

Chief Bass sees Travis stepping ...

# FORWARD

PAGES 10-11



**TAILWIND**



# Retired sergeant pens book about time at Travis

**Nick DeCicco**  
60TH AIR MOBILITY WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

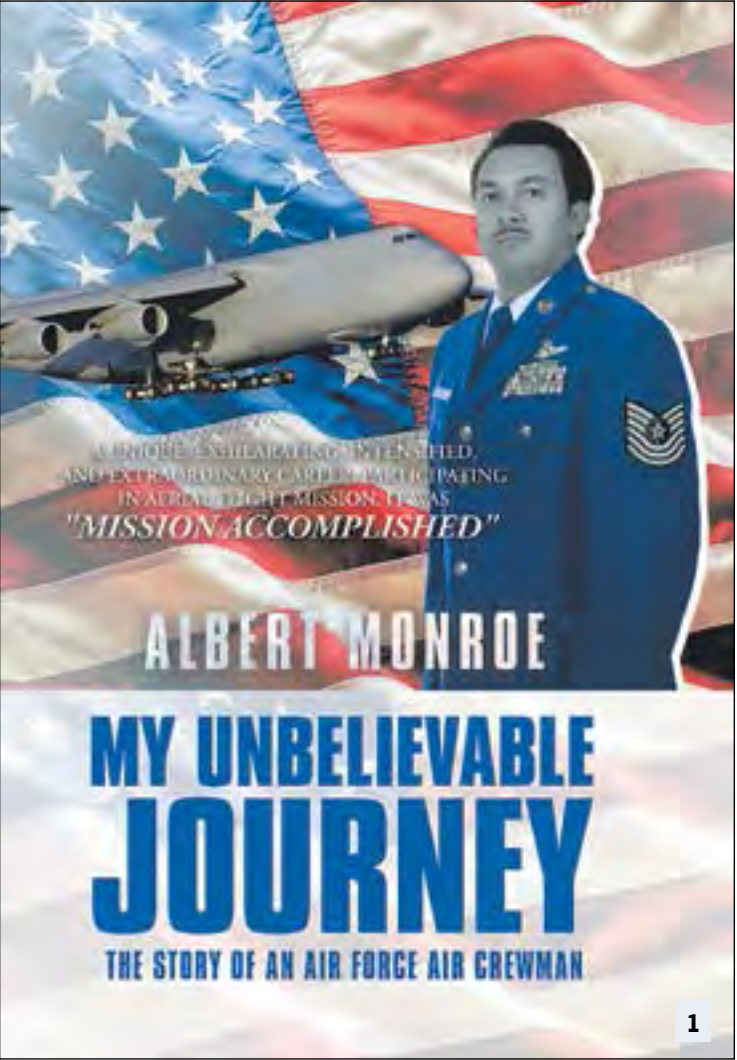
TRAVIS AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. — Albert Monroe, a Bay Area native who served much of his Air Force career from 1963 to 1985 at Travis Air Force Base, California, has been a teacher throughout his life.

His lessons have taken many forms, including instructing fellow Airmen during his nearly 22 years of service, as well as in post-military careers with the Lockheed Martin Corporation and as a teacher at multiple colleges in Nevada.

Even now, Monroe is still trying to pass on what he knows. With a kidney transplant and the COVID-19 pandemic giving him plenty of time at home, he spent much of 2020 writing “My Unbelievable Journey: The Story of an Air Force Air Crewman,” a book covering his time in the military.

Airmen, astronauts and college students are among those who have absorbed Monroe’s lessons, which include his time as an Airman experiencing military history first hand, as well as broader cultural lessons about politics and race.

Monroe said he kept a log of his missions, which helped during the writing of the book. The log helped with memories and details of multiple experiences, such as retrieving contractors held in captivity after the 1979 fall of the Shah of Iran and supporting Israel during the Yom



1) A look at the cover of “My Unbelievable Journey: The Story of an Air Force Air Crewman,” a book Albert Monroe wrote in 2020 covering his time in the military. Monroe served from 1963 to 1985, much of that time at Travis Air Force Base, California. 2) Monroe poses in 2018.



Courtesy images/Albert Monroe

Kippur War of 1973 against Egypt and Syria. He’s provided earthquake relief in Japan and Turkey, brought cruise missiles

to Europe and so much more. His time also included a two-year stint at Royal Air Force Mildenhall in England as well

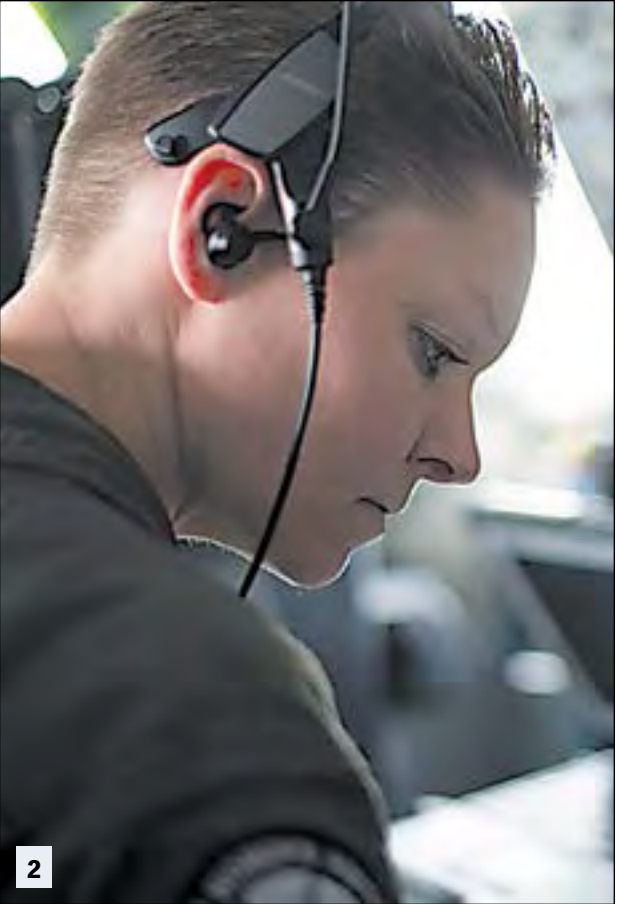
as Kelly Air Force Base, San Antonio, and stops in Japan and Thailand.

It was during Operation

Babylift, a monthlong mission involving numerous C-5A Galaxies to evacuate more than

See BOOK Page 19

# All-female air crew recognizes, celebrates efforts of women in Air Force



U.S. Air Force photos/Christine Minoda

1) Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force JoAnne S. Bass, left, recognizes U.S. Air Force Capt. Alex Potts, 21st Airlift Squadron C-17 Globemaster III instructor pilot, during her meet-up with the all-female air crew that participated in the Women’s History Month heritage flight March 26 at Travis Air Force Base, California. Bass visited Travis AFB to meet the Airmen who demonstrate innovative thinking and enhance the rapid global mobility mission. 2) U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Blakeley Murdock, 6th Air Refueling Squadron flight engineer, performs preflight procedures before the Women’s History Month heritage flight March 25 at Travis AFB. 3) U.S. Air Force Capt. Stephanie Linderman, 6th ARS KC-10 Extender pilot, maneuvers a KC-10 for an aerial refueling training during Women’s History Month heritage flight March 25 at Travis AFB. In honor of Women’s History Month, an all-female flight crew from the 6th ARS flew on an aerial refueling training mission eastbound to Wyoming and Naval Air Station Fallon.

Tailwind

Travis AFB, Calif. | 60th Air Mobility Wing

Air Force

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60th Air Mobility Wing commander

1st Lt. Jasmine Jacobs  
Chief of command information

Senior Airman Cameron Otte  
Tailwind staff

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

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

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

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

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

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On the cover

Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force JoAnne S. Bass, right, and Chief Master Sergeant Mike Perry Air Force, first sergeant special duty manager, walk on the wing of a C-5M Super Galaxy March 25 at Travis Air Force Base, California.

U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Karla Parra

Warrior of the Week

Name:

Senior Airman Saajaadeen Jeffries.

Unit:

60th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.

Family:

Wife, Elazia Skinner; daughter, Laiyah Jeffries.

Duty title:

Dash 21 technician.

Hometown:

Cleveland, Ohio.

Time in service:

Three years.

What are your goals?

Finish college education, become a certified ethical hacker, work in

What are your hobbies?

Flying RC planes/drones, programming, building computers/servers, tinkering, pentesting (ethical hacking).

What is your greatest achievement?

My daughter.

Courtesy photo



## Colonel gets closer look at 60th MDSS



U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Cameron Otte

U.S. Air Force Tech Sgt. Michael de Vega, right, 60th Medical Support Squadron section chief of patient administration, guides Col. Corey Simmons, 60th Air Mobility Wing commander, through a death processing checklist during Leadership Rounds March 26 at Travis Air Force Base, California. The Leadership Rounds program provides 60th AMW leadership an opportunity to interact with Airmen and receive a detailed view of each mission performed at Travis AFB.

# Entire force may be vaccinated for COVID-19 by early summer

C. Todd Lopez

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE NEWS

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Defense Department officials have said the department will be ready to offer COVID-19 vaccinations to all eligible beneficiaries by May 1, in keeping with a White House announcement that on that date, all Americans will be able to get vaccinated if they want to.

“We are committed to contributing to the president achieving his goal of 200

million shots in 100 days,” said Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs Dr. Terry Adirim during a briefing today at the Pentagon.

Army Lt. Gen. Ronald Place, director of the Defense Health Agency said that depending on the rate at which the DOD can get vaccines, and the uptake rate — that’s the number of personnel who step forward to get vaccinated — it’s possible that by early summer, every person in the DOD could be vaccinated.

“Based on the projections that we have, both supply side and vaccination side, we do fully expect to be open to all ... of our DOD eligible populations on or before the first of May,” Place said. “At current uptake rates for those who want to get it, we think by the middle of July or so ... the department will be vaccinated.”

Place said right now that the military health system is administering COVID vaccine at 343 sites around the world. Also, he said, there are

almost 3,000 military personnel providing vaccination support to FEMA-led community vaccination sites around the country.

“A special thanks goes out to our superbly trained enlisted medical forces carrying out these responsibilities with compassion and with distinction,” he said.

Within the department, Place said, more than 600,000 service members from all

See VACCINES Page 13

## Program seeking to boost Airmen

Kevin L. Robinson

DEFENSE COMMISSARY AGENCY  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS SPECIALIST

FORT LEE, Va. — The Defense Commissary Agency’s mission is to deliver a benefit to help service members and their families save money. So it’s only fitting that commissaries echo the message of financial management during Military Saves Month in April.

“We applaud the Military Saves campaign that encourages service members, military families and DOD civilians to develop plans for their fiscal responsibility,” said Marine Sgt. Maj. Michael R. Saucedo, senior enlisted advisor to the DeCA director.

“Our core message is that by shopping on the installation — whether in commissaries, exchanges or morale, welfare and support activities — service members and their families can stretch their paychecks, and that’s an integral part of helping them manage their finances. This aligns perfectly with the Military Saves campaign.”

Saving money in commissaries is as simple as checking the ends of store aisles for themed items with extra-low pricing. Patrons should also always check with their store for details or visit their store web page to verify what sales promotions are available.

Here are a few DeCA programs to consider for extra commissary savings:

- Your Everyday Savings! (YES!): Your commissary is reducing prices daily on hundreds of the most frequently purchased popular brands. Look for the orange YES! shelf labels in your commissary aisles.
- Commissary Rewards

See PROGRAM Page 19

## Health care leaders give COVID-19 update

Military Health System  
Communications

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs Dr. Terry Adirim and Defense Health Agency Director Army Lt. Gen. (Dr.) Ronald Place praised the job done by members of the military medical community in fighting COVID-19 during a recent briefing at the Pentagon.

The Department of Defense “is playing a key role in supporting the whole of government approach to defeating COVID-19, particularly in support of vaccinations of our service members and other beneficiaries but also our fellow citizens through the Federal Emergency Management Administration mission,” said Adirim.

Adirim explained that recent changes within the DOD included, a review of all COVID-19-related policies and updated Force Health Protection measures based on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidance. She cited the incorporation of quarantine and testing guidance for vaccinated individuals as just one example. She also said DOD policies and guidance will continue to evolve in collaboration with the CDC.

“We will continue to update our guidance to ensure our DOD personnel are safe and can perform their missions,” said Adirim. “In the meantime, we are vaccinating our service members and eligible beneficiaries as fast and as safely as possible.”

In alignment with the

President’s announcement that all Americans will be eligible to be vaccinated in May, she said the DOD intends to open vaccination to all eligible beneficiaries by May 1.

She thanked service members, both those who have been vaccinated thus far, and those who have played an integral part in the vaccination effort.

“They are not only protecting themselves, but they’re also contributing to the safety of their teammates, their families and their communities. I’m very proud of all of them,” she said. “We’ve administered more than 1.8 million shots within the DOD, and more than 5 million shots have gone into arms by our military service members in support of the FEMA mission.”

Adirim offered a message of hope and motivation to the DOD community: “The light at the end of the tunnel is near - I know you’ve heard that over and over again - but it’s true. Vaccination is one critical part of getting our country back to normal, along with continued testing and adherence to public health measures like masking and social distancing. We just can’t let up at this point.”

Place delved into some of the specifics of both manning and administering such an effort.

“The Military Health System is administering COVID vaccines at 343 sites around the world,” detailed Place. “At the same time, nearly 3,000 military personnel are currently deployed to support FEMA-led efforts at civilian vaccination sites around the United States, with more expected soon.”



Department of Defense photo/Lisa Ferdinando

President Joe Biden delivers remarks to Defense Department personnel Feb. 10 at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C.

## Biden: May 1 deadline to leave Afghanistan is ‘hard to meet’

Terri Moon Cronk

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE NEWS

WASHINGTON, D.C. — President Joe Biden said March 25 that the upcoming May 1 deadline to remove U.S. troops from Afghanistan will be “hard to meet,” during his first press conference since taking office.

The president cited “tactical

reasons” for the delay, but emphasized it was not his intention “to stay there a long time.”

Biden said it is important for U.S. service members to leave in a safe and orderly manner, and added that he is in coordination with NATO allies who also have troops in the region.

The president has said before today that it would be difficult to meet the May 1

deadline to remove the remaining 2,500 U.S. troops. That deadline was set by former president Donald J. Trump in 2020, according to published news reports.

The U.S. military has been in Afghanistan for nearly 20 years, making the war there the longest conflict in U.S. history, spanning four presidential administrations.

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U.S. Air Force photo

An optometry technician examines a picture of a patient's eye at the Optometry Clinic at Cannon Air Force Base, New Mexico. Optometry specialists are trained to prescribe and fit lenses that will improve a patient's vision as well as treat various eye diseases and disorders.

## Visual dysfunctions common in even mild TBI patients

### Military Health System Communications

FALLS CHURCH, Va. — In 2008, the National Defense Authorization Act authorized the Secretary of Defense to “establish a Center of Excellence to address the full scope of vision care including prevention, diagnosis, mitigation, treatment, research and rehabilitation of military eye injuries and diseases.”

That year, the Vision Center of Excellence was established to address the full scope of vision care, including prevention, diagnosis, mitigation, treatment, research, and rehabilitation of military eye injuries and diseases including visual dysfunctions related to traumatic brain injury.

Although the Bethesda, Maryland-based center is not a treatment facility, it works to improve vision health, optimize readiness, and enhance quality of life for service members and veterans by promoting collaboration, facilitating integration, and serving as an advocate for vision across the departments of Defense's and Veterans Affairs' health care systems.

“We are an advocacy organization that drives consensus documentation to the provider communities out in the field that do deliver care,” said Dr. Felix Barker VCE's director of rehabilitation and reintegration. “We engage large groups

See TBI Page 15

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Army & Air Force Exchange Service Public Affairs graphic

## Travis kids can win prizes via AAFES

### Nguyen Ai Vy Tran

ARMY & AIR FORCE EXCHANGE  
 SERVICE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

TRAVIS AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. — Hear ye, hear ye! All princesses and princes of Travis Air Force Base kingdom are invited to join the Disney tea party online placemat decorating contest as part of the Exchange's worldwide Month of the Military Child celebration.

From April 2-8, Travis AFB kids ages 17 and younger can download the placemat template at [ShopMyExchange.com/momc](http://ShopMyExchange.com/momc). After coloring and decorating their placemat, they can submit their completed

creation at [ShopMyExchange.com/sweepstakes](http://ShopMyExchange.com/sweepstakes). One grand-prize winner will receive a \$50 Exchange gift card, while three runner-ups will each receive a Play-Doh Frozen Olaf's Sleigh Ride playset.

“At the BX, we like to treat our youngest heroes like royalty,” said Travis Exchange General Manager Phonda Bishop. “This online contest is a fun chance for them to be princesses and princes and win some great prizes.”

Military families can visit [ShopMyExchange.com/momc](http://ShopMyExchange.com/momc) for more Month of the Military Child activities, including sweepstakes, contests, coloring pages and more.

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# AFMC releases results of its diversity survey

### Marisa Alia-Novobilski

AIR FORCE MATERIEL COMMAND

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio — The Air Force Materiel Command has released the results of its initial command-wide diversity and inclusion, (D&I) survey, identifying areas of focus and improvement for initiatives across the command.

“The survey shows that while we are opening minds to many blind spots that would have previously gone unnoticed, we still have a lot of work to do, as we continue our efforts to become a more diverse and inclusive AFMC,”

said Gen. Arnold W. Bunch, Jr., AFMC commander. “It is imperative that we get this right. We need to have an environment where every Airman feels accepted, valued and has the opportunity to achieve their full potential. These results will help guide our continued efforts.”

The intent of the survey was to establish a baseline for D&I perceptions across AFMC, with future assessments planned to monitor progress towards furthering AFMC diversity, equity and inclusion. More than 14,000 military and civilian Airmen responded to this

survey, which ran from Nov. 30 through Dec. 21, 2020, with responses representative of personnel at all AFMC centers and installations, and military and civilian pay plans. Participants provided more than 3,500 comments in response to the open-ended portion of the survey.

Survey responses revealed that while AFMC Airmen believe the command is committed to D&I, there is a lack of widespread awareness of what steps are being taken to address climate and equity issues in many areas. In particular, results indicate a

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# Extremism stand downs focus on oath

C. Todd Lopez  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE NEWS

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Across the Defense Department, in units large and small, commanders and leaders held stand downs to address extremism in the ranks. The direction for those stand downs came in early February from Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III.

By Thursday, as directed by the secretary, all those stand downs should be complete, every service member should have been involved in a conversation about extremism, and any feedback the services might think is important enough to share with department leadership will be readied for transmission upstream.

The overall goal of the 60-day stand down has not been about collecting information from the force, but rather, to reiterate to the force something they all heard the first day of their military or civilian service: the commitment they made to the U.S. military, Pentagon Press Secretary John F. Kirby said during a briefing Tuesday.

“It was meant to do two things: to reinforce our values



Sailors assigned to Commander, Destroyer Squadron Seven participate in a Navy-wide stand down to address extremism in the ranks March 12.

and, specifically, the importance of the oath that everyone takes here to the Constitution and what that oath requires of you,” Kirby told reporters.

“There are active verbs in that oath that matter. And it was a chance to revisit what we’ve all promised to do, and what we’ve all promised to serve.”

The stand down was also about listening to service members and civilians and their own feelings about extremism, he said.

“To get a sense from the men and women of the workforce about how they view this issue, if they have any lived experiences that they would be willing to share, and to solicit their ideas and thoughts,” Kirby said. “It was not a data collection exercise.”

Right now, Kirby said, the defense department doesn’t have an idea about the scope of an extremism problem in the ranks. He said the service knows it’s a problem greater than zero, but also likely not one that’s as large as what some speculate.

“We don’t have a perfect understanding of the scope of it,” he said. “I think we want to get a better sense of it and the stand down was just a first step

in doing that ... It’s just a first step — not meant to be a panacea, not meant to solve all the problems — just to reorient everybody to the importance of service to this country in the Defense Department and the chance to listen to them.”

Having hard numbers on extremism in the U.S. military was not a prerequisite to discuss the issue, Kirby said. That there are no numbers is, in itself, a reason to conduct a stand down.

“It is precisely because we don’t have a complete granular body of knowledge about the full extent of the problem that we wanted to conduct this stand down and why the secretary wants to take the issue so seriously,” he said. “I don’t know that you have to have a specific set of data in front of you to know enough that you’ve got a problem.”

While Kirby told reporters that Secretary Austin has said he doesn’t believe the problem is as big as some believe it is, he’s also said it does exist. The department, he said, needs to

# Military finds alternatives to Suez Canal blockage

C. Todd Lopez  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE NEWS

Last week, the container ship “Ever Given” became lodged in the Suez Canal, the 120-mile long man-made waterway that runs through Egypt and connects the Red Sea with the Mediterranean Sea.

The waterway allows commercial vessels to travel more quickly between the Far East and Europe. The route is also used by military ships, including those of the United States Navy. The blockage, which was freed March 29, was not a show stopper for the U.S. military, however.

“Because we’ve long recognized the fact that narrow waterways like this are maritime chokepoints, we always make sure that we have alternate capabilities to meet mission requirements,” Pentagon Press Secretary John F. Kirby said

during a briefing Monday afternoon. “We have recognized the fact that chokepoints like the Suez Canal could suffer blockages like this, and it’s factored into just normal operational planning.”

Beyond that, Kirby said, the temporary shutdown of the Suez Canal has not caused the U.S. military to rethink its posture in the Middle East or its mission requirements there, because there are already other plans in place for such situations.

“In any circumstance around the world, the U.S. military has ... at its disposal any number of alternate ways of achieving mission success and meeting our mission requirement,” he said.

Kirby also commended the Egyptian government for its work so far in getting the ship freed from the canal and its efforts to re-open the canal to maritime traffic.

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# Airmen show chief what it means to ‘TrUSt Travis’



1) Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force JoAnne S. Bass speaks March 24 with Airmen from the 621st Contingency Response Wing during her visit to Travis Air Force Base, California. Bass visited several 60th Air Mobility Wing organizations and the 621st CRW to learn more about the diverse mission at Travis. 2) Bass rides in an MRZR all-terrain vehicle while visiting the Devil Raiders of the 621st CRW March 24 at Travis AFB. During the visit, the 621st CRW Airmen presented a “Line of Fire” to introduce the wide range of logistic operations across the wing. 3) Bass talks with Airmen assigned to the 60th Aerial Port Squadron March 25 at Travis AFB. Bass visited Travis AFB to meet the Airmen who demonstrate innovative thinking and enhance the rapid global mobility mission. 4) U.S. Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Paul Valenzuela, 821st Contingency Response Squadron chief enlisted manager, speaks with Bass during a capabilities briefing of the unit’s immersion March 24 at Travis AFB. The 621st CRW is highly specialized in training and rapidly deploying personnel to quickly open airfields and establish, expand, sustain and coordinate air mobility operations. 5) Bass speaks March 24 with Airmen from the 621st CRW during her visit to Travis AFB.

Airman 1st Class Alexander Merchak  
60TH AIR MOBILITY WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

TRAVIS AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. — Team Travis welcomed Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force JoAnne S. Bass during a base visit March 24-26.

While here, Chief Bass had the opportunity to meet with Airmen from multiple units across the base learning first-hand how Travis Air Force Base accelerates change and demonstrates a culture of trust.

Chief Bass met the Airmen who deployed last month to transport humanitarian goods in support of the Federal Emergency Management Agency relief efforts in Texas as well as Airmen in the 921st Contingency Response Squadron who showed her combat equipment and suited her up in body armor.

“We never know when we are going to be called upon to protect, defend or support our amazing country,” Bass said. “I know by having conversations with the Airmen from Travis that we are ready for any phone call that will require us to respond.”

Included in those “calls” mentioned by Chief Bass is how Travis AFB is operating and responding in the current environment. During her time meeting with 60th Medical Group, Airmen explained how their roles have changed during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Among the many other things Team Travis showed Chief Bass during her visit was the modernization of operations in the 60th Maintenance Group and the 60th Security Forces Squadron.

Airmen from the 60th Maintenance Group spoke to her about the modernization of processes in the 60th Aerial Port Squadron. The unit is working towards implementing wi-fi on the flight line and a virtual reality troubleshooting course to enhance mission effectiveness in real-time.

While visiting with the 60th Security Forces Squadron, Bass learned about the mission defense team, acquisition process simplification and small unmanned aerial system.

“Dedication to accelerate change in modernizing our Air Force to what it needs to be in 10, 15, 20 years is important,” Bass said. “This is what I see happening at Travis.”

At the conclusion of her visit, Chief Bass shared that she felt inspired by the Airmen at Travis AFB.

“There’s a special feeling that’s hard to describe when talking to Travis Airmen,” Chief Bass said. “I know I can trust each and every one of you to see the mission through. You all have shown me what it means to ‘Trust Travis,’ and trust is the foundation of leadership in our Air Force. Thank you for what you do day in and day out.”



U.S. Air Force/Master Sgt. Liliana Moreno



U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Karla Parra



U.S. Air Force/Master Sgt. Liliana Moreno



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## Survey

From Page 7

disparity in awareness of D&I initiatives and positive climate perceptions among differing supervisory levels, with those at lower ranks and grades viewing command efforts less favorably. In general, AFMC's wage grade civilians also expressed greater frustration with the current D&I climate than others taking the survey.

“We need to readdress the way we are communicating and informing our workforce about ongoing D&I efforts and ensure that information reaches Airmen at all levels of the organization,” said Keith Tickle, AFMC Diversity, Equity and Inclusion officer. “In order for real change to occur, we need to make sure that we have the buy-in and participation of everyone in the command, and to do this, they need to be better aware.”

The survey revealed that approximately three-fourths of respondents noticed an increased commitment to D&I throughout AFMC in the past year. In addition, 95% of respondents believe their performance evaluations were not impacted by race or ethnicity. More than 88% of those taking the survey also shared that in the past year their immediate supervisor took appropriate action in response to incidents of racial discrimination.

One area highlighted as needing further focus was civilian hiring practices where 20% of all civilians stated that they believed hiring is impacted by race and/or ethnicity in

their organization. While some respondents believe promotion and hiring actions are biased against Blacks and females, others feel opportunities are limited based on a perceived "reverse racism" that favors minorities. Some comments also showed a misperception

that there are “hiring quotas”  
based on race and ethnicity.

“Concerns raised by the survey indicate that many of the initiatives the command is currently working, to include centralized hiring for entry-level civilian positions, diverse hiring panels for supervisor as well as GS-14 and up selections, tracking of civilian discipline, reorganizing installation EO offices and our recently launched civilian supervisor course are good first steps toward tackling the things AFMC military and civilian Airmen believe need fixing,” said Bill Snodgrass, AFMC’s Manpower, Personnel and Services director.

Though 73% of survey respondents indicate that AFMC organizations encourage the use of the Equal Opportunity program to report and address complaints of discrimination, only 69% believe they can use the program without fear of reprisal.

A man in a military uniform, wearing a camouflage cap and jacket, is smiling and holding the headlight of a blue car. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with trees and a building.

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## Airmen complete FTAC



U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Cameron Otte

**Congratulations to the latest Airmen to complete the First Term Airman Center course.**  
**Alphabetically:** Airman Jaegger Ault, 60th Aerial Port Squadron; Airman Reece Barton, 60th Maintenance Squadron; Airman Basic Jon Beckman, 60th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron; Airman Andrew Bourg, 60th MXS; Airman 1st Class Josiah Bratcher, 60th AMXS; Airman Alania Brock, 60th Logistics Readiness Squadron; Airman Basic Keegan Bushouer, U.S. Air Force Band of the Golden West; Airman 1st Class Jovan Busby, 60th Force Support Squadron; Airman 1st Class Yhoshua Caffey, 60th Communications Squadron; Airman 1st Class Kirsten Carter, 60th Surgical Operations Squadron; Airman 1st Class Zachary Case, 6th Air Refueling Squadron; Airman 1st Class Anthony Chavez, 60th APS; Airman Basic Destiny Crouch, 60th Medical Support Squadron; Airman 1st Class Joe Edmonson, 660th AMXS; Airman 1st Class Rustan John Estrellado, 60th LRS; Airman Brittney Foster, 60th APS; Airman 1st Class Theresa Geisler, 60th Civil Engineer Squadron; Airman 1st Class Austin Gilman, 60th Healthcare Operations Squadron; Airman Basic Ahmad Griffin, 60th APS; Airman 1st Class Thomas Gustafson, 60th APS; Airman Basic Ryan Hamilton, 60th AMXS; Airman Brian Henning, 660th AMXS; Airman 1st Class Jacob Hoover, 60th AMXS; Airman Basic Anthony Jamison, 60th LRS; Airman Jordan Jennings, 660th AMXS; Airman Basic Sean Kempner, 60th AMXS; Airman Basic Jakob Kintopf, 60th APS; Airman 1st Class Skyla Kump, 60th SGCS; Airman 1st Class Stacie Larsen, 60th Operational Medical Readiness Squadron; Airman 1st Class Faye Meneses, 60th CES; Airman 1st Class Eric Michels, 60th APS; Airman 1st Class Benjamin Miele, 60th CES; Airman 1st Class Jodi Montalvo, 60th OMRS; Airman Nidia Monterroso Rodriguez, 60th LRS; Airman Basic Jordan Mooney, 60th AMXS; Airman 1st Class Pono Nakapa, 9th ARS; Airman 1st Class Justus Nyakundi, 60th Inpatient Squadron; Airman 1st Class Zachary Owens, 660th AMXS; Airman Alejandra Palacios, 60th OMRS; Airman Andrew Peacock, 60th CES; Airman 1st Class Christi Pearson, 60th CES; Airman 1st Class Steven Pedley, 60th CES; Airman Basic Keen Haley Pitogo, 60th CES; Airman 1st Class Fernando Preciado-Lopez, 660th AMXS; Airman Stacey Rangel, 60th AMXS; Airman 1st Class Serena Rivera-Hausman, 60th CES; Airman 1st Class Kathryn Romberger, 60th IPTS; Airman 1st Class Grace Romo, 60th Medical Diagnostics and Therapeutics Squadron; Airman 1st Class Amanda Ross, 60th OMRS; Airman 1st Class Frantzy Sainvil, 60th Force Support Squadron; Airman Bradley Sargent, 60th CES; Airman Jackson Scutt, 60th LRS; Airman 1st Class Allen Son, 60th AMXS; Airman Rodney Stephens, 60th CES; Airman 1st Class Rayshawn Stewart, 60th Operations Support Squadron; Airman Kyle Sunderman, 60th APS; Airman Anna Theobald, 60th LRS; Airman 1st Class Peyton Timmermeyer, 60th LRS; Airman Basic Okojie Usianeneh, 60th LRS; Airman 1st Class Charles White, 60th AMXS; and Airman Basic Brandon Woodhull, 60th APS.

## Vaccines

From Page 4

three components have gotten at least their first COVID-19 vaccine.

“I want to use this opportunity to thank every service

member who has gotten vaccinated,” said Adirim. “They are not only protecting themselves but they’re also contributing to the safety of their teammates, their families and their communities.”

Right now, there are three COVID-19 vaccines available.

Those include vaccines from Pfizer and Moderna, both of which have cold-storage requirements, and both of which require two injections. The Johnson and Johnson vaccine requires only a single shot, and has no cold-storage requirement.

## Puzzles

### STR8TS

No. 535

Tough



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Previous solution - Medium

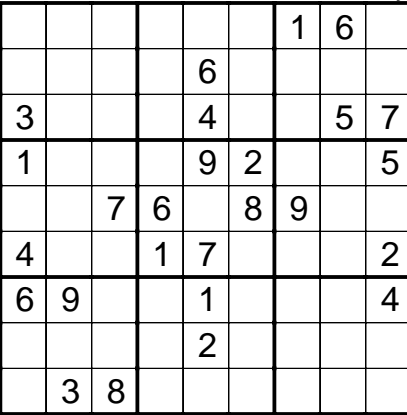


How to beat **Str8ts** – Like Sudoku, no single number can repeat in any row or column. But... rows and columns are divided by black squares into **compartments**. These need to be filled in with numbers that complete a 'straight'. A **straight** is a set of numbers with no gaps but can be in any order,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

### SUDOKU

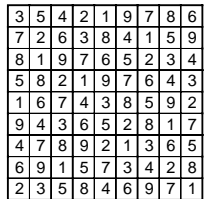
No. 535

Easy



The solutions will be published here in the next issue.

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)

## Voluntary Leave Transfer Program

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

- Rebecca Austria, 60th Maintenance Group;
- John Butler, Special Tactics Training Squadron;
- Jaqualynn Cabanlit, Travis AFB Commissary;
- Neftaly Clark, 1st Special Operations Force Support Squadron;
- David Duncan, 319th Reconnaissance Wing, Grand Forks AFB;
- Rabiye Hamilton, Travis AFB Commissary;
- Patrick Hodge, United States Transportation Command, Scott AFB;
- Mark Holmes,

- 10th Contracting Squadron;
- Dina Patterson-Steward, 60th Aerial Port Squadron;
- Jason Perkins, Grand Forks AFB;
- Gina Silva, Air Force Academy headquarters;
- Jean Sommer, Travis AFB Commissary;
- Maria Thammasen, 60th Force Support Squadron; and
- Dennis Weaver, Air Force Manpower Agency.

The VLTP allows an employee who has a medical emergency or is affected by a medical emergency of a family member and is without available paid leave to receive transferred annual leave directly from other employees. For more information, call 707-424-1720.

Follow Travis on **TWITTER** at @Travis60AMW



Royal Canadian Air Force courtesy photo

# Travis takes part in Amalgam Dart ... EXERCISE



U.S. Air National Guard photo/Staff Sgt. Austin Harvill

1) A Royal Canadian Air Force CF-18 conducts air-to-air refueling with a U.S. Air Force KC-10 Extender from the 60th Air Mobility Wing at Travis Air Force Base, California, during North American Aerospace Defense Command's Arctic air defense exercise, Amalgam Dart 21-02. The exercise ran from March 20-26 and ranged from the Beaufort Sea to Thule, Greenland, and extended south down the Eastern Atlantic to the U.S. coast of Maine. 2) Two 120th Fighter Squadron F-16 Fighting Falcons from Buckley Air Force Base, Colorado, break away from a KC-10 from Travis AFB above southern Canada during Amalgam Dart. 3) A 120th FS F-16 from Buckley AFB receives fuel from a KC-10 from Travis AFB above southern Canada during Amalgam Dart.



U.S. Air National Guard photo/Staff Sgt. Austin Harvill







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707-451-2026

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Book

From Page 2

3,000 children from Vietnam after the fall of Saigon, when Monroe experienced a twist of fate. On April 4, 1975, on the mission's first flight, a C-5 crashed in a rice paddy field near Tan Son Nhut Air Base, killing 138 of the more than 300-person crew aboard.

Monroe was nearly on this flight. Although he was scheduled to be on a C-5 leaving the day after, the illness of a crew member created an open slot in the ill-fated C-5 crew. His cohorts with the 22nd Military Airlift Squadron, a fore-runner to today's 22nd Airlift Squadron, called his home to add him to flight roster, but Monroe was out running an errand. When he got home and returned the message, the 22nd MAS had already found someone else.

While on his regularly scheduled mission to Saigon to pick up evacuees, he received word of the crash, causing the

crew to turn back to Clark Air Force Base in the Philippines.

Monroe had other brushes with danger, too, including being shot at twice as well as hearing mortar hit the ground as he helped evacuate people from Tan Son Nhut AB in Vietnam.

"I tell people I was in the right place at the right time and I was in the wrong place at the wrong time," he said with a chuckle on a recent phone call from his home in Las Vegas. "I tell my wife I'm like a cat with nine lives; I've used about 20 of those already."

After retiring as a master sergeant, he stayed in the Bay Area, joining Lockheed Martin in Sunnyvale, California, where he taught and worked with astronauts including those who died in the explosion of the Challenger space shuttle in 1986. It was during this time, while teaching astronauts and others at Lockheed, that Monroe discovered his calling.

With his bachelor's and master's degrees in tow, Monroe moved to Las Vegas in the 2000s and spent the next 18

**"I'm an older guy now – I've been through a lot, did a lot. I had a good life."**

— Albert Monroe

years teaching at the College of Southern Nevada, DeVry University and its subsidiary, Carrington College.

His lessons have come outside the classroom, too. The writing of his book brought back memories of childhood for his daughter, Melissa Monroe-Young, who was born at Travis AFB when David Grant USAF Medical Center was located in what is now known as Bldg. 381.

Monroe-Young, who called the book one of her father's "bucket-list items," said his experiences help communicate to those who did not live through those eras how the racism and discrimination of those eras felt.

"In the '60s, '70s, tension is tight in America; there's a lot of things people

can't openly do," she said. "(For) someone who is my age or even younger, you can't even fathom that ... By reading that book, you can understand the context and understand the impact it had."

When Monroe looks back on his time in the service, connecting that to his work with Lockheed and as a teacher, he said he feels like he helped the cause of democracy – something he underlined when teaching political science to college students.

"I was there, like I said, on the ground, in harm's way," he said. "I was one of the luckier ones who survived. I think that I did my small part to help with freedom for people around the world."

Monroe said writing the book got him to reflect over the course of his life.

"It seemed like I had three separate lives: military, Lockheed and helping astronauts out, and teaching youngsters at (an) educational level," Monroe said. "I'm very lucky and very proud to be where I am now. I'm an older guy now – I've been through a lot, did a lot. I had a good life."

Program

From Page 4

Card: Download digital coupons right to your card and save at the register. If you don't have a card, ask a cashier for one, then visit the DeCA website to register your card.

- Print coupons: Before your commissary trip, visit the Savings Center on DeCA's website to find resources with lots of printable coupons. If you're at the store, check out the wide variety of coupons displayed throughout the commissary.
- Commissaries.com sales flyer: Before visiting the store, view the sales flyer on the website while making your shopping list to ensure maximum savings. You can also sign up to have the flyer sent to your email.
- Commissary store brands: Your commissary offers high-quality, low-cost private label choices on food and non-food items, healthy, organic products, and baby and child care solutions to provide even greater savings. Look for DeCA's Freedom's Choice food or Home Base non-food products along with other private label items such as TopCare health and beauty, Full Circle Market natural and organic food, Wide Awake ready-to-drink coffee products, Tippy Toes baby items, Pure Harmony pet food

and Flock's Finest wild bird food.

- For help to plan weekly menus, customers can find dietitian-approved recipes on the DeCA website, commissaries.com, that help weekly meal planning. The site's sales flyer also includes Thinking Outside the Box recipes that offer quick, healthy, economical choices for cooking at home.
- Commissary beef and pork savings. Commissary customers can save up to an additional 25 percent on the following beef and pork packages. Check with your meat department to learn more about these sizzling offers:
  - Tailgate Special Power Box offers about 19 pounds on select cuts of beef and pork
  - Economy Power Box offers about 15 pounds on select cuts of beef and pork
  - Healthy Alternative Power Box offers about 16 pounds on select cuts of beef and pork
  - Fix it and Forget It Power Box offers about 15 pounds on select cuts of beef

"It's important for service members and their families to know that it's never too late to start saving for the future," said Angela Caban, director of Military Saves. "Small steps in building a savings habit can make a big difference over time and the secret to saving is simple.



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