must now include: 1) A photocopy of Military Identification Card front and back; 2) Passport photo taken in the past six months; 3) Supporting document(s), proof of U.S. citizenship certified copy with state or county seal, if it involved a name change submit a court order or marriage certificate. Passport application cannot be handwritten and printed back to back and must be completed online with 2D barcode at website <https://pfpform.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.

**Mare Island Museum.** 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 Michaelis at 707-427-2573 or Cal Gitsam 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 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.

**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](mailto: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@squadron22-cap.us](mailto:recruiting@squadron22-cap.us), visit during a UTA or check out <http://squadron22-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](mailto:richard.shea@us.af.mil).

**Travis Legal Office.** Power of attorney and notaries are walk-ins 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday. Legal assistance for active duty members and dependents are walk-ins from 2 to 3 p.m. Tuesday. For all wills and retiree legal assistance, call 707-424-3251 to make an appointment.

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

### Today

- 6:30 p.m. "Bohemian Rhapsody" (PG-13)
- 9:30 p.m. "Suspiria" (R)

### Saturday

- 6:30 p.m. "The Grinch" (PG)
- 9 p.m. "Hunter Killer" (R)

### Sunday

- 2 p.m. "Johnny English Strikes Again" (PG)

# THE FLIP SIDE

## Airmen complete FTAC



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

Congratulations to the latest Airmen to complete the First Term Airman Center course. Alphabetically: Airman Rebekah Allen, 60th Medical Diagnostics and Therapeutics Squadron; Airman Elyse Bollenberg, 60th Dental Squadron; Airman Drew Brown, 60th Surgical Operations Squadron; Airman 1st Class Anthony Davis, 60th Aerial Port Squadron; Airman Basic Sean Denkins, 60th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron; Airman 1st Class Darren Ellington, 517th Training Group; Airman 1st Class Mason Elliott, 860th AMXS; Airman 1st Class Thomas Elmendorf, 60th MDTS; Airman 1st Class Blake Evans, 60th AMXS; Airman 1st Class Cody Ferris, 60th Civil Engineer Squadron; Airman 1st Class Colton Foster, 60th AMXS; Airman 1st Class Delbert Frazier IV, 60th Maintenance Squadron; Airman 1st Class Andrew Gilman, 60th AMXS; Airman 1st Class Andrew Heller, 60th Operations Support Squadron; Airman 1st Class Jamel Hines, 60th Logistics Readiness Squadron; Airman Dustin Jeffords, 60th LRS; Airman 1st Class Zachary Kuhn, 860th AMXS; Airman 1st Class Ethan Losch, 60th AMXS; Senior Airman John Madrid, 60th Communications Squadron; Airman 1st Class Xavier Manon, 60th AMXS; Airman 1st Class Donavan McCauley-Collins, 22nd Airlift Squadron; Airman Noelle Outson, 60th Medical Operations Squadron; Airman Basic Dean Parise, 60th AMXS; Airman 1st Class Rebecca Petree, 60th MXS; Airman 1st Class Michael Post, 60th AMXS; Airman 1st Class Gustavo Ramirez Vasquez, 60th MXS; Airman 1st Class Hamilton Ryder, 60th OSS; Airman Christopher Shafer, 60th Security Forces Squadron; and Airman 1st Class Mike Soto, 860th AMXS.

### Tuskegee Airman Lee A. Archer

**Chapter.** Meets at 3 p.m. the third Saturday of the month at the Airman and Family Readiness Center.

### Voluntary Leave Transfer Program.

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

- Erin Dunningway, 60th Operations Support Squadron.

The VLTP 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.

**What's Cookin' Wednesday.** Free lunch at the Travis AFB USO Bldg. 1348. Served from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. every Wednesday. For active duty, Guard, reservist and their families.

## Local events

### Events

**"Sounds of Suspense."** Radio broadcast, noon fourth Friday of each month, Vacaville Public Library-Town Square, 1 Town Square Place. Free. [www.solanolib.org](http://www.solanolib.org).

**Vallejo Art Walk.** 5 to 10 p.m. second Friday of each month, downtown Vallejo. Free admission. [www.vallejoartwalk.com](http://www.vallejoartwalk.com).

**Vallejo Farmers Market.** 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays, year-round, Georgia and Marin streets. [www.pcfma.com](http://www.pcfma.com).

**Vintage Market.** 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. every third Saturday, St. Paul's United Methodist Church, 101 West St., Vacaville. 925-978-6989.

### Music and dance

**Chamber Music at Rancho Flaubert.** Telegraph String Quartet, 3 p.m. Feb. 17; 7059 Bucktown Lane, Vacaville. [www.sites.google.com/view/cmarr/home](http://www.sites.google.com/view/cmarr/home).

**Empress Theatre.** Christine Gambito, 8 p.m. Dec. 7; MOMOTOMBO SF, 8 p.m. Dec. 8; City Swing, 7 p.m. Dec. 9; 330 Virginia St., Vallejo. 552-2400, [www.empresstheatre.org](http://www.empresstheatre.org).

**First Street Cafe.** Doug Houser, Dec. 7; Glenn Lowe, 7 p.m. Dec. 8; 440 First St., Benicia. 745-1400, [www.firststreetcafe.com](http://www.firststreetcafe.com).

**The Relik Tavern.** Wake the Neighbors, 9 p.m. Dec. 7; Bodhi Shrugs, 9 p.m. Dec. 8; 726 First St., Benicia. 746-1137, [www.thereliktavern.com](http://www.thereliktavern.com).

**Vallejo Symphony.** 3 p.m. Feb. 10, Empress Theatre, 330 Virginia St., Vallejo. [www.vallejiosymphony.org](http://www.vallejiosymphony.org).

### Comedy

**Empress Theatre.** Will Durst, 8 p.m. Dec. 30; 330 Virginia St., Vallejo. [www.empresstheatre.org](http://www.empresstheatre.org).

**Vinny and Rosie's.** Fight Night Comedy Show, 9 p.m. Dec. 7; 603 Main St., Suisun City. [www.vinnyandrosies.com](http://www.vinnyandrosies.com).

### Art exhibits

**Art**



## More

From Page 4

flights that pass through, the command post stays busy ensuring each and every flight is tracked and accounted for.

“We manage all of the flights departing and arriving at our station,” said Senior Airman Charlotte Stenzel, 60th AMW Command Post emergency actions controller. “Through extensive coordination with MOC and ATOC, we ensure cargo and passengers are uploaded, and the aircraft departs without delay. We also are the Department of Defense’s ‘Gateway to the Pacific,’ which results in a hectic flying schedule.”

The command post manages and performs activities within operations centers, rescue coordination centers and command centers based on their specific assignment. The calls they receive are as varied as their mission sets and can range from minor issues to major incidents in one shift.

“When most people think of the Giant Voice, but there’s much more that goes into being a controller,” said Roberts. “The command post essentially serves as the Central Nervous System of the base. We are expected to have a pulse on everything happening on the installation – from broken aircraft to suicide attempts, to DUIs and bomb threats. More than that, we’re expected to know what to do with that information – to know what information needs to be disseminated to other agencies, wing leadership or reported to higher headquarters, on behalf of the installation.”

At Travis, the command post is strategically positioned in the same room as MOC, for maintenance information, and ATOC, for aerial port information, so they can easily and efficiently coordinate any information they receive from the 30 or more flights per day that they are tasked with tracking.

“Flight following involves a lot of coordination,” said Stenzel. “As an example of tracking a typical flight, we start by giving the crew a call to wake them up at a specific amount of time before their flight. Then, while the flight crew conducts

their preflight checks, we coordinate with ATOC to make sure the passengers get to the aircraft on time, along with any cargo requirements for that flight. We also make sure the aircrew have the right amount of fuel before takeoff. Any flights arriving at Travis will give us a ‘30-minutes-out’ call, passing maintenance status, mission data, and any download information they may have. We will then coordinate with MOC to assign aircraft parking and post-flight support.”

On top of the schedule of tracked flights controllers monitor, fielding notifications and sending notifications through AtHoc, the service’s emergency notification system, are also part of their tasks.

“We send out all of the emergency notifications, which can range from high winds to natural disaster alerts,” said Staff Sgt. Jon Schexnyder, 60th AMW Command Post emergency actions controller. “Types of notifications can be similar; however, the best way to handle them is situationally dependent. You have to think on your feet, ‘who am I going to notify, who is this going to affect, who needs to know this information and how quickly, and how do I need to handle the situation?’”

Using their tools, the Siemens communication console and their computer, they can make and receive more than 500 calls a day requiring their complete attention and their ability to process information quickly.

“The Siemens console makes our life a lot easier here,” said Schexnyder. “It functions as a phone directory and has hot keys with all of the contacts we could possibly need for any situation. I couldn’t imagine trying to do this job efficiently without it.”

The most commonly known part of the command post job is operating the Giant Voice alert system.

“The Giant Voice is awkward,” said Roberts. “You have to talk slowly and be very articulate. The way you hear it broken up and projecting over the speaker system sounds slow, but it is even slower when we speak.”

Functioning similarly to how the brain connects the

spinal cord to the human body, the command post integrates the received information and coordinates as well as influences the response activity of all parts of the base.

“This role is especially critical to ensure the safety and capability of our infrastructure and base populace, both of which experience a constantly changing environment” said Chandler. “Rapidly emerging threats, from terrorist attacks to impending wildfires, require swift integration where joint emergency response is vital.”

Accomplishing the command post mission means they achieve the same level of safety and security of the entire base as they do for gaining entry to their secure office space through strategic and effective communication.

“The amount of information we consume, and the sources it

comes from, is growing by the day,” said Chandler. “In concert with the Air Force Chief of Staff’s Third Focus Area: Multi-domain Command and Control, we are actively finding ways to be more efficient on how we gather data, synthesize it, disseminate it, coordinate on it, and ultimately make it decision ready for our leaders.”


With the all-knowing power of the command post, the future is looking bright.

“This is an exciting time to be in our Air Force and Travis is an exciting place to be,” said Chandler. “Leadership at every echelon is empowering experts at the tactical level to enhance operational concepts. The vision and efforts of these incredible Airmen will allow us to dominate the future battlespace, increasing the lethality not only of our Air Force, but our nation.”




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

**Senior Airman Charlotte Stenzel, 60th Air Mobility Wing Command Post emergency actions controller, provides a visitor pass Nov. 21 at Travis Air Force Base, Calif. The command post is in a secure location due to the types of information that they receive, such as operational reports and their ability to track every flight that comes in and out of the base.**





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## Family

From Page 3

eligibility requirements.”

To be eligible for a joint spouse assignment, Airmen must meet several requirements, including having a minimum of 12 months of time on station or completing an overseas tour. They must also be able to obtain 24 months of retainability from the reporting date for a move within the continental United States. Additionally, the base the couple desires must have positions available for both service members.

The Gibsons spent the first two years of their marriage separated by 871 miles.

However, they didn't let that distance place an undue burden on their relationship.

“I would take leave every three to six months to visit them,” said Mike. “We also stayed in touch through video chats weekly.”

“It was great to see him when he came to visit and the video chatting helped ensure our daughter knew who her daddy was,” said Angela. “I had to record Taylor's first steps so he could see them because he wasn't there for that. We kept in touch the best we could.”

In February 2010, the Gibsons were approved for a joint spouse assignment and reunited at F.E. Warren. In January 2011, they welcomed their son, Carter, into the world.

Shortly after Carter's birth, Mike deployed to Kuwait for six months, marking the second time he would miss key family moments like his son's first steps and first words.

“I thought he's just missing all the fun,” said Angela. “All the potty training, the late nights, that was hard to get through, but my mother came to stay with me to help. Trying to balance work with life and ensure I had enough time for my kids at the end of the day was important.”

Separation is the hardest part of military life, said Mike.

“It can be really challenging to get the kids to understand what's going on and why,” he said. “We show them pictures so they know who their dad and

mom is any time my wife or I have to deploy. Getting them to grasp the fact that mom or dad could be gone for a while can be difficult, but we do our best to prepare them for those moments.”

The Gibsons know the challenges deployments can bring. Mike has deployed multiple times and Angela, who became a medic in 2013, deployed in 2016 to Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, to serve as the NCO in charge of the outpatient clinic at Craig Joint Theater Hospital. Today, the couple is preparing their family for another deployment in 2019, when Angela and Mike are scheduled to serve tours in Southwest Asia.

Mike said communication is essential to making his marriage work and ensuring his children's needs are met.

“Open communication within the family is so important especially in a military-to-military relationship,” he said. “It makes things easier and helps us balance duty schedules, temporary duty assignments, deployments and everything else. We sit down as a family and talk through everything. It's also important for the kids to be allowed to share their opinion on things.”

The Gibsons will rely on their parents to watch Taylor and Carter while they are deployed. This will require the children to change schools during the current school year.

“The military life brings lots of change, many moves and that can be hard on the kids,” said Angela. “To better prepare them for this deployment, we took them to the school they'll be going to and showed them around. The kids will also have to change schools once again later in 2019 when we come back.”

Dealing with separation, in one way or another, makes her children, now 10 and 7, stronger, Angela added.

“It helps them become more resilient when they face challenges,” she said. “Last year, I had to leave for deployment training and they asked me if I could bring them back something rather than being upset because I had to go. They've adjusted to a point where they don't get as upset any more when one of us has to go.”

When Angela returned from her training, she came home with a toy shark for Carter and a toy dinosaur for Taylor. She said she and her husband do their best to make the most of the time the family spends together.

“When I leave work, it's family time,” she said. “We try to make the best of the moments we have. We'll go out and do things together, do arts and crafts or play video games so we stay connected as a family.”

Enjoying that time together is important, Mike added.

“It's vital we never lose that,” he said. “You need to be able to separate the distractions and your job from your family time because one day, you will leave your job, but your family is always going to be there. I think sometimes, especially in the military, we can get so busy we can lose sight of that. It's critical that military families do all they can to make the most of the moments they have together.”

Information from an Air Force Personnel Center Public Affairs article titled “Join Spouse assignment consideration keeps mil-to-mil couples together” was used to support this story.

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- 10:30 AM \* MORNING WORSHIP
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- 10:00 AM WEDNESDAY SENIOR PRAYER
- 7:00 PM WEDNESDAY NIGHT Adult Bible Study  
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## BAPTIST

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2500 N Texas Street, Suite II  
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**Rev. Dr. Terry Long, Pastor**  
**Sunday**  
Sunday School: 10:00 a.m.  
Morning Worship Service: 11:00 a.m.  
Children's Church: 11:30 a.m.  
**Tuesday**  
Prayer Meeting: 6:30-7:00 p.m.  
Bible Study: 7:00-8:00 p.m.  
**Web Site:** www.stpaulfairfield.com  
**Email:** stpaulbcairfield@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).....4-4:45 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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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  
Worship .....11:00 am  
CORE Bible Studies 12:30 & 5:00 pm  
(2nd & 4th Sunday)

**WEDNESDAY**  
Adult Studies.....2:00 pm  
AWANA for Kids .....6:15 pm  
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**Sunday Evening Worship .....6 PM**  
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Holy Eucharist Rite I  
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**10:00 a.m.**  
Holy Eucharist Rite II  
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**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

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[myschool@gobethany.com](mailto:myschool@gobethany.com)  
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## NON-DENOMINATIONAL

### Church of Christ

1500 Alamo Drive  
Vacaville, CA 95687  
(707) 448-8838  
[www.vacavillechurchofchristalamodrive.com](http://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

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Service Times  
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Sunday: 9am & 11am

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TNT - Women's Ministry  
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(707) 448-5085  
Minister: Ryan Brewer

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Sunday Morning Worship  
10:30 AM

Sunday Evening Worship  
6:00 PM

Wed. Evening Bible Study  
7:00 PM  
[www.vacavillecofc.com](http://www.vacavillecofc.com)

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Alyson Barrett, Youth Director  
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**F-35**

From Page 4

to run this organization for DOD's Joint Program Office," said Secretary of the Air Force Heather Wilson. "We expect this experience to help us drive down F-35 sustainment costs as we build a more lethal and ready Air Force."

The current F-35 HPSI organization was established in 2016 in Crystal City, Virginia, at the F-35 Joint Program Office. HPSI supports a global fleet of more than 340 aircraft and when it moves to its new

location will be led by the Air Force with a workforce from the Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, international partners and industry. The organization will be directly accountable to the product support manager within the F-35 Joint Program Office.

This organization is an integral part of maintaining and prolonging operations of the global F-35 fleet.

The F-35 HPSI's primary role is to integrate support across the supply chain, maintenance, sustainment engineering, logistics information technology and training disciplines.

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**President**

From Page 5

going down of the day, his example will long guide our Sailors, Soldiers, Airmen and Marines for how to live life without regret," Mattis said.

All praised Bush's steady hand on the tiller as the Soviet Union imploded and democratic government arose in Central and Eastern Europe. "When the Iron Curtain came down, the world needed politicians with visions and will," wrote NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg. "President George H.W. Bush was capable and committed. He seized the moment and shaped history. He will be remembered as one of the architects of the post-Cold War era and as a true trans-Atlanticist."

Bush was born into privilege, but was a true "servant leader." "George H.W. Bush's life is a testament to the notion that public service is a noble, joyous calling," President Barack Obama wrote in a release. "And he did tremendous good along the journey. Expanding America's promise

to new immigrants and people with disabilities. Reducing the scourge of nuclear weapons and building a broad international coalition to expel a dictator from Kuwait. And when democratic revolutions bloomed across Eastern Europe, it was his steady, diplomatic hand that made possible an achievement once thought anything but - ending the Cold War without firing a shot."

The man who defeated him in 1992 - President Bill Clinton - gave thanks for Bush's "great long life of service, love and friendship." The two men became close while working together in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. "He never stopped serving. I saw it up close, working with him on tsunami relief in Asia and here at home after Hurricane Katrina," Clinton said. "His remarkable leadership and great heart were always on full display. I am profoundly grateful for every minute I spent with President Bush and will always hold our friendship as one of my life's greatest gifts."

All spoke of Bush's devotion to his wife of 73 years, Barbara, who died earlier this year.

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## Bronze Stars

From Page 9

Operation Freedom's Sentinel from Feb. 20 through May 14, 2018. He successfully led and coordinated 42 air and ground engagements while under direct enemy fire, according to the citation. On one occasion, intense enemy fighting placed him inside the lethal radius of an improvised explosive device pressure plate. His decisive actions and composure under fire enabled him to immediately assess two patients and provide tactical

combat care and medical evacuation to his explosive ordnance disposal teammate, despite a double amputation and extreme hemorrhaging, the citation said.

Keller, a combat control craftsman, distinguished himself in Eastern Afghanistan from April 23 through Oct. 1, 2017. Keller served at a combat outpost where he conducted operations and engaged the Islamic State of Iraq in 51 intense fire fights, according to the citation. Completely outnumbered on numerous occasions, Keller stopped several enemy assaults alongside his special

forces brethren.

"His actions were imperative to his teams' safe and successful execution of hold and clearance operations and the fight against a determined enemy" threatening the people of Afghanistan, the citation said.

Willing, a combat control craftsman, displayed heroism while engaged with an opposing armed force on July 23, 2017. He served as a joint terminal attack controller assigned to a special forces team, according to the citation. While on patrol against 350 fighters, Willing displayed disregard for his

own personal safety by exposing himself to hostile fire in order to control close air support in defense of pinned-down assault elements. He safely deconflicted 15 aircraft while coordinating the medical evacuation of two personnel killed in action and five wounded in action. His personal courage and confidence contributed to his team's overall success and survival, the citation said.

Maj. Aaron J. Zamora, 123rd Special Tactics Squadron commander, praised the recipients and distinguished the 123rd STS from other special tactics units.

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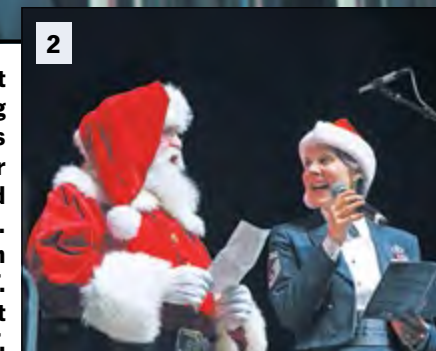


# HOLIDAYS

Band plays slate of shows for...

U.S. Air Force photos by Louis Briscese

- 1) Tech. Sgt. Andy Tucker, USAF Band of the Golden West percussionist, performs Dec. 1 at the Vacaville Performing Arts Theater in Vacaville, California. The performance was part of the band's annual holiday concert series. This year they performed eight shows in seven days at six venues and performed for more than 10,000 audience members.
- 2) Senior Master Sgt. Paula Goetz, USAF Band of the Golden West vocalist, performs Dec. 1 with Santa Claus at VPAT.
- 3) Musicians with the U.S. Air Force Band of the Golden West from Travis Air Force Base, Calif., perform at VPAT.







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