



**TAILWIND**



# Devil Raiders bring US Space, Air Forces ... **TOGETHER**

**PAGES 10-11**

# Air advisers host virtual training with Panama

**Tech. Sgt. Luther Mitchell Jr.**  
621ST CONTINGENCY RESPONSE WING  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

JOINT BASE MCGUIRE-DIX-LAKEHURST, N.J. — Air advisers with the 571st Mobility Support Advisory Squadron are providing training for the first time using a virtual medium to members of the National Aeronaval Service of Panama, also known as SENAN, Aug. 31 through Sept. 11.

This new format of instruction is vastly different from anything the MSAS has done before as their mission is typically conducted in a partner nation.

“Virtual engagement with the SENAN through the Zoom platform supporting the advising mission is nothing like any position I have held in the past,” said Tech. Sgt. Samantha Miller, 571st Mobility Support Advisory Squadron air advisor. “It takes the best of command post training and makes it mobile in a way that we have never seen before.”

Air advisers established the new training and certification process with inputs from Headquarters Air Force, Air Mobility Command, Inter-American Air Forces Academy, 818th MSAS, and various members of the State Partnership Program.

Air advisers received virtual training certifications prior to this advising engagement that included two weeks of significant practice, research, and training to ensure they were presenting a professional image and complying with industry standards.

“The team has had to overcome hurdles such as how to handle virtual interpretation, how to meet Congressional Leahy (law) vetting requirements



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

**U.S. Air Force Capt. Matthew Schnarrs, 571st Mobility Support Advisory Squadron course facilitator, observes as U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Larry Diaz, 571st MSAS instructor, gives a briefing on command and control operations during a virtual engagement with the National Aeronaval Service of Panama Sept. 1 at Travis Air Force Base, California. The two-week engagement is their first time using a virtual medium to train a partner nation and consists of an introductory command and control course and a multi-topic airfield operations course.**

virtually, and how to be engaging instructors while coping with the challenge of only having a camera, microphone, and screen to engage their audience,” said Capt. Reuben Luoma-Overstreet, 571st MSAS

mission commander. The training the air advisers are providing to their Panamanian partners consists of an introductory command and control course and a multi-topic airfield operations course. This training

will serve as the framework for future Building Partner Capacity missions within the country.

“This training helps us build an enduring relationship with the SENAN by

See PANAMA Page 20

Commentary

# Dental clinic adjusts to virus

60th Dental Squadron

**A**t the Travis Dental Clinic, we are frequently faced with the question of why our patients are currently not able to get their routine cleanings (prophylaxis) with their annual exam.

We hope to explain why here and help provide tips on ways to keep your mouth healthy in the meantime.

Since the start of this pandemic, we have learned that transmission of COVID-19 is spread through saliva via either direct contact or indirect contact, respiratory secretions from coughing/sneezing, respiratory droplets and aerosols, according to the World Health Organization.

In dental settings, transmission can be through inhaling droplets from coughing or sneezing, direct exposure of areas such as the eyes, nose or

See DENTAL Page 18

## Travis captain returns after dream assignment



U.S. Air Force photo/Nicholas Pilch

**U.S. Air Force Capt. Stephanie Luc, 60th Medical Support Squadron medical readiness deputy flight commander, stands for a portrait Sept. 3 at Travis Air Force Base, California. Luc was selected to be a joint medical planner and recently returned from a short-notice deployment for U.S. Forces Japan, which fulfilled her dream to work directly in disaster response.**

## Tailwind

Travis AFB, Calif. | 60th Air Mobility Wing

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### On the cover

**U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. John Rodriguez, 321st Contingency Response Squadron security team, provides security with a Ghost Robotics Vision 60 prototype at a simulated austere base Sept. 1 at Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada.**

U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Cory D. Payne



Courtesy photo

## WARRIOR OF THE WEEK

- Name:** Senior Airman Dakota Hawk Culver.
- Unit:** 60th Logistics Readiness Squadron.
- Duty title:** Fuels distribution operator.
- Hometown:** Grant, Nebraska.
- Time in service:** Seven years.
- Family:** Spouse, Ryanne; daughter, Stella.
- What are your goals?** Short term is to complete my degree in logistics management. Long term is to become the first chief master sergeant of the Air Force from the fuels career field.
- What are your hobbies?** Repairing and restoring old cars, spending quality time with family, enjoying the outdoors in any way possible.
- What are your greatest achievements?** Joining the Air Force, meeting my wife, the birth of my daughter and becoming a father.

## Campaign launches holiday shopping

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

Military shoppers looking to get a head start on holiday shopping while avoiding crowds can turn to the Army & Air Force Exchange Service's "12 Weeks of Savings."

From now through Nov. 25, shoppers will find Black Friday prices in-store and on Shop-MyExchange.com on electronics, clothing, jewelry, sporting goods and more. New deals and specials will roll out each Friday for 12 weeks.

The campaign moves up the traditional holiday shopping period, launching Sept. 4 and running through Black Friday weekend.

Shoppers can enjoy weekly Black Friday prices in store and online without having to wait until November and can also avoid traditional holiday shopping crowds by taking advantage of buy online, pick up in store and curbside pickup contactless options.

"The Exchange understands this holiday shopping will look different during the COVID-19 pandemic," said Phonda Bishop, Travis Air Force Base Exchange general manager. "Military service members and military shoppers expect the value the Exchange is known for providing us with safe, secure and sanitized environments."

Military shoppers can find these weekly deals by picking up the sales flier at their local Exchange or by visiting Shop-MyExchange.com and clicking on Weekly Ad.

Veterans using their Exchange benefit can take advantage of "12 Weeks of Savings," too. The 2020 holiday shopping season will mark the first "In-person shopping" for veterans with service-connected disabilities.



U.S. Air Force photo/Maj Chase Bradley

U.S. Air Force Gen. Jacqueline Van Ovost, Air Mobility Command commander, back right, and Robert Behler, Department of Defense director of operational test and evaluation, front right, get a demonstration of the enhanced remote vision system from Ernest Burns, Boeing KC-46 chief boom operator, front left, Sept. 4, at Boeing Field, Tukwila, Washington.

## AMC leader gets KC-46 update

**Air Mobility Command  
Public Affairs**

TUKWILA, Wash. – Air Mobility Command commander Gen. Jacqueline Van Ovost made her first visit to Boeing Field, Tukwila, Washington, Sept. 4, to meet with Boeing leaders, receive briefings, and participate in discussions on efforts to correct deficiencies on the KC-46A Pegasus.

"Air refueling is a no-fail mission," said Van Ovost. "It's imperative we continue working closely with our partners at Boeing to field an operational KC-46 that will meet the Joint Warfighter's needs. There are inevitable hurdles that come with fielding an aircraft as complex and capable as the KC-46,

but those hurdles must be cleared as soon as possible. We must keep our eye on the prize and foot on the gas."

During the visit, Van Ovost and defense leaders, including DoD Director of Operational Test and Evaluation, Robert Behler, received updates from Boeing and Air Force leaders and experts on efforts to address deficiencies and areas of concern, including efforts to eliminate the discovery of foreign objects or FOD during aircraft delivery, repair of ongoing fuel leaks, and the redesign of critical aircraft systems such as the refueling boom and Remote Vision System or RVS, which allows boom operators to safely refuel receiver aircraft from a station in the front of the aircraft.

"I'm encouraged to see the progress Boeing's engineers are making on RVS 2.0 since agreeing to a redesign of the entire system in early April," said Van Ovost. "Working in tandem with experts from the Air Force Research Laboratory, we are now on the right path towards fielding an operationally viable tanker that represents the first step toward recapitalizing the Air Force's aging tanker fleet."

They also observed a hands-on demonstration of Boeing's proposal for a potential interim Enhanced RVS or eRVS solution. AMC leaders are assessing the merit of implementing portions of the eRVS design, if doing so improves boom operator performance,

mitigates airworthiness risks, or reduces operational restrictions currently in place for KC-46 refueling. No decision has been made at this time.

As Boeing and the Air Force work to correct aircraft system deficiencies, AMC Total Force Airmen under the guidance of the Air Force Operational Test and Evaluation Center continue to execute the KC-46's Initial Operational Test and Evaluation plan. Most recently they completed a transatlantic, multiday IOT&E mission where a single KC-46 executed all three of its core missions by airlifting cargo, executing boom and drogue air refueling events, and conducting a live-patient aeromedical evacuation event.

## Defense Department 65% of way to plasma goal

**Military Health System  
Communications Office**

The Department of Defense, in just three months, passed the 65% mark toward meeting its goal of obtaining 10,000 units of COVID-19 convalescent plasma by Sept. 30.

The campaign began in early June to collect plasma from recovered COVID-19 patients to support the development of potential therapies against the highly infectious respiratory virus.

The campaign is the liquid part of blood collected from patients who have recovered from a COVID-19 infection. The Food and Drug Administration recently issued Emergency Use Authorization for CCP, authorizing its

administration by health care providers, as appropriate, to treat suspected or laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 hospitalized patients.

"Even as we have passed the midpoint, we've still got a long way to go to reach our goal. We need all of our beneficiaries who have recovered from COVID-19 to consider donating their convalescent plasma," said Army Col. Audra Taylor, Armed Services Blood Program division chief.

The ASBP is collecting CCP at nearly all of its donor centers through either whole blood donation or a donation of plasma only. "The most efficient way to collect convalescent plasma is through a process called apheresis. This process takes approximately two hours total

time from prescreening to post-donation. During collection, it separates the plasma, or liquid part of the blood, from the red blood cells which are then returned to the donor's body," said Army Col. Jason Corley, director, Army Blood Program. A donor can give whole blood donations about every two months, while a donor can give plasma donations more frequently.

Potential donors who have recovered from COVID-19 must be symptom-free for at least 14 days. They should call the ASBP before donating to set up an appointment and ensure they meet eligibility requirements, which include evidence of COVID-19 documented by a laboratory test.

Anyone who wishes to donate whole

blood can visit the ASBP website to find upcoming blood drives or call their local blood donor center.

"It's easy to make a donation appointment," said Navy Lt. Cmdr. Colleen Corrick, director of the Navy Blood Program. "Go to militarydonor.com, type in your city, state, or zip code, and a list of available locations and drives will appear. Once you've signed up, please try your best to keep the appointment! Unfortunately, we are seeing a larger rate of no-shows, putting an additional strain on the system."

She added that every missed appointment equates to two missed opportunities to collect plasma – one from the

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## Air Force awards ICBM contract

**Secretary of the Air Force  
Public Affairs**

WASHINGTON — The Department of the Air Force awarded an Engineering and Manufacturing Development contract for the Ground Based Strategic Deterrent intercontinental ballistic missile program to Northrop Grumman on Sept. 8.

The contract award of \$13.3 billion is an investment in enhancing the United States' nuclear deterrence, as it is the cornerstone of national security policy and fundamental in continued protection for the U.S. and its allies.

"Modernizing the nuclear strategic triad is a top priority of our military," said Defense Secretary Dr. Mark Esper. "It's key to our nation's defense. It provides that strategic nuclear deterrent that we depend on day after day – that we've depended on decade after decade."

The program advances the nation's ability to maintain a robust, flexible, tailorable and responsive strategic nuclear deterrent to meet current and changing global threats.

"I am fully confident in the evolutionary warfighting

effectiveness GBSD will ensure," said Gen. Tim Ray, commander of Air Force Global Strike Command. "We are leveraging stable requirements, modern technology, we own the technical baseline, and have a modular design to keep the program rapid, relevant and affordable. The increased accuracy, extended range and improved reliability will provide the United States a broader array of options to address unforeseen contingencies, giving us the edge necessary to compete and win against any adversary."

The GBSD ICBM is the follow-on to the aging LGM-30G Minuteman III ICBM and first became operational in 1970. The GBSD ICBM will have increased accuracy, enhanced security and improved reliability to provide the U.S. with an upgraded and broader array of strategic nuclear options to address the threats of today and the future.

The contract is for the Engineering and Manufacturing Development phase of the weapon system's acquisition efforts. The Department of the Air Force plans to deploy the system beginning in the

See ICBM Page 18

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## Travis, Army work together



U.S. Army photo/Sgt. Travis Lee

U.S. Army 1st Lt. Ian Lloyd, left, and 1st Lt. Briana Quinones, with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2-104th General Support Aviation Battalion, 28th Expeditionary Combat Aviation Brigade, pose in front of a C-5M Super Galaxy from Travis Air Force Base, California, at the 28th ECAB's mobilization station prior to loading it with equipment that will be moved to the 28th ECAB's area of operations in the Middle East.

## Special Tactics unit surpasses 6,900 days in Middle East

Staff Sgt. Rachel Williams  
24TH SPECIAL OPERATIONS WING

HURLBURT FIELD, Fla. — In the wake of the 9/11 terrorist attacks which marked the beginning of the Global War on Terrorism, U.S. service members saw an increased spike in deployments that has ultimately sustained its high tempo for nearly two decades.

For the men and women of the 17th Special Tactics Squadron, since their initial response to the GWOT in October 2001, there have been no breaks in deployments and combat operations for more than 6,900 days in support of operations Iraqi Freedom, Enduring Freedom, Freedom's Sentinel and Resolute Support.

Day in and day out, members of the unit can be found scattered around the globe, bringing the fight to the enemy's front door. These never-ending actions are one of the many that directly reflect the testament of the heritage, courage and sacrifice of the unit that can only be foreseen to continue.

"The 17th STS members have single handedly removed (thousands) of (high value targets) from the battlefield and therefore severely degraded terrorist networks that pose a threat to U.S. interest," said Lt. Col. Travis Deutman, 17th STS commander. "Most importantly, our operators are consistently providing desperately needed close air support at the most

critical times in combat, while also coordinating insertion, extraction, and medical and casualty evacuation lift for critically wounded teammates."

The 17th STS is unique within the Air Force special tactics community in several ways.

The squadron, instead of residing in one location, is geographically separated in three locations so the unit can train and deploy alongside all five of the U.S. Army Special Operations Command's 75th Ranger Regiment battalions. It is headquartered at Fort Benning, Georgia, alongside the Regimental Headquarters, 3rd Ranger Battalion, Regimental Special Troops Battalion, and Regimental Military Intelligence Battalion. Two operational detachments are located at Hunter Army Airfield, Georgia, alongside the 1st Ranger Battalion, and Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington, alongside the 2nd Ranger Battalion.

Consisting of primarily tactical air control party Airmen, the unit's primary mission is to provide Air Force Special Operations Command's special tactics TACPs to the 75th Ranger Regiment, pairing the Defense Department's most lethal joint terminal attack controllers with the most premiere direct-action raid force. Essentially, the 17th STS operators are directing precision strike munitions and delivering destructive ordnance on enemy targets in support of

See UNIT Page 15



Courtesy photo

An Alaska Air National Guard HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopter assigned to the 210th Rescue Squadron, takes off from Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska, July 23, 2015. The 210th RS provides emergency rescue services for the citizens of Alaska in addition to training for wartime combat search and rescue missions.

## Alaska Guard rescues hunter on mountain

David Bedard  
176TH WING

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska — Alaska Air National Guardsmen of the 176th Wing rescued a hunter who was critically injured in a 100-foot fall Sept. 6 near the Eagle River Nature Center north of Anchorage.

Alaska Air National Guard Maj. Wesley Ladd, Alaska Rescue Coordination Center senior controller, said the hunter used a satellite communication device to contact the Alaska State Troopers who then contacted the AKRCC.

The AKRCC notified the 176th Wing, which dispatched a 210th Rescue Squadron HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopter carrying 212th Rescue Squadron pararescuemen, or PJs.

Aircrew of 210th Rescue Squadron are combat search and rescue Airmen highly capable in civil search and rescue missions

in Alaska's challenging weather and terrain. PJs and combat rescue officers compose the Guardian Angel Weapon system of the 212th Rescue Squadron. They are elite special operators trained in technical rescue and are advanced-practice paramedics who employ on combat and civil search and rescue missions.

Navigating to the survivor through a windstorm, rain and limited visibility, the HH-60 aircrew accessed the base of the mountain 500 meters from the hunter's location. The aircrew landed and disembarked a CRO and two PJs who scaled 500 meters up the mountainside with their equipment to reach the survivor.

The Pave Hawk then returned to Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson for an additional PJ to aid in the technical rescue effort. The PJs and CRO on scene gained access, stabilized and packaged the survivor in a litter.

The team set up a technical

rope belay system to lower the patient down the mountain and waded through Eagle River to the HH60. The patient and his hunting partner were transported to Providence Alaska Medical Center.

"This mission highlights the exceptional synergy of our rescue community," said Capt. Dan Warren, 212th RQS CRO and team commander for the ground rescue effort. "The Alaska State Troopers provided critical info, 176th Maintenance (Group) personnel rapidly prepared the helicopter for flight, the helicopter crew navigated harsh weather to employ us, and the unmatched resolve of fellow PJs to overcome brutal terrain to save a life is a humbling endeavor. The team effort is what enables our success."

Ladd commended the hunter for carrying and properly using a satellite communication device while hunting and said the Alaska wilderness should never be underestimated.

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# Al Udeid, Qatar sign agreement on operations

**Senior Airman Ashley Perdue**  
379TH AIR EXPEDITIONARY WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

AL UDEID AIR BASE, Qatar — An Air Traffic Control Letter of Agreement was signed by U.S. personnel, the Qatar Emiri Air Force and Qatar Civil Aviation Authority to better work together to ensure safe air space operations at Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar.

“The document defines inter-facility procedures for Air Traffic Control operations,” said U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Matt Robinson, 379th Expeditionary Operation Support Squadron commander. “It creates standard procedures that all controllers can train and execute, increasing predictability and enhancing safety.”

Due to the AUAB flightline closely neighboring the Hamad International Airport, the airspace is shared between military operations and civilian operations making continuity and safety a critical necessity.

“Qatar is experiencing a boom in air traffic while also expanding their military aircraft fleet,” Master Sgt. Benjamin O’Mara, 379th EOSS tower chief controller added. “We really needed to solidify our procedures on getting aircraft in



U.S. Air Force photo/Master Sgt. Larry E. Reid Jr.

Members of the Qatar Emiri Air Force air traffic control tower work together to direct aircraft Aug. 24 at Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar. A letter of agreement was recently implemented between the U.S., QEAF and Qatar Civil Aviation Authority to better work together to ensure safe air space operations.

and out of here without disrupting things that happen downtown at Hamad.”

To get multiple entities to come to a single agreement is not always a short and easy process especially between various nations, but the valued

relationship developed in the ATC tower between the U.S. and QEAF has spread to the QCAA.

“In the last year, the EOSS has established a relationship with the QCAA, building the civil connections needed to

bring the full team together,” said Robinson. “We held multiple meetings with all parties and key players to draft the specific items in the letter of agreement. According to the civil ATC representative in attendance, an agreement of this

type has been attempted for the last 10 years without success. The strong relationship between all parties was the key to signing a safe and effective agreement.”

As all required signatures were received and went into effect on July 1, the U.S. and Qatar had a month to train on this document and begin implementing the procedures.

“We’re not allowed to train with the Qataris, but we all train on the same document,” O’Mara said. “We work with the Qataris every single day in the tower so we can explain to each other the procedures and watch each other train. It’s been pretty seamless between the way the U.S. trains and the way the Qataris train.”

As the QEAF continues to expand, O’Mara noted the significance this agreement holds not only between the U.S. and Qatar, but the QEAF and the QCAA.

“It’s a relationship building thing,” said O’Mara. “Working with our partners is a priority and not only were we working with our partners here in the tower and around base, but we were able to reach out to the Civil Aviation Authority downtown and really solidify our commitment to Qatar.”



U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Ashley Perdue

U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Brian Stuart, 379th Expeditionary Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron technician, waits to receive a patient litter Aug. 6 before training on the Negatively Pressurized Conex-Lite at Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar. The 379th EAES is among the first to train on the Negatively Pressurized Conex-Lite, created to safely isolate patients during aerial transportation on a C-130 Hercules.

## Unit trains on new device

**Senior Airman Ashley Perdue**  
379TH AIR EXPEDITIONARY WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

AL UDEID AIR BASE, Qatar — The novel coronavirus, COVID-19, pandemic has challenged the world to forge a new normal.

For members of the U.S. military, their ability to adapt and innovate has continued to prove itself.

Between Aug. 5 and 13, members of the 379th Expeditionary Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron at Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar, received training on the Negatively Pressurized Conex-Lite, a tool built specifically for transporting infectious disease patients.

To date, it is the only one of its kind and members with the 379th EAES were among the first to receive a 10-day training on this particular asset.

“It’s a biocontainment unit that’s meant to transport infected patients and with a negative pressure inside of the box, it helps the filtration process of the viral load,” said U.S. Air Force Col. Steven Theohares, 379th EAES commander. “The

reason we do this is to limit exposure to anybody in the aircraft outside of the box to include the aircraft itself.”

The NPC-L, a variant of the NPC built earlier in the year, was built smaller and lighter to accommodate isolation transportation for COVID-19 patients on a C-130 Hercules aircraft.

“COVID-19 has changed a lot of things in healthcare for us and throughout the world in the last four or five months,” said Theohares. “The team here has really risen to the occasion. It’s been humbling to watch people step up against adversity and display core values.”

The NPC-L arrived with a Mobile Training Team from Ramstein Air Base, Germany, on Aug. 3 and immediately began training in the U.S. Central Command area of operations.

“All of our crews were tasked to do the training,” said Staff Sgt. Brian Stuart, 379th EAES aeromedical evacuation technician. “We need all of us to be ready. We can’t plan which crews will be available when the time comes for a mission on the NPC-L.”

The training included donning and doffing personal protective equipment, patient loading, in-flight scenarios and emergencies, decontamination and electrical configuration. On the final day, the crews put their training to the test by conducting simulated scenarios with the NPC-L on a static C-130.

A critical aspect to any medical training is ensuring the appropriate medical personnel are also trained in the instance of special cases. Since the NPC-L was primarily designed for infectious diseases, one of the two Critical Care Air Transport Teams assigned to the 379th EAES also participated in the training.

“The CCATT who participated was made up of a critical care physician, critical care nurse and respiratory therapist,” said Maj. Nicholas Gumley, 379th EAES director of operations. “They participated in the NPC-L training to understand the logistical uniqueness of the critical care requirements within the platform for

See DEVICE Page 12

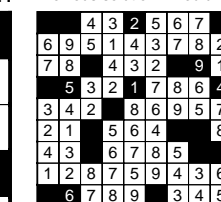
### Puzzles

#### STR8TS

No. 507

Tough

Previous solution - Medium



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

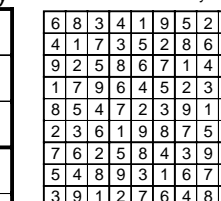
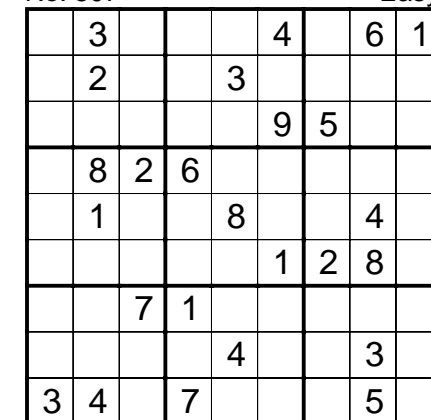
You can find more help, tips and hints at [www.str8ts.com](http://www.str8ts.com)

#### SUDOKU

No. 507

Easy

Previous solution - Very Hard



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

For many strategies, hints and tips, visit [www.sudokuwiki.org](http://www.sudokuwiki.org)

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

The solutions will be published here in the next issue.

### Voluntary Leave Transfer Program

The following Travis employees are approved as leave recipients through the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program: Rebecca Austria, 60th Maintenance Group; John Butler, Special Tactics Training Squadron; Jaquelyn 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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# CRW tests Advanced Battle Management System during exercise



1) U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Johnny Rodriguez, 321st Contingency Response Squadron force protection craftsman and lead defender for the CR team, walks with the Ghost Robotics Vision 60 prototype during an agile combat employment exercise Sept. 3 at Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada. The robot dog is an experimental technology with the intent of aiding defenders to secure an airfield and is part of the Advance Battle Management System, which is being tested during ACE exercise.

## Tech. Sgt. David Carbajal

621ST CONTINGENCY RESPONSE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

A team of 10 Airmen from the 621st Contingency Response Group participated in an agile combat employment exercise Sept. 1-3 at Buckley Air Force Base, Colorado, and Nellis AFB, Nevada, with other active-duty and Air National Guard Airmen from across the United States.

Devil Raiders brought their unique multifunctional skill sets to the exercise that also tested the Advanced Battle Management System, which is a state-of-the-art system designed to provide combatant commanders the ability to control Department of Defense assets in real time.

According to an Air Force news story, the goal of ABMS is to enable the Air Force and Space Force to operate together as a joint team – connecting sensors, decision makers and weapons through a secure data network enabling rapid decision making and all-domain command and control.

The 621st Contingency Response Wing team provided security forces, command and control, aircraft maintenance, aerial port and communications Airmen for the ACE exercise.

During the exercise, the team flew from Buckley to Nellis via New York's 109th Airlift Wing LC-130 Hercules aircraft.

"After we land, everything moves quick," said Tech. Sgt. Greg Hochgesang, 621st Contingency Response Squadron aircraft maintenance craftsman.

Once the Devil Raiders landed on the first chalk, the security forces Airmen secured the airfield in a traditional and unconventional way.

"Our defenders employed the robot dogs," said Master Sgt. Lee Boston, 321st CRS loadmaster and the CR team chief for the exercise. "These robot dogs are a new technology that we're testing as part of the exercise. The dogs give us visuals of the area, all while keeping our defenders closer to the aircraft."

After the airfield was secured, maintainers assessed their own aircraft for damage, then marshalled the next LC-130 into its spot.

"The second chalk has the munitions, weapon loaders, rolling stock and other supporting Airmen," said Hochgesang. "Immediately after landing, the munitions and weapon loaders set up their



2) U.S. Air Force Airmen prepare to offload a weapon-loading jammer from a 109th Airlift Wing LC-130 Hercules aircraft Sept. 3 at Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada. Airmen are offloading cargo from the C-130 to prepare for an Integrated Combat Turn, which is the rapid re-arming and refueling of an aircraft.

loading site."

After a quick assessment of the second C-130, the aircraft maintainers were marshalling the MC-130J Commando II, which brings the forward area refueling point or FARP capability.

"As soon as parked, you see the loading ramp lower and immediately you see Airmen bring down the fuel hoses to get set up for the Integrated Combat Turn," said Hochgesang.

The ICT is the term for rapid re-arming and refueling of an aircraft, which in this case was four F-16 Fighting Falcons from the 20th Fighter Wing at Shaw Air Force Base, South Carolina, and the 140th Wing at Buckley, which landed shortly after the MC-130J.

Once the F-16s were on the ground, the weapons loaders expediently armed the F-16, then the "hot pit" refueling process began. The hot pit refuel is the term for when at least some of the aircraft instrumentation and possibly engines are still running while receiving fuel.

Hochgesang said this was one of the trickiest parts of the exercise.

"As heavy maintainers, we're usually not around fighter aircraft much," said Hochgesang, who was a C-17 Globemaster III crew chief prior to being assigned to the CRW. "Luckily, we've gotten the opportunity to shadow F-16 maintainers at Shaw to get our feet wet, which is

very helpful. Every fighter is a little bit different, so it's important for us to recognize those subtle differences prior to a mission."

As if the intricacies of a new aircraft weren't enough of a challenge, the CRW maintainers also had to perform the hot pit refuel in a fraction of the time it is normally accomplished.

"It's impressive to see how quickly it happens," said Boston. "From the time they're on the ground, the goal is to get the F-16s fueled, armed and airborne again in 45 minutes."

Once the ICT was complete, all aircraft took off in the reverse order in which they landed.

"I thought our team executed flawlessly, which is no surprise but it was good to see our Airmen represented well," said Boston.

Boston sees value in CRW units participating in these types of exercises in the future.

"At a minimum, these are great discussions to have," said Boston. "Agile Combat Employment is not a new concept, but as we continue to find more efficient ways of using our mobility and combat forces, it's important that we communicate the need to be multifunctional and to find better ways of doing the mission."

## Device

From Page 9

transporting patients with COVID-19 and to further develop the aeromedical technician and CCATT cohesion while working within a new, constrained environment.”

According to Theohares, the trainings exceeded leadership expectations. He noted that transporting the NPC-L played a large role in the total success.

“We have Army riggers right next to us, and they have been wanting and willing to participate,” said Theohares.

“They helped provide transportation for the NPC-Lite from the flight line to storage in our building while assuring that it was safely moved and protected.”

The NPC-L was designed to remain elevated while not in operation on an aircraft, but when utilized it can fit on a C-130 Hercules or a C-17 Globemaster III aircraft.

As the concept of a mobile isolation conox box evolves, technicians and medical providers who trained on the NPC-L have been given the opportunity to provide feedback on how to enhance the

future of this product.

“One of the most exciting parts for me is that the NPC-L is still a very new asset,” said Stuart. “Every time the instructors go out and teach new crews, they are taking feedback that may directly impact the design or operations of the NPC-L. To be able to see our feedback implemented and used by many crews to come is pretty rewarding.”

This particular box is now available for use throughout U.S. Central Command’s area of responsibility, with additional NPC-Ls expected to arrive in theater in 2020.



Courtesy photo

The apheresis process separates whole blood into parts, including yellow plasma, as seen in the left bag. Doctors are using COVID-19 convalescent plasma to treat critically ill patients with COVID-19.

## Plasma

From Page 5

person who didn’t show up, and another from the person who could’ve made that appointment time. “If you can’t make it,” said Cordrick, “please let the donor center know as soon as possible. We look forward to

making your experience as safe and comfortable as possible.”

Taylor expressed confidence that active duty service members, retirees, and military health beneficiaries are up to the DoD collection challenge. “If you have recovered from COVID-19, please make your appointment today to help give others a fighting chance and combat COVID,” she said.




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Children's Church: 11:30 a.m.

**Tuesday**  
Prayer Meeting: 6:30-7:00 p.m.  
Bible Study: 7:00-8:00 p.m.

Web Site: [www.stpaulfairfield.org](http://www.stpaulfairfield.org)  
Email: [stpaulbfairfield@comcast.net](mailto:stpaulbfairfield@comcast.net)  
Church Phone: 707-422-2003

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Worship..... 11:00 am  
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# Unit

From Page 6

the Ranger ground scheme of maneuver.

Aside from TACPs, the unit also provides special reconnaissance Airmen, combat controllers, special tactics officers and combat mission support Airmen to the 75th Ranger Regiment to enhance its precision strike and global access capabilities.

"No other unit in the (United States Air Force) offers the opportunity to close with and destroy enemies of the United States like those of us selected to support the Ranger Regiment," said an ST TACP operator with the 17th STS. "The Ranger Regiment is its own legend-generator and the opportunity to serve alongside one of the most lethal light infantry forces on earth is humbling."

The bond between the 17th STS and the 75th Ranger Regiment is inimitable due to the respective units being geographically located together and conducting entire training cycles with the exact team that they will be deploying with.

"The 17th STS promotes what I would argue is the foremost example of joint service relationships," said Staff Sgt. Aaron Inch, an ST TACP operator with the 17th STS. "This unit has an extremely proud lineage and comes with the responsibility for each member to uphold and/or surpass the standard that has been set by those before us."

With ongoing involvement in combat comes valor, and the Special Tactics community has just that. It is the most highly decorated community in the Air Force since the end of the Vietnam War with the 17th STS having a large hand in that statistic, seeing its members receive more than 80 high valor medals for courageous actions in combat.

"The foundation of this unit is the heritage of warriors that distinguished themselves in combat before we walked these halls," said Senior Master Sgt. Steve Reedy, the 17th STS operations superintendent. "Every member of this organization earns their right to be a member every day in keeping with that heritage."

One of the latest examples



U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Sandra Welch

**A special tactics Airman assigned to the 17th Special Tactics Squadron fires an M4 carbine during a Jaded Thunder exercise Aug. 20, 2018, at Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho. Special tactics is U.S. Special Operation Command's tactical air and ground integration force, and the Air Force's special operations ground force, leading global access, precision strike, personnel recovery and battlefield surgery operations.**

of recognition that the 17th STS has been awarded was in April 2019 when U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Cam Kelsch, an ST TACP operator with the 17th STS, was awarded the Silver Star Medal for actions while deployed with the 75th Ranger Regiment to Afghanistan in 2018. With this presentation, Kelsch became the first TACP to be awarded a Silver Star for actions in combat during the last seven years.

"Getting to lead people for whom undertaking such dangerous missions are just another day is inexplicable," said Senior Master Sgt. Evan Serpa, the 17th STS senior enlisted leader.

For the quiet professionals of this prestigious squadron, it is common to hear throughout the unit for one operator's battlefield successes to be credited to his entire team. They spend days, weeks and months training alongside each other to forge trust and competency to take downrange.

"The training that we provide simply adds different layers and different (tactics,

techniques and procedures), seeing that the Ranger Regiment conducts operations in a very specific way," said 1st Lt. Evan Patoray, 17th STS, Detachment 2 flight commander. "All of our training is fast paced and complex, and although the basics do not change, the level and repetition at which we do the basics is what sets us apart. As a team, we push each other beyond what we have all seen in combat. We do this because we understand that if this training does not save their own life, it will allow them to save the lives of the Rangers around them."

The physical and mental challenges the operators undergo for at least 275 days out of the year equips them for the demanding environment they will face downrange.

"Technical competency matters, professionalism matters, but your mental fortitude and intellectual flexibility might be the most important attributes," said an ST TACP operator with the 17th STS. "The training to get here and working with the

Ranger Regiment prepares you for the realities of combat."

The high-speed operations tempo can be brutal and toxic to the operator and their home life if they do not have the proper training and decompression time, according to Staff Sgt. Ryan Duhon, an ST TACP operator with the 17th STS.

The special tactics Airmen aren't alone with their sacrifices; their families have also sacrificed immensely for over 6,900 days in support of their loved ones. They've missed birthdays, holidays, anniversaries, and much more, to be a part of something bigger than themselves.

"A lot of personal sacrifice has to happen to make a unit like this one so effective and professional," said Master Sgt. Ferguson, squadron flight chief. "We do not take breaks. We operate alongside our 75th (Ranger Regiment) brothers."

In order to be welcomed into the special tactics community, aspiring conventional TACP Airmen undergo a harrowing week-long assessment at

Hurlburt Field, Florida. The assessment is designed to test the candidates limits and determine if they have what it takes to join the ranks within ST. Candidates are then hand-selected into the 17th STS.

"The team will push you to be the best version of yourself on and off the battlefield," said Tech. Sgt. Joey Hauser, an ST TACP operator with the 17th STS. "The missions you will be on have (an) impact felt at a national strategic level, and the legacy you will be of will be some of your proudest accomplishments in life."

If you asked members of the 17th STS what it means to be a part of the combat-proven unit, one common answer would stand out – humbling.

"We fight, bleed and laugh beside (the Rangers). We win as a team or fail as a team," Duhon said. "When we are downrange, there is no deviation or segregation between Air Force and Army. We are one team fighting daily together to overcome adversaries."

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**An LGM-30 Minuteman III missile soars in the air after a test launch. The Minuteman is a strategic weapon system using a ballistic missile of intercontinental range.**

U.S. Air Force photo



**ICBM**  
 From Page 5

late 2020s.

"Across the Department of the Air Force, we are looking for opportunities to inject innovation into programs to stay ahead of our adversaries," said Dr. Will Roper, assistant secretary of the Air Force for acquisition, technology and logistics. "Our GBSD team is doing just that by leveraging a modular open system approach to ensure our next generation ICBM system is adaptable to challenges posed by the pace of technological advancements and

new threat environments." The dispersed basing of the ground-based deterrent enhances strategic stability by creating an extraordinarily high threshold for a large-scale conventional or nuclear attack on the U.S. homeland. This investment will protect a vital leg of the nuclear triad, according to U.S. Strategic Command officials.


The Air Force Nuclear Weapons Center is the lead for the Department of the Air Force's GBSD acquisition effort. The center is responsible for synchronizing all aspects of nuclear materiel management on behalf of Air Force Materiel Command in direct support of AFGSC.

"This contract provides the best overall value to the warfighter and taxpayers," said Brig. Gen. Anthony Genatempo, commander of Air Force Nuclear Weapons Center and Air Force program executive officer for strategic systems. "The GBSD program is leveraging technologies to reduce the program's technical risk and ensure time-certain delivery to meet the warfighter's needs. Its acquisition strategy focuses on mature technologies, smart commonality, modular designs and maintaining the Air Force's ability to leverage competition throughout the weapon system's lifecycle to ensure it will effectively adapt to evolving environments."

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**Dental**  
 From Page 3

mouth to infectious droplets, and indirectly through touching contaminated surfaces such as countertops.

Dental offices perform a variety of procedures, most of which are aerosol generating. These aerosols can remain suspended in the air for a period of time that varies by procedure or instruments used and ventilation capacity of facility and may cause infection if inhaled.

The most significant aerosol-generating procedures in a dental office include the use of an ultrasonic scaler for cleaning teeth and drill. These non-urgent treatments put members of the dental team at high risk due to close proximity to patients' faces and extended duration of exposure to aerosols containing bacteria and viruses during dental procedures.

It can also put subsequent patients at risk if adequate time does not elapse to allow aerosols to settle and if thorough cleaning of the room is not performed.

Our personal protective equipment availability, in addition to guidance/recommendations from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, World Health Organization, state and local health offices, American Dental Association, American Dental Hygienists Association and the Defense Health Agency indicate that urgent or emergency treatments take priority

over preventative treatments such as cleanings and routine dental care such as small fillings and some crowns.

Our clinic is also in the process of exploring additional protective measures to allow the safest care possible and to meet the constantly changing infection control standards. With our current supplies and room set up, there is no feasible way for our team to safely perform the 30-40 cleanings per day that we did before COVID.

At this time, our prioritized approach is limited to active-duty members who have readiness requirements needing to be met and/or are in need of emergent care.

We currently screen all patients and staff prior to entering our facility and have increased social distancing in our waiting room to minimize the risk of transmission at our facility.

Patients should self-assess for symptoms that have been associated with COVID-19, such as fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headaches, new loss of sense of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea/vomiting, diarrhea, and inform the dental treatment team prior to the appointment if symptoms arise, according to the CDC.

We are eager to return to normal operations as soon as safely possible so we can address all of our patients' dental needs and will update Team Travis when that possibility exists.

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Things you can do at home to take care of your oral health:

- Use an ADA-approved fluoridated toothpaste. Fluoride reduces the development of cavities and helps to fight the early stages of tooth decay.
- Brush your teeth two times per day for at least 2 minutes. Be sure to use soft bristles and brush your teeth in gentle, circular motions at a 45-degree angle toward the gum tissue for at least two minutes. Remember to brush your tongue as well as white film of bacteria can start formulating on the surface of your tongue that can cause fungal or yeast infection and or bad breath.
- Floss, floss, floss. The ADA recommends that we should floss our teeth daily. Since toothbrushes are not designed to remove debris in between teeth, flossing is recommended daily to remove bacteria and build-up in between your teeth. Lack of flossing can lead to toothaches, tartar buildup, bone loss/gum disease, cavities and or root canals.
- Maintain a healthy diet. Limit the intake of sugary/sweet drinks and or starchy foods. Consuming a lot of starchy and or sugary foods such as breads, chips, pizza, candy, energy drinks, etc., can lower pH and create a more acidic environment. This acid, which slowly dissolves the enamel, is responsible for tooth decay. Brushing or even rinsing with water after consuming starchy/sugary products can help neutralize the oral pH levels and keep your teeth healthy.

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1) U.S. Air Force Col. Zachery Jiron, left, 60th Air Mobility Wing vice commander, and Chief Master Sgt. Robert Schultz, right, 60th AMW command chief, remove the caps off liquid oxygen bottles while Senior Airman Peter Gatsios, 60th Maintenance Squadron aircraft electric and environmental systems journeyman, guides them during Leadership Rounds Aug. 28 at Travis Air Force Base, California. 2) Jiron tests the pressure on a bottle used to inflate a 25-person life raft during Leadership Rounds Aug. 28 at Travis. 3) Schultz increases the pressure on a next-generation patient therapeutic liquid oxygen converter while Gatsios guides him during Leadership Rounds Aug. 28 at Travis.



# Travis leaders visit maintenance to ... LOOK CLOSER

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



## Panama

From Page 2

institutionalizing a building-blocks approach to our Building Partner Capacity mission," said Luoma-Overstreet. "Not only will this provide training that will help improve and standardize SENAN operations and practices in both the C2 and airfield operations realms, but it will also boost the effectiveness of future training events that might typically have been more sporadic."

The command and control course is one week long, and the airfield operations course is two weeks long. The courses cover 16 lessons between five instructors for 26 students, delivered in two languages.

While virtual engagements will not replace in-person advising, they will provide a complementary method of meeting mission requirements during challenging times.

"Giving Panama quality training, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, shows that U.S. Air Force air advisers can rise to any occasion," Miller said. "The MSAS is here to advise, and we make that happen, even in the age of social distancing."



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

U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Felipe Torres, 571st Mobility Support Advisory Squadron instructor, gives a briefing on airfield operations during a virtual engagement with the National Aeronaval Service of Panama Sept. 1 at Travis Air Force Base, California. The two-week engagement is their first time using a virtual medium to train a partner nation and consists of an introductory command and control course and a multi-topic airfield operations course.

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