

Air Force, Army joint training ensures...

READINESS

PAGES 10-11



TAILWIND

MXG at Travis gives COVID Response Team tour

Nicholas Pilch
60TH AIR MOBILITY WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

TRAVIS AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. — The 60th Maintenance Group hosted a tour of the base’s different airframes for the Travis AFB COVID-19 Response Team to showcase how their efforts and hard work contribute the mission May 26-27, here.

“A lot of the time, our Airmen that work here don’t get a chance to walk around on our aircraft,” said Robert LaPlante, 60th Maintenance Group facilities program manager. “This was something that we, at MXG, wanted to do for them to show gratitude for the mission they support.”

The two-day tour was for Airmen working on the COVID-19 Response Team which provide support in the tents and other COVID-19 facilities at David Grant USAF Medical Center.

“I’ve only been in the Air Force for a year, but some of the Airmen on the COVID-19 Response Team have been in longer, and this was the first chance we’ve been able to see these aircraft up-close and personal,” said 1st Lt Amber Banks, 60th Inpatient Squadron registered nurse. “It was really educational for my team and me — we enjoyed it.”

The small groups toured a C-5M Super Galaxy, a C-17 Globemaster III and a KC-10 Extender.



U.S. Air Force photos by Nicholas Pilch

Above: Senior Airman Zachery Kuhn, left, 860th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron C-17 Globemaster III crew chief, briefs Airmen from the 60th Medical Group on capabilities of the C-17 May 26, 2021, at Travis Air Force Base, California. Airmen from the 60th Maintenance Group conducted a tour of the base’s different airframes for Airmen working in the COVID-19 Response Team to share how they are contributing to the mission.

Right: U.S. Air Force 1st Lt. Amber Banks, 60th Inpatient Squadron registered nurse, speaks with Airmen from the 860th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron about capabilities of the C-5M Super Galaxy May 26, 2021, at Travis Air Force Base, California.



Tailwind

Travis AFB, Calif. | 60th Air Mobility Wing

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Airman Ryan Russell, 22nd Airlift Squadron loadmaster, marshals a Humvee onto an aircraft during an exercise at Joint Base Cape Cod, Massachusetts, May 23, 2021.	
U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Alexander Merchak	

Devil Raiders accelerate change for future fight at Mobility Guardian 21

Airman 1st Class Matt Porter
JOINT BASE MCGUIRE-DIX-LAKEHURST PUBLIC AFFAIRS

ALPENA COMBAT READINESS TRAINING CENTER, Mich. — Devil Raiders tested their Air Base Opening and Agile Combat Employment capabilities May 15-27, alongside other combat and mobility air forces as well as joint and total force partners throughout Air Mobility Command’s biennial Mobility Guardian exercise.

During Mobility Guardian 2021, participants focused on all-domain operations in Contested, Degraded, and Operationally-Limited environments against a simulated high-end adversary. The scenario drove a response to adversary aggressions threatening the security and sovereignty of the exercise area of responsibility.

Airmen from the 621st Contingency Response Wing played an integral role in securing the simulated CDO at Oscoda-Wurtsmith Airport, which is one of three locations CR forces operated from during MG21. The Airmen established a Contingency Response Element comprised of Airmen in different specialties including aerial porters, loadmasters, airfield management, vehicle mechanics, aerospace ground equipment technicians, security forces liaisons, an independent duty medical technician and various others.

A CRE is responsible for receiving, managing and generating U.S. forces in a contingency environment.

“Our role here at MG21 in regard to the CRE at Oscoda is to serve as the central means for Mobility Airmen to receive the resources and advocacy required to carry out their mission,” said Capt. Sean Bryant,



U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Matthew Porter

Tech. Sgt. Lance Oakes, fire team lead assigned to the 621st Contingency Response Squadron, activates a semi-autonomous quadrupedal unmanned ground vehicle during Exercise Mobility Guardian at Alpena Combat Readiness Training Center, Michigan, May 22, 2021.

MORE PHOTOS
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821st Contingency Response Squadron base operating support integrator and CRE commander. “My role specifically is to integrate the mission generation squadron with contingency response and to provide solutions to problems before leadership knows they exist.”

One of the new ways Devil Raiders were able to support the CRE at Oscoda

was through the uploading and downloading of KC-135 Stratotankers, KC-10 Extenders and KC-46A Pegasus.

“Contingency response revolves around our ability as Airmen with cross-functional training to provide multiple levels of support and fill in where necessary to accomplish the mission,” said Staff Sgt. Tyler Greene, 821st Contingency Response Squadron air transportation specialist. “While we’re air transportation specialists, when not uploading or downloading litters, we can also set up tents

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Commissary helps recognize fathers, Army’s birthday and Flag Day

Chris Long
DECA MARKETING AND
MASS COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST

FORT LEE, Va. - Throughout the month of June, the commissary will run a number of sales promotions to help customers save more as they observe the Army’s 246th birthday, Flag Day and Father’s Day.

“As we celebrate these special days, the commissary is also delivering even greater savings to our service men and women and their families,” said Marine Sgt. Maj. Michael R. Saucedo, the Defense Commissary Agency’s senior enlisted advisor to the DeCA director. “We also remind our customers to visit their commissary website.”

On the DeCA website, Commissaries.com, customers will find the Rewards and Savings section to access and download the latest sales flyer at <https://www.commissaries.com/rewards-and-savings/savings-center/featured-items-sales-flyer>. The sales flyer is loaded with deals. Special highlights on healthy living, nutritious foods, recipes and other commissary services are included. As a reminder, OCONUS stores may have substitute events for certain promotional programs.

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Air Force, USFWS partner to restore fish habitat

Jennifer Schneider
AIR FORCE CIVIL ENGINEER CENTER
ENVIRONMENTAL DIRECTORATE

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-LACKLAND, Texas (AFNS) — Threatened fish at Beale Air Force Base, California, are reaping the benefits of a partnership between the Air Force and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Specialists from Beale AFB, the Air Force Civil Engineer Center and the USFWS recently completed a dam removal and creek restoration project there, making it easier for fish, including the Chinook salmon and federally threatened Central Valley steelhead, to travel upstream and spawn.

The Army originally built Beale Lake Dam in 1943 as a recreational spot for Soldiers. In the 1980s, the Air Force realized the dam was impacting fish travel and constructed a concrete fish ladder to try to address the issue. In 2015, the Air Force recognized the fish ladder was undersized and outdated.

“The need to address the obsolete dam and fish ladder and improve habitat conditions for sensitive fish species had long been identified as a significant goal in the installation Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan,” said Kevin Porteck, AFCEC natural resources subject matter expert. “Fortunately, in 2018, we were able to get the funding and the partnerships in place to address the issue.”

AFCEC reached out to USFWS for its expertise. Under the Sikes Act of 1960, the two agencies regularly work together to manage, conserve and rehabilitate natural resources at Department of the Air Force installations.

“AFCEC initiated a more detailed study of this issue through a habitat assessment by USFWS fisheries biologists,” said Kirsten Christopherson, natural resources specialist for AFCEC’s western regional environmental support office, who led the dam removal project. “The study identified that there were two major barriers



Mark Gard, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biologist, collects samples of sediment while surveying Beale Lake at Beale Air Force Base, California, July, 10, 2019. With the collaborations of the U.S. Air Force and the FWS, Beale Lake is being surveyed for renovations to remove its dam, helping the endangered salmon and steelhead swim upstream increasing migration.

impeding fish passage – Beale Lake Dam and a low flow crossing that is 7.35 miles downstream from Beale AFB on private land.”

Around the same time, a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers study found Beale Lake Dam to be in poor condition.

“Base engineers determined that the long-term maintenance of the dam, and the potential liability for the dam’s failure, presented an unacceptable risk,” Christopherson said.

Air Force engineers and natural resource managers determined it would be cheaper to remove the dam than repair it, and engaged the support of USFWS fisheries biologists.

“We removed something that wasn’t really functional for us anymore and was actually going to be a hazard,” said Tamara Gallentine, natural and cultural resources program manager at Beale.

USFWS engineers designed a new creek channel, using an area upstream of the dam as a model, and work began with

draining the lake for a short period of time during the summer of 2019 in order to further study the channel. In addition to the dam removal, which was completed in October 2020, the team also implemented other aspects to assist fish migration, such as building a “rocky ramp” to help fish pass over a small natural waterfall upstream of the dam.

“The goal was to raise the water surface elevations and create a jumping pool so fish are able to navigate over the waterfall,” said Jessica Pica, a USFWS fish passage engineer who worked on the project. “We played with different slopes and dimensions to get (a ramp) that worked.”

They also planted native vegetation, including large trees, to prevent erosion and provide shade to help maintain fish-friendly water temperatures.

“The removal of the dam, and associated outdated and ineffective fish ladder, helps to return natural processes

to Dry Creek,” said Paul Cadrett, USFWS project manager for the project. “These natural processes benefit native fish by returning the ecosystem to a more natural state. This has multiple benefits to native plants and insects, as well as native fish and terrestrial animals. These ecosystem changes are exciting to see and watch as they continue to evolve.”

The project was unique and particularly challenging compared to previous environmental projects on base, requiring construction crews with heavy equipment in a riparian area full of wildlife and coordination with multiple on- and off-base partners. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Center for Environmental Management of Military Lands and numerous volunteers provided extensive support in such areas as fish and wildlife relocation, project monitoring and revegetation planning.

“Working with multiple agencies certainly had its challenges, but the overall benefits

were realized through technical expertise, expedited environmental permitting, and public confidence in the project,” Christopherson said. “I had not been involved in a project before with so much support, excitement, and interest from Air Force leadership, engineering, and environmental, but also from regulatory agencies and local landowners.”

The Covid-19 pandemic also brought a unique set of challenges.

“This forced everyone involved in the project to take extraordinary steps to shift from in-person meetings to the virtual meetings that have taken over all of our work and personal lives,” Cadrett said. “Service staff that designed the project are from across the United States from Alaska to Massachusetts. Everyone involved in the project had to shift and shuffle plans to cover the onsite observations in order to successfully complete the project.”

While the project successfully restored access to six miles of historic salmonid spawning habitat, Christopherson said they would like to see the remaining barrier downstream from the base removed as well.

“The USFWS is continuing to pursue funding to implement the off-base work,” she said. “Once the off-base portions have been completed, over 13 miles of fish habitat will have been restored.”

While the Air Force and USFWS played lead roles, several other organizations provided support and assistance as well, including the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, the National Marine Fisheries Service, the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board and USACE.

“The Air Force had a need to repair a failing dam at a high cost,” Christopherson said. “With less money, we were able to remove the dam and restore the site for the benefit of rare fish species. The project was a win-win for the Air Force, the taxpayer, and the environment.”

Cadet graduation returns to Falcon Stadium for Class of 2021

Ray Bowden
U.S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY PUBLIC AFFAIRS

U.S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo. (AFNS) — Cadets graduated from the Air Force Academy for the first time in two years at Falcon Stadium, receiving their diplomas from the event’s keynote speaker, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Mark Milley, May 26.

In all, 1,019 cadets graduated in front of a select crowd in the stands containing no more than eight of their family members and friends, a safety and health precaution set in place for the ceremony as the Academy continues to operate during the pandemic within Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Defense Department guidelines.

“That we are able to come together today in Falcon Stadium, even with some limitations and restrictions, is a testament to the tireless dedication, courage and expertise of our medical professional, researchers, first responders and everyone who has been on the front line battling the COVID-19 pandemic across our nation,” Lt. Gen. Richard Clark, the Academy’s superintendent, said from the stage. “I think we all owe them a round of applause.”

Last year’s graduation ceremony swapped Falcon Stadium for the t-razzo without family or friends, a move to keep cadets, staff and families at the base safe from the novel coronavirus.



The U.S. Air Force Air Demonstration Squadron, “Thunderbirds,” perform a fly-over at the Air Force Academy graduation in Colorado Springs, Colorado, May 26, 2021. Shortly after the event, the Thunderbirds performed an aerial demonstration for the crowd and the newly promoted second lieutenants.

Clark said the Academy has used the school’s “amazing brainpower” to stage this year’s graduation event in Falcon Stadium and keep the base population safe.

“Our pandemic math team has developed predictive modeling and testing protocols that have informed our response to this crisis and helped us confront one of the most difficult

challenges in the history of our Academy,” Clark said.

The PMT is a team of mathematicians and science experts at the school who developed calculations to determine the school’s coronavirus testing schedule and how the health and safety guidelines it has installed across the campus have helped stave off the outbreak.

Former ambassador to the UN visits Travis



The Honorable Sichan Siv, former ambassador to the United Nations, shakes hands with Tech. Sgt. Jamie Coffee during a commissioning announcement event at Travis Air Force Base, California, May 1, 2021. During his visit with the 349th Air Mobility Wing, Siv shared his inspirational story of triumph over adversity.

Family tradition



Master Sgt. Charles Yamada, 312th Airlift Squadron flight engineer, poses on the flight line at Travis Air Force Base, California, on May 18, 2021. Yamada is a fourth generation military member and his great grandfather was in World War I. “I decided to join the military because of my grandparents,” said Yamada. “My grandfather on my dad’s side was in the Army and went to Europe and fought in World War II. I found out recently that my great-grandfather was also in the Army and served in World War I. I like to say that I’m continuing that legacy of being a proud American.”

Photo by Senior Airman Brady Penn

Pregnancy offers opportunity for reflection for military couple

Staff Sgt. Christian Conrad
60TH AIR MOBILITY WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

TRAVIS AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. — “When I was in basic training, every letter my mom and I would write to each other, whether it was zero week or eighth week, was signed the same way: ‘One more week.’ Like, ‘If I can just get through this week I’m in right now, I’ll be good—that’d be a win.’”

At 40 weeks pregnant, Staff Sgt. Rachel Pearson, 60th Operational Medical Readiness Squadron public health technician, expects to deliver her child this week, but it’s that same mantra she’s found herself repeating throughout her pregnancy.

“I’d rather focus on the here and now,” she said, her arm resting on her baby bump. “You always plan for the future, but worrying about it? There’d be no end.”

Although expecting, Rachel and her husband, Gavin, who works as a machinist in

Fairfield, California, find time to decompress, exuding a surprising air of calm.

“There will always be that certain level of anxiety, sure, but we’re lucky enough to be afforded the time to focus on what’s important,” Gavin said. “I think without the military’s help, there’d be a lot more to worry about—how will our finances look after the hospital stay, are we doing this right, are we ready for when the time comes? Instead, that same amount of headspace can be devoted to” —he gestures to Rachel on the couch who’s already flanked by pillows—“making sure she has enough pillows around her. We’ve been fortunate.”

Gavin, whose father retired as a staff sergeant in the U.S. Army, is no stranger to the kind of amenities that are offered by the military. It being Rachel’s first pregnancy, however, much of the resources available to her were introduced to her by her coworkers.

“I’m lucky to have the kind

of support system I have with the people in my office,” Rachel said. “The women’s health clinic in (David Grant USAF Medical Center) has especially been helpful these past months. We practice a lot of labor and delivery techniques, we learn what to be expecting at what times. It’s helped to remove some of the quesswork for us.

“It beats consulting Dr. Google,” she laughed.

According to a Business Insider article published in 2019, families in the U.S. can expect to pay over \$10,000 to have a baby, not including pregnancy classes. It’s a reality that Gavin and Rachel, 22 and 21, respectively, need not fret over.

Their good fortune isn’t something they take for

granted, though.

“Gavin and I have both worked jobs before our life in the military,” Rachel said. “In both our workplaces, we’ve worked alongside friends—people our age—and even people much older than us. I joined the military to give me and my family a better life, and Gavin, too, has had the chance to begin a career of his own. I’m happy to be able to bring Addison into a life where her parents are financially independent and not stuck in a job just spinning their wheels.”

Addison Leigh, the Pearsons’ chosen name for their daughter, is a family name, Gavin said. It was a way for her



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Christian Conrad

U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Rachel Pearson, 60th Operational Medical Readiness Squadron public health technician, and her husband, Gavin, pose for a photo in Dixon, California, May 21, 2021.

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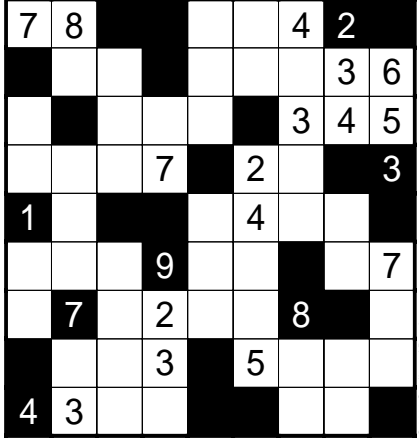
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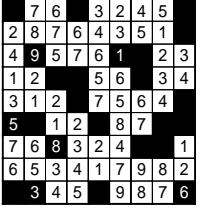
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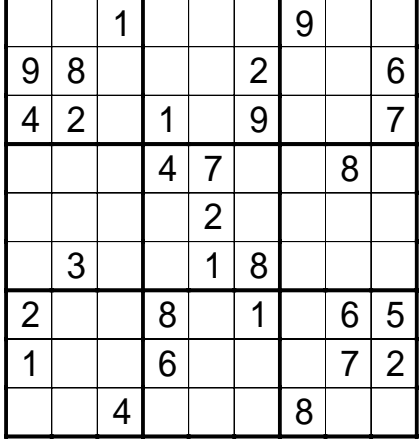
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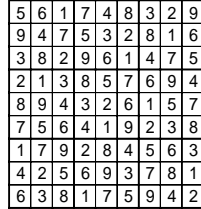
How to beat Str8ts – Like Sudoku, no single number can repeat in any row or column. But... rows and columns are divided by black squares into **compartments**. These need to be filled in with numbers that complete a ‘straight’. A **straight** is a set of numbers with no gaps but can be in any order, 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. 545
Tough



Previous solution - Medium



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.

Helping Hands



It isn’t every day you find out that the work you’re a part of has an impact on your extended family and people you know, especially when they live far away. “As a crew chief it’s easy to sometimes overlook the impact our work can have,” said Airman 1st Class Sneha Lakshminarayanan, a crew chief with the 749th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, and Reserve Citizen Airman of Indian descent. So when she found out that her wingmen in the 349th AMXS had recently loaded COVID-19 relief medical supplies onto a Team Travis aircraft destined to India, she shared the news with her parents, who had immigrated to the U.S from India a year before her birth. They had been following the news regarding the pandemic, and were worried for family and friends back home, Lakshminarayanan said. When her parents learned of the relief efforts, they were comforted and thankful for the aid her wing was able to help deliver to families back home, she said. The experience served as a great reminder of how every day Reserve Citizen Airmen make a difference to people at home and abroad. “It is very rewarding knowing how important our work is, and the impact it has on people and families around the world,” Lakshminarayanan said.

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DAF releases Fiscal Year 2022 budget proposal, journeys to the Air and Space Forces of 2030

SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

ARLINGTON, Va. (AFNS) — The Department of the Air Force released its Fiscal Year 2022 budget proposal, May 28, focusing on investing in people and capability, building the future force and delivering joint lethality and effectiveness.

The Department's \$173.7 billion request includes the U.S. Air Force and U.S. Space Force budgets. The Air Force's budget of \$156.3 billion is a 2.3% increase and the Space Force's budget of \$17.4 billion is a 13.1% increase from FY 2021.

"This budget starts us on the path necessary to organize, train, and equip the Air and Space Forces to deter and, if necessary, defeat the challenges we anticipate in 2030 and beyond," said Acting Secretary of the Air Force John Roth. "It not only funds the capabilities required today, but also where the Department of the Air Force needs to make trade-offs to invest in the capabilities required for future competition."

Key modernization programs funded in the budget proposal includes the: Ground Based Strategic Deterrent, the replacement for the aging Minuteman III; Next-Generation Air Dominance, the Air Force's future air superiority capability; Advanced Battle Management System, the Department's contribution to Joint All Domain Command and Control; and space-based capabilities such as the Next-Gen Overhead Persistent Infrared missile warning system.

Roth said the spending plan, in addition to capability-focused modernization, also advances the Department's commitment to empowering Airmen and Guardians, connecting the Joint Force, and expanding partnerships.

Operation and Maintenance (O&M) is the largest portion of the request, accounting for 38% or \$66.6 billion. O&M dollars go directly toward funding day to day operations and are critical to sustaining readiness. The O&M request also continues to prioritize investment in people, funding an additional \$542 million to include a 2.7% civilian pay raise.

The budget also takes action

to address the difficult challenges of sexual assault, suicide, and disparate treatment of Airmen and Guardians to build resiliency. Funding is increased by \$7.7 million to develop prevention programs within the DAF focused on the prevention of readiness-detracting behaviors including sexual assault, interpersonal violence, and self-harm. Additionally, \$6 million is added for diversity and inclusion initiatives to include new training and recruiting scholarships.

The Department's Military Personnel (MILPERS) request of \$38.4 billion represents \$942M growth from FY21. The FY22 request increases the DAF's End Strength by 3,400 personnel over the FY21 enacted End Strength. MILPERS funding includes a 2.7% military pay raise, a 3.8% increase to the Basic Allowance for Housing, and a 2.3% increase to the Basic Allowance for Subsistence. Additionally, the Space Force grows by 1,966 to 8,400 Guardians resulting from mission transfers from the Air Force, Army, and Navy.

The Research, Development, Test and Evaluation (RDT&E) FY 2022 budget has an increase of \$3 billion to support the Department of Defense's commitment to modernize key capabilities. A large portion of the funding focuses on modernizing the nuclear enterprise.

Nuclear command, control and communications are the central system of nuclear deterrence; with oversight of two-thirds of the nuclear triad, the budget adds \$71 million. This increase will advance security and provide resilient communication pathways to align nuclear forces with the National Command authority under all conditions and phases of conflicts.

The RDT&E budget aims to establish the future ground-based strategic deterrent and replace the current Minuteman III missile systems. The added \$1.1 billion includes funding for engineering, manufacturing, and development activities for the GBS and funding for further long-range stand-off weapon development.

Other significant RDT&E funding areas include further growth for the B-21 Raider, B-52 and F-35 programs. The budget incorporates funding that minimizes climate risk, upgrades to aircraft fuel and assesses alternative fuel options.

In order to focus resources to these and other modernization efforts, the budget also includes proposals to right size aging, costly, and less-than-capable legacy systems by retiring 48 F-15C/D, 47 F-16 C/D, 42 A-10, 20 RQ-4 Block 30, 18 KC-135, 14 KC-10, 13 C-130H, and four E-8 aircraft.

The Space Force's RDT&E budget increases to a total request of \$11.3 billion, which is a \$725 million increase compared to FY21. In addition to growth in classified programs, the proposal funds the Next-Gen Overhead Persistent Infrared missile warning system with an additional \$132 million. This system creates a resilient network when combined with the geosynchronous satellites and associated ground systems to increase missile warning and defense, battlespace awareness, and technical intelligence.

The FY 2022 Procurement budget is \$25.6 billion, with the

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Budget

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Air Force's portion representing \$22.9 billion.

The Air Force seeks to procure advanced weapon systems like the hypersonic Air-Launched Rapid Response Weapon, and increasing the budget for the Joint Air-to-Surface Standoff missile to provide quantities of advanced weaponry needed to deter future conflicts. The Air Force also requests the purchase of F-35, KC-46 Pegasus, F-15EX Eagle II and MC-130J aircraft to ensure near-term readiness while advancing fifth-generation aircraft to outpace competitors.

The Space Force's procurement budget will grow by \$456 million to procure National Security Space Launch Vehicles which provide assured access to space for the nation's warfighting and intelligence satellites. It also procures GPS III Follow-on Space Vehicles that provide new capabilities, including a spot beam that offers an anti-jam improvement 100 times greater than current encrypted military code.

The Military Construction (MILCON) and Family Housing portion of the budget increases by \$1.1 billion for FY22. MILCON focuses on accelerating installation readiness, resilience, modernization and continued Planning and Design funds to reinforce program stability and consistency. The FY22 proposal would fund 56 major construction projects, including aircraft bed-downs across six Air Force bases. It adds \$105 million to military family housing projects to continue focusing on the health and safety of Department of the Air Force members and families.

"This budget furthers our ability to operate jointly across all domains, continues to develop the Space Force, recapitalizes elements of nuclear deterrence, and accelerates modernization," Roth said.

The DAF's FY22 budget proposal now goes to Congress for its consideration. Under the typical schedule, the budget must be approved and signed into law by the president by Oct. 1, 2021, when the new fiscal year begins.

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Air Force, Army joint training ensures readiness



U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Joshua Burke, 22nd Airlift Squadron flight engineer, performs pre-flight checks of a C-5M Super Galaxy at Joint Base Cape Cod, Massachusetts, May 25, 2021.

Story and photos by Airman 1st Class Alexander Merchak
[60TH AIR MOBILITY PUBLIC AFFAIRS](#)

TRAVIS AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. — Aircrew from the 22nd Airlift Squadron stationed at Travis Air Force Base, California, departed for a joint training mission to destinations in the Northeast and Midwest of the United States as part of a Major Command Service Tail Trainer exercise, May 21 - 26, 2021.

They were trained for real-world missions in a low-pressure environment, loading pallets of cargo, Humvees and transporting U.S. Army troops on their journey to mission readiness.

The MSTT leveraged a C-5M Super Galaxy aircraft to maximize training for 22nd AS pilots, engineers and

loadmasters while also supporting U.S. Army readiness items, said Capt. Dallin Gray, 22nd AS C-5 pilot and flight commander.

“By planning extended ground training, customizing cargo and supporting total force and joint users, the 22nd AS was able to optimize C-5 mission times and locations to reach training efficiencies — proven to be 300-450% as effective as regular missions for loadmaster and engineer syllabus accomplishment,” he said.

The crew arrived at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, where 58 soldiers from the 861st Quartermaster Company were transported along with 11 pallets of cargo weighing 53,411 pounds.

“The 861st QC provided the 412th Civil Affairs Battalion with parachutes and aerial delivery support,” said

Capt. David O’Neil, 861st QC commander. “It allowed both organizations to utilize our training and experience, which betters us as a force,”

During the last leg of the training, 23 soldiers from the 412th CAB and 10 Humvees were loaded and transported to John Glenn International Airport in Columbus, Ohio.

The newly-implemented training, that started in January of this year, has already shown significant signs of success, said Gray.

“The MSTT has proven so effective that current projections predict the Loadmaster (apprentice) backlog to be cleared three years sooner than if no MSTT had been put into practice,” he said.



Top left: Soldiers from the 861st Quartermaster Company line up to enter a C-5M Super Galaxy at Joint Base Cape Cod, Massachusetts, May 25, 2021. The 22d Airlift Squadron participated in a Major Command Service Tail Trainer that flew 11 pallets of cargo weighing 53,411 and soldiers to Fort Campbell, Kentucky.

Middle left: Loadmasters from the 22nd AS strap cargo to a pallet during a Major Command Service Tail Trainer at Joint Base Cape Cod, Massachusetts, May 24, 2021.

Above: Airman 1st Class Molly Connors, 22nd AS loadmaster, secures a Humvee on a C-5M Super Galaxy at Joint Base Cape Cod, Massachusetts, May 26, 2021. A total of 10 Humvees and 23 soldiers were loaded onto the C-5 and flown to John Glenn Columbus International Airport, Ohio, as part of a Major Command Service Tail Trainer exercise.

Left: Airman 1st Class Daniel Taylor, 22nd Airlift Squadron loadmaster, prepares to load cargo during a Major Command Service Tail Trainer exercise at Joint Base Cape Cod, Massachusetts, May 24, 2021.

Couple

From Page 6

Gavin glances over at Rachel who shoots him back a long side-eye.

“Possibly. But just like my dad did for me, it’s not a matter of if she picks up our habits, it’s a matter of guiding her in a way that shields her from the potential downsides of them.”

As a military man, Gavin said his dad was strict, though he made a point of tempering his stoic exterior with kindness and compassion towards his children.

“I think I’ve taken over my dad’s—I guess some people would call it ‘steely’—disposition, but as it stands, I think Rachel will end up being the real ‘take no crap’ parent out of the two of us,” he laughed. “Maybe that’s because of the military, maybe it isn’t.”

But where their potential parenting styles illicit no head-scratching from the couple, the navigation of parenthood within the military remains slightly ambiguous—even more so for what it will mean for Addison.

Gavin reflects on his own

experiences as a means of gaining insight into the murkiness of the subject.

“Being a military child isn’t this overwhelmingly positive thing all the time,” Gavin said. “There are tough moments. My dad was gone a lot of the time, but I think the one constant during all that time was... We were taken care of,” he said. “It’s not always easy being a kid or a spouse in the military, but where there’s difficulty, there are resources to ferry you through it, and as it was for me, I hope that’s something Addison grows up to realize too.”

“I’d say Gavin turned out pretty great through it all,” Rachel added with a smile to her husband.

Now four years after trading those basic training letters with her mom, Rachel hopes to pass along the same mindset that carried her through to the moment that she’s found herself in.

“Addison will grow up knowing that if she believes herself hard enough and puts enough of herself into something, she can be anything she wants to be. Even if that means just taking it one week at a time.”

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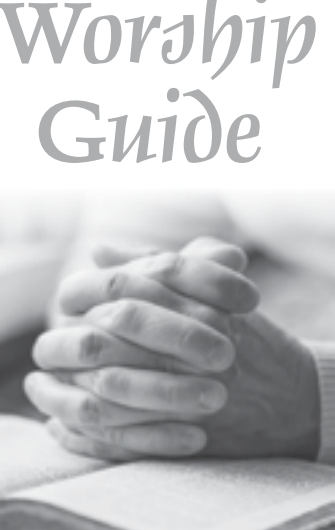
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Spouse Mentors share ideas, best practices

Jaimi Chafin
HEADQUARTERS AIR FORCE
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ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. (AFNS) — Air Force Reserve Key Spouse Mentors from around the country came together virtually May 7, to share their ideas, struggles and best practices. The Key Spouse Mentors conference also provided guidance and education on a host of Reserve programs available, resiliency and wellness techniques.

Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command personnel were on hand to provide training on family resilience programs, while several wings provided training on their best practices.

“As we visited different wings, I heard so many incredible speakers and stories, and

knew we would benefit from connecting and sharing what we’d learned and experienced through our time in our respective locations,” said Janis Scobee, AFRC Key Spouse mentor and spouse of Lt. Gen. Richard Scobee, AFRC commander and chief of the Air Force Reserve. “We really wanted to highlight and showcase all of the unique talent we have.”

“What we need right now, more than ever, is our spouse networks,” said Edith White, AFRC Key Spouse Mentor and spouse of Chief Master Sgt. Timothy White, AFRC’s command chief master sergeant and Scobee’s senior enlisted advisor. “We have all had some very challenging times due to COVID-19 impacting our families and the families we support.”

See SPOUSE Page 16

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Courtesy photo

Air Force Reserve Key Spouse Mentors came together virtually May 7, 2021, to share their ideas, struggles and best practices.

Spouse

From Page 15

Our resiliency has been challenged on so many levels.”

Virtual conferences like this one help bridge the distance so Key Spouses can share their ideas and best practices and support one another.

Supporting the families of a unit, squadron or wing can be a big job, but Mrs. Scobee said it’s more important than ever.

“Our Key Spouses work with the leadership to make sure the families are being taken care of regardless of if the member is on home station, TDY or deployed,” she said. “They work so hard to take care of everyone in addition to their own families, so

it’s important for us to come together to support and take care of each other.”

Mrs. White added that Key Spouses are the unwavering foundation of resiliency and support for Airmen and their families.

The Key Spouse Program is an official Air Force Unit Family Readiness Program designed to enhance readiness, personal/family resiliency and establish a sense of Air Force community. Key Spouses are command-er-appointed and serve as a vital resource to command teams in an effort to support Air Force families. The strategic vision is to increase resiliency and unit cohesion amongst military members and their families throughout the military life-cycle.

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Garage & Craft Sale Directory

0601 AREA 1

Fri., & Sat. 8-2.

HUGE Estate, Moving, Neighborhood 6 Families.

Mahogany china cab., curio stand, desk & tbl., 2 oak sm. tbls., & other furn., antiques. Many collectible items, Lexox & Noritake China sets, Mikasa dish set, numerous light fix., Barbies, crystal & Lenox decorative items, pictures & mirrors, diecast cars, holiday, numerous plates & coffee cups, sterling silver plated items, silverware, men's clothes sz. M, tools/power, fishing, toys, games, personal items, MISC too! Too many treasures to list. EVERYTHING MUST GO!

Serra Way

0602 AREA 2

Fri., & Sat. 8-3.

HUGE CHURCH RUMMAGE SALE

New womens dress shoes, all sizes, induction cooking set, furn., clothes, tools, glassware, gym equip., books, & Misc. Drinks & water will be sold. Church of God, 930 Empire St.

Sat., & Sun. 8-2. Moving Sale! Furn., tools, kit, & hshld. & Misc. 2846 Conifer Dr.

0608 AREA 8

EXCELLENT

Green Valley's 21st Annual Community Garage Sale

Sat. 8-3

We're BACK!

All subdivisions in lower Green Valley

120+ FAMILIES! this year!

For map of sellers on Fri. visit

www.gvcgs.com (smartphones too)

Maps & water on Sat. at

5114 Citadel Dr.

0611 OTHER AREAS

Sat., & Sun. 9-4. Very nice furn., & hshld. items. Plenty of stuff for the men as well. 1019 Linda Vista Way Rio Vista

Visit our VIRTUAL GARAGE SALE MAP



U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Matthew Porter

Air Transportation technicians assigned to the 437 Maintenance Squadron load MRZR Tactical Warfighters onto a C-17 Globemaster during Exercise Mobility Guardian, May 25, 2021.

Mobility

From Page 3

and operate heavy machinery not exclusive to our career field.”

The CRE tents and equipment were supported by new specialized lightweight fabric solar panels. The standard power grid can be augmented by placing the solar panels on top of tents or on standalone structures within a secured location.

“Even on cloudy days these panels generate 2-3 kilowatts, enough to run a generator on a battery for most of the night,” said Staff Sgt. Johnathan Cullar, 621st Contingency Response Support Squadron aerospace ground equipment supervisor. “This is a practical, eco-friendly and easily transported way to power our grid and save on fuel costs.”

Devil Raiders not only provided support at Oscoda, contingency response squadrons were also present at Volk Field Air National Guard Base, Wisconsin, and the Alpena Combat Readiness Training Center, Michigan.

“A contingency response team, which we’ve established here at Volk, allows Mobility Airmen to dig in and secure strategic ground and air space at forward positions from the CRE,” said Tech. Sgt. Brian Commodore, 621st CRS CRT chief. “These are enlisted-led, smaller scale groups of cross-functional Airmen, our purpose here is to facilitate the transportation of goods and assets for the U.S. and our allies.”

The ability to communicate and navigate the simulated

battlespace of MG21 was made possible by tactical data link technology.

“The cornerstone of this exercise is simulating our ability to secure strategic dominance over near-to-peer adversaries,” said Commodore. “The tactical data link system allows us to coordinate with allies and among ourselves with a secure means of communication.”

Through the tactical data link system, the CRT was able to effectively secure a simulated contested environment in real time; and expedite the transportation of assets across the battlespace hundreds of times faster than allowed by traditional means.

A key factor in the success of Agile Combat Employment is the CR’s ability to rapidly upload and download cargo, such as munitions and support equipment, needed to facilitate quick turns of fighter forces.

Devil Raiders formed a Contingency Location Team at the Alpena Combat Readiness Training Center, the primary operating location for the exercise. The CLT provided airfield security for the Agile Combat Employment training event, enabling a group of A-10 Thunderbolt II aircraft to conduct an Integrated Combat Turn to rearm and refuel quickly before returning to the skies.

“Turning aircraft quickly gives us a competitive edge on our near-peer adversaries,” said Tech. Sgt. Lance Oakes, 621st CRS fire team lead. “With a CLT, it’s much easier to establish an ICT and secure it, because we can quickly pull those with proper cross-functional training from our own ranks.”

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Left: Airmen assigned to the 821st Contingency Response Squadron assist with the upload of medical supplies for air transportation during Exercise Mobility Guardian 2021 at Oscoda-Wurtsmith Airport, Oscoda, Michigan, May 22, 2021. Mobility Guardian is a training exercise to prepare Airmen to face real-world security challenges and sustain strategic deterrence anywhere and at any time.

Bottom right: An A-10 Thunderbolt II is equipped with ordnance during Exercise Mobility Guardian at Alpena Combat Readiness Training Center, Michigan, May 22, 2021.

Bottom left: Tech. Sgt. Lance Oakes, 621st Contingency Response Squadron, fire team lead, travels onboard a C-17 Globemaster to Volk Field Air National Guard Base, Wisconsin, during Exercise Mobility Guardian 2021, May 25, 2021.

U.S. Air Force photos by Airman 1st Class Matthew Porter

Facing real-world challenges with Exercise Mobility...

GUARDIAN



Your kids are home. You're not. Where's the alcohol?

Keep your kids safe. Lock up your liquor. Keep track of your wine and beer.

With teens spending more time at home, the temptation to have a few sips of liquor or sneak a beer is ever present. The best way to stop youth alcohol abuse, drunk driving and other risky behavior is prevention.

Secure your alcohol in a locked cabinet, keep track of what's in your fridge and talk to your kids about the consequences.

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Learn more tips on how to keep your family safe at:
vibesolano.com/alcohol