

Defenders keep Travis' mobility mission ...

SECURED

PAGES 10-11



Colonel says thanks before leaving base

U.S. Air Force Col. Jeffrey Nelson, 60th Air Mobility Wing commander, speaks at the Base Theater at Travis Air Force Base, California.

U.S. Air Force photo



Commentary by Col. Jeffrey Nelson
60TH AIR MOBILITY WING COMMANDER

As my time working for the men and women of the 60th Air Mobility Wing and Team Travis comes to a close, I want to say, “thank you.” I have been honored and humbled to help lead the incredible mission that is Travis Air Force Base while focusing on the priorities of Airmen, Team, Pride and Readiness. To our civic leaders, thank you for your continuous support of Travis Air Force Base. Whether you are an elected official, professional staff, Golden Bear, honorary commander or other civic leader at the national, state or local level, each of you work to ensure the missions at Travis are able to continue and prosper. To all of our Team Travis mission partners, thank you for your continued dedication to our missions here at Travis. To Chief Crowder, this job cannot be done well without the proper balance between the command chief and commander. You have created that perfect balance. I am grateful for the advice you gave, the laughs we shared, and the

Commander’s Commentary

friendship we share after our time serving Team Travis together. Thank you. To my family, thank you for all of your love, support and sacrifice during our time here at Travis. Finally, to all the men and women of the 60th Air Mobility Wing, thank you. Team Travis may have days when everything seems to fall apart...but what I have witnessed first-hand over my time here was our innate ability to rise together as one...to put one foot in front of the other...to fight the good fight. Your interwoven efforts to accomplish the mission, to innovate and bring about positive changes, and to improve our Air Force has made my job easy. It has been a gift to work alongside such an extraordinary team. You have made being the commander of the 60th Air Mobility Wing an honor of a lifetime. You have endured and thrived. None of the accomplishments of the 60th Air Mobility Wing could have happened without you.

See NELSON Page 19



Commentary by Chief Master Sgt. Derek Crowder
60TH AIR MOBILITY WING COMMAND CHIEF

Chief’s time at Travis rewarding, enjoyable

As my time working alongside the exceptional Airmen and families of the 60th Air Mobility Wing and Team Travis nears the end, I want to offer my most sincere, “thank you.” As I think about leaving Team Travis, I am reminded of a quote by Winnie-the-Pooh, “How lucky I am to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard.” Believe me, I feel lucky to have worked for you

Chief’s Commentary

the past two years, it has been an incredible journey and by far the most rewarding and enjoyable of my 26 years of service. A special thank you to the men and women of the 60th Air Mobility Wing – When my family and I first arrived at Travis Air Force Base in August

2018, we knew this was going to be a special assignment for many reasons. We were immediately impressed with your ability to project American power at home and around the globe, however, what I will take to my next assignment is your sense of family. You have allowed us to be part of your family, and you became part of ours. We have been together to celebrate promotions, weddings, births,

deployment homecomings and many other celebratory occasions. Together, we have faced adversity through the challenge of a global pandemic and the loss of beloved teammates and much more; yet through it all, your resilience and optimism peered through the dark clouds for brighter days ahead. You are an inspiration to all who serve! Throughout my career, I have

See CROWDER Page 19

Commander prepares to depart Travis



U.S. Air Force photos/Nicholas Pilch

U.S. Air Force Col. Jeff Nelson, 60th Air Mobility Wing commander, went on his “fini” flight June 29 at Travis Air Force Base, California. Nelson will depart July 17 in a change-of-command ceremony.



Tailwind



Travis AFB, Calif. | 60th Air Mobility Wing

Air Force

| | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| Col. Jeffrey Nelson 60th Air Mobility Wing commander | Senior Airman Christian Conrad |
| Capt. Erica Feehan Chief of command information | Airman 1st Class Cameron Otte |
| | Nicholas Pilch Tailwind staff |

Daily Republic

| | |
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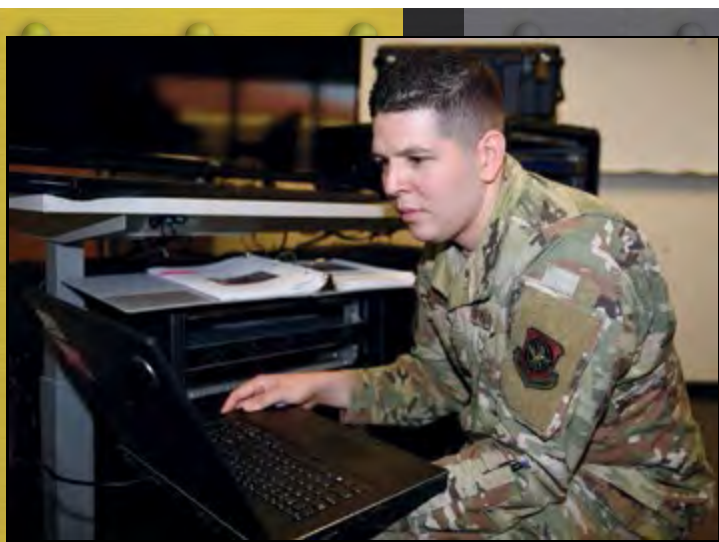
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On the cover

U.S. Air Force Airman 1st Class Stephanie DaSilva, 60th Security Forces Squadron entry controller, provides an update on flight line perimeter checks using a mobile radio May 16 at Travis Air Force Base, California.

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



WARRIOR OF THE WEEK

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| Name: Staff Sgt. Cesar Torres. | Hometown: Los Angeles, California. | coach, MMA, line dancing, mountain climbing. |
| Unit: 60th Communications Squadron. | Time in service: Three years. | What are your goals? Join a Cyber Projection Team and complete master's degree. |
| Duty title: Mission defense team technician. | Family: Spouse, Annette; child, Cesar. | What is your greatest achievement? The birth of my son. |
| What are your hobbies? Reading, volunteering wrestling | | |

Wounded warrior recalls dark days, recovery

Malcolm McClendon

AIR FORCE INSTALLATION AND MISSION
SUPPORT CENTER PUBLIC AFFAIRS

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-LACKLAND, Texas — “I remember standing in front of formation; it was 0530 and I was leading PT, just like every other day. I yelled out the command for the overhead arm clap, ‘in cadence’ and then at that moment, I realized something was seriously wrong.”

It was June 2000, and Bernard Lawson was a platoon sergeant for an Army chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear technical escort team responsible for the accountability, security, storage, transportation and destruction of chemical weapons at Johnston Atoll, a military chemical weapons storage and demilitarization site.

The night before, an alarm went off at one of the bunkers where old World War II VX nerve agent munitions were stored. These were the types of calls Lawson and his team responded to many times before, so they got out of bed and headed to the briefing room before dressing out in protective gear and heading to the site.

“It’s a long process before you enter the bunker,” Lawson said. “They draw your blood, conduct a urine specific Gravity Test to check if you’re hydrated and a whole bunch of other medical screening, and finally you go to the dress-out room.”

Once suited up, the three-man entry team proceeded to make its way into the bunker.

“As soon as we entered, I immediately felt like throwing up and began to get a pounding headache; I did not feel well at all,” Lawson said. “One of the protocols if we don’t feel something is right is to stop the mission, so I did. I tapped the person to my right and left, to give the signal, and we immediately exited as the doors slammed shut behind us.”

The team went through a thorough decontamination process and by the time it was all over, Lawson said he felt fine and was released to his quarters.



Courtesy photo

U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Bernard Lawson, right, works with a team of chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear specialists to establish the first patient decontamination team at Brooke Army Medical Center on Fort Sam Houston, Texas, circa 2003.

“It wasn’t until the next morning at PT when I noticed something was not right, Lawson said. “I physically could not raise my right arm. I can’t describe the feeling. As humans, we don’t have to tell our body to raise our arms or move our fingers, it’s something that automatically happens.”

He handed over the platoon to the next in charge and headed to the emergency room. The medical team there began checking vitals and drawing blood, but the facilities were limited on the remote Northern Pacific atoll, so the call was made to medevac Lawson more than 800 miles away to Tripler Army Medical Center in Hawaii.

“It all happened so quickly,” Lawson said. “Within hours a plane landed on Johnston and there I was, on my way to Hawaii; and all I kept thinking was that I wanted to get back to my unit and continue the mission.”

At Tripler Medical Center, Lawson was assigned to a neurologist for further testing and

treatment. The neurologist concluded Lawson was suffering from major nerve damage and referred him to a doctor he felt could help him further at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio.

He said he’d never been to San Antonio, and all he could think about was that he wanted to go back to his unit at Johnston Atoll.

In the following weeks, Lawson transferred to BAMC and underwent further treatment and testing, but the diagnosis was not any better. The doctors told him there should’ve been some difference in response to therapy by now that would show the nerve repairing itself. Doctors then tried muscle transfer surgery in hopes that the new muscle might restore movement, but after a year of intense physical therapy following the surgeries, there was little to no improvement.

“I remember sitting in a room full of doctors staring down at their notes,” Lawson said. “After their diagnosis, the lead doctor looked at me and

said, ‘It doesn’t look like you’re going to be in the Army anymore due to your condition.’ I almost broke down and cried at that moment.

“I wasn’t handicapped! I was young, physically fit, a leader of soldiers, and now they’re telling me I’m not fit enough to be in the Army?”

In the months to come, Lawson struggled with depression and hit rock bottom as he came to terms with this new reality. It was here that a small act of kindness had a huge impact on the rest of his life.

“I remember sitting there, staring out the window and I just broke down and cried,” Lawson said. “Then from behind me appeared a man (that) said, ‘Thank you for your service; it’s people like you that keep us safe,’ then he handed me a hat with ‘Wounded Warrior’ on the front.”

The stranger told him to keep the hat and wear it to remember all the people who appreciated what he did. Lawson said it was from that simple moment he drew the strength he

needed to get past his time at BAMC and face whatever life threw at him next.

A short time after that encounter, the sergeant major of BAMC at the time met with Lawson and offered him a job while he waited for the medical board to conclude and out-processing to begin.

“The sergeant major heard of my previous experience as a CBRN technical escort soldier, so he offered me the position of (noncommissioned officer in charge) of security plans and operations,” Lawson said. “What it meant was that he wanted me to help the medical center set up a patient (decontamination) program. Well, I eagerly accepted since this was right up my alley. This is what I was trained to do and best of all it gave me a purpose.”

Lawson set up the first patient decontamination team at BAMC, helped establish a response plan for code orange hazardous material spills, converted the ambulance garage into a decontamination facility and trained more than 400 medical personnel throughout the center to respond to any kind of hazardous material emergency or contaminated patient arrivals at the hospital.

Still awaiting his medical board, Lawson then became an instructor at the Army Medical Department teaching medical officer candidates.

“It was great, I loved that I had a hand in shaping these future doctors and nurses on courses I helped create,” Lawson said. “Leadership took notice and began looking at how to keep me on board after my medical discharge.”

Their plan was to convert Lawson’s enlisted job into a civil service position, so he could continue teaching as a civilian at AMEDD. Knowing processes like that take time and might not exactly coincide with discharge orders, a familiar face came to offer some guidance.

“Once again the sergeant major comes into my life and asks, ‘Do you have a resume?’” Lawson said. “I didn’t, and was sure I didn’t need one, since I

See **DARK DAYS** Page 18

Federal Employee Viewpoint Survey helps civilians voice their opinions

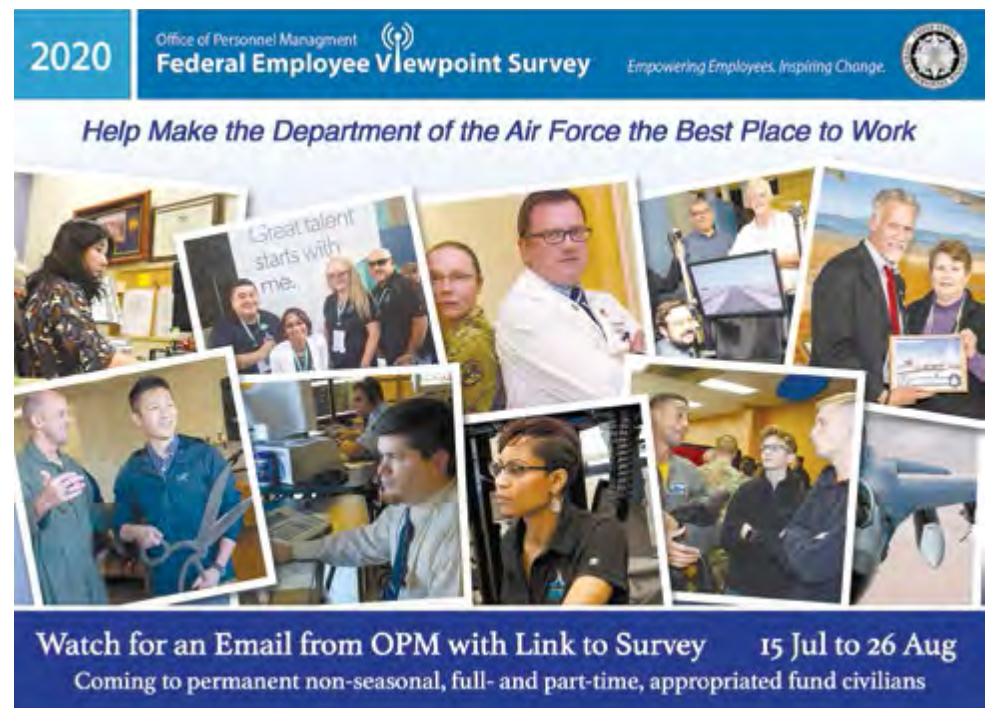
Secretary of the Air Force

ARLINGTON, Va. — The Federal Employee Viewpoint Survey will be available for Air Force civilian employees starting July 15.

The FEVS is a government-wide, Office of Personnel Management administered annual survey that Air Force civilian employees have been participating in since 2006. The approximately 100-question survey takes 20-to-30 minutes to complete and is anonymous. The survey includes questions about employees’ work-life, job and organizational satisfaction, commitment, engagement, performance management and communication. It measures employee perceptions of whether their organization is successful.

Permanent, non-seasonal full and part-time civilian employees onboard as of October 2019 are eligible to participate and will receive a link for the survey via an email from OPM. The survey invitation and OPM reminder emails will come from ‘EVAF@OPM.gov’ between 15 July and 26 August.

In an effort to understand how the COVID-19 pandemic has affected the federal workforce, this year’s survey will be a census including questions designed to gather information about how employees have worked together, used tools, received communications, maintained health and safety, employed work/life



Courtesy graphic

The Federal Employee Viewpoint Survey will be available for Air Force civilian employees starting July 15.

flexibilities, and more.

“Feedback through the FEVS provides insight into what our civilian Airmen think we’re doing right and where we need to improve,” said Lt. Gen. Brian Kelly, Manpower, Personnel and

Services, deputy chief of staff. “The more people participate, the better sense we get for how to improve ourselves, our organizations and our Department.”

See **SURVEY** Page 18

Disposition of personal effects

Maj. Kyle F. Neuendorf is authorized to make disposition of the personal property of Senior Airman Zulema Gonzalez-Romero, deceased, 60th Surgical Operations Squadron, as stated in AFI 34-501.

Any person having claims for or against the deceased person please contact Neuendorf by phone at 707-423-3906 or email kyle.neuendorf.1@us.af.mil.

— 60th Force Support Squadron

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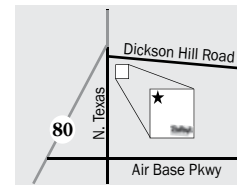
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Guardian Angels support launch

**Airman 1st Class
Dwane R. Young**
57TH WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

NELLIS AIR FORCE BASE, Nev. — On May 30, the world watched anxiously as history was made when the Falcon 9 prepared to launch as part of NASA’s SpaceX Demonstration Mission 2 at the Kennedy Space Center, Cape Canaveral, Fla.

For the first time since the conclusion of the space shuttle program in 2011, NASA astronauts would be launching from American soil in a commercially built and operated spacecraft on its way to the International Space Station (ISS).

Crowds waited in anticipation as they heard the familiar countdown. “Three, two, one...liftoff!”

The rocket ignited in a burst of grandeur and lifted off towards its destination. For those watching, it was a truly memorable moment to observe; however, for a select group watching, it was much more than just witnessing it—they were a part of it.

Three teams of Rescue Specialists stood on-call, with radios in hand and phones fully charged, ready to jump into an aircraft and carry out a search and rescue mission anywhere worldwide in the event of a mission abort.

The 58th Rescue Squadron’s Guardian Angels assigned to Nellis Air Force Base made up the three-team Space Flight Support Force distributed amongst Patrick AFB, Fla., Joint Base Charleston, S.C., and JB Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, in support of the historic launch.

“It was great to be a part of history,” said Maj. Lucas Gagliardi, 58th RQS, director of operations. “Pararescue has been a part of manned space flight since it began in the 1960s, so to be included in the first team to bring back some of our heritage was a



Courtesy photo

U.S. Air Force Airmen assigned to the 58th Rescue Squadron at Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada, execute an open-water rescue during Just-in-Time-Training May 11 at Cocoa Beach, Florida.

super humbling and awesome experience.”

The rescue teams were positioned at key alert locations based on the probability of an in-flight emergency during the launch until the SpaceX craft linked up with the ISS. In the event of an abort or emergency, the nearest team would race to the site and begin the rescue. Each team was prepared to fly with a Guardian Angel crew made up of pararescuemen and combat rescue officers.

According to Capt. Joshua McGee, 58th RQS combat rescue officer and Hickam team troop commander, they watched the launch live knowing the first minutes determined if a team would have to respond

and which crew would be sent.

The Patrick AFB team stood by in the immediate area with HH-60 Pavement Hawk helicopters and an HC-130 Combat King II, ready to respond in case something went wrong during the early stages of the launch.

Once the ship began to ascend, a C-17 Globemaster III waiting at JB Charleston took over the watch, ready to travel up and down the east coast if it started to descend back down to earth.

Lastly, a C-17 from Hickam stood ready to traverse the Pacific Ocean in a recovery effort in case there was an emergency in

See LAUNCH Page 20

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Lorraine Harris-Ortega
ARMY & AIR FORCE EXCHANGE SERVICE
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Helping those in need is always in season – and now Army & Air Force Exchange Service shoppers can donate any amount to military relief funds year-round at the Travis Army and Air Force Exchange.

Military Service Members and other authorized shoppers can donate to Army Emergency Relief or the Air Force Assistance Fund at the register at the Travis Army and Air Force Exchange.

Shoppers have the option to donate in increments of \$1, \$5 and \$10 or can enter in a custom amount. Online donations can be made in \$5 increments during checkout at ShopMyExchange.com.

“AER and AFAF take exceptional care of Soldiers, Airmen and families navigating difficult times, such as during the recent upheaval caused by the COVID-19 pandemic,” said Exchange Director/CEO Tom Shull. “We’ve seen our military community grow stronger by standing together through the pandemic, and now Exchange shoppers can continue to support the important work of these relief funds anytime they shop.”

AER and AFAF provide emergency assistance, sponsor educational programs and offer community programs that make life better for service members and their families.

“Exchange shoppers have been generous with their donations,” said Lt. Gen. (Ret.) John D. Hopper Jr., CEO of the Air Force Aid Society, One of the four charities that benefit from the AFAF. “Every dollar given is a helping hand to Airmen and their families in need.”

Puzzles

STR8TS
No. 498 Medium

Previous solution - Easy

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

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. 498 Very Hard

Previous solution - Tough

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

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

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Air Force starts diversity task force

**Secretary of the Air Force
Public Affairs**

WASHINGTON — The Department of the Air Force, in support of the U.S. Air Force and U.S. Space Force, stood up a special task force, June 9, to address the issue of racial, ethnic and other demographic disparities and their impact on the forces.

Also, on June 2, Secretary of the Air Force Barbara M. Barrett and service chiefs, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David L. Goldfein and USSF Chief of Space Operations Gen. Jay Raymond, directed the Inspector General to independently review the service’s record on military discipline as well as leader development opportunities for Black/African American Airmen and Space Professionals.

The task force is charged with identifying and changing policies, procedures, barriers and other practices that may be unfairly impacting underrepresented Air and Space Professionals. It is postured to identify near-term problems and solutions that will have immediate benefits for members, with a focus on policies particularly impacting minority members. It has been tasked to be mindful of not impacting

or assuming results from the IG’s review, and is therefore focused on immediate actions versus identification and action toward longer-term systemic and cultural issues the IG might identify.

“Clearly we have to acknowledge our Air and Space Forces are not immune from racism and the challenges of inequity. As a force that depends on unity, inclusion, and a common strength of purpose, we are committed to being better every day until all within our ranks feel a true sense of belonging that allows them to maximize their talents,” said Lt. Gen. Brian Kelly, deputy chief of staff for Manpower, Personnel and Services. “This is why we stood up the task force, to move out quickly and deliver immediate improvements for our services.”

Capitalizing on continuous feedback from the force and the momentum from current national events, the task force is an agile cross-functional team of military and civilian Air and Space Professionals that represent communities within the services that bring subject matter expertise to the changes being considered. Members are comprised of Airmen of different ranks and perspectives, representing

both minority and majority groups, whose sole focus is making changes that create an equitable environment for all Department of the Air Force personnel.

The task force is task-organized across five lines of effort:

- Culture and policy.
- Education, training and testing.
- Recruiting and accessions.
- Workforce diversity.
- Aircrew diversity.

“We have a unique and historical opportunity to truly make a difference in the lives of our Airmen and Space Professionals,” said Brig. Gen. Troy Dunn, Air Force director of Military Force Policy and recently appointed director of the Diversity and Inclusion Task Force. “Over the past few weeks, we’ve been working quietly behind the scenes to tackle these issues. Though we have a long road ahead, I’m really proud of the work this team has done. We want our people to know that we’re steadfast in our commitment to building an Air Force culture of diversity, inclusion and belonging.”

To date, the Diversity and Inclusion Task Force facilitated

See DIVERSITY Page 15

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1) U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Jordan Whaley, 921st Contingency Response Squadron aerial port journeyman, pulls the packing list to populate the Air Mobility Command Form 1015 for hazardous material July 1 at the special handling warehouse on Travis Air Force Base, California. Whaley and other members of the 921st CRS aerial port flight have been maintaining their proficiency in air transportation duties by working alongside the 60th Aerial Port Squadron since June. 2) U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Jacob Henegar, 921st CRS aerial port journeyman, and Ron Sunga, 60th APS hazardous material inspector, inspect a signature service box at the special handling warehouse July 1 at Travis AFB. 3) Sunga provides refresher training to Henegar and Whaley on the proper inspection and documentation of signature service boxes that contain explosive material July 1 at Travis AFB.



Despite pandemic, 921st CRS maintains... PROFICIENCY

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



NPC completes first operational patient movement

Air Mobility Command
Public Affairs

SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, Ill. — Less than 100 days from an idea on a napkin to its first real-world, aeromedical evacuation, the Negatively Pressurized Conex completed its first operational mission July 1, moving 12 patients from the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility to Ramstein Air Base, Germany, to receive a higher level of care at the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center.

The NPC is the latest isolated containment chamber developed to transport individuals with infectious diseases, like the novel coronavirus.

This operation brings the total number of patients retrieved by the mobility Air Force using an isolation containment chamber to more than 100 across 18 missions since the COVID-19 pandemic began.

At the onset of the outbreak, in anticipation of the need to transport individuals with the coronavirus, Air Mobility Command increased training on the Transport Isolation System, an isolation chamber developed during the 2014 Ebola crisis but never operationalized.

The TIS was first used April 10 to transport three



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class John R. Wright

U.S. Air Force Airmen assigned to the 86th Medical Group and 313th Expeditionary Operations Support Squadron transfer a COVID-19 patient following the first-ever operational use of the Negatively Pressurized Conex to transport 12 patients aboard a C-17 Globemaster III aircraft July 1 at Ramstein Air Base, Germany. The patients went on to receive a higher level of care at the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, Germany.

COVID-positive patients and has since been used to perform 16 additional aeromedical evacuations.

However, the TIS offers limited capability, as each was designed to transport two to four

patients. So, in early April, AMC and Air Force Materiel Command leaders joined forces to invite creative materiel and non-materiel solutions to address a Joint Urgent Operational Need, or JUON, to move large

numbers of COVID-19 patients.

The answer was the NPC, which was made possible by a team comprised of the Air Force Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Defense Systems Branch working with the

Joint Program Executive Office for CBRN Defense and partnering with teams across the Air Force and Department of Defense under the direction of the Program Executive Office for Agile Combat Support as the JUON lead for the Air Force.

The NPC offers a significant capacity increase, capable of safely transporting up to 28 passengers, 23 ambulatory patients, or eight litters. Multiple configurations are available to accommodate combinations of ambulatory and litter patients, as dictated by the situation.

On June 24, only 88 days after the idea was introduced, the NPC arrived at Ramstein AB from Joint Base Charleston, South Carolina, to stand alert.

“Watching the team come together to train on this system in theater and then fly its first mission shows what can be accomplished when whole-of-government and industry partners work selflessly, sacrificing long hours and personal time in order to produce a solution that saves lives,” said Capt. Alexis Todaro, NPC program manager who delivered the NPC to Ramstein AB for training and site activation. “It took a team of teams to get NPC from a concept to operational in under 100 days.”

See MOVEMENT Page 15

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Defenders secure flight line, ensure mobility mission



1) U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Brenden Rinehart, 60th Security Forces Squadron patrolman, points out an area to investigate May 16 prior to a flight line perimeter check at Travis Air Force Base, California. Security forces Airmen complete checks of the flight line daily. 2) Rinehart calls in a perimeter check using his mobile radio May 16 on the flight line at Travis AFB. As a security forces Airman at Travis AFB, Rinehart supports missions for the 60th Air Mobility Wing, 621st Contingency Response Wing and the Air Force Reserve's 349th Air Mobility Wing. 3) Rinehart and Airman 1st Class Stephanie DaSilva, 60th SFS installation entry controller, perform a security check May 16 on the flight line at Travis AFB. The flight line is where all three airframes assigned to the base – the C-17 Globemaster III, C-5M Super Galaxy and KC-10 Extender – are prepared to fly missions.



**Story and photos by
Tech. Sgt. James Hodgman**
60TH AIR MOBILITY WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Editor's note: This is the second of a three-part series on security forces at Travis AFB.

◆◆◆
The beret they wear bears the message, "Defensor Fortis," defenders of the force. They protect thousands of people and Air Force resources at bases in the United States and around the world.

These defenders are the Airmen of security forces. The Airmen assigned to the 60th Security Forces Squadron at Travis AFB provide security for the Air Force's largest air mobility wing, as well as the western contingent of the 621st Contingency Response Wing and Air Force Reserve Command's 349th Air Mobility Wing.

A large part of the security mission takes place at the Travis AFB flight line, where aircraft take off, land and park. The flight line is where Airmen prepare all three airframes assigned to Travis AFB – the C-5M Super Galaxy, C-17 Globemaster III and KC-10 Extender – to fly missions.

Much of the maintenance those aircraft undergo occurs on the flight line or in nearby maintenance facilities, all under the watchful eye of security forces.

"We have to be trained and ready for anything at any moment," said Staff Sgt. Brenden Rinehart, 60th SFS patrolman. "We could be called upon to establish cordons, entry control or traffic control points, respond to an incident, search an area, apprehend someone and so much more. Vigilance is key to airfield protection."

Rinehart said 60th SFS Airmen conduct regular patrols of the flight line as well as daily identification checks and perimeter checks to ensure the area is secure. Airman 1st Class Stephanie DaSilva, 60th SFS installation entry controller, echoed Rinehart's sentiment and said vigilance is essential for security.

"Our aircraft are some of the most valuable assets in our Air Force," she said. "If anything happens to our aircraft that could

seriously compromise our mission.

"Sometimes the smallest thing we do can have a huge impact," she said. "There may be someone out there who has bad intentions, and we are here to deter that and respond to incidents to keep our base safe. We must be forever vigilant."

Travis AFB defenders have provided security for combat support missions, contingency exercises with U.S. allies, as well as humanitarian missions. They have also provided security for senior officials such as former U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson and Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Kaleth O. Wright.

In 2016 and 2018, they secured the flight line during air shows hosted at the base, which had a combined estimate of 140,000 attendees. In February 2020, Travis AFB defenders provided security for the base and American citizens who were evacuated from Wuhan, China, and Japan due to the new coronavirus.

"We coordinated with the U.S. Marshals and the Department of Health and Human Services to ensure the passengers were escorted to their quarantine locations," said Tech. Sgt. Aaron January, 60th SFS flight chief.

Travis AFB served as one of five quarantine locations for repatriated citizens who were evacuated from China and Japan.

Once the planes landed, they were considered quarantined sites, so nobody other than medical personnel or those medically cleared could get on or off the aircraft, January said.

In March, Travis' defenders ensured secure flight line operations for the deployment of medics and supplies bound for Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey, to aid in the fight against COVID-19.

"The pandemic is a global problem," January said. "For us to be able to help people, not just Americans, but in a way, mankind, is special. In the big scheme of things, it may seem like a small thing we do – provide security – but doing our part to help means so much to every one of us."



4) U.S. Air Force Airman 1st Class Stephanie DaSilva, left, 60th Security Forces Squadron installation entry controller, and Staff Sgt. Brenden Rinehart, 60th SFS patrolman, walk toward a C-17 Globemaster III May 16 during security check on the flight line at Travis Air Force Base, California. The C-17 is one of three aircraft assigned to Travis AFB and is often called upon to support mobility missions. 5) DaSilva discusses the plan to conduct a perimeter check with Rinehart May 16 on the flight line at Travis AFB. Security forces Airmen complete checks of the flight line daily.

Charleston recruiter follows unusual road



Courtesy photo

U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Kyle Hauser, 351st Recruiting Squadron at Joint Base Charleston, S.C., met his fiscal year 2020 accession goal in less than four months. He enlisted his 37th future Airmen Jan. 30.

Hauser switched to Reserves while stationed at Travis AFB

Master Sgt. Chance Babin
AIR FORCE RECRUITING SERVICE
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

COLUMBIA, S.C. — In fiscal year 2020 – Tech. Sgt. Kyle Hauser’s first full year of being an Air Force Reserve recruiter – he met his yearly accession goal in less than four months.

How did the personable Airman achieve such remarkable success? By applying what he learned throughout an already successful Air Force career.

Hauser, a line recruiter with the 351st Recruiting Squadron at Joint Base Charleston, South Carolina, began his Air Force career in 2006, when he was 19 years old. Looking for a way to pay for college and gain some independence, he went to a recruiting office in his hometown of Peru, Illinois, where all four branches were represented.

“My plan was to speak with all of the recruiters and gather as much information as I could to

make my decision,” Hauser said. “I had very limited knowledge of the military, but assumed I was going to join the Navy since my grandpa was in the Navy during World War II.”

Hauser spoke to recruiters from the Army, Navy and Marines before finally getting to the back of the office and talking to the Air Force recruiter.

“Our initial interview made me unsure,” he said. “The recruiter didn’t seem overly interested. We chatted briefly and he recommended I do more research and ended the session. As I walked back down the long hallway toward the exit, the Army and Marine recruiters I had chatted with were in the hallway giving me a second pitch as I tried to leave.”

The Air Force recruiter didn’t even take his phone number.

“As I thought about what had happened, my 19-year-old self determined it was like dating,” he said. “The attractive girl at school wasn’t chasing the guys. She was the one being chased. I immediately thought the Air Force is the attractive girl here.”

Hauser learned a lot about the soft sell that day. He didn’t know it at the time, but that lesson would pay off later when he was on the other side of the recruiting table.

He enlisted as an air transportation troop. During his time as a “port dawg,” he helped convince his little brother, cousin and brother-in-law to all join the Air Force. As his first contract was approaching the end, Hauser wanted to find a different challenge.

His old supervisor had been a recruiter and told him to give it

a shot. He applied, and soon the young senior Airman was on his way to recruiting school.

“Recruiting for the active duty was awesome,” he said. “I immediately loved the competition and the autonomy it provided. I was an E-4 with my own office in a mall and my flight chief was more than an hour away. I also found the accountability refreshing. Your successes and failures were yours alone. You also had a large amount of creative control on how you wanted to meet your goals.”

After two successful years as an enlisted accessions recruiter, Hauser was selected to move into a line-officer recruiting position and was later tapped to manage his squadron’s line-officer accessions program.

Toward the end of his four-year recruiting tour, Hauser began missing the travel and camaraderie of working on base with his port-dawg team. He opted to go back to his old career field.

“I tried everything to talk him out of it, but one thing about Kyle is his relentless determination,” said Senior Master Sgt. Michael Lear, his supervisor at the time.

“I mean this in the best way, but once his mind is set on something, he stops at nothing to achieve it. In this case, he loved his last job and there was unfinished business that needed to be checked off.”

Stationed at Travis Air Force Base, California, Hauser said he enjoyed being back in the air-transportation field, but he definitely missed the many challenges recruiting offered.

A chance meeting with an Air Force Reserve recruiter at the Travis AFB shoppette led Hauser

See RECRUITER Page 19

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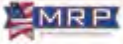
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Diversity

From Page 7

the following changes:

Minority Serving Institutions ROTC scholarships

In conjunction with the Jeanne M. Holm Center for Officer Accessions and Citizen Development, the task force is working to increase and offer scholarships for nearly 300 current and future ROTC cadets attending Historically Black Colleges and Universities or Hispanic-Serving Institutions. The qualified recipients will receive a full-ride scholarship with full tuition and fees paid starting in the 2020-21 school year. The move is intended to increase minority representation in the officer ranks, something the Air Force

has struggled with. Currently, racial and ethnic minorities make up 40% of the U.S. population but only 24% of the officer corps.

Revised dress and appearance regulation
In an effort to be more inclusive of all Airmen and Space Professionals, the task force worked to revise Air Force Instruction 36-2903, “Dress and Personal Appearance of Air Force Personnel.” The changes include removal of subjective language, including the word “faddish” and references to complexion; both subjective terms that were in some cases unfairly targeting specific demographic groups. The update also included authorization for men to wear their hair parted (cut, clipped or shaved), and authorization for name tapes to include diacritical accents,

which aid in proper pronunciation and provide a more accurate representation of a legal name.

Diversity, Inclusion and Unconscious Bias Training
The task force, in conjunction with headquarters staff, has finished post-production of a new video on unconscious bias to highlight bias mitigation strategies that will maximize talent and benefit the entire force. The task force is also working with Cornell University to enroll several members of the Department of the Air Force Barrier Analysis Working Group in an online Diversity and Inclusion certificate program. These leaders will be equipped with fundamental diversity and inclusion concepts and required to share this information with their respective teams as well as Airmen

and Space Professionals at the major command and installation levels. The task force is assembling options for department leaders to determine their intent for how training will be rolled out to the forces over the coming months and years, and at what touchpoints in the talent management lifecycle of Airmen and Space Professionals that training will be most effective.

Improved shaving waiver procedures
In conjunction with the Air Force Surgeon General, the task force used feedback from the field to improve the shaving waiver process. Air and Space Professionals who have been diagnosed with Pseudo-folliculitis Barbae, or PFB, are now authorized five-year shaving waivers. The previous policy required PFB waivers to

be updated annually or when a member moved to a new duty location. In some cases, members who had been previously diagnosed with PFB were required to get a new waiver when they moved or deployed, forcing them to shave and aggravate their skin condition or have limited duties while they awaited a new medical appointment. This change is intended to eliminate the burdensome waiver process that was negatively impacting minority members, as PFB more frequently occurs in Black/African American males, and it also allows more time for the skin to heal properly. The waiver will be valid for five years from the date of issuance, or upon an updated diagnosis, and will remain valid regardless of the member’s deployment or new permanent change of station location.

Movement

From Page 9

It was called to action less than one week later aboard a C-17 Globemaster III assigned to the 437th Airlift Wing, JB Charleston.
“I’m impressed with how quickly this idea became a fully functioning system,” said Brig. Gen. Dan DeVoe, 618th Air Operations Center commander. “Our planners and controllers expertly handle aeromedical evacuation missions on a regular basis, but the increase in capability the NPC offers is a great advantage to have available for our operations in the COVID-19 environment and beyond.”
This was a demanding lift as it required use of a brand-new isolation system, multiple stops, and critical care procedures.

“This was definitely not your typical patient movement mission,” said Maj. Benjamin Weaver, bioenvironmental engineer and 10th Expeditionary Aeromedical Evacuation Flight NPC support team lead. “It was a long 22 hours for everyone involved, but the NPC and team performed exceptionally well to make it happen.”
While on the ground, The 521st Air Mobility Operations Wing at Ramstein AB was essential to the success due to their role in training the NPC personnel, loading the system onto the C-17, and sanitizing the aircraft and NPC for the next mission.
The NPC is certified to fly on a C-17, and testing for certification on the C-5M Super Galaxy aircraft is underway. The NPC-Lite, a smaller variation configured to be used aboard the C-130 Hercules, was certified for operational use on June 25.

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Dark days

From Page 4

was going to work at AMEDD. However, the sergeants major being who they are 'motivated' me to prepare one and apply for a job with the Air Force.

"He said, 'They're looking for a CBRN specialist over at Lackland (AFB), and Bernard, I read through this thing, and you're a number one candidate for it.'"

Lawson prepared his resume and sent it off. Two weeks later he received a call for an interview and was subsequently hired as the emergency management CBRN assessor for the Air Force Vulnerability Assessment Team that operates out of the Air Force Security Forces Center.

"It all worked out for me, like someone was watching over me," Lawson said. "I was medically boarded out and a few months later I began working

for the Air Force, doing the type of stuff I loved."

From 2004 to 2018, Lawson worked with the team as a contractor and then was hired as a permanent civil service employee, becoming the subject matter expert for emergency management. His duties included assessing more than 20 program areas, such as all hazard threats, emergency response to critical assets, fire emergency services, explosive ordnance disposal, and exercise and training programs.

In those same years after his discharge, he also took the time to work on his physical recovery.

"I took up firearm sports, because it forced me to move my right arm and hold it steady to aim," Lawson said. "Then I became a certified firearms instructor, not only to help others learn to shoot and enjoy the sport, but to make me use my facial muscles to help with my speech therapy."

"If my time can make a fraction of a difference as someone else's time had on me, then I've done something good."

— Bernard Lawson

Lawson said through hard work, movement in his right arm has improved and he can speak more clearly now, but he'll never forget how difficult the road was and those who helped him through it; and pays it forward every chance he gets.

"I sometimes go to the (Veterans Affairs) for check-ups and if I walk by another service member that looks like they're having a rough day, I stop to say hi and talk for awhile," he said. "If my time can make a fraction of a difference, as someone else's time had on me, then I've done something good."

Lawson is now the emergency manager for the Air Force Installation and Mission Support Center, leading the effort to develop emergency management plans and procedures to ensure all of its employees have the right training

to minimize casualties and damage in the event of a natural or manmade disaster at the workplace.

He said the work he's done for the Air Force for the past 16 years has taken him full circle to his time at the far away atoll in the Northern Pacific Ocean.

"I met a lot of people on this journey, good people who took care of me and helped me, not only during the rough times right after my injuries, but to this day I draw strength from their actions," Lawson said. "I still have that Wounded Warrior cap and wear it to remember the adversities I overcame when I'm faced with new challenges."

"And even though I never made it back to my soldiers at Johnston, I find comfort that I'm here, now, at AFIMSC with an awesome group of people taking care of my Airmen."

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Prizes

From Page 5

set, and a Serta Perfect Sleeper Queen mattress.

"Warfighters and military families are under a tremendous amount of stress right now, so we hope this year's lineup of Free Friday drawings gives them the chance to take their minds off the uncertainty," said Phonda Bishop, Travis Army and Air Force Exchange general manager. "Exchange shoppers have won \$83,611 in Free Friday prizes since we started this program, so it has definitely paid off for our lucky winners."

Replies must be posted on the same day of the Free Friday post to be entered into the drawing. Drawings are held on the Monday after each Free Friday giveaway. Entries made by 11:59 p.m. Central on the day of the posting will be entered into the drawing.

Honorably discharged veterans who have verified their eligibility to shop the Exchange online can also enter the weekly drawings. Veterans can find out more on the Exchange's community Hub page at <https://bit.ly/Vets4Life>.

Survey

From Page 5

Kelly highlighted three objectives for this year's upcoming Federal Employee Viewpoint Survey:

- Increase survey participation
- Increase communication and feedback between leaders and employees on their concerns
- Understand the Air Force in comparison to other Departments within the Federal Government

"The 2020 FEVS provides an opportunity to further strengthen communications and understanding between Air Force leadership and our civilian employees," Kelly said. "We are eager to hear what our civilian Airmen have to say."

For more information about the Federal Employee Viewpoint Survey, visit <https://www.opm.gov/fevs/>.

Visit Travis at **FACEBOOK.com/TravisAirForceBase**



U.S. Air Force photo/Heide Couch

U.S. Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Derek Crowder, 60th Air Mobility Wing command chief, speaks to more than 600 eighth grade students during a Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math event Feb. 27, 2019, at Travis Air Force Base, California.

Nelson

From Page 2

I am thrilled for Col. Corey Simmons, Chief Master Sgt. Rob Schultz and their families to become part of this fine team. They are the right people

Recruiter

From Page 12

to become a recruiter in the Reserve.
 “He had his blues on with his gold recruiting badge,” Hauser said. “I struck up a conversation and we chatted about recruiting. Then I kept running into him and it turned out he worked on the first floor of the building I worked in.”
 Hauser initially put in a package and was approved to return to active duty as a recruiter, but the timing didn’t work out to make the switch.
 With encouragement from the

to lead the 60th Air Mobility Wing at this time. Team Travis is lucky to have them.
 I cannot wait to follow your accomplishments from afar as you rapidly project American power, anytime ... anywhere and continue to show that there are no bounds.

Reserve recruiter and his mentors, Hauser decided to make the move from active-duty port dawg to Reserve recruiter.
 Now at Charleston, for fiscal year 2020, which began Oct. 1, 2020, he met his goal of 37 accessions by Jan. 30.
 “I know I was the first line recruiter to make goal,” Hauser said. “I am only in my second year of recruiting for the Air Force Reserve, but it is abnormal for a line recruiter to make goal as fast as I did. While I may have met my goal, my flight, squadron and command have not made goal, so I am still pushing hard to help accomplish the mission and meet our end-strength number.”

Crowder

From Page 2

been involved with some fantastic civic leaders and mission partners, however, none have made an impact on an installation and its personnel more so than all of you. You work diligently to make Travis the premier location it is, a place where families want to serve. To our mission partners, elected officials, Golden Bears, Air Mobility Command civic leaders and honorary commanders, thank you for being great advocates and for always wrapping your arms of support around our members and their families.

Thank you, Colonel Nelson, for allowing me to be part of this team. I could not think of a better leader and family to serve alongside during this journey. The environment you create by placing trust in your enlisted leaders at all levels enables us to lead with confidence knowing you have our back. I appreciate your willingness to listen, your sound advice and the autonomy to make decisions in the best interest of our Airmen and families. Thank you for your leadership, mentorship, but most importantly your continued friendship.
 Finally, serving in the Air Force is a commitment by the entire family, and I appreciate the sacrifices my

family has made. You left jobs, school and many friends so we can continue our journey of service, for this I am forever grateful. Thank you for all your support and service you provided to both me and Team Travis during our tenure.
 I am excited for Col. Corey Simmons, Chief Master Sgt. Rob Schultz and their families to have the opportunity to meet and serve alongside the greatest Airmen and families our nation has to offer. I want you to know I am proud of each of you, humbled to have had the opportunity to serve you, and honored to call you my teammate. Take care of yourself, your family and each other ... always remember, there are no bounds.

Launch

From Page 6

orbit before the capsule finally reached the ISS.
 To prepare for this intricate game plan, the teams traveled to Cocoa Beach, Florida, one month prior to the launch to work with members of Detachment 3 under the 45th Space Wing, from Patrick AFB for Just-in-Time-Training.
 Their JITT included hands on work with a mock capsule in the bay and open ocean. The teams worked on tactics on how to operate the recovery with contingencies for different emergencies.

With a capsule possibly crashing back down to the ground, the alert teams had to account for hazardous gas, unpredictable weather and sea conditions, and prepare themselves for a rescue anywhere across the globe.
 “We spent, between 12 to 14 hours daily, working in the basin and getting hands-on training with the capsule,” said Gagliardi. “We had a wide variety of instructors from retired pararescuemen, to pilots,

firefighters, doctors, basically the whole gamut of rescue personnel who each brought their unique, capabilities and expertise to train us up for this mission.”
 The teams trained extensively at JITT to familiarize themselves with their locations, mission plan, and most importantly to reinforce their safety protocols.
 “If something were to go wrong, we trained to be able to support multiple contingencies and hazards during day or night ops,” said Gagliardi. “For example, in all these scenarios we had to be prepared to execute a recovery in the open ocean for up to 72 hours, treating patients until a helicopter arrived or a recovery by a ship of opportunity.”
 Responding to a search and rescue of this magnitude means preparing for multiple contingencies. In order to prepare properly for the numerous possibilities, the teams relied heavily on their Aircrew Flight Equipment (AFE) Airmen. These Airmen arrived six weeks before the launch and were responsible for providing, checking and maintaining all the equipment for JITT and on launch day.



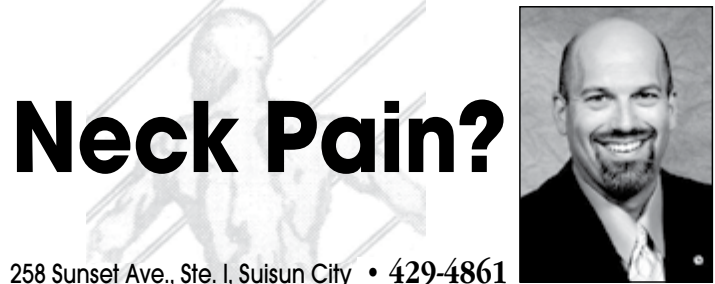
Courtesy photo

U.S. Air Force Airmen assigned to the 58th Rescue Squadron at Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada, train to extract astronauts from a mock capsule splash down May 11 during Just-in-Time-Training at Cocoa Beach, Florida.

“We are able to jump on an aircraft and feel confident in our ability to support a rescue mission because of the hard work of our AFE Airmen,” said Master Sgt. Matthew C. Blankenship, 58th RQS operations superintendent. “The way we supported this mission was for the teams to fly to the capsule’s location and parachute out of the aircraft. They packed in an astronomical amount of equipment, because

everything had to be airdrop capable. They did an outstanding job.”
 All of the training and preparation culminated on the day of the launch where the teams remained on call for 24 hours. Luckily everything went as planned, and launch day for the Space Flight Support Force was a success.
 As the U.S. returns to manned space launches

members of the 58th RQS will be there when needed to rescue a new generation of astronauts.
 “We are sending personnel back to Florida to train and support the recovery of the capsule from this launch, and we will be there to support future launches,” said Gagliardi. “This readiness embodies the unique capabilities Guardian Angel Squadrons bring to the Air Force and the country.”

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