

Travis distributes face ...

# COVERINGS

PAGES 10-11



**TAILWIND**







## Reservists dispatched to New York to battle virus



U.S. Air Force photo/Heide Couch

U.S. Air Force personnel from the 349th Medical Group prepare for takeoff April 22 inside a U.S. Air Force C-17 Globemaster III from March Air Reserve Base, California, at Travis Air Force Base, California. The aircraft provided deployment airlift for 19 members of the 349th MDG to travel from Travis AFB to New York in support of a short-notice COVID-19 mission. Travis sent 22 Airmen to New York to help in Covid-19 relief during the month of April.

## Air Force offers free firearm cable locks

Lynn Kirby

SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

ARLINGTON, Va. — When searching the internet for information about home safety, there are numerous government agencies and nonprofit organizations dedicated to reducing accidental injuries and deaths.

Yet, according to statistics from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, approximately 167,000 people died and more than 20 million were injured in the United States in 2018 from unintentional means or accidents, many of which occurred

at home.

These unintentional deaths and accidents in most instances are preventable by implementing home safety measures such as properly storing chemicals, proper use and storage of home improvement power tools, disposing of expired prescription medicine, and proper use and storage of firearms and BB guns. Now that people are spending more time at home in efforts to reduce the spread of COVID-19, home safety is paramount.

“It’s important we each take a look around our homes and identify chemicals and equipment that could pose a risk of injury to ourselves and

our family members,” said Michael Ballard, Air Force Occupational Safety chief. “As we are all spending more time at home, there is an increased risk for accidents. Take proper steps now to secure your chemicals, equipment and firearms from unintentional use.”

One way the Department of the Air Force is contributing to home safety is by offering free cable locks for personally-owned firearms, which are a first line of defense for safe storage and unintentional use. The department is shipping 150,000 cable-style gun locks to all installations across the United States for distribution to members on a first-come,

first-served basis.

“Our forces and families are the most vital resource we have, and it is imperative we each do our part to keep each other safe,” said Brig. Gen. Claude Tudor, Air Force Integrated Resilience director. “Adding a cable lock to a firearm adds on average a couple minutes to a person’s ability to pull the trigger once they’ve accessed the weapon. When that’s your child who doesn’t understand the danger or a person in distress trying to access that weapon to potentially do harm, those extra minutes are precious to prevent a tragedy.”

See LOCKS Page 12

## Exchange launches curbside pickup

Lorraine Harris-Ortega

ARMY & AIR FORCE EXCHANGE SERVICE  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

To help military service members and their families practice physical distancing during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Travis Army and Air Force Exchange is implementing curbside pickup at six test locations.

As of April 23, shoppers at the Travis Army and Air Force Exchange can order at ShopMyExchange.com and pick up their purchases at the curb.

Curbside pickup is an extension of the Exchange’s buy online, pick up in store service. Authorized military shoppers with installation access can visit ShopMyExchange.com, find what they need and choose the pick up at store option.

When the order is ready, the store will call and offer the curbside pickup option. At the store, shopper’s park in a designated numbered space, call the phone number on the sign and the order is delivered to their vehicle.

As the Department of Defense’s largest retailer, the Exchange is mission essential, having served Warfighters for nearly 125 years.

“The Exchange is leaning forward to protect its customers and associates in these uncertain times,” said Phonda Bishop, Exchange general manager. “Curbside service lets military service members and their families get their essentials while maintaining physical distance. It’s a win-win.”

Since 1895, the Army & Air Force Exchange Service has gone where Soldiers, Airmen and their families go to improve the quality of their lives by providing valued goods and services at exclusive military pricing.

## Exchange extends its refund policy

Lorraine Harris-Ortega

ARMY & AIR FORCE EXCHANGE SERVICE  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

For military shoppers who need to make a return but are hesitant to visit the Travis Army and Air Force Base Exchange during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Army & Air Force Exchange Service is extending its return policy.

All purchases made since March 16 are eligible for returns through July 1.

“While extensive preventive measures have been implemented at the Travis Army

and Air Force Base Exchange to keep the military community safe, we understand that some shoppers may not feel comfortable going to a public place at this time,” said Phonda Bishop, Exchange general manager. “Extending the return window gives military shoppers peace of mind.”

The extended return policy applies only to items purchased in brick-and-mortar Exchanges. Since items ordered online can be mailed back, there is no extended return policy for online orders.

## Pets can help military shoppers win gift cards

Lorraine Harris-Ortega

ARMY & AIR FORCE EXCHANGE SERVICE  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Pets make great companions for those long weeks spent at home during the COVID-19 pandemic.

This May, they’ll even fetch 10 lucky military shoppers a combined \$3,000 in Army & Air Force Exchange Service gift cards – without having to set paw outside the house.

From May 1 through May 31, authorized shoppers at Travis Army and Air Force Exchange worldwide can send in a patriotic-themed picture of their four-legged friends for a chance to win the Patriot Pet Just Say “Treat” Photo Contest. Two

grand-prize winners will each receive a \$500 gift card, while eight second-place winners will each receive a \$250 gift card.

“We wanted give our shoppers something fun and light-hearted to take their minds off the uncertainty and seriousness going on right now,” said Phonda Bishop, Exchange general manager. “As always, our Patriot Pet contest is also a great way to recognize military pets for all the support and camaraderie they provide warfighters and their families in stressful times.”

Authorized Exchange shoppers age 18 or older can find complete contest rules and enter at [www.shopmyexchange.com/Sweepstakes](http://www.shopmyexchange.com/Sweepstakes). Winners will be selected on or about June 15.

## Little Rock pivots to virtual FTAC

Airman 1st Class  
Mariam K. Springs

19TH AIRLIFT WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

LITTLE ROCK AIR FORCE BASE, Ark. — Team Little Rock’s First Term Airman Course is continuing to uphold one of Air Mobility Command’s priorities – developing the force – through the ongoing COVID-19 situation by delivering the course virtually.

U.S. Air Force Senior Master Sgt. Brock Atchley, 19th Force Support Squadron career assistance adviser,

See FTAC Page 15



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Mariam K. Springs

U.S. Air Force Tech Sgt. Sean Evans, 19th Force Support Squadron NCO in charge of First Term Airman Course, uses a tablet in preparation of a virtual FTAC April 24 at Little Rock Air Force Base,

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# Airmen support food drive to help those in need

**Tech. Sgt. Liliana Moreno**  
621ST CONTINGENCY RESPONSE WING  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

## CRW delivers 1,600 pounds of food

Airmen from the 621st Contingency Response Wing partnered with The Leaven, Vacaville Fire Department and local churches near Travis Air Force Base, California, to support a food drive to help those

in need during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Airmen volunteered to collect nonperishable items and delivered more than 1,600 pounds of food to the Mariposa Head Start Center in Vacaville, California, on April 24,

after a two-week food drive. Food items collected included nonperishables such as: canned fruit, vegetables and proteins; grains and cereals; snacks and juice boxes for children.

"It's wonderful to make a difference in people's lives," said Tech. Sgt. Steve Rogers, 921st Contingency Response Squadron aerial porter. "This pandemic is affecting our entire country in many different ways. In the CRW, we are always ready at a moment's notice to answer our nation's call and this time that call is coming from our local community."

Many food pantries are being overrun due to the coronavirus outbreak and are finding

See **FOOD DRIVE** Page 18



U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. David W. Carbajal

**Staff Sgt. Joshua Root, 921st Contingency Response Squadron maintenance flight, carries in boxes of non-perishable food April 24 at The Leaven after-school program building in Vacaville, California. Members of the 621st Contingency Response Wing collected more than 1,600 pounds of food items to be disseminated to families affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.**

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# Online Spanish classes help air advisors maintain proficiency

**Tech. Sgt. Liliana Moreno**  
621ST CONTINGENCY RESPONSE WING  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Members of the 571st Mobility Support Advisory Squadron are finding innovative ways to satisfy air adviser requirements while teleworking due to COVID-19.

The 571st MSAS is a language-enabled group who assesses, advises and assists Latin American and Caribbean countries to enhance their airpower capabilities while assisting the Air Force's enduring mission to build partnership capacity.

In order to maintain their proficiency as air advisers, the 571st MSAS developed some unique online classroom opportunities to enhance the unit's language capabilities while overcoming obstacles in their routine training due to COVID-19.

"Since traveling classes and in-country engagements with partner nations were our primary ways of completing cultural hour requirements, we had to adjust and provide more resources to our members to stay up to date and be able to continue learning," said Staff Sgt. Christian Ramos Claudio, 571st MSAS command language program manager.

Just last week, Ramos, along with 1st Lt. Phillip Resnick, 571st MSAS commander's executive officer, hosted the unit's first-ever virtual Spanish cultural class. Squadron members along with family members were invited to participate in what will be a weekly virtual class.

During the first meeting, the group read an article titled, "Panama contra el COVID-19," which explained how Panama was controlling the spread of COVID-19. As part of the class, the group interpreted the article's intent and voiced their opinions. Those attending the virtual class were asked to download a copy of the article ahead of time to ease with translations, key vocabulary and to take notes to be discussed during the class.



Courtesy photo

**U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Christian Ramos Claudio, 571st Mobility Support Advisory Squadron command language program manager, leads a discussion during the unit's first-ever virtual Spanish cultural class.**

"Language is more than just words, it is a cultural exchange. The ability to know and understand other cultures, helps our unit to strengthen relationships with other nations," said Staff Sgt. Anthony Colon Matos, 571st MSAS air adviser and class student. "Even though our Spanish lessons have transitioned to

online classes due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the MSAS can now take advantage of this new virtual platform for future mission training."

Air advisers come into the squadron with a wide range of Spanish capabilities. Some

See **CLASSES** Page 15

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## Puzzles

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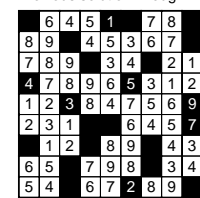
No. 488

Medium



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

Previous solution - Tough



How to beat Str8ts -

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

### SUDOKU

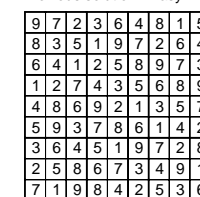
No. 488

Medium



The solutions will be published here in the next issue.

Previous solution - Easy



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

For many strategies, hints and tips, visit [www.sudokuwiki.org](http://www.sudokuwiki.org)

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# Month shines light on Gold Star families

**Suzanne Black**

AIRMAN & FAMILY READINESS CENTER

May is designated Gold Star Family Awareness month to focus attention on families in the Gold Star Program.

It is no coincidence that efforts to increase awareness of Gold Star survivors occurs during the same month as a day specifically set aside for remembering lost servicemen and women, Memorial Day.

Memorial Day is about remembering those who truly gave their lives in defense of this country and their loved ones who have to somehow learn how to move on.

The freedoms and liberties we enjoy every day as Americans is a direct result of the sacrifices and courage of the service men and women who died defending this great nation; and it is truly heart-breaking when we lose any service member. We know the loss of a service member has a profound impact on his or her family.

Regardless of the cause, location or circumstances

of the loss, surviving family members deserve our acknowledgment and deepest respect.

The Air Force Gold Star Program has dedicated the month of May as Gold Star Awareness Month to bring awareness to what it means to be a Gold Star family member and to ensure that we honor and remember the men and women who have given the ultimate sacrifice.

Due to recent events with COVID19, the Travis Air Force Base First Sergeant's will honor fallen members at the 10th Annual Gold Star Families 10K Ruck March on Aug. 22.

The ruck march, which consists of a 10-kilometer course around the base, honors families who lost loved ones in defense of this country. All proceeds from this event will support the annual Gold Star Family Honor and Remembrance event held at the Marine's Memorial Club and Hotel in San Francisco.

The Gold Star Program serves to assure Gold Star Families that their deceased

See FAMILIES Page 15



U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Rose Gudek

**Special Tactics operators infiltrate a simulated target from a CV-22 Osprey tilt-rotor aircraft during operability training with the 14th Weapons Squadron April 22 at Eglin Range, Florida. The training helped improve readiness and interoperability between special operations assets, Special Tactics is U.S. Special Operations Command's tactical air and ground integration force, and the Air Force's special operations ground force; leading global access, precision strike, personnel recovery and battlefield surgery operations.**

## Special Tactics Airmen support vital training, maintain readiness

**1st Lt. Alejandra Fontalvo**

24TH SPECIAL OPERATIONS WING

HURLBURT FIELD, Fla. — Special Tactics Airmen from the 23rd Special Tactics Squadron conducted interoperability training with the 14th Weapons Squadron assigned to the U.S. Air Force Weapons School detachment at Hurlburt Field for a special operations force exercise, April 22.

"The recent training event was done in conjunction with

the 14th Weapons Squadron as part of their curriculum to produce weapons officers from various aircraft in (Air Force Special Operations Command)," said Maj. Blake Jones, director of operations for the 23rd STS. "Their scenarios and full mission profiles necessitate the role of ground force as they train to conduct and support airfield seizures, noncombatant evacuations, hostage rescues and counter weapons of mass destruction operations. The

23rd STS picked up this great training opportunity after COVID-19 travel restrictions prevented other units from participating as planned."

The exercise is a part of the 14th WPS's demanding 5 1/2 syllabus, exposing students to a wide range of joint special operations and combat air force capabilities. Being able to move forward with the training allowed the iteration of Weapons School students to stay on track with their training timeline.

"Our students require close interaction with skilled ground forces throughout their training to graduate them as the recognized experts in (special operations forces) and (combat air forces) integration," said. Lt. Col. Jacob Duff, 14th WPS director of operations. "Our planned training partners, a different Special Tactics squadron and multiple Army special forces units, were

See TACTICS Page 12

# US, Japan bombers, fighters integrate operations

**Staff Sgt. Hailey Staker**

28TH BOMB WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

ELLSWORTH AIR FORCE BASE, S.D. — In a demonstration of the U.S. Air Force's dynamic force employment model, a B-1B Lancer assigned to the 37th Bomb Squadron launched from Ellsworth Air Force Base and integrated with the Japan Air Self Defense Force to conduct bilateral and theater familiarization training near Japan, April 22.

The B-1 aircrew flew the sortie to the Indo-Pacific and teamed up with six U.S. Air Force F-16 Fighting Falcons, seven JASDF F-2s and eight JASDF F-15s over the Draughton Range as part of a joint U.S. Indo-Pacific Command and U.S. Strategic Command Bomber Task Force mission before returning home, a round trip of nearly 29 hours.

"This was a higher-headquarters directed operational mission to assure our allies, and deter adversaries while demonstrating the dynamic force employment model," said Lt. Col. Lincoln Coleman, 37th BS commander. "This was a total team effort involving every group on base that provided us with the opportunity to integrate with multiple air operations centers in different areas of responsibility."

In line with the National Defense Strategy's objectives of strategic predictability and operational unpredictability, the Air Force transitioned

its force-employment model to enable strategic bombers to operate within the Indo-Pacific region from a broader array of overseas and continental United States locations with greater operational resilience.

"The rapid employment of airpower directly supports the National Defense Strategy and assures we can provide overwhelming force anywhere, anytime in support of American interests or our Allies and partners," said Gen. Timothy Ray, Air Force Global Strike Command and Air Forces-Strategic commander. "This mission is a demonstration to our friends throughout the region: we will continue to remain fully predictable in our commitment to ensuring peace, while also demonstrating that we have the ability to operate from numerous locations across the globe, even during the global pandemic."

Coleman added that missions like this clearly demonstrate the capability of the B-1 and its aircrews.

"In order to execute AFGSC's mission, we must be familiar with how our allies and mission partners operate around the globe," Coleman said. "This requires us to continually execute joint and combined operations around the world. This mission provided a unique opportunity for our aircrew to interact with our allies in an operational environment, improve interoperability and reinforce our partnership."



Japan Air-Self Defense Force courtesy photo

**A U.S. Air Force B-1B Lancer from Ellsworth Air Force Base, South Dakota, and F-16 Fighting Falcons from Misawa Air Base, Japan, conduct bilateral joint training April 22 with Japan Air Self-Defense Force F-2s and F-15s off the coast of Northern Japan.**

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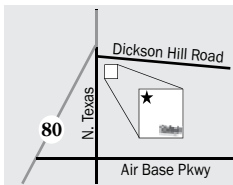
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# Travis distributes cloth face covers to Airmen

U.S. Air Force photos by Senior Airman Christian Conrad



1) U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Stephanie West, 60th Aerial Port Squadron ramp operations section chief, wears a cloth face covering April 14 at Travis Air Force Base, California. West was a representative for Travis' 60th APS and was tasked with collecting a portion of the squadron's allocation of 394 cloth face covers to distribute to its Airmen. 2) U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Kleo Edgell, 60th Logistics Readiness Squadron aircraft parts store supervisor, left, issues a box of cloth face covers to Tech. Sgt. Devonte Lever, 60th Operations Group superintendent executive assistant, April 14 at Travis 3) A box of cloth face covers awaits pick up April 14 at Travis. 4) Edgell and Tech. Sgt. Erica Dixon, 60th LRS NCO in charge of the aircraft parts store, center, issue a cloth face cover to Senior Airman Megan Perez, 60th LRS equipment and accountability journeyman, April 14 at Travis. 5) U.S. Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Chang Cho, Naval Supply Systems Command Weapon Systems Support logistics specialist, right, receives a cloth face cover from U.S. Air Force Senior Master Sgt. Kenneth Morain, 60th Aerial Port Squadron air freight superintendent, April 14 at Travis.



# Tactics

From Page 8

unable to travel to Hurlburt (AFB) and the 23rd STS immediately stepped in to fill that gap. Without them, it would have been significantly more difficult to meet our training objectives and graduate the newest class of SOF weapons officers and enlisted advanced instructors.”

The SOFEX also provided a unique opportunity for local Special Tactics Airmen to conduct multifaceted training with a volume of aviation assets otherwise not easily replicated outside of a larger exercise.

“Our recent participation allowed us to evaluate individual personnel and conduct training in mission planning, tilt-rotor assault, airfield seizure, landing zone establishment and control, terminal attack control, close quarters combat, personnel recovery and battlefield trauma care,” Jones said. “This was

important because it gave many junior enlisted and junior officer (Special Tactics) personnel a crucial repetition mission planning with some of the best aviators in AFSOC as well as the opportunity to execute, work through contingencies and lead in a high-fidelity scenario.”

The units not only trained on the necessary skill sets needed to conduct a wide-range of special operations missions, increase lethality and maintain joint warfighting capabilities, but they were also tested on their ability to plan complex missions amid COVID-19 preventive measures.

“The combat capabilities we are tasked to provide are not changing, but the constraints are different now, so we must adapt,” Jones said. “We are adapting how we train, but also adapting how we resource and plan that training over teleconferences and web-based planning applications.”

# Locks

From Page 4

Members can contact their installation’s violence prevention integrator for details on local distribution of the cable-style gun locks.

Accidental firearm discharges were responsible for the deaths of 458 people in 2018, 54 of whom were under the age of 14. Additionally, unintentional firearm and BB gun discharges accounted for approximately 18,000 and 14,000 injuries, respectively, according to data from the CDC.

But, unintentional injuries and deaths from firearms are only a small portion of the total number. The National Safety Council states more than 90% of all poisonings happen at home and drug poisoning is now the top cause of unintentional death in the United States. Its data shows in 2017, a total of 61,311 people died of drug overdoses – many from prescription opioid medicine, and some of those from

unauthorized access to a family member’s prescription.

The Health Resources and Services Administration recommends storing chemicals and prescriptions in their original containers and out of reach of children and other unauthorized persons. Expired and no longer needed medications can be properly disposed of through the Drug Enforcement Agency’s National Take Back Day, which occurs twice a year. Individuals needing to dispose of medications during other times can visit [www.dea.gov](http://www.dea.gov) to locate alternative solutions.

The data shows that the impact of these accidents goes far beyond the injury or death of the individual. Those who survive or witness these types of traumatic accidents can develop invisible wounds. An invisible wound is post-traumatic stress disorder; traumatic brain injury; or other cognitive, emotional, or behavioral conditions associated with trauma experienced by an individual. Anyone can develop an invisible wound and some people are more susceptible than others to

developing an invisible wound. The signs and symptoms differ for every person and may not appear immediately, sometimes emerging years after an incident/traumatic event.

“An invisible wound can develop following any traumatic event, including accidents, and are as real and as severe as physical wounds,” said Col. Karen Downes, director, Department of the Air Force Invisible Wounds Initiative. “Our first line of defense against invisible wounds is to prevent traumatic events where we have the power to do so. We must each check our homes for safety to reduce the risk of avoidable accidents.”

For more information about home safety and invisible wounds, contact the following resources: Department of the Air Force Resilience, Air Force Occupational Safety and the Department of the Air Force Invisible Wounds Initiative.

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- 9:15 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL
- 10:30 AM \* MORNING WORSHIP
- KID'z CHURCH Grades K-5th
- 10:00 AM WEDNESDAY SENIOR PRAYER
- 7:00 PM WEDNESDAY NIGHT Adult Bible Study Girl's Club Royal Rangers Revolution Youth

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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  
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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  
Adult & Youth Studies .....6:30 pm

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1405 Kentucky Street  
Fairfield, CA 94533

**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.**  
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Vacaville, CA 95687

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**Sunday Morning Worship 11 a.m.**  
**Sunday Evening Worship 5 p.m.**  
**Wednesday Prayer Meeting and Bible Study 7 p.m.**  
(Nursery is provided in all services)

**Website:** [www.elmirafamily.com](http://www.elmirafamily.com)  
**Email:** [elmirabaptistchurch77@gmail.com](mailto:elmirabaptistchurch77@gmail.com)  
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1405 Kentucky Street  
Fairfield, CA 94533

**Rev. Dr. Terry Long, Pastor**

**Sunday**  
Sunday School: 11:00 a.m.  
Morning Worship Service: 12:00 p.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](http://www.stpaulfairfield.com)  
**Email:** [stpaulbcfairfield@comcast.net](mailto:stpaulbcfairfield@comcast.net)  
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Assembly Worship ..... 10:45 am  
Evening Assembly Worship :5:00 pm

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[www.vacavillebiblechurch.com](http://www.vacavillebiblechurch.com)  
[office@vacavillebiblechurch.com](mailto:office@vacavillebiblechurch.com)

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(707) 448-5085

Minister: Ryan Brewer

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9:30 AM

Sunday Morning Worship  
10:30 AM

Sunday Evening Worship  
6:00 PM

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Sunday: 9am & 11am

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[www.unityvacaville.org](http://www.unityvacaville.org)

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7:00 pm Contemplative Prayer

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FTAC

From Page 5

explained that there is a continuum of learning that occurs called Airmanship 100, 200 and 300. Airmen receive Airmanship 100 during basic military training, Airmanship 200 during technical school, and Airmanship 300 during FTAC.

“The purpose of FTAC is to transition the Airmen from a training environment to the operational Air Force,” Atchley said. “The content in Airmanship 300 is valuable information to ensure these Airmen are thinking critically about their role in the Air Force. We need to continue FTAC, even virtually, to ensure they receive this content. While FTAC is not intended to be administered virtually, we need to be flexible to operate in the environments that are presented.”

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Classes

From Page 7

enter as fluent native speakers, while others come in with little-to-no previous knowledge of the language. However, through Spanish conversation groups, all squadron members get to improve some

Families

From Page 8

service members are not forgotten. It is important that our military community ensures that our fallen heroes and

part of their language skills. Members with lower abilities in Spanish are able to practice the basics and learn basic vocabulary, while the more experienced speakers are able to improve their technical vocabulary and improve their translating skills.

“Our discussion groups serve multiple purposes,” said

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If you would like more information about the Travis AFB Gold Star Family Programs and resources, contact the Air Force Families Forever representatives, Suzanne Black, at 707-424-2488, or Joan Miller, at 707-424-4337.



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## Choate

From Page 2

– logistics, communications, rapid response, among others – can be employed now.

In difficult times, the nation often looks to our military for comfort and inspiration, and a sense of action. This is not theory for me. As a squaron commander at Cannon Air Force Base, I had Airmen lining up to support relief efforts after Hurricane Michael devastated the Florida Panhandle in 2018. We didn't focus on bureaucratic rule-sets such as "funding lines," or "deployment bands" or "dwell time" because our fellow Airmen and the community needed our help. So we got to work, sent our best and made a difference.

But coronavirus is not a one-time natural disaster. To serve the nation in a pandemic, we also must take care of ourselves. We must come to the aid

of our fellow Airmen to ensure that the Air Force is ready for the call.

That means physical and emotional support. It means thinking outside normal business rules and using every resource in our arsenal.

As our military continues fighting COVID-19, some units and individuals will be overwhelmed, while others stand on the sidelines and wait out the storm despite the impulse to act.

Some who want to rush to the coronavirus response are tied to equally critical operational assignments like our nuclear command and control, but others can – and will – support the fight. We're seeing it today in the civilian world as orthopedic surgeons operate in emergency rooms, oncologists treat COVID patients. The Air Force equivalent finds intelligence analysts who are writing policy in staff positions deployed to a regional task force planning COVID-19 relief. As operations adjust to the existential threat, our

military will continue to conduct business, as required, to protect us all.

The balance demands wisdom and leadership from commanders leading units operating at surge levels we have not experienced in decades. This time, they face the possibility of operating while members of their units become infected and others are quarantined.

When this happens, readiness can be degraded. Are we prepared to adapt and backfill a unit when one member becomes infected who was on shift with 20 others, forcing those 20 to be isolated as well? And who were those 20 exposed to, including their families? In addition to readiness, emotional strength can also be degraded, placing even more pressure on commanders.

Unfortunately, in times of war, we take losses. Sadly, there are casualties in this invisible war, too. Chances are, most of us, if not all of us, will know somebody directly impacted by

COVID-19 before this pandemic ends.

It's a grim perspective, but critically important to remember during this difficult time. We must ensure we're checking on each other to remain resilient. We must all prepare for the long war ahead and expect hardship, even tragedies, to those we know or love. It's going to be tough, but we will prevail because we'll support each other through this as we always do.

That is a hallmark of America's psyche and it's especially true in the military since it is the military that must always be ready to answer our nation's call.

This is no vague concept. As a squadron commander supporting special operations forces, we never knew when the call would come to be forward deployed. But we knew it would come at some point, as it always does. I would tell my Airmen, "There is a lot you can't control, so prepare for what you can. Don't put off till tomorrow

what you can do today, because you want to ensure you're ready, your family is ready and your teammates are ready when the call comes."

Now is not the time to tolerate slow processes and staffing procedures that stand in the way when our nation needs help the most. We're at war. If units need assistance, ask for it. If they ask for it, we need to provide relief; everyone should be ready and willing to support those in need when called.

It embodies something every Airman knows and accepts: "Ready today to fight tonight." This is what we've all signed up for. We have faced insurmountable challenges before.

This may be a different adversary, but our military and our nation will rise to the occasion to prevail and protect our way of life. There is no measure to our resolve, but we must remain proactive and ready at all times to defeat this enemy. We must all be ready to answer our nation's call.

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## Food drive

From Page 6

it hard to keep up with the demand and distribution of goods.

"We are all in this together and as military members, we are fortunate enough to be in a position to help those in our local community that need it most," said Capt. Jonathan Farr, 921st CRS maintenance flight commander. "Our local community consistently supports us day in and day out, so this is just one of many ways for us to give back to them and hopefully help mitigate some of the hardships that our low income families are facing during these trying times."

Those who live off base can also donate their nonperishable goods to the Vacaville Fire Department. For more information on local drop off points, please contact Capt. Jonathan Farr.

executive director and an Air Mobility Command civic leader, said he was proud to be a part of this effort in support of the local community.

"We are glad to be able to come in, and really come together as a community to help those who are having to decide right now if they are going to pay rent or buy food," Lillis said. "This is a fantastic opportunity. The Bible says, if somebody asks you for a mile, you go for two, this is a chance for us to go an extra mile to help those who are really in need."

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Coping

From Page 3

been very supportive.”

Krinberg also said she’s concerned for society.

“I hope people act responsibly so that those less fortunate are not put at undue risk,” she said. “Everyone should adhere to physical distancing regardless of their age, because they could be carriers of the virus; wash their hands regularly and wear masks when they can’t ensure they are at least six feet away from others.”

“This is a challenging time and all the uncertainty people face can cause tremendous strain,” Krinberg said. “I hope that despite the challenges society faces, people utilize this time to grow and unite.”

Krinberg also said she and Christ try to view those challenges as opportunities to grow and connect with one another.

“We have been enjoying the simplicities of life such as taking the dog for a walk, playing cards, art and catching up on Netflix,” she said. “We also purchased a rowing machine so we can work out at home if the



U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. James Hodgman  
**Senior Airman Nichole Krinberg, 60th Aerial Port Squadron air transportation journeyman, shops for eggs April 16 inside the commissary at Travis Air Force Base, California.**

weather is bad outside.”

“We also have dinners together now more frequently and we’ve been able to work on our communication more,” Christ added.

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