

12th AF command team visits ...

621SI CRW

PAGES 10-11



TAILWIND

Airman innovates program for dorm move out

Senior Airman Cameron Otte
60TH AIR MOBILITY WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

TRAVIS AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. — Out with the old and in with the new, Airman 1st Class Thaila Delgado, 60th Communications Squadron knowledge management craftsman, innovated a process to more efficiently educate Airmen to be financially prepared to move out of the dorms at Travis Air Force Base, California.

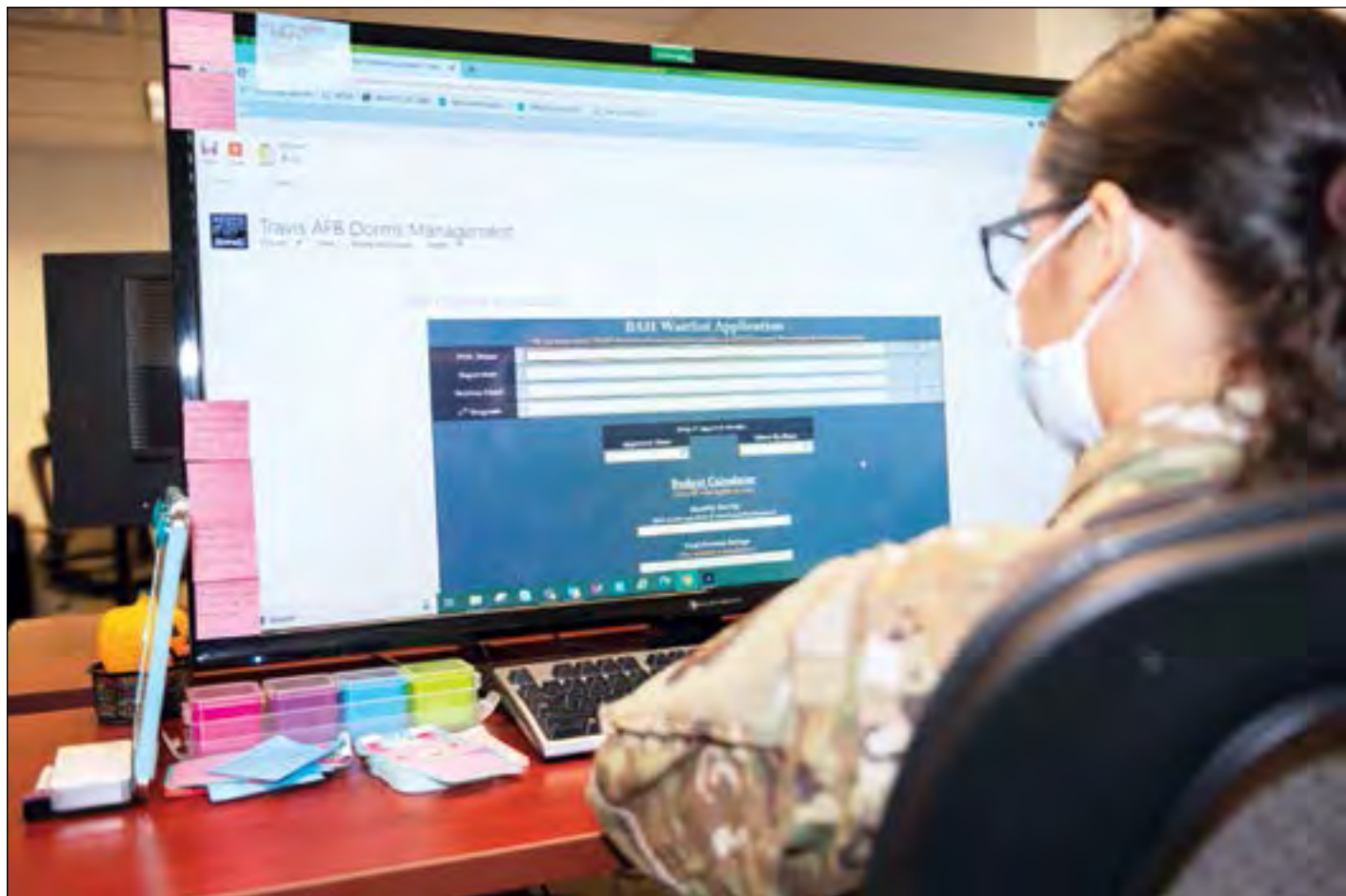
After going through the process of moving out of the dorms herself, Delgado found that the transition for leaving the dorms was tedious and decided to do something about it.

“When I got approved to move off base I did not feel prepared,” Delgado said. “After finally getting through the slow and confusing process of moving out I still didn’t even have a budget lined up. That’s what got me to start thinking, if this is difficult for me I bet others have struggled with this as well.”

There are about 800 Airmen living in the dorms and approximately 200 of them have already used Delgado’s out processing document.

“The purpose of this program is to help financially prepare Airmen who want to move out of base dorms,” Delgado said. “This document is basically a budget calculator that gathers all the payments and bills you list and puts it all together so you can figure out if you can or can’t afford to live in places you’re currently looking at.”

Delgado created a document that combines different payment calculations to make it easier when deciding what you can or can’t afford. She said the process is designed to help know exactly what you will be paying so you don’t find yourself in hardship, later.



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

U.S. Airman 1st Class Thaila Delgado, 60th communications Squadron knowledge management craftsman, accesses the basic allowance for housing waitlist application website Feb. 18 at Travis Air Force Base, California. Delgado drafted and coordinated with multiple base agencies to create a site that helps Airmen line up their budgeting, in efforts to help them move out of the base dorms more easily.

Delgado said after her idea came to fruition, she was fully backed by her leadership and the financial budgeting class to get her modernized budget form to Airmen immediately.

“I started out with making a rough draft of the document with my

supervisor and pushed the idea up to my leadership in the 60th CS,” Delgado said. “After getting approval through them I got with Dorm Management and from there they put it up on the splash page so all the Airmen living in the dorms could access it.”

Because this process helps Airmen outline their financial budget, Airmen no longer are required to take a financial budgeting class, said Tech. Sgt. Jeremiah Mohr, 60th Civil Engineer

See DORM Page 13

9th ARS delivers fuel to KC-46, KC-10 over California



U.S. Air Force photos/Tech. Sgt. Traci Keller

1) U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Philip Nadela, 9th Air Refueling Squadron KC-10 Extender boom operator, acts as a spotter in the flight deck of a KC-10 during an aerial refueling mission Feb. 4 above Northern California. The crew participated in the first scheduled Air Force-owned and operated KC-46 Pegasus refueling training mission of a KC-10. The KC-46 is assigned to the 22nd Air Refueling Wing at McConnell AFB, Kansas. 2) U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Jesper Stubbendorff, 9th ARS commander and KC-10 pilot, flies a KC-10 behind a KC-46 Pegasus Feb. 4 over Northern California. 3) A KC-10 flies into position to make contact with the boom of another KC-10 flown by a 9th ARS Feb. 4 over Northern California. The KC-10 is an Air Mobility Command advanced tanker and cargo aircraft designed to provide increased global mobility for U.S. armed forces.

Tailwind

Travis AFB, Calif. | 60th Air Mobility Wing

Air Force

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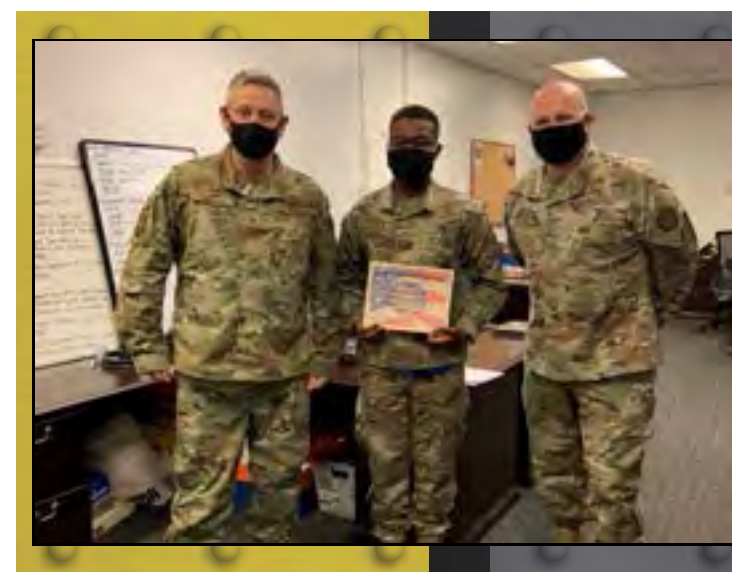
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On the cover

U.S. Air Force Maj. Gen. Barry Cornish, 12th Air Force (Air Forces Southern) commander, discusses his vision for the 12th AF in a briefing Feb. 23 at Travis Air Force Base, California.

U.S. Air Force photo/Master Sgt. David Carbajal



U.S. Air Force photo

WARRIOR OF THE WEEK

Name:
Staff Sgt. Rason Bryant.

Hometown:
Stone Mountain, Georgia.

a pilot.

Unit:
60th Aerial Port Squadron.

Time in service:
Four years.

What are your hobbies?
Computers.

Duty title:
Ramp operations shift supervisor.

Family:
Wife, Mary; cat, Oreo.

What are your goals?
To commission and become

What is your greatest achievements?
Graduating high school, being one of a few males in the family to do so.

Fuels flight powers mission



U.S. Air Force photo/Chustine Minoda

U.S. Airman 1st Class Antonette Danielle King, 60th Logistics Readiness Squadron fuels distribution operator, poses for a photo on the flight line Feb. 10 at Travis Air Force Base, California. King fueled 8,000 gallons of fuel into a C-17 Globemaster III before it took off for a mission. The 60th LRS Fuels Management Flight is responsible for the fuels control center, where all requests for fuel are received.

Hypersonics development strategy unveiled

David Vergun

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE NEWS

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Defense Department has identified hypersonics as one of the highest priority modernization areas, as Russia and China develop their own capable systems.

Hypersonic systems are able to travel on extended flights within the upper atmosphere — 80,000 to 200,000 feet — at speeds near and above Mach 5, and they're able to maneuver in ways that are hard for defenders to predict.

The high-altitude range creates a gap between air defenses and ballistic missile defenses, Mike White, principal director for hypersonics in the office of

the undersecretary of defense for research and engineering, said.

White told attendees of the Air Force Association's virtual Aerospace Warfare Symposium that to address these challenges, the department has developed a hypersonics modernization strategy that accelerates the development and delivery of transformational warfighting capabilities. He said the strategy consists of:

- Developing air-, land-, and sea-launched, conventionally-armed hypersonic strike weapons for highly-survivable, long-range, time-critical defeat of maritime, coastal and inland targets of critical importance on the tactical battlefield.

- Using comprehensive,

layered-defeat of an adversary's tactical hypersonic strike missile capability.

- Utilizing reusable, hypersonic systems for intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance and strike, as well as the first stage of a two stage vehicle for rapid access to space.

White said DOD's strategy has four major phases of implementation:

1. Phase 1 is technology development and concept demonstration.

2. Phase 2 is weapon system concept prototype development and demonstration.

3. Phase 3 is the accelerated fielding of prototype weapon system capability.

4. Phase 4 is the creation of acquisition programs and

capability phasing plans.

The hypersonic strategy is being implemented in a highly coordinated set of programs across the military services and agencies and with critical, enabling investments in the industrial base and organic laboratories, as well as working collaboratively with our allies, where appropriate.

"We will deliver strike capability to the warfighter in the early-mid 2020s and a layered hypersonic defense capability — first terminal and then glide phase — in the mid-late 2020s. For reusable systems, our goal is to deliver capability in the early to mid-2030s," White said.

Air Force Brig. Gen. Heath

See **HYPERSONICS Page 15**

New Star cardholders see deeper discount

Nguyen Ai Vy Tran

ARMY & AIR FORCE EXCHANGE SERVICE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

TRAVIS AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. — Spring is almost here, and savings are blooming at the Base Exchange at Travis Air Force Base, California.

Airmen and military shoppers who open and use a new Military Star account from March 12-25 will receive 15% off on all first-day purchases, instead of the regular 10%. The discount will appear as a credit on the first monthly billing statement.

Cardholders earn 2% in rewards points on their Military Star purchases — including at the commissary and Exchange mall vendors — and receive a \$20 rewards card every 2,000 points. Rewards exclude Military Clothing.

Other benefits of the Military Star card include:

- Free shipping on all Shop-MyExchange.com and MyNavyExchange.com orders.

- Five cents off every gallon of fuel at Exchange fuel locations.

- Ten percent off all Exchange restaurant purchases.

- The lowest flat-rate APR (10.24%) among store cards — rate is offered to all cardholders upon account approval.

- No annual, late or over-limit fees.

- Reduced-interest deployment plan with no payments required for eligible customers.

"It matters where you shop, and it matters what payment you use," said Phonda Bishop, Travis AFB Exchange general manager. "Shopping the Travis BX puts money back into the community, and using the Military Star card helps shoppers save money too."

One-hundred percent of Exchange earnings are reinvested in the military community,

See **DISCOUNT Page 13**

US forces conduct airstrikes in Syria

Jim Garamone

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE NEWS

WASHINGTON, D.C. — American forces struck Feb. 25 at an Iranian-backed militia in Syria that launched rocket attacks against U.S. bases in Iraq, Pentagon Press Secretary John F. Kirby told reporters traveling with Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin.

At President Joe Biden's direction, U.S. military forces, earlier this evening, launched airstrikes against infrastructure utilized by Iranian-backed militant groups in Eastern Syria. These strikes were authorized in response to recent attacks against U.S. and coalition personnel in Iraq, and to on-going threats to those personnel, Kirby said.

"There's not much more that I'll be able to add at this point other than the fact that we're confident in the target we went after, we know what we hit," the secretary of defense said. "We're confident that the target was being used by the same Shia militia that conducted the strikes."

According to the press

secretary, the strikes destroyed multiple facilities located at a border control point used by a number of Iranian-backed militant groups including Kait'ib Hezbollah and Kait'ib Sayyid al-Shuhada.

"We are very deliberative in our approach as you would expect us to be," Austin continued. "We allowed and encouraged the Iraqis to investigate and develop intelligence for us, and that was very helpful to us in refining the target."

This proportionate military response was conducted along with diplomatic measures, including consultation with coalition partners. The operation sends an unambiguous message: President Biden will act to protect American and coalition personnel. At the same time, we have acted in a deliberate manner that aims to de-escalate the overall situation in both Eastern Syria and Iraq, Kirby said.

"Let me say that I am very proud of the men and women in our force that carried out the strike. As you would expect, they performed in a very professional manner, and we are grateful for their service," Austin said.

Travis honor guard stays sharp



U.S. Air Force photo/Chustine Minoda

Members of the Travis Air Force Base Honor Guard present the colors during the 60th Air Mobility Wing 2020 Annual Awards ceremony Feb. 19 at Travis AFB, California. The ceremony recognized and highlighted Travis AFB's top military and civilian personnel for the year.

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Van Ovost discusses KC-46 operational use

Air Mobility Command Public Affairs

SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, Ill. — Gen. Jacqueline Van Ovost, Air Mobility Command commander, discussed the command's approach for

increasing operational use of the KC-46 during a media roundtable at the Air Force Association's virtual Aerospace Warfare Symposium, Feb. 24.

As the KC-46 program works toward full operating

See **KC-46** Page 14

EOD tests its skills in base exercise

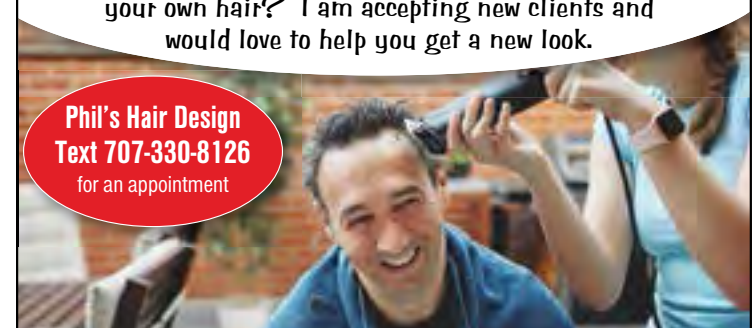


A U.S. Airman, assigned to the 60th Civil Engineer Squadron, observes an explosive ordnance disposal robot during the exercise, Roundel Galaxia, Feb. 25 at Travis Air Force Base, California. The robot is designed to assist the EOD team's ability to examine explosive and dangerous substances without being in range of harm's way.

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

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Virtual performance recognizes Black History Month

U.S. Air Force Band of the Golden West

TRAVIS AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. — On a sunny California afternoon, a diverse group of singers join together outdoors to rehearse a rousing gospel anthem.

A team of videographers and audio engineers swarm around them as they lift their voices. Los Angeles-based gospel artist Andrea McClurkin-Mellini stands front and center, smiling and dancing as she delivers virtuosic gospel riffs over the choir's melody. A local dance troupe adorned in vibrant robes moves to the beat.

The scene is befitting any concert hall or stage, but this performance takes place in what many would deem an unlikely location – Travis Air Force Base, California.

Many people may not naturally associate the military with the arts, but there are hundreds of professional musicians who have enlisted in the Air Force to serve their country through music. Travis Air Force Base is home to one of those units – the U.S. Air Force Band of the Golden West.

One of 11 active-duty Air Force Bands, the Band of the



Courtesy photo

Andrea McClurkin-Mellini sings Donnie McClurkin's gospel anthem, "You Are My God and King," in a collaborative video with the U.S. Air Force Band of the Golden West from Travis Air Force Base, California.

Golden West performs regularly throughout California, Arizona, Nevada, Washington and Oregon. Maj. Joseph Hansen, the band's commander and conductor, believes the arts play a powerful role in the military as well as the civilian world.

"Music has a great power to bring people of different backgrounds together," Hansen said. "Celebrating diversity is a year-round priority for the US military. As February is Black History Month, we especially recognize African Americans who have made our country

beautiful and strong. Gospel music is inextricably linked to the African American story. I am proud of my teammates in creating this communal

music-making event and dedicated performance (despite COVID restrictions) to the powerful and faithful legacy of African Americans."

This February, the band honored Black History Month through gospel music.

"We especially recognize African Americans who have made our country beautiful and strong," Hansen said. "Gospel music is inextricably linked to the African American story. I am proud of my teammates in creating this communal music-making event and dedicated performance (despite COVID restrictions) to the powerful and faithful legacy of African Americans."

Like most events in recent history, the band's original plans for celebration took a turn in light of the global pandemic. Staff Sgt. David Dormeus, the

house arranger for the Band of the Golden West and visionary for this project, hoped to host a live performance to include dramatic performances, dance and spoken word in addition to musical performances.

However, due to the pandemic, the band quickly pivoted from live performances to creating a music video to reach audiences safely.

"Even though COVID has prevented us from traveling and performing live concerts, we wanted to overcome this obstacle by bringing the music directly to your living room," said Master Sgt. Patrick Brush, who heads up the band's production team.

To do this, the band collaborated with McClurkin-Mellini to create a virtual performance of

See **VIRTUAL** Page 14

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Military Health System Communications Office

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Department of Defense has administered more than one million COVID-19 vaccinations.

The milestone came as the United States surpassed 500,000 deaths from COVID-19 and just over two months after the Food and Drug Administration issued the first emergency use authorization for a vaccine for the prevention of coronavirus disease in individuals 16

years of age and older.

“On (Feb 22), we surpassed more than 1 million COVID-19 vaccine doses and continue to reach new daily administration highs,” said Army Lt. Gen. (Dr.) Ronald Place, director of the Defense Health Agency, in a message to DOD medical teams. “Thank you for your due diligence and attention to detail as we continue to safely vaccinate our beneficiaries.”

DOD continues to distribute and administer vaccines to Military Health System

beneficiaries at more than 300 military medical treatment facilities around the world, following a phased population schema as part of the federal government’s COVID-19 response.

As of Feb. 25, DOD has administered 1,087,625 doses of the COVID-19 vaccine; 713,624 recipients have received the initial dose and of those, 374,001 people have received both doses.

Although winter weather and logistics have affected

the availability of doses at each military medical treatment facility, the DOD has over a 90% utilization rate, according to Air Force Col. (Dr.) Tonya Rans, chief of the Defense Health Agency’s Immunization Healthcare Division, demonstrating that the quantity of vaccine reaching immunization sites is quickly reaching arms.

“The credit for reaching this milestone belongs to all those involved at every stage of DOD’s COVID-19

implementation plan,” said Rans. “But special recognition goes to the personnel at DOD immunization sites, who professionally engage with and educate their beneficiary populations, diligently review and improve workflow capabilities, and collaborate both within and across service lines to maximize beneficiary outreach.”

“Every dose of vaccine administered helps protect our loved ones, colleagues, and

See **VACCINATES** Page 13

Austin addresses vaccine hesitancy

Jim Garamone

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE NEWS

LOS ANGELES — After a tour of a mass COVID-19 vaccination site in Los Angeles, Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin addressed the hesitancy that some service members have about getting the vaccine Feb. 24.

The Food and Drug Administration has given all the vaccines currently being administered emergency use authorization. It is much as it sounds, according to the FDA. In an emergency, the FDA can make a product available to the public based on the best available evidence, without waiting for all the evidence that would be needed for FDA approval or clearance.

COVID-19 has killed more than 500,000 Americans, and the FDA approved the vaccines to help save lives. The vaccines were intensely studied and tested on hundreds of thousands of people. The efficacy of the vaccines against COVID-19 is not in question.

But there is some hesitancy — especially in communities of color in America — to get the vaccines. “Because of some things that have happened in the past, there’s a degree of mistrust, and I think we have to collectively work hard to dispel rumors and to provide facts to people,” Austin said. “It’s been my experience that when armed with the facts, people will tend to make the right



Department of Defense photo/Air Force Staff Sgt. Jack Sanders

Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III visits with service members assisting the Federal Emergency Management Agency COVID-19 vaccination site at California State University Los Angeles, Feb. 24.

decisions.” In the past, commanders — on the advice from medical professionals — could simply order service members to get a vaccine. Troops deploying to operations in Iraq and Afghanistan

had to receive the anthrax series of shots, for example. That was possible because those were FDA approved inoculations.

The COVID-19 vaccines are not, and the services cannot simply

order personnel to get the shots. Soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines and guardians must make the decision for themselves. “These are individual decisions,” Austin said. “We want

See **HESITANCY** Page 12

Air Force finalizes PT uniform design

Brian Brackens

AIR FORCE LIFE CYCLE MANAGEMENT CENTER PUBLIC AFFAIRS

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio — After numerous tests and feedback from Airmen around the world, the Air Force Uniform Office has finalized the design of the new Physical Training Gear uniform, or PTG, and is preparing to begin the production process.

This is the first update to the PT uniform in more than 16 years. Over 150 Airmen participated in testing the uniform.

“Our main requirement (from Air Force leaders) was to develop a PT uniform that people really wanted to wear and is as good as, if not better than, commercially available athletic wear,” said Tracy Roan, chief of the Air Force Uniform Office which is aligned under the Agile Combat Support Directorate’s Human Systems Division. “The new uniform now includes all of the great performance features that you find in athletic wear today.”

In addition to improving performance, the uniform is designed to accommodate various

athletic interests.

“In the past, there was one uniform for all athletic pursuits, whether you were running, playing basketball or lifting weights,” said Col. Paul Burger, 88th Air Base Wing Mission Support Group commander, one of the test participants and an official with the Air Force Marathon. “The approach the Air Force has now taken, is to develop a uniform that is earmarked for runners or running and one that is better designed for some of those other athletic activities.”

With the new gear, Airmen will be issued a jacket, a pair of pants, T-shirt and shorts.

The ensemble will have improved fabrics that include soft, quick-drying material and have antimicrobial technology that helps with moisture and odor control.

Other significant changes include the design of the jacket.

“With the ‘notorious’ track jacket, we’ve made updates to the fabric to minimize the noise it makes during workouts,” said 2nd Lt. Maverick Wilhite, the uniform office’s program manager for PT gear.

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12th AF command team visits 621st CRW, witnesses capabilities



1

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



2

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



3

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



4

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



5

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

1) U.S. Air Force Chief Master Sgt. James Clark, 12th Air Force (Air Forces Southern) command chief, inserts an intubation tube into the mouth of a K-9 Tactical Combat Casualty Care mannequin during the innovation demonstration of the 571st Mobility Support Advisory Squadron immersion Feb. 23 at Travis Air Force Base, California. 2) U.S. Air Force Maj. Gen. Barry Cornish, 12th AF commander, and Clark receive a mission briefing of the 621st Contingency Response Wing from Col. Will Wade, 821st Contingency Response Group commander, Feb. 23 at Travis AFB. 3) U.S. Air Force Capt. Jack Robinson, 821st Contingency Response Support Squadron support flight commander, right, describes how pavement evaluations are performed to Cornish Feb. 23 at Travis AFB. 4) U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Justin Keating, bottom left at the table, 571st MSAS commander, speaks to Cornish during a capabilities briefing of the 571st MSAS immersion Feb. 23 at Travis AFB. 5) Cornish listens to Master Sgt. Darlene Byers, 571st MSAS air advisor, during a squadron immersion Feb. 23 at Travis AFB.

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FEMA courtesy photo

Federal Emergency Management Agency personnel, service members assigned to the Defense Department, and New Jersey state troopers provide COVID-19 vaccination support Feb. 14 in Somerset, New Jersey.

Hesitancy

From Page 8

to make sure that they have the best information available to make those decisions."

Austin wants service members to talk to families, talk to physicians and read about the decision. "We want them to have the facts," he said. He wants service members and their families to read the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidance and speak

to defense health professionals.

"It's really important that ... people have the facts, and we found that armed with the facts, they'll make the right decisions typically," he said. "I've taken the vaccine. I consider it to be safe. We've not seen very many side effects that are harmful."

"The greatest incentive to getting vaccinated is that it saves your life, and it saves the life of the folks that mean a lot to you," he continued. "That, in and of itself, is very, very important."


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

U.S. Airman 1st Class Thaila Delgado, 60th Communications Squadron knowledge management craftsman, poses for a photo Feb. 18 at Travis Air Force Base, California. Delgado drafted and coordinated with multiple base agencies to create a site that helps Airmen line up their budgeting, in efforts to help them move out of the base dorms more easily.

Dorm

From Page 2

Squadron airman dorm leader.

The class was designed to assist Airmen with their budgeting skills but because this form covers that criteria for them, they no longer need to take the class.

“This is a far smoother process than what we were dealing with before,” Mohr said. “With this new process all

parties involved are constantly updated through automatic emails, no more calls or questions about where we are.

“This process does still require approval from various individuals but now it’s all in one spot,” Mohr said. “This really gives back some control to the Airmen so they know what they need to do to move on through all the steps to officially out process.”

Delgado said having her leadership support made her ideas feel valued.

“I believe it’s extremely

important for Airmen to think innovatively for they are the Air Forces front line, they are the people who see issues before anyone else,” said Staff Sgt. Rimsha Wasim, 60th CS Communications Squadron knowledge management noncommissioned officer in charge and Delgado’s supervisor. “To see an issue and have the initiative to try and solve it is an important trait and that is why I and the rest of Delgado’s leadership supported her from the beginning of the project.”

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Vaccinates

From Page 8

neighbors against COVID-19 in addition to bringing us closer to an end to this pandemic,” she explained.

However, “it is important to reflect that over 500,000 U.S. individuals have lost their lives to COVID-19,” she added. “The sobering stories of lives lost is a powerful motivator to efficiently yet safely provide vaccine to those who wish to receive it as quickly as possible.”

Working together

All DOD MTFs are doing their part. At the David Grant U.S. Air Force Medical Center, at Travis Air Force Base in Fairfield, California, some beneficiaries were vaccinated within 24 hours of the base receiving its initial shipment in December 2020.

“We developed a safe, efficient method to distribute vaccines that keeps pace with the highest FEMA [Federal Emergency Management Agency] distribution capabilities,” said Air Force Col. Gwen Foster, commander of the 60th Medical Group at Travis. “In just two, one-day points-of-dispensing efforts, we were able to exhaust our supply during the holidays.”

Since then, DGMC, the Air Force Medical Service’s flagship medical treatment facility in the United States, hasn’t stopped administering vaccines.

“We have a sustained vaccination effort at DGMC to vaccinate daily, ensuring we reach eligible beneficiaries according to the vaccination schema and avoid vaccine waste,” said Foster.

The MTF provides health care to more than 130,000 TRICARE eligible patients in the immediate San Francisco-Sacramento vicinity and more than 377,000 from the Department of Veterans Affairs Northern California Health Care System. In the two months since having received its first vaccine shipment, DGMC has advanced vaccination administration to beneficiaries in phase 1B, which includes Department of Defense personnel who comprise the strategic national mission force, service members preparing to deploy, beneficiaries aged

75 or older, and frontline essential workers.

“Our goal is to vaccinate as many people as we safely can, but we are limited by our logistics chain,” said Foster.

At the same time, the medical center continues to vaccinate beneficiaries from phase 1A, which includes medical personnel and first responders.

“More and more of the personnel these tiers are opting to get the vaccine as they begin to see its safety and efficacy,” she said.

Foster added that being a part of reaching the DOD’s 1 millionth vaccine administration has been a great source of pride for Travis AFB and DGMC. “This pride runs even deeper when we realize our contribution to our DOD beneficiary population reaching this historic landmark: That we were able to quickly and safely administer some of the first vaccines in the United States, and that most personnel vaccinated in our initial efforts were within the first 1 million to 2 million people vaccinated nationwide,” she said.

DOD’s milestone comes in parallel to the U.S., just surpassing administration of 65 million total doses.

“We are humbled and honored to have contributed to these vaccination efforts that will save lives, prevent suffering, and ensure the national defense mission continues,” Foster said.

And even though there have been some challenges, “learning from them makes us better as airmen, as an air force, and ultimately as a nation,” said Foster.

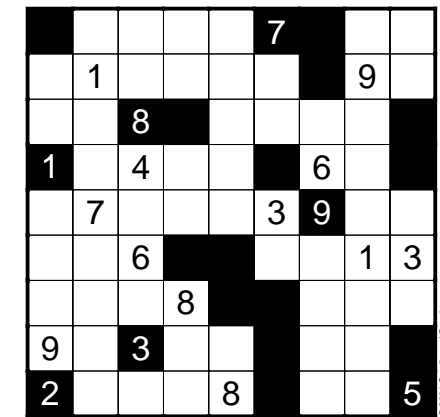
For Blanchfield Army Community Hospital in Fort Campbell, Kentucky, vaccination administration has progressed to phase 1C, which includes all beneficiaries between 65 and 74 years of age, those between 16 and 64 years of age with increased risk for severe illness as described by the CDC, and essential workers not previously included in phases 1A and 1B.

The hospital serves the Fort Campbell community, including more than 72,000 soldiers, retirees, and their family members enrolled in BACH services and more than 92,000 who are eligible for care in the Fort Campbell TRICARE service area.

Puzzles

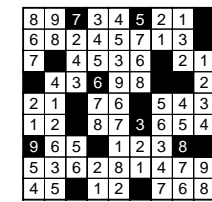
STR8TS

No. 532 Medium



You can find more help, tips and hints at www.str8ts.com

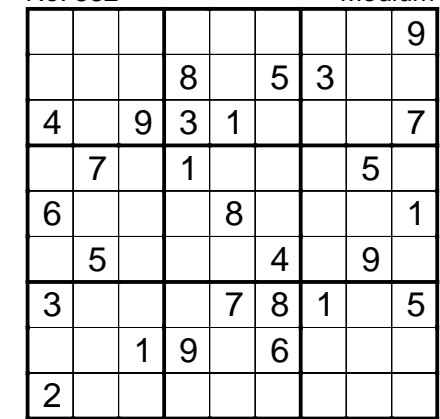
Previous solution - Tough



How to beat Str8ts – Like Sudoku, no single number can repeat in any row or column. But... rows and columns are divided by black squares into **compartments**. These need to be filled in with numbers that complete a 'straight'. A **straight** is a set of numbers with no gaps but can be in any order, eg [4,2,3,5]. Clues in black cells remove that number as an option in that row and column, and are not part of any straight. Glance at the solution to see how 'straights' are formed.

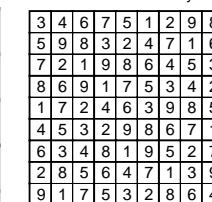
SUDOKU

No. 532 Medium



The solutions will be published here in the next issue.

Previous solution - Easy



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

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

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

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 Thammassen, 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.

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Virtual

From Page 7

Grammy Award-winner Donnie McClurkin’s gospel anthem “You Are My God and King.”

Prior to recording, McClurkin-Mellini led a three-day choir workshop including band members and civilian and military volunteers. Suisun City Mayor Lori Wilson provided a

special voiceover to accompany McClurkin-Mellini’s vocal stylings.

“The goal of this project was to produce something that both honors Black History Month and connects people of different backgrounds,” Dormeus said. “It’s been amazing to watch everyone come together to create this virtual celebration. It just shows how music can highlight diversity and create unity at the same time.”

Together, the group has created an original music video that honors African American heritage through gospel music.

The virtual performance is available on the U.S. Air Force Band of the Golden West Facebook page, Instagram and YouTube channel. Stay tuned for more virtual performances and soon-to-be live performances from the U.S. Air Force Band of the Golden West.



U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Chris Drzazgowski

U.S. Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Charles Q. Brown, Jr., prepares to connect with a KC-46 Pegasus during an aerial refueling operational survey out of Joint Base Andrews, Md., Feb. 22, 2021. At full operational capability, the KC-46A will be able to provide next generation aerial refueling support to Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps and partner-nation receivers.

KC-46

From Page 6

capability, AMC plans to implement a conditions-based approach to incrementally certify mission sets in order to expand tanker capacity in support of joint force operational taskings.

“AMC is working hard to ensure U.S. Transportation Command has the tanker capacity necessary to meet Joint Force requirements,” said Van Ovost. “To meet these requirements, we are exploring a variety of options or ‘tanker levers’ to relieve stress on today’s force, including a limited, operational use of the KC-46 on a conditions-based approach.”

Despite operational restrictions and deficiencies, the KC-46 continues to demonstrate

its growing operational capacity by executing daily training missions, such as airlifting cargo and passengers, and executing boom and drogue air refueling. Since Oct. 1, 2020, the KC-46 fleet has executed more than 650 missions across the globe in all three of its mission sets, including cross-ocean aerial refueling fighter drags, known as coronets, aeromedical evacuation missions, and cargo and passenger movements. Additionally, through execution of more than 60 percent of the KC-46 Operational Training and Evaluation plan, KC-46 aircrew and maintainers have increasingly demonstrated proficiency and propensity to open the envelope on missions they’re flying.

“What changes with this approach is we will now commit the KC-46 to execute missions similar to those they’ve

been conducting over the past few years in the Operational Test and Evaluation plan, but can now include operational tasking from USTRANSCOM,” said Van Ovost. “Through this conditions-based approach, we expect to increase overall tanker capacity by bringing daily taskable KC-46 operational capabilities at scale and predicted reliability for joint force employment.”

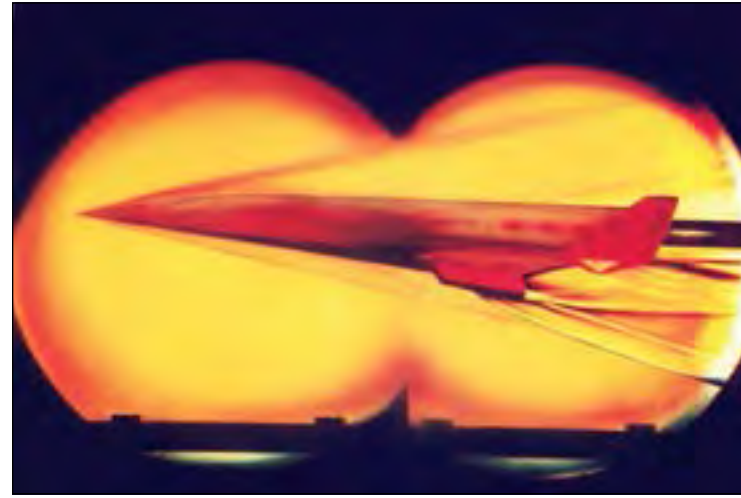
There is no timeline associated with certifying these capabilities and instead the focus will be on confidence measures that allow the AMC commander and other senior leaders to qualitatively and quantitatively assess achievements in mission set milestones. If confidence measures are not met, then a particular mission set will not be certified for operational use.

Hypersonics

From Page 4

A. Collins, program executive officer for weapons and director of the armament directorate at the Air Force Life Cycle Management Center in the Air Force Materiel Command, said his organization is developing a rapid prototyping program for the AGM-183A air-launched rapid response weapon, dubbed ARRW.

The ARRW program is a boost-glide based hypersonic weapon. Collins said his team is getting ready for the first booster flight test next week. "We're also getting ready to transition into production within about a year on that program, so it will be the first air-launch hypersonic weapon that the Air Force has. "We're really proud to be in



NASA's Langley Research Center photo

A model of a hypersonic vehicle is tested in a wind tunnel Dec. 10, 2009, at NASA's Langley Research Center, Maryland.

the hypersonics weapon enterprise at this point in this exciting time, and we're just on the cusp of an operational capability," Collins added.

James Weber, senior

scientist for hypersonics at the Air Force Research Laboratory, said the lab has a long history in hypersonic science and technology development, beginning in the early 1960s.

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
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1

1) A C-5M Super Galaxy takes off Feb. 2 at Travis Air Force Base, California. The C-5M can carry oversized cargo over intercontinental ranges, and can take off and land on runways as short as 3,500 feet and 90 feet wide. 2) A C-17 Globemaster III lands on the runway Feb. 10 at Travis AFB. The C-17 can take off and land on runways as short as 3,500 feet and 90 feet wide. 3) A C-17 flies Feb. 10 over Travis AFB. The aircraft is operated by a crew of three – a pilot, co-pilot and loadmaster, reducing manpower requirements, risk exposure and long-term operating costs.

Aircraft land on, soar over Travis AFB ... FLIGHT LINE

U.S. Air Force photos by Chustine Minoda



2



3

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