

Travis transports COVID aid to ... **INDONESIA**

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New AMC commander pays visit to Travis

Senior Airman Christian Conrad
60TH AIR MOBILITY WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Air Mobility Command commander and the command chief visited Travis Air Force Base, California, Aug. 30 through Sept. 2.

This was the first stop for Gen. Jacqueline Van Ovost, AMC commander, and Chief Master Sgt. Brian Kruzelnick, AMC command chief, in a series of base visits to learn from mobility Airmen about successes and challenges across the command.

Van Ovost, formerly the vice commander of Travis AFB's U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center, knows how valuable Travis and its Airmen are to the Air Force.

"We've come so far in allowing Airmen to innovate and think about the future," Van Ovost said. "That's evident in Travis' Phoenix Spark cell. What Travis has there is amazing, and it's not only four or five Airmen there – it's a total force team helping each other achieve great things. Travis proves that if you empower your Airmen, and give them the time to think about how to better accomplish the mission, they want to do that; they want to use their unique talents to make things better."

During the visit, Van Ovost and Kruzelnick spent time with various agencies across all three wings assigned to Travis



U.S. Air Force Gen. Jacqueline Van Ovost, Air Mobility Command commander, smiles while listening to Col. Doug Jackson, 621st Contingency Response Wing commander, about the wing mission Aug. 31 at Travis Air Force Base, California. Van Ovost, who previously served at Travis, took over as the leader of AMC in August.

AFB. One idea that each agency tour was steeped in, though, is a Travis hallmark: innovation.

For Van Ovost, successful innovation is less a measure of how many ideas can be brought to the table and more about nurturing an environment in which Airmen's talents and ingenuity have the room and support to flourish.

"Our ability to effectively

do our work and feel empowered by our superiors all comes from the culture," Van Ovost said. "The culture where everyone comes to the table, their voice can be heard and people are understanding and empathetic. It's a culture that feeds upon itself."

Van Ovost cited Travis AFB's recent response to the LNU Lightning Complex Fire as an example of the base's

culture and the resiliency of its Airmen.

"This whole base bugged out over a fire about ten days ago," she said. "You all had to get after it immediately, and not everyone was here. From the gas on the flight line to the assets to the mission to families, everyone here had to go through the thought process of knowing what the risks were and in what ways they would best be able to

help. This base came up with some great ideas to accomplish the mission that was essentially, 'bug out, and get your family safe,' and accomplished it perfectly."

Although only being in their positions a short while, Van Ovost and Kruzelnick left no ambiguity as to what sort of culture they want to cultivate among AMC Airmen.

"From the flight line to the front line, from the cockpit to the clinic, we will develop leaders of character with a natural bias for action and a competitive, curious and innovative mindset," Van Ovost said upon assuming AMC command, Aug. 20, in a ceremony at Scott Air Force Base, Illinois. "We will grow Airmen who are resilient, multi-capable and digitally adept – instinctively exploiting advances in data, computing and information technologies – and armed with the specific skills to deliver into the future."

Kruzelnick, likewise, elaborated on the pair's vision for AMC moving forward.

"The circle that holds together our priorities of developing our force and enhancing our warfighting capabilities is innovation," Kruzelnick said. "Innovation stems from intellectual curiosity – zeal to know how things work, but having a bias toward action. It means

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60th Security Forces evacuate Travis families

Senior Airman Jonathon Carnell
60TH AIR MOBILITY WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

As a red sun shrouded in smoke began to disappear for the day, a noise that sounded like a toddler mashing a bunch of numbers on a phone echoed across Travis Air Force Base.

The sound rang out from the base's loudspeaker warning system on Aug. 19, the giant voice, and was the attention-grabbing noise the speaker makes before and after broadcasting important messages. This evening's message: evacuate the base.

Earlier in the day, the LNU Lightning Complex Fire, the second largest wildfire in California history, began burning through parts of Vacaville and Fairfield, California, two towns surrounding the base. This sparked mandatory evacuations for parts of both towns and prompted the Travis Air Force Base commander to issue an evacuation order for the installation around 6 p.m. that day. The order instructed base residents and nonessential personnel to immediately flee the base and head to safety.

"I am so proud of Team Travis for the way they rapidly responded to the evacuation order," said Col. Corey Simmons, 60th Air Mobility Wing commander,

The evacuation order required 60th Security Forces Squadron members to spring into action, and their response was crucial to keeping Team Travis members and families safe.

Security forces patrolmen went door to door ensuring people on base knew to evacuate. They also guided streams of traffic that flooded the installation's main thoroughfares and surged toward two, pre-designated, evacuation exits.

"Setting up traffic-control points and sending patrols door to door, we were able to get over 3,500 people evacuated," said Staff Sgt. Demi Della-Rocco, 60th SFS ECC controller.

The base defenders were ready when the evacuation order came down because they had been monitoring the fire throughout the day, and they



U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Dominique King, 60th Security Forces Squadron patrolman, talks on a radio, Aug. 24, at Travis Air Force Base, California. The 60th SFS was notified Aug. 19 to evacuate more than 8,000 base personnel due to the wildfires that have burned more than 375,000 acres in the surrounding area.

knew it was scorching its way toward the base.

"We received calls warning us that flames could be seen cresting the hills, and we knew we needed to respond quickly," said Staff Sgt. Demi Della-Rocco, 60th SFS controller, who added that they called in off-duty patrolmen to aid with the base evacuation.

Approximately 25 security forces Airmen were recalled for the evacuation, and they did better than anyone could have done to get Team Travis members quickly and safely off the base, said Maj. Justin May, 60th SFS operations officer.

By 10 p.m., the evacuation was complete, May said. Some base members and

families fled to friend's homes, while others rushed to hotels. A couple of days later, the fire receded from the surrounding area, and the base commander lifted the evacuation order Aug. 21.

As Team Travis members bounce back from the fire's aftermath, 60th Comptroller Squadron Airmen are working to help mandatory evacuees, who fled to hotels, receive reimbursement for their expenses.

"We know this is a very stressful time for many of our Airmen and their families," said Lt. Col. Andrew Wilkins, 60th Comptroller Squadron commander. "We want to relieve them of some of that

stress, so we've dispersed finance members to various locations across the wing to help Airmen file vouchers for reimbursement."

The 60th Comptroller Squadron has Airmen stationed at the passenger terminal, David Grant USAF Medical Center, and the fitness center to help evacuees file travel vouchers. Finance Airmen will remain at those locations until Sept. 2, when they will slim down to the passenger terminal through Sept. 3.

Dedicated comptroller Airmen will continue to aid evacuees with vouchers through Sept. 8, when the finance customer service section will resume normal operations, and customers will

have to file evacuation vouchers through their units.

Meanwhile, the LNU Lightning Complex Fire, which started Aug. 17, is still blazing, according to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, or Cal Fire, website, www.fire.ca.gov. The fire has burned through 375,209 acres as of Sept. 3.

"We remain ready for whatever might come our way," May said. "We are equipped to respond to contingencies, and what we can achieve together truly has no bounds."

People can call the finance customer service department at 707-424-8359 for more information on filing evacuation vouchers.

Tailwind

Travis AFB, Calif. | 60th Air Mobility Wing

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

U.S. Air Force veteran Chris Coffelt hikes along the Middle Fork American River Quarry Trail Aug. 16 in Auburn, California. Coffelt is participating in the Gold Star Families Ruck March, an annual event to honor gold star families and fallen service members. He dedicated the 11-mile hike to U.S. Army Spc. Wayne Geiger, who died Oct. 18, 2007, in Iraq.

Annual ruck march goes virtual

Tech. Sgt. James Hodgman

60TH AIR MOBILITY WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

With every step, they support gold star families, a group nobody ever asks to join.

As they march, they carry photos of fallen service members and rucksacks weighing between 10 and 30 pounds on their backs. Their journey is one of remembrance.

“It’s important to honor those who are no longer here and I do that by supporting their families,” said Chris Coffelt, an Air Force veteran who served with the 60th Security Forces Squadron at Travis AFB from 2000 to 2004.

Coffelt is among hundreds of people who are

participating in the 10th Annual Gold Star Families Ruck March, which is being offered virtually for the first time during the month of August due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

A gold star family consists of immediate family members of U.S. service members who made the ultimate sacrifice while serving on active duty during a conflict. The event, organized annually by the First Sergeants Council at Travis AFB, historically featured a 10K route around the base.

The virtual ruck march, which began Aug. 1 will continue through Aug. 31 and is open to everyone. People can sign up to participate in the Gold Star Families Ruck March at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/10th-annual-travis-afb-virtual-gold-star-ruck-march-tickets-111750536864>.

“Since the event has gone virtual, people can participate from anywhere,” said Master Sgt. Chad Anderson, 921st Contingency Response Squadron first sergeant and a Gold Star Families Ruck March committee member.

“They can choose whether they want to ruck in their neighborhood, on a trail, at a park or anywhere else.”

More than 200 people have registered for the event from seven states including Texas, Ohio and Alaska. The ruck march has even gone international with Airmen in Italy registered to participate.

“It was incredibly

important for us to find a way to support gold star families and honor fallen service members,” Anderson said. “The best way for us to hold our event and support the families of the fallen amidst the pandemic was to offer a virtual option.”

Coffelt completed a ruck march in honor of a fallen U.S. Army Soldier Aug. 16 in Auburn, California. During the 11-mile trek along the middle fork American River Quarry Trail, he carried 25-pounds in his ruck with his right arm in a sling.

“Today I’m rucking for Army Spc. Wayne Geiger, who died in 2007 in Iraq while supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom,” Coffelt said. “I know his father through

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DGMC unveils fresh website

Military Health System Communications Office

FALLS CHURCH, Va. — The Defense Health Agency on Sept. 1 launched 74 new military hospital and clinic Air Force websites – an important milestone in the effort to modernize the web presence of all military medical treatment facilities.

Among the facilities is David Grant USAF Medical Center at Travis Air Force Base, California, which can be viewed at <https://travis.tricare.mil/>.

Each website transitioned to the TRICARE domain to provide a standardized patient experience across the Military Health System.

The transition to the TRICARE.mil domain incorporates new layouts and adds helpful features to enhance the user experience and provide easier access to information about the local military hospital or clinic and the TRICARE benefit in one place.

“Standardizing military hospital and clinic websites will help our patients across the Military Health System to access all of the information they need to manage their health care and their TRICARE benefit,” said Lt. Gen. Ronald Place, Defense Health Agency director. “This change will make it easier for our service members, retirees and families to find the information they need to navigate and access health care information. As our service members and families move across the country and around the world, having a standard website will be one less thing they will have to learn at their new location.”

Upgrading the military’s **See WEBSITE Page 14**

Wildfire forces DGMC to evacuate patients

Senior Airman Cameron Otte

60TH AIR MOBILITY WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

“It started on Wednesday morning when I was driving to work. I noticed things were weird with the thick smoke and all the ash raining everywhere,” he said. “Over the course of the day, things only seemed to get worse.”

This is how Staff Sgt. Christopher Babcock, 60th Medical Operations Squadron emergency room paramedic, remembers Aug. 19, the day Travis AFB evacuated all non-mission essential Airmen, their families and the largest medical facility in the U.S. Air Force

At about 6 p.m. that day, Col. Corey Simmons, 60th Air Mobility Wing commander, gave the order to evacuate Travis AFB.

“I drove patients from David Grant (USAF) Medical Center to local hospitals,” Babcock said.

Over the course of several hours, Babcock and his team of nine Airmen transported 20 patients to medical facilities in Fairfield and Vacaville, California.

“We were initially going to shelter in place during the fire because DGMC is fire-secure and has the capability

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

U.S. Airmen assigned to the 60th Medical Operations Squadron stand in front of an ambulance Aug. 26 at Travis Air Force Base, California. These members of the 60th MDOS were part of a team that evacuated 20 patients from David Grant USAF Medical Center Aug. 19 after the 60th Air Mobility Wing commander issued an evacuation order for Travis AFB in response to a wildfire nearing the installation.

KC-46 sees first Reserve-lead cargo load mission

Tech. Sgt. Abigail Klein

931ST AIR REFUELING WING

MCCONNELL AIR FORCE BASE, Kan. — Further enhancing McConnell’s KC-46A Pegasus cargo load capabilities, eight Airmen from all three Reserve McConnell air refueling squadrons participated in a cargo load that flew more than 18, 500 miles, traveling from the plains of Kansas, to the land down under, Australia.

In addition to McConnell Reserve aircrew members of 924th, 905th and 18th Air Refueling Squadrons, two members

of the 931st Maintenance Group, one member of the 22nd Maintenance Group, and one evaluator from Travis Air Force Base, California, were also involved to ensure the KC-46 was ready to make the six-day journey from McConnell to Royal Australian Air Force Richmond, New South Wales, Australia, and back.

Since receiving the KC-46 in January 2019, the boom operators’ role as load masters for both strategic airlift and air refueling as the tanker has increased, as the storage space for mobility pallets is greater than the KC-135 Stratotanker.

Though all four boom operators from the 924 ARS and one from the 18 ARS had prior cargo load experience with the KC-135 Stratotanker, all KC-46 cargo loading missions require different loading methods and techniques. The trip to RAAF Base Richmond strengthened the boom operators’ abilities to rapidly transport larger cargo on the KC-46.

“We were trained to load cargo before on the KC-135, but we didn’t do it very often,” said Master Sgt. Bryan Fehrenbach, 924th ARS boom operator. “This training helps us to fully utilize the capabilities of the KC-46, to take cargo

and also passengers and medical evacuation.”

The crew left McConnell early on August 15, and picked up their first cargo load of more than 11,000 pounds at Travis AFB. This cargo was then delivered to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii. Despite the Airmen’s experience, Fehrenbach says cargo loading is always a challenge.

“With the aircraft, there are always different restrictions with weight and where it is supposed to go, because you don’t want to overload the aircraft,” he

See KC-46 Page 14

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433rd AW hosts Travis aircraft

Tech. Sgt. Iram Carmona
433RD AIRLIFT WING

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-LACKLAND, Texas — In the late evening hours of Aug. 19, the Tanker Airlift Control Center at Scott Air Force Base, Illinois, notified the 433rd Airlift Wing command post here that eight C-5M Super Galaxy aircraft from Travis Air Force Base, California, would be evacuating to the airfield here as a precaution against damage from the LNU Lightning Complex fires in Northern California.

Master Sgt. Jonathan Starnner, 433rd AW command post controller, received the call, which kicked off a chain of events in preparation for the incoming aircraft. The next call went to the wing commander, Col. Terry W. McClain. After

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Planes also take shelter in
Washington, **PAGE 22**



U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Iram Carmona

U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Michael Hailemaskel, 60th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron flying crew chief, performs preflight checks on a C-5M Super Galaxy Aug. 24 at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas. The C-5M was one of eight from Travis Air Force Base, California, that evacuated to Texas to avoid damage from the LNU Lightning Complex fires in Northern California.

Teams help Airmen manage stress

Cpl. Samantha Hall
DEFENSE DEPARTMENT SUPPORT
TO FEMA COVID-19

The stress of working in the midst of a global pandemic can take its toll on service members, especially those working on the front lines.

More than 150 Airmen in COVID Theater Hospital-1 at Travis Air Force Base, California, have responded to a shortage of healthcare workers at the direction of U.S. Army North.

Religious affairs programs and behavioral health teams are supporting Airmen integrated into local hospitals throughout California. The Airmen are members of CTH-1, supporting healthcare workers in eight hospitals.

U.S. Air Force Maj. Chelsea Arnold, a clinical social worker, and Tech Sgt. Susan Kicker, a mental health technician assigned to CTH-1 from the 60th Medical Group, Travis Air Force Base, Calif., have formed one such team to, providing behavioral health services to Airmen serving Adventist Health Lodi Memorial Hospital in Lodi and Dameron Hospital in Stockton.

“Most of the members that attend our classes have never dealt with this much suffering in their jobs,” said Kicker. “It can be very hard to deal with.”

“Some of the big stressors that we’ve seen are the death and sickness that people are dealing with,” said U.S. Air Force 1st Lt. Mark Habluetze, a chaplain from

Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

The behavioral health teams and religious service teams have organized a variety of social activities to battle the unique challenges of providing aid to COVID-stressed civilian hospitals. These include guided meditation, painting classes, yoga, hikes, and behavioral health check-ins.

“You need to gather with others dealing with the same thing, not just go sit in your room alone at night,” Kicker said.

U.S. Air Force Capt. Bridget Caulkins, a physician with CTH-1, has attended these events and stressed their importance.

“Take care of yourself so you can take

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Employees called on to review folders

Toni Whaley
AIR FORCE'S PERSONNEL CENTER
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas — The Air Force's Personnel Center is recommending new and current employees of the federal government review their electronic official personnel folder periodically.

“Your eOPF contains records agencies use to make important employment decisions throughout your federal career,” said Aqueilla Grimage-Smith, chief, Transition Operations Branch. “These documents show your federal employment history, verify your military service credit, and records your benefits in regards to health, life insurance, beneficiaries, and Thrift Savings Plan.”

If an employee finds incorrect data or missing documents in their eOPF, immediately report the discrepancies to the local civilian personnel office for review and resolution.

To register for eOPF access, go to the eOPF page in myPers at https://mypers.af.mil/app/answers/detail/a_id/23070.

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Travis boosts warfighting abilities at Green Flag

Airman 1st Class Aaron Irvin
19TH AIRLIFT WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

LITTLE ROCK AIR FORCE BASE, Ark. — The 34th Combat Training Squadron recently hosted Green Flag Little Rock 20-09, a joint exercise allowing unique integration between units from both mobility and combat air forces at Little Rock Air Force Base and Alexandria International Airport, Louisiana, Aug. 17-23.

The exercise included Airmen from the 821st Contingency Response Group at Travis Air Force Base, California.

As Air Mobility Command's only joint-accredited flag-level exercise, GFLR offers unit participants a fluid training syllabus with each exercise tailored to meet unit specific requirements and certain major command designated training.

Traditionally used as a vehicle to validate pre-deployment training, the 34th CTS is pivoting the GFLR construct from focusing on testing existing capabilities toward a proving ground where concepts of operations are flushed out in a realistic training environment.

For GFLR 20-09, this meant providing a venue for all participants to sharpen their



U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Jeremy McGuffin

An Airman from the 354th Aircraft Maintenance Unit inspects a toolbox Aug. 21 prior to an A-10 Thunderbolt II taking off at Little Rock Air Force Base, Arkansas.

competitive edge while also embracing and developing new warfighting concepts to include agile combat employment.

"While we are still supporting and addressing the need to hone the building blocks of combat airlift, we also realize

the way we fight is going to change if faced with a near-peer adversary," said Lt. Col. Phillip Newman, 34th CTS commander. "At the foundational level, that shift is going to require integration not only with the combat air forces, but with other mobility platforms."

This iteration of GFLR welcomed the 39th Airlift Squadron at Dyess AFB, Texas, 354th Fighter Squadron from Davis-Monthan AFB, Arizona, 22nd Air Refueling Wing from McConnell AFB, Kansas, 621st Contingency Response Group, Joint

Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey, 821st CRG, Travis AFB, California, as well as continued the long-standing relationship with the Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Polk, La.

"The 34th CTS serves as the connective tissue between the strategic, operational and tactical levels," Newman said. "Bringing in players from across the map, focused and committed to developing the force to advance our warfighting capabilities."

While at Little Rock AFB, the 34th CTS completed the first ever ACE event in a GFLR exercise.

This encompassed C-130 Hercules transporting an aerial bulk fuel delivery system from Little Rock AFB to the intermediate staging base at Alexandria, Virginia, where they practiced refueling operations with A-10 Thunderbolt IIs—focusing on speed and agility via the "multi-capable Airmen" concept.

"When we go to an austere location, there are two major factors we look at—how do we get weapons and fuel there to sustain operations," said Capt. Zach Peters, 354th Fighter Squadron assistant director of

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Family, goats escape wildfire near Travis

Senior Airman Christian Conrad
60TH AIR MOBILITY WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

In the early morning hours of Aug. 19, it was quiet in Vacaville. In the rural neighborhood of Cherry Glen Road, ash, as though snow, gently fell along the soft breeze that offered little reprieve from the heat, which had climbed into triple digits the previous week.

Second Lt. Elijah MacLaren, 60th Operations Support Squadron section commander, knew of the looming threat of the LNU Lightning Complex Fire, which was quickly descending on his home, and stepped outside at 1:30 a.m. to investigate any clues as to the fire's proximity.

"It was eerie," MacLaren said. "Outside my home, it's pitch-black, so the only thing I could really see was the ash. You could smell smoke. It was all just very still—like something out of a horror movie."

The stillness wouldn't last, though, as police cruisers soon appeared on the once-silent street.

"They were knocking on doors, telling people to start thinking about evacuating," MacLaren said. "We weren't given orders at that time yet, but by that point, the fire was moving

our way—fast."

Grabbing a go-bag of essentials, MacLaren, a 16-year Air Force veteran, rallied his wife, Christina, a first lieutenant and an operating room nurse with Travis AFB's 60th Surgical Operations Squadron, his two children, Lillian and Maverick, and headed for safety.

MacLaren said his military background helped him move his family out of danger quickly.

"After so many years in, that military part of you kind of takes over and says, 'What's needed? Where are we going? How are we getting there? Let's go,'" MacLaren said.

After a frantic search for safe lodging, the family arrived to base around 5:30 a.m. and unpacked inside Travis AFB's Westwind Inn. Later that morning, a neighbor of MacLaren's, who hadn't evacuated yet, informed the family that the evacuation radius had still yet to reach their home.

MacLaren decided to use this time as an opportunity to make a few trips home to safeguard more items from the fire.

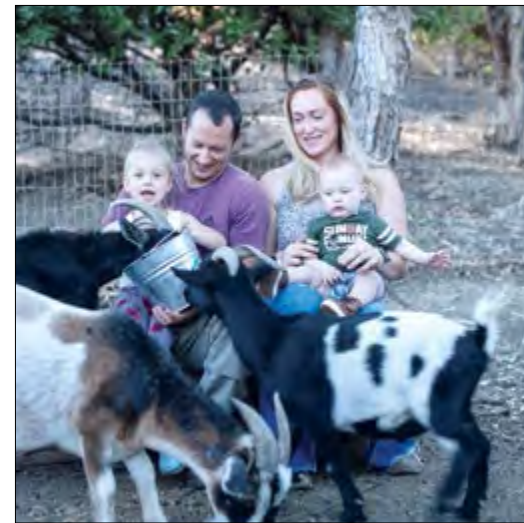
"First thing on my mind was to get my goats," he said. "The fire still wasn't visible from where I was, so I felt good about grabbing a few other small

things as well—keepsakes, documents, things like that."

On his last trip back to base, MacLaren's trip would be complicated not only by those attempting to escape the fire, but by the fire itself.

"When I got back onto the interstate to head back to base, the fire had already jumped across the first few lanes of interstate and was burning the grassy areas of the median," MacLaren said. "The four-lane highway was shrinking down to the two center lanes. You could feel the heat from the fire on both sides of

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U.S. Air Force 2nd Lt. Elijah MacLaren, 60th Operations Support Squadron section commander, left, and his wife, 1st Lt. Christina MacLaren, 60th Surgical Operations Squadron operating room nurse, hold their children, Lillian and Maverick, while feeding their goats Aug. 27 in Vacaville, California.

U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Christian Conrad

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Brown outlines strategic plan

Charles Pope
SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

ARLINGTON, Va. — In his first major pronouncement as Air Force Chief of Staff, Gen. Charles Q. Brown Jr. declared Aug. 31 that the service must go fast, must collaborate more effectively with Congress and military, industry and allied partners, and “must accelerate the transition from the force we have to the force required for a future high-end fight.”

“We can’t predict the future, but we can definitely shape the future,” Brown said during a media roundtable in which he presented the 8-page strategic approach entitled, “Accelerate Change or Lose.”

“So I think we have a window of opportunity to accelerate some of those changes. And personally, I’d rather drive than ride. I’d rather try to help shape what’s going on versus sitting back observing and being impacted by what’s going on,” he said.

According to Brown, “the document itself is really about why we need to change and foreshadow some aspects of the ‘what’ and the ‘how.’”

“We must rise to the occasion,” he added.

The directive is a mixture of Brown’s expectations for what is required to ensure air superiority and for the Air Force to fulfill its mission to defend the United States and its interests. Though only 8-pages, the document spans a range of critical topics that touch on doctrine, Air

Force culture, and the changing threats and adversaries the nation confronts.

“Our Air Force must accelerate change to control and exploit the air domain to the standard the nation expects and requires from us. If we don’t change – if we fail to adapt – we risk losing the certainty with which we have defended our national interests for decades,” Brown warns in the document.

“Only through collaboration within and throughout will we succeed. The Air Force must work differently with other Department of Defense stakeholders, Congress and both traditional and emerging industry partners to streamline processes and incentivize intelligent risk-taking. Most importantly, we must empower our incredible Airmen to solve any problem. We must place value in multi-capable and adaptable team builders, and courageous problem solvers that demonstrate value in diversity of thought, ingenuity and initiative.”

In explaining why the steps must be taken, Brown is blunt about the stakes and about the risks as well as the realities of a new strategic environment defined primarily by threats from “peer competitors” such as China and Russia.

The document drives home the point with a sub-headline declaring, “Good Enough Today Will Fail Tomorrow.” That sub-headline follows one in the previous section stating, “Uncontested U.S. Air Force Dominance Is Not Assured.”



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U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Sadie Colbert
U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Jarrod Peterson, a 72nd Test and Evaluation Squadron software engineer, poses July 8 at Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri. Peterson, an Airman passionate to initiate change within his community, develops and maintains software for training modules in the Air Force.

Airman initiates change

Staff Sgt. Sadie Colbert
509TH BOMB WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

WHITEMAN AIR FORCE BASE, Mo. – Current events, such as the death of George Floyd, have made organizations across the U.S. Air Force take a deep dive into talking about views on racial disparity.

One Whiteman Air Force Base Airman, Staff Sgt. Jarrod Peterson, a 72nd Test and Evaluation Squadron software engineer who normally finds himself maintaining mission planning and information distribution software for the B-2 Spirit, took the racial disparity discussion outside the gate into the local community.

Peterson received opportunities to speak with Missouri congresswoman, Rep. Vicky Hartzler, Warrensburg Police Department chief, Rich Lockhart, community action officers and social workers, to develop a plan to build a better future for generations to come.

“We’ve had these social disparity conversations several times and nothing is changing,” Peterson said. “To think that I would have to teach a child that

they should fear for their lives or explain to them why certain people died – it’s sad. My goal is to not need to have these conversations when the next generation is born. I would like people to not have to fight the same fight that America has fought for the past couple hundreds of years.”

The inception of what would be called the Community Change Committee – local community representatives made up of key leaders from the chamber of commerce, city manager, business owners and people from Whiteman AFB – started as a casual conversation between Peterson and his local barber, who felt so moved by Peterson’s knowledge and desire for a lasting change that he connected Peterson with Lockhart.

“I was excited and very interested to hear Peterson’s plans and thoughts,” Lockhart said. “I enjoy meeting with young people to discuss issues and concerns, but I was pleasantly surprised after meeting with Peterson. He was very prepared and had an idea of what he wanted to accomplish.”

During their discussion, Lockhart and Peterson exchanged ideas, perspectives and personal

Puzzles

STR8TS

No. 506 Medium

Previous solution - Easy

6	5	9	7	8	2	1	4
5	7	6	8	4	1	2	3
4	6	7	9	5	8	3	2
		5	6	7	3		
		4	3	2	1	6	7
2	3	4	5	9	6	7	8
1	2	8	4	3	5		
7		1	3	2		5	6
	1	2		4	3	5	6

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

SUDOKU

No. 506 Very Hard

Previous solution - Tough

6					5		
4		7					9
	2		8		7		4
	7			5	2		
		7		3			
	6	1				5	
7	6		5		4		9
5					6		2
		1					5

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

For many strategies, hints and tips, visit www.sudokuwiki.org

If you like Str8ts, Sudoku and other puzzles, check out our books, iPhone/iPad Apps and much more on our store at www.str8ts.com

The solutions will be published here in the next issue.

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 availability of paid leave to receive transferred annual leave directly from other employees. For more information, call 707-424-1720.

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Airmen from Travis deliver COVID aid to Indonesia



1

Story and photos by Senior Airman Jonathon Carnell
60TH AIR MOBILITY WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

A C-17 Globemaster III manned by an aircrew from the 21st Airlift Squadron departed Travis Air Force Base Aug. 28, venturing on a four-day mission to deliver 500 ventilators to Jakarta, Indonesia.

At President Donald Trump’s direction, the United States Agency for International Development is shipping ventilators to dozens of countries to assist partner nations in combating COVID-19.

The fact that the U.S. Air Force and American people can support the Indonesian government with its fight against COVID-19 is exactly what Maj. Roger Gates, 21st Airlift Squadron instructor pilot, said he is proud to do.

“If we can go out there, help people and make them feel appreciated to let them know that America is out there thinking about them and that we desire the best things in their lives, I think that’s going to do a lot more good than we will ever know,” said Gates.

The United States committed to donating 1,000 ventilators to Indonesia, and USAID partnered with the Department of Defense to deliver 500 of those on behalf of the American people.

“Each one of those machines has the possibility to save an individual’s life,” said Gates. “These 500 may end up (saving) 1,000 or 10,000 people by the time we’re actually able to get a vaccine.”

The timely delivery of this cargo underscores the importance of rapid global mobility.

“This mission demonstrates Team Travis’ global mobility by giving aid across the globe in less than 48 hours,” said Senior Airman Brandon Reid, 21st AS loadmaster, who is supporting this mission. “Just like our ability to launch the entire aircraft fleet in just a few hours due to wildfire, Team Travis is able to make it to just about anywhere in the world in a moment’s notice.”

The 60th Aerial Port Squadron received and palletized the ventilators earlier in the week, and then loaded the ventilators onto the C-17 late in the evening Aug. 27. The aircraft took off in the morning, Aug. 28, and the aircrew is expected to deliver the ventilators to Indonesia Aug. 30.

“It feels good to know that we get to contribute to the mission,” said Senior Airman Jonathon Mora-Doctor, 60th Aerial Port Squadron special handler technician. “We are a piece that completes the puzzle.”

When a global health crisis arises, America responds with timely, appropriate, and expert assistance.

“There is always a crisis going on,” said Gates. “The Air Force never rests, the military never rests and America never rests. This mission, while it is super impactful to the Indonesian people, is just part of a larger global responsibility that the Air Force acts on because of the American people.”



2



3



4

1) U.S. Air Force Airman 1st Class Legacy Holoubek, 921st Contingency Response Squadron ramp technician journeyman, secures a pallet full of American-made ventilators onto the cargo floor of a C-17 Globemaster III Aug. 27 at Travis Air Force Base, California. A C-17 Globemaster III carrying 17 pallets of brand-new ventilators departed Travis AFB Aug. 28 for delivery to Indonesia to aid in its fight against COVID-19. 2) U.S. Airmen assigned to the 60th Aerial Port Squadron load pallets filled with 500 ventilators onto a C-17 Aug. 27 at Travis. 3) U.S. Airmen assigned to the 60th APS secure pallets loaded with American-made ventilators onto the cargo floor of a C-17 Aug. 27 at Travis. 4) Pallets with ventilators sit near a storage warehouse Aug. 27 at Travis. 5) U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Jonathon Mora-Doctor, 60th APS special handler technician, prepares to load pallets of ventilators onto a C-17 Aug. 27 at Travis.



5



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

U.S. Air Force veteran Chris Coffelt displays a photograph of U.S. Army Spc. Wayne Geiger on his rucksack Aug. 16 in Auburn, California. Geiger was killed in action Oct. 18, 2007, while supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom. Coffelt completed an 11-mile hike while carrying about 25 pounds to honor Geiger as part of the annual Gold Star Families Ruck March.

Ruck

From Page 4

Facebook groups and that’s why I chose to ruck for him today.”

During the hike, Coffelt climbed more than 1,200 feet with one good arm over the course of four hours. He said the day before the hike he hurt his arm while playing with his daughter in a pool.

“I went to catch her as she jumped into the pool and I felt a sharp pain in my right arm,” Coffelt said. “Some family members told me I didn’t have to go because I was hurt, but I committed to being here and honoring our fallen service members and their families.”

At the six mile mark Coffelt led the reading of fallen service member’s names followed

by the playing of Taps.

“By letting their families know that we are out here remembering their lost son or daughter, we are showing those families that we have not forgotten the service and sacrifice their loved ones gave,” he said.

Anderson echoed Coffelt’s sentiment.

“I have a special place in my heart for the fallen and their families,” he said. “Putting this event on is a small way we can show our appreciation for them. We owe it to them to do that. I wish we could do more.”

Several gold star families have taken to social media to show their gratitude for all those participating in the ruck march.

Tracey Vasquez, the mother of U.S. Army Spc. Manuel

Vasquez, who was killed in Afghanistan in April 2012, shared her appreciation on Facebook.

“Thank you so much for walking in honor of our son, Manuel Vasquez,” she stated in a comment on the Gold Star Families Ruck March Facebook page. “Thank you for sacrificing your time for someone you did not get to meet. Manuel was a fun guy who loved to barbecue and be with friends and family. If he was here, he would have ribs and cold ones waiting for you.”

Karen Meredith, the mother of U.S. Army 1st Lt Kenneth Ballard, who was killed in May 2004 during a firefight with insurgents in Iraq, also shared her appreciation.

“Thank you for honoring my son,” she stated in a Facebook post. “Never forgotten.”

KC-46

From Page 5

said. “You also have to maintain the center of gravity.”

After offloading and uploading more cargo pallets at JB Pearl Harbor-Hickam, the crew headed to Andersen Air Force Base, Andersen AFB, on August 16. The crew then traveled all the way to the southern hemisphere, landing at RAAF Base on August 17.

For Traditional Reservist Senior Airman Madison Doherty, 924th ARS boom operator, this was her first time performing a cargo load on a KC-46. She said this training allowed her to utilize the newest method for cargo loading.

“When loading cargo there are three methods to use to see if a pallet is able to load,” Doherty said. “Method Three is the newest, and it includes a series of charts and rules we use to make sure we don’t exceed a weight or pounds per

linear inch on a KC-46.”

To get back to McConnell, the team did the reverse trip back, uploading cargo in Andersen AFB to deliver to Travis AFB.

According to Fehrenbach, the Reserve aircrews plan to do more cargo loads in more challenging scenarios in the future, further extending the Reserve flying squadrons capabilities overseas, and the reach of the 931st Air Refueling Wing and Team McConnell overall.

Website

From Page 4

online resources by improving the military hospital and clinic websites, and relying on user input for future enhancements allows service members, retirees and their families worldwide to help drive future updates to ensure they get the web experience they want from the Military Health System.

“No matter where our military forces are deployed or what service they belong to, all members will enjoy a universal experience and consistent information about the TRICARE benefit and local military health services,” said Diana Logreira, DHA chief of Digital Communications.

The website enhancement is part of the transition of administrative oversight of MTFs to the DHA under the 2017

National Defense Authorization Act.

Improved website features

Navigating through the local military hospital or clinic websites will be easier through the following key features:

- Standardized look and feel.
- Simplicity and ease of navigation.
- Up-to-date health care information.
- Easy to find data on quality, patient safety and access.
- Centralized TRICARE information.
- Localized health services.

Localized management

While the new website design supports consistent information sharing for TRICARE beneficiaries throughout the entire Military Health System, local hospitals and clinics will manage their site to keep their own beneficiary population informed on issues specific to that facility.



U.S. Air Force photo/Nicholas Pilch

U.S. Air Force Gen. Jacqueline Van Ovost, right, Air Mobility Command commander, and Staff Sgt. Kate Vojtko, 921st Contingency Response Squadron ramp coordinator, prepare to ride in a RZR during a tour of the global readiness deployment center Sept. 1 at Travis Air Force Base, California. Van Ovost’s visit to Travis is her first stop since taking over AMC.

Commander

From Page 2

having the support to make something better, more effective and more efficient. That starts in our units, squadrons, groups and wings.”

“This isn’t a time to wait, it’s a time to accelerate,” he added.

For Van Ovost and Kruzelnick, the Air Force of the future is one that invests not only

in the latest and greatest technologies, but in Airmen as well.

“If a squadron is open with transparent leadership that’s inclusive and trusting, then our Airmen won’t feel so vulnerable and will do the experimentation needed to keep our Air Force the world’s finest,” Van Ovost said. “Force development occurs when a squadron works together and leverages their diversity into something greater than the sum of its parts.”

Green Flag

From Page 8

operations. "Through this iteration of GFLR, the 34th CTS gave us a great opportunity to look at how we can improve those elements."

The 354th FS integrated with the airlift mission planning cell and conducted a flying escort with C-130s during airdrop missions. This was also the first time the 355th Equipment Maintenance Squadron trained to assemble weapons in a forward environment.

"The 34th CTS sets the standard with GFLR exercises," Peters said. "No matter who is tasked to support us, those that have trained at GFLR are going to be familiar with our equipment and understand the mission we are trying to work toward, which will make our entire fighting force more effective."

The KC-46A Pegasus, the Department of Defense's newest air-refueling platform, also

integrated with GFLR, conducting missions in and out of the intermediate staging base at Alexandria, Va.

There, contingency response elements conducted cargo on- and off-load familiarization, and aeromedical evacuation crews executed valuable training to include a transload of simulated patients from a C-130J Super Hercules to a KC-46. This replicated a real-world scenario in which a C-130 would airlift patients out of harm's way and the KC-46 would transport them to an established medical facility.

In order to seamlessly integrate with and train other units across the mobility air forces and combat air forces, the 34th CTS comprises a very diverse group of subject matter experts. Within the squadron are pilots, loadmasters, navigators, air mobility liaison officers, aerial porters, intelligence, communication professionals and Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape specialists, all with years of experience within their respective fields.

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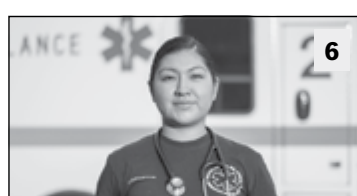
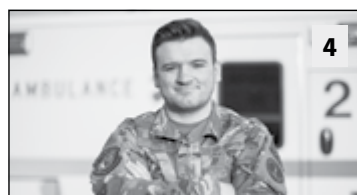
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U.S. Air Force photos/Senior Airman Cameron Otte

U.S. Air Force: 1) Staff Sgt. Christopher Babcock, 60th Medical Operations Squadron paramedic; 2) Tech. Sgt. Christopher Carr, 60th MDOS paramedic; 3) Tech. Sgt. James Martin, 60th MDOS paramedic; 4) Airman 1st Class William Young, 60th MDOS emergency medical technician; 5) Airman 1st Class Brody Ehault, 60th MDOS emergency medical technician; 6) Staff Sgt. Ivette Brueggemann, 60th MDOS paramedic and 7) Airman 1st Class Jaheem Prioleau, 60th MDOS emergency medical technician, stand in front of an ambulance Aug. 26 at Travis Air Force Base, California.

DGMC

From Page 5

to sustain itself for 96 hours," said Col. Gwendolyn Foster, 60th Medical Group commander. "But, as the fires got closer, it became apparent that if we didn't leave, we would be trapped until the fires went down. We weren't sure how long that would take with how big this fire was.

"We had to make a plan quickly and evacuated the entire hospital," she said. "We were able to perform this herculean feat in less than eight hours."

Patients evacuated to hospitals in Sacramento, Walnut Creek, Vallejo and San Francisco.

Foster said DGMC staff had to overcome numerous obstacles to move the patients to safety.

"There was a mother who just underwent surgery," Babcock said. "There was also a newborn whom we didn't want to expose to the smoke, so we had to be very careful moving them to other hospitals."

Getting these patients out of harm's way filled Babcock with a sense of purpose.

"I'm incredibly proud to have been able to help those who were counting on me," he said. "My team and I were responsible for getting patients to safety and couldn't be happier. This was very much a team effort, and everyone involved was eager to do their part."

As he reflected on the evacuation, Babcock said training and teamwork are the reasons why the evacuation was successful.

"I'm a strong believer in training like it's the real deal, which builds the muscle memory for when it comes to potential mass-casualty situations," Foster said. "In this instance, we knew we had to get our patients out of harm's way, and that's what kicked in. We didn't train specifically for an evacuation, but by taking our training seriously, it mentally prepared us all for what needed to be done. That is what helped us pull this off successfully."

"Throughout my 18 years of service, this was my first evacuation I had to lead, and knowing we had many people relying on us, I knew we had to provide the best care we could," Foster said. "We are here to support the warfighter, our families and our community."

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U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Iram Carmona
U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Michael Hailmaskel and U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Glenn C. Bovino II, both with the 60th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron at Travis Air Force Base, California, move an aircraft ground support cart so the C-5M Super Galaxy can depart the airfield Aug. 24 at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas.

Hosts

From Page 6

that call, coordination to help support the new mission began. Several calls were made to the wing's leadership to start the ball rolling. After McClain, the next call went to Lt. Col. Stuart Martin, 433rd Maintenance Group commander, for maintenance support. Once word was received that the Travis aircraft would be inbound, the 433rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron started preparing to receive and support the incoming aircraft. Col. James C. Miller, 433rd Operations Group commander, was notified for airfield approval. At 10 p.m., Tech. Sgt. Destry Taylor, 433rd AW command post controller, relieved Starnier in coordinating with wing organizations and keeping leadership informed on mission progress.

A short time later, the host wing's 502nd Logistics Readiness Squadron Air Terminal Operations Center was notified to prepare for incoming personnel. Since the 433rd AW is a tenant unit, the 502nd Air Base Wing was in charge of finding accommodations for the estimated 100 inbound Travis aircrew and maintenance personnel. At 3:36 a.m. Aug. 20, the first Travis

446th AW supports Travis following evacuation

JOINT BASE LEWIS-MCCHORD, Wash. — Reserve Citizen Airmen assigned to the 446th Force Support Squadron here provided meals to Travis Air Force Base Airmen evacuated due to devastating wildfires Aug. 19. Joint Base Lewis-McChord received Travis AFB C-17 Globemaster III aircraft and support personnel in the late and early hours, following the LNU Lightning Complex Fire near Fairfield and Vacaville, California. Tech. Sgt. Kanphirom Kananin, a 446th Force Support Squadron fitness program manager and

Olympic Dining Facility shift lead, was working the night shift when she received a phone call requesting flight meals for Travis Airmen evacuating to JBLM. Kananin and her four-member team jumped into action; within an hour and a half they prepared 60 flight meals. "The crew was very appreciative and grateful for our efforts," Kananin said. "For our Airmen, it was an eye-opening experience to see how their efforts can impact the Air Force as a whole." — **Staff Sgt. Mary Andom, 446th Airlift Wing Public Affairs**

Goats

From Page 9

the road, even with your windows rolled up." Eventually, MacLaren reached base around 5:15 p.m. Roughly an hour later, Travis AFB's leadership issued a mandatory evacuation of all nonessential personnel from the base, requiring the MacLaren family to once again pack their belongings and search for areas unaffected by the wildfires. The MacLarens finally found a new place to rest and regroup inside their camper in a Walmart parking lot in the nearby city of Dixon. "Throughout the night, Christina and I both were coordinating with our squadrons, trying to make sure our Airmen were safe and had plans in case they were called to evacuate," MacLaren said. "It was chaotic. Fortunately, though, everyone was safe — my family, my Airmen, my goats. We were very fortunate." Christina MacLaren was thankful her family was safe. She credited it to having a plan and taking decisive action. "It's certainly worth it to keep a firm plan in place," she said. "Realizing your priorities at a moment's notice is important, but so is knowing exactly what you may need for however long you're away from home. You may feel safe at the time, but a situation can turn really dangerous if you become complacent." It wasn't until the morning of Aug. 22 that the family was able to re-enter their neighborhood. By then, a house two-doors down from them had been burned down with acres behind them left scorched and smoldering. Their own property, however, remained unscathed. "We were talking to a firefighter who said our goats may have ended up saving our home," Christina said. "Having them out there grazing and keeping our grass short may have kept the fire from grabbing onto any more fuel." The area beyond their property, although not actively burning, remained hot with embers, which continued to be a threat. MacLaren, along with his neighbors, took it upon themselves to douse the area to protect their homes from any potential hotspots or flare-ups. This endeavor strengthened his already immense respect for first responders, who were combatting the wildfire. "Without the police and firefighters here doing their jobs, I'm not sure any of us would've made out as well as we had," he said. "If anyone had done their job any differently — if the flight line hadn't been evacuated as quickly as it had been, if command hadn't evacuated the base when they did, if our own first responders and engineers hadn't helped in the egress — things could've gone very differently. We were all really lucky to have had the help of them all."

1) U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Johnathan Peavy, 571st Mobility Support Advisory Squadron survival, evasion, resistance and escape specialist, demonstrates how to ignite tinder during a fire-building exercise during the squadron's field training exercise Aug. 10 at King Range National Conservation Area near Shelter Cove, California. Peavy is one of two SERE specialists assigned to the 571st MSAS, which ensures training of the squadron's air advisers as well as partner nations in Central and South America. 2) Members of the 571st MSAS hike south along the California coastline during the squadron's field training exercise Aug. 12 at King Range National Conservation Area. The third day of the FTX consisted of groups hiking approximately eight miles through thick vegetation and ending at the coastline. 3) U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Larry Diaz, 571st MSAS fire protection air adviser, uses a compass and map to plot out his projected trek during the land navigation portion of the squadron's field training exercise Aug. 11 at King Range National Conservation Area near Shelter Cove, California.



1

571st MSAS journeys into California for ... TRAINING

U.S. Air Force photos by Tech. Sgt. David W. Carbajal



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