

60th AES stands up at Travis

UNVEILED

PAGE 3



General: Here's what I'm thinking about

Commentary by
Gen. CQ Brown Jr.

PACIFIC AIR FORCES COMMANDER

JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM, Hawaii — As the Commander of Pacific Air Forces, a senior leader in our Air Force, and an African-American, many of you may be wondering what I'm thinking about the current events surrounding the tragic death of George Floyd. Here's what I'm thinking about.

I'm thinking about how full I am with emotion not just for George Floyd, but the many African-Americans who have suffered the same fate as George Floyd.

I'm thinking about protests in "my country tis of thee, sweet land of liberty," the equality expressed in our Declaration of Independence, and the Constitution that I've sworn my adult life to support and defend.

I'm thinking about a history of racial issues and my own experiences that didn't always sing of liberty and equality.

I'm thinking about living in two worlds, each with their own perspective and views.

I'm thinking about my sister and I being the only African-Americans in our entire elementary school and trying to fit in.

I'm thinking about then going to a high school where roughly half the students were

Commander's Commentary

African-American and trying to fit in.

I'm thinking about my Air Force career where I was often the only African American in my squadron or as a senior officer, the only African-American in the room.

I'm thinking about wearing the same flight suit with the same wings on my chest as my peers and then being questioned by another military member, "Are you a pilot?"

I'm thinking about how I sometimes felt that my comments were perceived to represent the African-Americans' perspective, when it was just my perspective informed by being African-American.

I'm thinking about some of the insensitive comments made without awareness by others.

I'm thinking about being a captain at the O'Club with my squadron and being told by other African-Americans that I wasn't "black enough" since I was spending more time with my squadron than with them.

I'm thinking about my mentors, and how I rarely had a mentor that looked like me.

I'm thinking about the sound advice that has led to my success and even so, most of my mentors could not relate to my experience as an African-American.



U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Zachary Vaughn

Gen. CQ Brown Jr., Pacific Air Forces commander, offers his perspective as a senior Air Force leader and African American in a video posted June 4.

I'm thinking about the pressure I've felt to perform error-free especially for supervisors I perceived had expected less from me as an African-American.

I'm thinking about having to represent by working twice as hard to prove their expectations and perceptions of African-Americans were invalid.

I'm thinking about the Airmen that have lived through similar experiences and feelings as mine or who were, either consciously or unconsciously, unfairly treated.

Conversely, I'm thinking about the Airmen who don't have a life similar to mine and don't have to navigate through two worlds.

I'm thinking about how these

Airmen view racism, whether they don't see it as a problem since it doesn't happen to them or whether they're empathetic.

I'm thinking about our two sons and how we've had to prepare them to live in two worlds.

I'm thinking about the frank and emotional conversations my wife and I have had with them just this past week as we discussed the situations that have led to the protests around our country.

Finally, I'm thinking about my historic nomination to be the first African American to serve as the Air Force Chief of Staff.

I'm thinking about the African-Americans that went before me to make this opportunity possible.

Brown to lead

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Senate confirmed Gen. Charles Q. Brown Jr., June 9, to be the 22nd Air Force chief of staff, clearing the way for the decorated pilot and experienced commander to become the first African American in history to lead a branch of the U.S. military as its highest-ranking officer.

The vote was 98-0.

Brown will replace Gen. David L. Goldfein Aug. 6 at a swearing-in ceremony.

— Charles Pope, Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

I'm thinking about the immense expectations that come with this historic nomination, particularly through the lens of the current events plaguing our Nation.

I'm thinking about how I may have fallen short in my career and will likely continue falling short of living up to all those expectations.

I'm thinking about how my nomination provides some hope, but also comes with a heavy burden — I can't fix centuries of racism in our country, nor can I fix decades of discrimination that may have impacted members of our Air Force.

I'm thinking about how I can make improvements,

See BROWN Page 18



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

U.S. Air Force Col. Suzie Dietz, 60th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron commander, speaks with U.S. Air Force Col. Jeffrey Nelson, 60th Air Mobility Wing commander, following an assumption of command ceremony June 9 at Travis Air Force Base, California. Dietz was formerly the 99th Inpatient Operations Squadron commander at Nellis AFB, Nevada.

Travis gains AES, med evac capabilities

Senior Airman Jonathon Carnell

60TH AIR MOBILITY WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The 60th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron stood up during an activation ceremony June 9 at Travis Air Force Base, California.

Col. Suzie Dietz took command of the new squadron, which falls under Travis' 60th Operations Group.

The 60th AES' mission is to transport wounded Department of Defense personnel by military aircraft worldwide, and the unit currently has about 64 members assigned to Travis.

Travis' fleet of C-17 Globemaster III are essential for the AES mission to function from coast to coast, said Lt. Col. Ronald Eller, 60th AES director of operations.

"Being at Travis AFB means we will have more flight opportunities, which will ultimately prepare our aeromedical evacuation crew members and supporting ground teams to be able to execute patient movement operations, and support rapid global mobility," said Eller, one of several Airmen who relocated here to join the 60th AES after departing the 43rd Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron at Pope Army Airfield, North Carolina, after the unit deactivated.

Flight nurses and medical technicians fly with the sick and injured, while communications personnel, medical administrators, logistics members, and other ground personnel make sure aircrews have the equipment and information they need to safely care for their

patients during transport.

"We have really embraced the total force effort to get the 60th AES activated," said Maj. Amy Badillo, 60th AES operations flight commander. "There has been so much awesome support from all the Travis AFB units helping us bed down."

The 60th AES members appreciate all the support because they have had to build their new unit from the ground up, Badillo said.

"We've also established a strong partnership with our Reserve AE counterpart here, the 349th AES, to assist us in utilizing their building to store our medical equipment supplies and help us with launch and recovery," Badillo said.

Badillo, who also came from the 43rd AES, said Travis' high-tempo flying

mission provides the perfect environment in which AES members can prepare for any situation they might encounter downrange.

"We will continue to execute the aeromedical evacuation mission whether it be flying patients within the North Command, South Command, Pacific Command or Central Command," Eller said. "We will be ready to transport patients on to the next level of care."

Whenever a response is needed from the 60th AES, Badillo said they will be ready to perform.

"I believe our mission here will be exciting and full of opportunities," said Eller. "We are fortunate to be here at Travis AFB in that we are on a world-class installation and have access to critical mobility aircraft."

Tailwind

Travis AFB, Calif. | 60th Air Mobility Wing

Air Force

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60th Air Mobility Wing commander
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On the cover

U.S. Air Force Col. Suzie Dietz, right assumes command of the Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron June 9 from Col. Gregg Johnson, left, while Master Sgt. Ryan Wallace holds the guidon.

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



Courtesy photo

Danielle Lee Loera recently sat at her sewing machine at Travis Air Force Base, California. Loera, who runs a bow business, has pivoted to mask-making due to the coronavirus pandemic. She has made more than 900 face coverings, including masks with a window over the face that allows people to read lips and see facial expressions.

Spouse's face masks inspire inclusion

Nick DeCicco

60TH AIR MOBILITY WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Among the emotions people feel after months of stay-at-home orders and wearing face masks in public, one is isolation.

That is why Danielle Lee Loera opened a window to a more hopeful perspective. The spouse of a technical sergeant at Travis Air Force Base, California, Loera has designed and produced masks with a covering that allows the wearer's mouth to be visible, helping communicate words as well as emotions.

After seeing a friend's

social media post of just such a mask, Loera, who has fashioned more than 900 masks since the COVID-19 pandemic began, said she was inspired to make some with a transparent cover over the mouth.

"I loved the idea of a window mask," she said recently via e-mail. "I was immediately enamored with the idea of being able to see facial expressions, and I recognized, in my own life, just how important a smile is."

Her initial motivation was to make masks that allowed lip reading. The high school she attended was the only one in its district

for those who are deaf or partially deaf, said Loera, who also studied American Sign Language. Helping the hearing impaired is an issue she takes to heart.

"I know that facial expressions and lip reading are as much a part of the language of sign as the hands," she said.

One recipient of Loera's inclusive masks was Tracy Obanion, a Fairfield, California, resident who was eager to share how happy she was to receive the masks. The two connected via social media after Loera posted a photo of herself earlier

See MASKS Page 20



Courtesy photo

Tracy Obanion says "I love you" in American Sign Language while wearing a face mask with a window.

Grooming standards to revert July 1

60th Air Mobility Wing Public Affairs

Effective July 1, the 60th Air Mobility Wing commander is rescinding the relaxation of hair length and bulk grooming standards found in in AFI 36-2903, Dress and Personal Appearance of Air Force Personnel.

The standard was relaxed at the discretion of installation commanders due to COVID-19 health protection conditions and physical distancing guidelines inhibit access to barber shops, hair salons and fitness centers across the Air Force.

For more information about grooming and fitness guidelines during the pandemic, Airmen and Space professionals should contact their chains of command.

Air Force cancels marathon for 2020

Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, OHIO — In an effort to minimize the spread of COVID-19 and prioritize the health and safety of participants, Air Force officials have canceled in-person running of the 2020 Air Force Marathon.

"The entire team and our mission and community partners have worked tirelessly for two months to find a way

See MARATHON Page 18

Shoppers 'better together' thanks to sweepstakes

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

The family that stays together, wins together.

Military service members, retirees, Veterans and their families can submit a photo or video showing how their days are "better together" for a chance to win \$4,500 in prizes from the Army & Air Force Exchange Service and P&G.

Authorized Exchange shoppers 18 years and older can submit their photo or video at ShopMyExchange.com/sweepstakes from June 19 to July 12.

Six winners worldwide will be selected. Three will win a prize package of a \$500 Exchange gift card, a P&G hygiene basket worth \$250 and a P&G home care basket worth \$250.

An additional three winners will each receive the hygiene and home care baskets. The hygiene basket includes

name-brand skincare, hair-care and other health and beauty products, while the home care basket includes a selection of laundry, air freshener and cleaning products.

"The last few months have been a time of stress and uncertainty for many Travis Air Force Base families," said Phonda Bishop, "The Exchange and P&G want to provide an opportunity for our shoppers to focus on the positive and win some great prizes at the same time."

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

For complete rules and to enter, shoppers can visit ShopMyExchange.com/sweepstakes. No purchase is necessary to enter or win.

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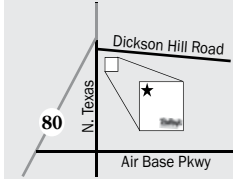
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IG directed to investigate racial disparities in service

Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

ARLINGTON, Va. — Department of the Air Force Secretary Barbara Barrett and service chiefs, Gen. David Goldfein and Gen. Jay Raymond, have directed the Department of the Air Force Inspector General to independently review the service's record on military discipline and developmental opportunities for African American

Airmen and Space Professionals.

The review will assess and capture existing racial disparities, assess Air Force-specific causal factors, like culture and policies, assimilate the analysis and conclusions of previous racial disparity studies by external organizations and make concrete recommendations resulting in impactful and lasting change.

By law, IGs operate as independent entities. The full

results of both reviews, good or bad, will be shared with Airmen, Department of Defense senior leaders, Congress and the public.

The request formalizes a step Goldfein publicly raised for the first time on June 1 in an official note to commanders and other senior leaders. That official message was Goldfein's response to the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis and the public protests about

See IG Page 18

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Month targets men's health

Civilian Health Promotion Services

June is Men's Health Month, a time to emphasize men's well-being and create awareness by providing men with powerful tips and information they can utilize to continue making their health a top priority.

While men and women are both different in their own ways, there are a few health conditions to which men are more susceptible.

According to the U.S. National Institute of Health, when compared to women, men are more likely to:

- Smoke and drink.
- Put off regular checkups and medical care.
- Make unhealthy or risky choices.

Additionally the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention also states in 2017:

- 347,879 deaths among men in the U.S were attributed to heart disease.

- 70%-89% of sudden cardiac events occur in men.

More info

Additional information on men's health is available at:

- <https://www.cdc.gov/heartdisease/men.htm>
- <https://medlineplus.gov/menshealth.html>
- USAFwellness.com > Health Library > Men's Health

- 50% of men who die suddenly of coronary heart disease have no prior symptoms.

Despite these statistics, the good news is many of the attributing factors to heart disease are things that can be managed and controlled in order to greatly reduce our risk for these conditions.

CHPS takes great pride in making it a top priority to provide the awareness and tips to empower individuals toward living their happiest and healthiest lifestyles.

The CHPS men's health class reviews what conditions men are at risk for, screenings

that could benefit men, and risky health behaviors common among men. These classes will discuss action steps men can take to reduce their risk for chronic conditions and disease. The class can be scheduled using a virtual platform.

Every month CHPS highlights a national health observance and offers health education classes or other services that are applicable to health promotion and prevention.

We are currently teaching classes by request during a unit or team meeting via phone/video. Many of our other classes offered also provide great tips for how to lead a well-rounded, healthy lifestyle.

Additionally, for more in-depth information on men's health and how men can detect health problems early, visit the health library at USAFwellness.com.

For more information email CHPS at CHPSsupport@us.af.mil.



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Jayden Ford

U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Ryan McBride, 19th Maintenance Squadron noncommissioned officer in charge of metals technology, mounts a new 3D-printed hydraulic pump bracket June 4 at Little Rock Air Force Base, Arkansas.

3D printing pump helps C-130 fleet

Airman 1st Class Jayden Ford
19TH AIRLIFT WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

LITTLE ROCK AIR FORCE BASE, Ark. — The Air Force empowers its Airmen to be innovative in order to outpace and outmaneuver adversaries by solving problems they encounter every day.

It's what allows the Air Force to move faster, smarter and maintain its competitive edge.

One of those Airmen is Tech. Sgt. Ryan McBride, 19th Maintenance Squadron noncommissioned officer in charge of metals technology. He pursued his innovation by collaborating with the Air Force Life Cycle Management Center to 3D print a hydraulic pump bracket for the C-130J Super Hercules.

His idea came to fruition on

June 4, when the bracket became one of the first 3D printed metal parts to be installed on the C-130J.

The bracket is designed to hold the C-130J's manual hydraulic pump, a device that allows for lowering or raising the ramp with a hand pump when the aircraft is powered off or the hydraulic system fails.

McBride explained that during his time working on C-130Js, he found himself and his team having to manufacture the bracket at an alarming rate due to the immense force required to operate the pump.

"With its current design, the bracket can withstand very minimal side loading from the pump handle," said 1st Lt. Jesse Montgomery, Air Force

See PUMP Page 15

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Puzzles

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No. 494 Medium

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

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

Previous solution - Easy

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

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

SUDOKU

No. 494 Very Hard

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

The solutions will be published here in the next issue.

Previous solution - Tough

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

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; Jaquaylann Cabanlit, Travis AFB Commissary; Neftaly Clark, 1st Special Operations Force Support Squadron; David Duncan, 319th Reconnaissance Wing, Grand Forks AFB; Rabiye Hamilton, Travis AFB Commissary; Patrick Hodge United States Transportation Command, Scott AFB; Mark Holmes, 10th Contracting Squadron; Dina Patterson-Steward,

60th Aerial Port Squadron; Jason Perkins, Grand Forks AFB; Gina Silva, Air Force Academy headquarters; Jean Sommer, Travis AFB Commissary; Maria Thammasen, 60th Force Support Squadron; and Dennis Weaver, Air Force Manpower Agency.

The VLTP allows an employee who has a medical emergency or is affected by a medical emergency of a family member and is without availability of paid leave to receive transferred annual leave directly from other employees. For more information, call 707-424-1720.

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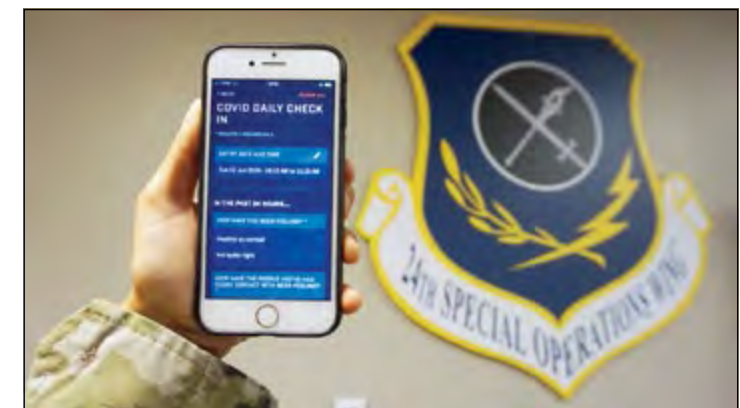
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App seeks to mitigate virus risk

1st Lt. Alejandra Fontalvo
24TH SPECIAL OPERATIONS WING



Courtesy photo

An Airman assigned to the 24th Special Operations Wing holds a smartphone with the COVID-19 health monitoring program June 2.

HURLBURT FIELD, Fla. — The Air Force special tactics community is known for looking at complex problems and finding new ways to accomplish the mission. When COVID-19 became a pandemic, that was no exception.

Medical and Preservation of the force and family team members of the 24th Special Operations Wing, headquartered at Hurlburt Field teamed up with the Air Force Research Laboratory to develop a way to monitor special tactics operators' health status during the pandemic straight from their smartphones.

The team quickly responded by taking an existing human performance software known as Smartabase, which identifies health risks to the force, and adding a "COVID-19 Check-In" feature to monitor pre-and post-deployment health.

"We recognized the need for real-time monitoring of the force and readiness impact from COVID-19," said Col. John Dorsch, 24th SOW surgeon general. "COVID-19 screening was a natural extension of our efforts since it is another risk to force like others

for which we are monitoring, such as (traumatic brain injury), musculoskeletal injuries and PTSD."

The app feature is designed as a daily survey where users input daily temperature, possible symptoms, risk factors, exposure as well as a mental health state. All the data from the ST operators are collected and alerts medical and command teams if there is anything out of the ordinary that needs to be addressed.

"This ensures commanders have important information related to their operators and allows them to make the best decisions about who goes where and does what," said Craig

Engelson, 24th SOW POTFF director. "In the past, they have had to coordinate with multiple departments and multiple systems to get the same information."

The idea stemmed from the wing's long-standing efforts using technology and innovation to maintain operator readiness as well as ensure special tactics teams' ability to perform optimally on the battlefield for years to come.

"[Special operations forces] can't be mass-produced," Dorsch said "Special tactics is a small, but incredibly important and highly specialized combat capability. This

See APP Page 12

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U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Sophia Robello

U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Timothy Hogge and U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Christopher Clinton, 317th Maintenance Group instructors, demonstrate the capabilities of the 317th MXG's Virtual Reality Lab May 13 at Dyess Air Force Base, Texas.

Tech. Sgt. Tory Patterson
7TH BOMB WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

DYESS AIR FORCE BASE, Texas — Purists may argue that nothing can replace real-world, hands-on learning. Some may say that virtual reality, or VR, platforms are simply video games, but for Airmen at Dyess Air Force Base, VR technology is transforming the way C-130J Super Hercules aircraft maintainers are learning and perfecting their craft.

Two maintainers in particular have led the initiative to make the 317th Maintenance Group's VR lab an immersive, realistic and effective training environment. Since 2018, 317th MXG instructors Tech. Sgt. Timothy Hogge and Staff Sgt. Christopher Clinton have done everything, from working with civilian software developers to writing course curriculum, to make the lab a success.

Now, Dyess AFB's C-130 VR room is

the largest in Air Mobility Command. "This effort started from the ground up, and now, we are working with two major commands and have a VR room with its own unique and innovative design," Hogge said.

The VR lab boasts 16 training stations and an adjacent classroom. However, the most impressive thing about the facility isn't necessarily its high-tech equipment. According to the 317th MXG, virtual training is useless without a learning curriculum. With this in mind, Hogge and Clinton created an orientation and familiarization training program to make the VR lab truly effective.

The training team's curriculum, combined with innovative VR technologies, create a space where maintenance Airmen can train and qualify on mission-essential tasks.

"One of the more impressive aspects

See C-130 Page 18

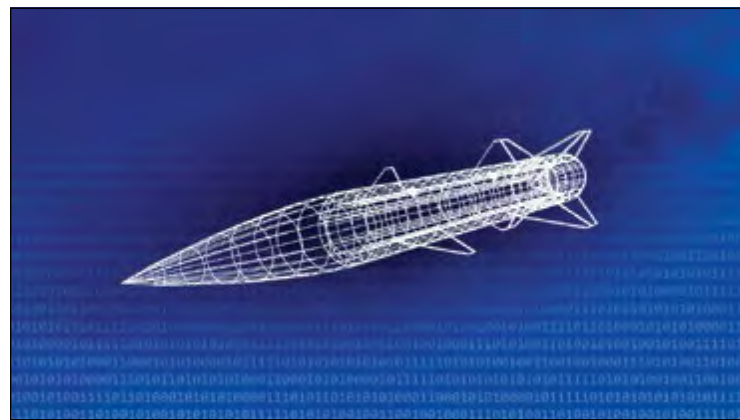
Materiel Command aims to modernize life cycle process

Marisa Alia-Novobilski
AIR FORCE MATERIEL COMMAND

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio — The Air Force Materiel Command has launched a new digital campaign to modernize and streamline the life cycle process of Air Force platforms and systems, ensuring warfighters have the technology required to maintain a competitive advantage over adversaries.

"Transitioning to a digital AFMC enterprise is a priority for our command and is foundational to our success in today's adversarial environment," said Gen. Arnold W. Bunch Jr., AFMC commander. "To continue to be the critical enabler for our Air Force and deliver capability at the speed of relevance, we need to leverage digital technologies to better enable a fully interconnected Air Force research, acquisition, test and sustainment enterprise."

With a vision of, "One Team...One Digital Lifecycle Enterprise," the campaign is



U.S. Air Force illustration/Chris Quinlan and John James

Air Force Materiel Command is leading a digital campaign to leverage modern digital capabilities to decrease the time it takes to move a weapon system from a concept into the hands of a warfighter, while providing the ability to adapt capabilities at speed to meet the requirements of today's dynamic warfighting domain.

an AFMC-led, coordinated effort with the goal to create an integrated digital ecosystem that provides enterprise access to the data individuals need to develop, test, field and maintain complex weapon systems. The goal is to leverage modern digital capabilities to decrease the time it takes to move a weapon system from a concept into the hands of a warfighter,

while providing the ability to adapt capabilities at speed to meet the requirements of today's dynamic warfighting domain.

"This is a significant but essential shift in the way we have operated in the past and will impact every aspect of our mission — research, engineering, contracting, financial

See LIFE CYCLE Page 15

Academy announces data science major

Jennifer Spradlin
U.S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY PUBLIC AFFAIRS

U.S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo. — Data + analysis = command decision.

This simple equation can be applied to most modern military action and shows how one element must be in concert with the other to create the right sight picture for commanders.

"It's not enough to have more data than our adversaries. It's how we understand the information and use it at the speed of relevance that matters," said Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David Goldfein.

To better prepare future officers in the Air and Space forces, the U.S. Air Force Academy has created a data science major, approved by the Academy Board June 4. The Academy will also introduce data science principles into various academic disciplines.

"Data science is the tip of the spear in terms of importance to winning future conflicts," said Bradley Warner, a professor and data science program director. "It has also emerged as a leading new career field in the private sector, so much so that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine advocated that all undergraduate students receive a foundation in data science."

The data science major will be interdisciplinary, built with core classes from the Academy's management, math, computer science and philosophy departments.

Cadet 3rd Class Devin Wasilefsky will be one of the first cadets to major in data science.

"I was attracted to the Air Force and the Academy for the opportunities you're given to gain a skillset and a top-tier education," he said.

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821st CRG's alert force prepped for contingencies



1) U.S. Air Force Airman 1st Class Stone Christoff, 821st Contingency Response Support Squadron, uses a crimping tool to finish building a CAT5 cable during a "Crow's Nest" exercise April 30 near the Global Reach Deployment Center on Travis Air Force Base, California. Christoff built several CAT5 cables in order to wire the tent for future connectivity.

Story and photos by
Tech. Sgt. David W. Carbajal
621ST CONTINGENCY RESPONSE WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Earthquakes. Hurricanes. Pandemics. Air base openings. Remote airfields.

"This is what we prepare for," said Capt. Sean Dronen, 921st Contingency Response Squadron assistant operations officer.

More than 100 Airmen from the 821st Contingency Response Group at Travis Air Force Base, California, assumed the responsibility to be anywhere in the world in 12 hours as of June 1.

Assuming "alert" for the 621st Contingency Response Wing means members of the 921st CRS and the 821st Contingency Response Support Squadron fulfill the needs of their higher headquarters of Air Mobility Command and U.S. Transportation Command.

Normally, squadrons spend the months and weeks prior to assuming alert as their opportunity to perform last-minute checks to ensure all Airmen have the necessary training and proficiencies needed to meet AMC's unit type code or UTC taskings.

"Unfortunately, COVID had other plans," said Maj. Ramiro Rios, 921st CRS operations officer. "But it's given our Airmen the opportunity to be creative and find innovative ways to conduct training and still get the job done."

Since mid-March, many of the 621st CRW Airmen have switched to teleworking to adhere to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines of physical distancing. Despite restrictions due to the coronavirus, the 921st CRS and 821st CRSS were still able to prepare.

"We're able to maintain readiness by continuing to support some GAMSS [Global Air Mobility Support System] taskings, our maintenance and aerial port Airmen embedded with the 60th [Air Mobility Wing] and flight leaders provided scenario-based 'homework' to their members to brush up on skills," said Dronen, the Contingency

Response Element assistant director of operations for the alert force. "We still conducted in-person training, such as tactical operations center exercises, but we ensured safe practices of physical distancing, face coverings and we reiterated good personal hygiene."

This type of training is required before the alert cycle, but this time was even more valuable.

"As any other military organization, we lose continuity and experience when Airmen PCS (permanent change of station) and we are no exception," said Rios. "Some of our alert force have never been on alert before, but this experience will be invaluable as new CR Airmen arrive."

Real-world contingency experience may come sooner than many would think as the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration predicts 2020's Atlantic hurricane season to be "above normal." According to the NOAA's Climate Prediction Center, the administration forecasts 13-19 named storms from June to December, with as many as six storms being major hurricanes of category 3 or higher.

"It's no secret that this alert time frame is historically busy and we are no strangers to hurricane support," said Dronen.

In previous years, the CRW has provided support for hurricanes Rita, Ike, Sandy and Michael. But the CRW has supported more than hurricanes during this block; this time last year, the alert force from the 621st Contingency Response Group at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey, supported the re-opening of Prince Sultan Air Base, Saudi Arabia to establish air base operations as part of U.S. Central Command's commitment to providing stability and security in the region.

"The key is: we have to be ready for anything," said Lt. Col. Robert Kline, 921st CRS commander. "We never know when that call will come in or what we'll be supporting, but we're ready and eager to answer that call."



2) U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Andrew Zecchino, 921st Contingency Response Squadron mobile command and control specialist, coordinates with personnel during a "Crow's Nest" exercise April 28 near the Global Reach Deployment Center at Travis Air Force Base, California. 3) U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Andre Nesbeth, 821st CRS, explains the recommended procedure for a simulated dispute between service members during a "Crow's Nest" exercise April 30 at Travis. 4) U.S. Air Force Airman 1st Class Stone Christoff, 821st Contingency Response Support Squadron, verifies cable connection on the Small Package Initial Communications Element during a "Crow's Nest" exercise April 30 at Travis.

Finances made easy with new online portal

**Secretary of the Air Force
Public Affairs**

WASHINGTON — A new way of getting financial support is sweeping across the Air Force. With six bases having already tested the newest tool from the Air Force Financial Management community called Comptroller Services Portal, it's expected to be implemented to the remaining installations by the end of the fiscal year.

CSP is an automated incident management application that allows customers to request and receive online assistance from their servicing comptroller squadron. CSP has integrated workflows which

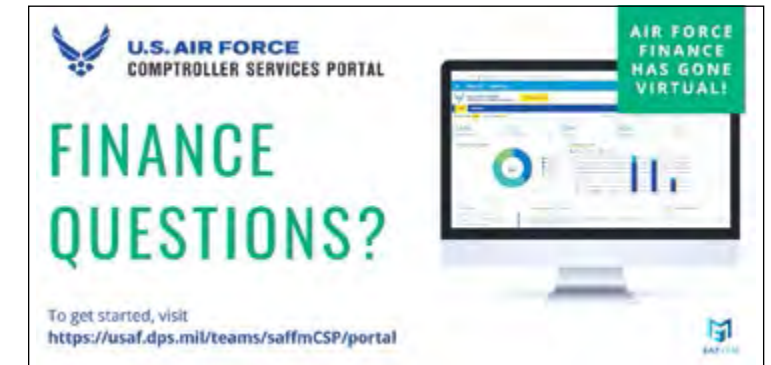
assist the customer in seeking help with travel pay, military pay and civilian pay.

"This is our 21st century customer-service tool," said Capt. Carly Serratore, Secretary of the Air Force of Financial Management CSP program manager. "It's now possible for customers to submit inquiries and for comptroller squadron technicians to assist customers from any location – at work, home, coffee shop or an airport terminal. It will change business as we know it, while providing better, faster and more accurate services to our customers."

The innovative program will assist with personnel pay and travel operations, and has

workflows for unit accounting and unit resource management. These additional capabilities will assist unit resource advisors and cost center managers in seeking help with accounting and budget support. CSP will also help standardize finance processes and communication across the Air Force, and offers users access to all things financial management with quick links, knowledge articles and frequently asked questions.

"CSP demystifies and streamlines our financial processes," Serratore added. "It gives the customer control and transparency over their pay on the same user-friendly platform, regardless of where they're stationed. It gives the



U.S. Air Force courtesy graphic

finance community the ability to do data analytics and trend analysis to target training and ultimately better serve our customer."

CSP is built on the cloud-based SharePoint online

platform, which provides new features, improved security, dependability, flexibility and access. It also provides the Air Force a low cost and effective avenue to build future applications.

App

From Page 7

system helps protect this capability for combat operations, and our partnership with AFRL has been invaluable. We must continue to leverage technology to help us solve the nation's hard problems."

Dr. Adam Strang, a human performance research scientist and AFRL's director of the Signature Tracking for Optimized Nutrition and Training (STRONG) team, has been leading the back-end development of the database as well as finding new opportunities for improvement.

"As a scientist, I like to lean forward and stay on the cutting edge," Strang said. "Often that requires taking big swings and being comfortable with risk. Special tactics functions

similarly, which makes a good pairing. Together we push the edge of technological capability in ways that AFRL could not accomplish alone."

The technology proved successful in monitoring returning deployers, safeguarding families from health risks, as well as helping outgoing deployers meet specific country clearance requirements. The 24th SOW team also helped integrate the technology at the 1st Special Operations Medical Group at Hurlburt Field and 27th Special Operations Medical Group at Cannon Air Force Base, New Mexico, to monitor pre-deployment health for almost 250 air commandos.

"In truth, I believe that we are only scratching the surface of its capabilities," Engelson said. "As our providers and commanders integrate with the system even more, there is no telling how much more useful this system could become."




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Pump

From Page 6

Life Cycle Management Center C-130 structures engineer. "Because of this, an estimated 30 to 40 brackets break per year and must be locally manufactured which is a very difficult and time-consuming process."

The re-creation of the bracket provided an opportunity to completely revamp its structure and strength to decrease the number of repairs needed over time.

"Lab testing has shown the new 3D printed part can withstand three times the downward force and 10 times the side force compared to the original bracket, making it much less likely to break in the field," Montgomery said. "The 3D printed version also costs an estimated \$3,800 less per part to make and requires significantly fewer man-hours to produce."

"It also showcases the power of 3D printing in using complex geometry to improve strength and reduce costs, which would not be possible using traditional manufacturing," Montgomery continued.

McBride said 3D printing the bracket will make it easier for C-130J maintenance units across the Air Force to obtain the part and eliminate the need to manufacture it themselves.

"Pending successful field testing, the bracket can be mass-produced for the supply chain," he said. "Once approved, we will be able to order



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Jayden Ford

U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Jason Felts, 19th Maintenance Squadron sheet metal production lead, compares an old hydraulic pump bracket to the new 3D-printed version June 4 at Little Rock Air Force Base, Arkansas.

already printed parts that are ready for installation."

McBride added that as 3D printing becomes more prevalent, it has the potential to become more commonplace for engineering and manufacturing aircraft parts at a cheaper and more efficient rate.

"This introduces people to the benefits of 3D printing aircraft parts," he said. "This is just the beginning. It's still a fairly new technology, but it's becoming much more readily available."

Montgomery said as older models of aircraft continue to age and production of parts become less prevalent, 3D printing is seen as a potential solution to future limitations within the supply chain.

"Hopefully this part serves to spark the creativity of C-130 units across the Air Force once they see the capabilities of 3D printing and its broad

Life cycle

From Page 8

management, test, and logistics," said Maj. Gen. William Cooley, campaign lead. "Our adversaries are moving rapidly to develop and field capabilities that threaten our military dominance. Digital tools and processes can improve our time and efficiency in every acquisition phase, and we need to embrace the adoption of innovative capability development methods, tools and processes across the enterprise to deliver warfighter capabilities faster and smarter."

The campaign is focused on six lines of effort to achieve a digital ecosystem that supports agility, flexibility and speed in delivery of Air Force current and future needs. These lines of effort include integrating information technology infrastructure; models and tools; standards, data and architectures; lifecycle strategies and processes; policy and guidance; and workforce and culture.

By digitizing and integrating the lifecycle enterprise, the command will be better positioned to deliver capabilities at the speed of relevance as it executes its mission in support of the National Defense Strategy.

"A number of defense and many non-defense industries have made a culture shift to incorporating digital tools and processes in every part of their organizations in order to deliver capabilities at ever increasing speed and efficiency. They do this by designing, sustaining

and modernizing capabilities in an integrated digital ecosystem. The Air Force needs to embrace 21st century capabilities to be faster, more efficient and more effective throughout the entire acquisition life cycle," Cooley said.

While the quality of Air Force capabilities is excellent, the time to field complex systems has continued to increase over the years. For example, in the 1970s, the F-16 Fighting Falcon averaged six years from concept to field delivery. In the 1990s, the C-17 Globemaster III saw timelines of about 12 years. Work on the F-35 Lightning II began in the early 2000s, with final full operational capability estimated to exceed more than 20 years at this time.

"We need to streamline the design, development, fabrication and testing to get platforms to our warfighters faster. This is critical to our support of the National Defense Strategy and what our Air Force needs to continue to effectively fly, fight and win today and in the future," Bunch said.

The effort will leverage the expertise of AFMC Airmen across the enterprise in collaboration with industry partners, the U.S. Space Force, Space and Missile Center and the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics.

"This is a team effort, and every functional domain is crucial to the success of our transformation," Bunch said. "We're building the infrastructure to support the Air Force we need for the future."

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Brown

From Page 2

personally, professionally, and institutionally, so that all Airmen, both today and tomorrow, appreciate the value of diversity and can serve in an environment where they can reach their full potential.

I'm thinking I don't have all the answers on how to create such an environment whether here in PACAF or across our Air Force.

I'm thinking about without clear-cut answers, I just want

to have the wisdom and knowledge to lead during difficult times like these.

I want the wisdom and knowledge to lead, participate in, and listen to necessary conversations on racism, diversity, and inclusion.

I want the wisdom and knowledge to lead those willing to take committed and sustained action to make our Air Force better.

That's what I'm thinking about. I wonder what you're thinking about. I want to hear what you're thinking about, and how together we can make a difference.

IG

From Page 5

racial injustice.

"We are not immune to the spectrum of racial prejudice, systemic discrimination and unconscious bias," Goldfein wrote in his message to commanders. "We see this in the apparent inequity in our application of military justice. We will not shy away from this; as leaders and as Airmen, we will own our part, and confront it head on."

In an open letter signed by Barrett and the two service chiefs, the leadership team wrote, "We are listening, and we are taking action. We have directed the Department of the Air Force Inspector General to conduct an independent review."

As part of the review, the IG will widely reach out to Airmen and Space Professionals via interviews, group discussions, targeted and anonymous surveys. In addition, to better scope this review, the IG has formed a Senior Leader Advisory Group composed of ten African American general officers, ten African American chiefs and four African American senior executive service Airmen. In addition, a number of Airmen from all major commands will be selected to join the IG review team. While other disparities also need to be reviewed, this phase will focus on African American racial disparities.

"We want to make sure our Air and Space Professionals are able to share their experiences and concerns, and we

want to empower them to be a part of the solution. Their voices will be heard and captured for the record. We have a tremendous opportunity here, and we will not waste it," said Lt. Gen. Sami Said, the Air Force Inspector General.

Anonymous surveys will be made available on www.af.mil by mid-June so anyone who wants to provide feedback will be able to do so. Directions for how to submit the feedback will be included on the survey form. The surveys will include specific questions but also accommodate any desired comments. Finally, the surveys will also include an email address for Airmen and Space Professionals to personally communicate with the IG team conducting the review.

C-130

From Page 8

of the lab is the direct feedback capability our instructors can use," said Senior Master Sgt. Ronald Cooney, 317th MXG maintenance operations flight superintendent. "This feature measures students' performance and learning based on how fast they can understand key concepts."

The 317th MXG plans to train 250 maintainers each year using the new VR lab. Training in a VR setting provides unique benefits that more traditional locations can't. For example, it provides Airmen a controlled learning environment. This means no extreme temperatures, which is

an invaluable feature in West Texas. Additionally, it allows maintainers to maintain task proficiency without impacting aircraft availability, which in turn increases how quickly maintainers can be trained. One student of the VR lab, Airman 1st Class David Farrell, 317th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron hydraulic systems apprentice, described his experience with VR training.

"The course feels real," Farrell said. "This training doesn't compromise the experience of being on a C-130 learning is in a distraction-free environment."

The 317th MXG VR lab continues to evolve. Starting July, they'll begin using computer software that allows maintenance students to immerse themselves in the intricacies

of the Rolls Royce engines that power the C-130J aircraft. Whether it's new software or improved curriculum, the VR lab's team continues to find ways to make virtual training effective for 317th Airlift Wing maintainers.

"From the onset of this initiative, we challenged our Maintenance Qualification Training Program team to advance VR from an innovative hobby to a forum our Airmen want to learn in," said Col. Don Vandebussche, 317th MXG commander.

The 317th AW's VR lab is part of an ongoing Air Force effort to create virtual and augmented-reality training capabilities for the aircraft maintenance and career enlist-ed aviator communities.

Marathon

From Page 4

forward to produce the 24th annual event but have had to make the difficult decision to cancel the traditional in-person event," said Gen. Arnold W. Bunch Jr., commander of Air Force Materiel Command. "We know this is a challenging time for everyone, and the cancellation will be disappointing news to many."

Numerous scenarios were explored to produce an event that was safe for all and met the high event standards. All scenarios led the marathon team to conclude the event would be unable to proceed in a manner that participants have come to expect.

"We simply cannot execute the marathon in a manner where the safety and security of our runners, volunteers, staff, partners and spectators is satisfactorily achieved," said Brandon Hough, Air Force

Marathon director. "However, our team has worked hard to offer numerous options to registered participants to be as accommodating as possible."

For those participants who are registered, the Air Force Marathon team has developed three options to choose from. Additionally, for those who have yet to register, there is still time to sign up to participate in the virtual events.

For the latest updates from the Air Force Marathon, visit usafmarathon.com.

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U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Kelly Goonan

1) U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Dan, 301st Rescue Squadron Special Mission Aviator, flies in an HH-60G Pave Hawk, May 30 at Patrick Air Force Base, Florida. Dan's surname is withheld for security purposes. 2) U.S. Air Force Capt. Robert Flemming, 9th Expeditionary Bomb Squadron weapons system operator, embraces his daughter at Dyess Air Force Base, Texas, May 31. Four 9th EBS B-1B Lancers and approximately 200 Dyess AFB Airmen returned from a Bomber Task Force deployment to Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, where they supported Pacific Air Forces' commitment to security and stability of the Indo-Pacific region. 3) The SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket carrying NASA astronauts Doug Hurley and Bob Behnken in the Dragon crew capsule launches May 30 from Space Launch Complex 39A at Kennedy Space Center, Florida.

Air Force's reach spans entire ... PLANET



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Colin Hollowell



U.S. Air Force photo/Lt. Col. Jon Quinlan



Courtesy photo

Danielle Lee Loera sits at her sewing machine recently at Travis Air Force Base, California. Loera designed and created a mask with a window to boost inclusiveness, allowing people to read lips and see facial expressions.

Masks

From Page 4

this month wearing the window mask. Within days, the two connected, and Obanion had a fresh supply of masks.

Obanion said the masks are beneficial in communicating with her husband, who retired as master chief petty officer after 30 years with the U.S. Coast Guard. She said the window mask has also helped at health care appointments and in other situations.

"Hearing people are not as affected by wearing a mask in their daily lives as deaf folks are," she said. "Just imagine people talking behind a mask, and (you) not being aware of anything they are saying. The windowed mask lets me lip read and gauge a person's emotions."

"Also, I like to know if people are smiling or not," Obanion said via text message, adding a smiley emoji.

Obanion said her masks help her feel more connected to others.

"I'm so grateful Danielle made these," Obanion said. "It was so thoughtful, and she really understands the isolation deaf folks feel due to so many people wearing masks these days with the (coronavirus)."

Loera said the masks can also benefit more than just the hearing impaired. Although Loera's initial inspiration was lip reading, she has found that the masks serve a plethora of purposes.

"A very good friend of mine has an autistic son, and, like the hard of hearing, he is learning to 'read' facial expressions," she said. "She has ordered masks, not for her son, but for herself and his teachers to aid him on his learning journey."

Loera said the masks are made with cotton fabric with a heavy-weight, vinyl material with anti-fogging technology that is free of bisphenol-A, also known as BPA, an industrial chemical used to make hard, clear plastics. Loera's masks also follow guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. She said each mask takes

about seven minutes to make.

"My pattern conforms to the face and the nose and has a window," she said. "The vinyl window acts as a filter, and it can go all the way around the ears. The straps are important, not only for comfort, but also because many hard of hearing and deaf people have hearing aids and implants already there. I wanted to accommodate hearing aids while also keeping it (as) comfortable (as possible) for the user."

Loera's husband, John, whom she praised for his support, is a flight engineer with the 9th Air Refueling Squadron at Travis AFB.

"He doesn't know how to sew very well, but he has ironed, cut and pinned more masks than I can count," she said. "He's had my back in this, financially, emotionally and physically - because we both have the same goal: help as many people as we can because we have the ability and drive to do so."

Loera said she is willing to share the design with others. Those seeking a mask can contact her via Facebook.

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