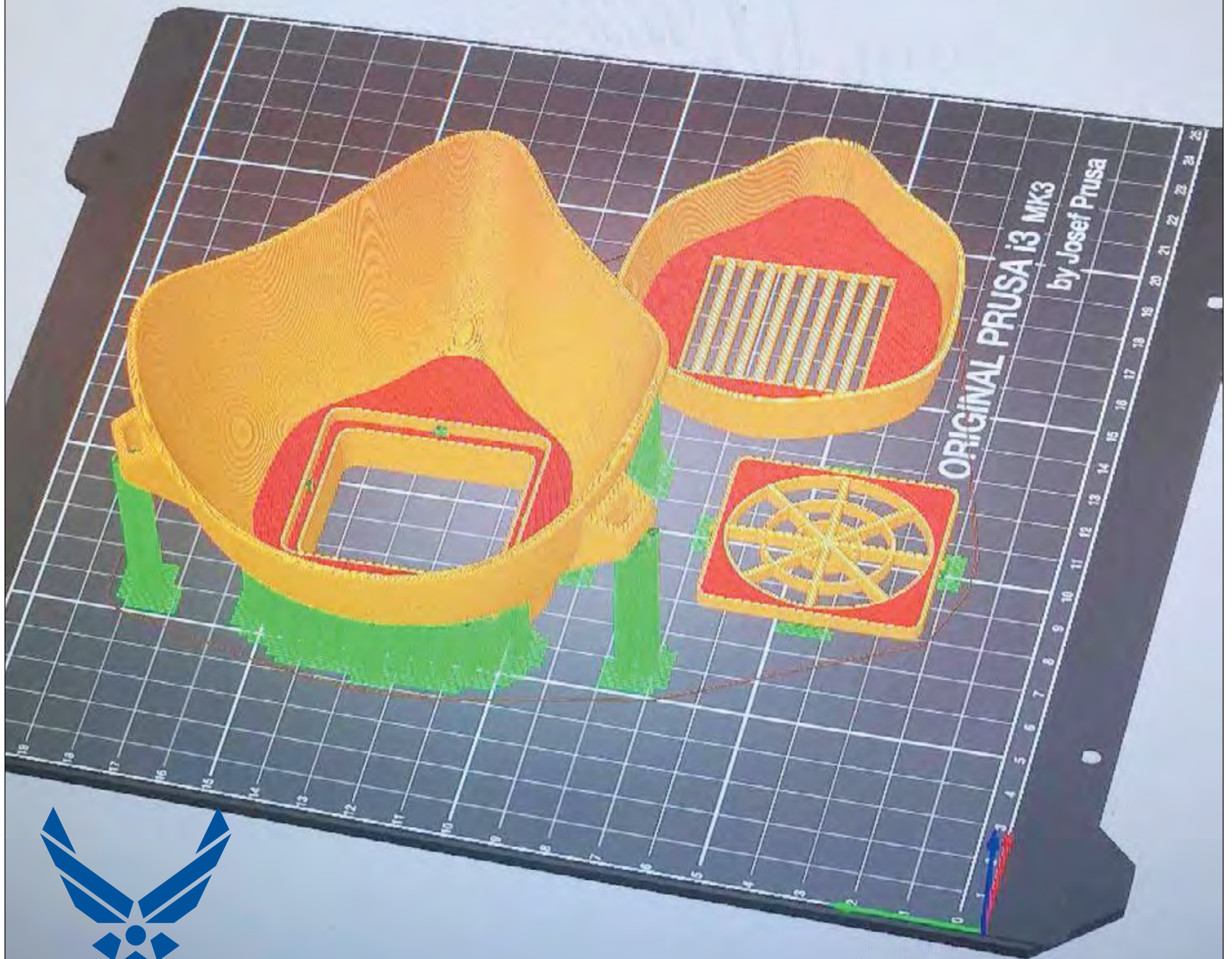


INNOVATE

Travis creates PPE to fight coronavirus

PAGES 10-11



TAILWIND



Commentary by Gen. Maryanne Miller
AIR MOBILITY COMMAND COMMANDER

Take long view in fight against virus

Chief Master Sgt. Terrence A. Greene, Air Mobility Command command chief, and I would like to first thank each of you, our military and civilian Airmen alike, for your incredible service to this great nation.

We appreciate that you and your families continue to sacrifice so much so that others stay safe and protected.

Secondly, we want to express to you our focus and some concerns with regard to the next few months.

Commander's Commentary

As Covid-19 presents many challenges across the world, please know that force health protection is our top priority.

Your wings, groups and squadrons are ensuring compliance with health protection guidance, such as social distancing, watching for symptoms of infection and reporting as required. Moving forward,

we will continue to assess the need to put additional measures in place to protect the force so we can continue to support our global mission.

To stay vigilant during this time, I encourage you to take the "long view." Understanding that our compliance with restrictions and disease mitigation actions may continue for a few months will help us temporarily adjust to a new normal. Human nature sometimes tempts us to drop our guard when things appear to be going well and we do

not see immediate danger to our families.

We must resist that temptation. Chief Greene and I want to emphasize that each of you has a role to play and vigilance must remain high for the next few months. Every Airman is precious and brings tremendous capability to our Air Force and our mission.

Please know that as we adjust our patterns of life for now, Chief Greene and I are keeping you close in our thoughts.

Attempt to manage stress before it manages you

Commentary by Airman 1st Class Cameron Otte

60TH AIR MOBILITY WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Stress can be fairly terrifying at times and if not managed properly, it can be overwhelming and affect your health.

There was a time when I struggled with controlling my stress and it began to negatively affect my eating habits, communication skills and my outlook on life. However, everything changed the day I learned to manage my stress and now I'm a better person and Airman for it.

The first step I took to take control of my stress was acknowledging that having stress is normal and everyone deals with it.

Stress is a part of daily life and in manageable doses it can actually be used as a motivational tool. Stress can be used to help accomplish daily challenges and achieve goals throughout your life.

Studies have also shown that some stress can actually help fortify your immune system, improve how well your heart performs and protect you from infection.

It's when you get overwhelmed and start drowning in stress that it becomes unhealthy. When people deal with too much stress over a long period of time, they can be affected by ailments such as headaches, anxiety, restlessness, fatigue, depression and other mental or physical afflictions.

This is why it is important to maintain control because if you don't manage your stress, it will manage you.

When taking a break, I believe it is crucial you don't just stop (working), but incorporate something you enjoy doing as well. When your work day ends, rest is crucial, but having fun is just as important. Some people may want to hit up a club, others may want to go for a drive or sit back and drink with friends.

I struggled for a long time to find the one thing that helped me relieve stress.

Enlisted Commentary

Ever since I can remember, I've struggled with controlling my stress. It would get so bad I'd have difficulty finishing a simple test because I was so scared of failure. Over time I improved my ability to work under stress, but never learned how to properly deal with the stress inside me.

It wasn't until I spoke with a counselor in college that I was informed about how stress works and how I could reduce it. When I got off work or finished an assignment, I had to find ways to relax and disconnect during my time. So, I began searching for that one thing I desperately needed to help me finally calm down and relax.

It didn't take me long to figure out what it is that I enjoy. I play video games with an online community with whom I have grown very close. The games vary from massive multiplayer online fantasy

games to action role-playing single player games. When I jump into a game, I can feel any stress that has built up within me just melt away.

I know it may sound childish to say, "I play video games to reduce my stress," but that doesn't matter. When you clock out for the day your time belongs to you, spend it the way you want. It doesn't matter if others see your hobby as a waste of time, if it's what you love doing, then feel free to indulge yourself.

Relieving the stress you built up today will help you better yourself tomorrow. You will find yourself well rested, able to jump into work better focused on current tasks and discover a more physically and mentally healthier version of yourself free from stress overloads.

I truly believe it's important that everyone finds that one thing that makes them happy. So get out there and find what it is that you love to do and give yourself the break we all know you deserve.



U.S. Air Force photo/Heide Couch

A U.S. Air Force Airman holds his head in his hands in a demonstration of grief, Sept. 19, 2019, at Travis Air Force Base, California. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, many people are turning to online resources to connect with others, including mental health professionals. Military family life consultants at Travis implemented online counseling services March 30.

Counselors provide services online during outbreak

Tech. Sgt. James Hodgman

60TH AIR MOBILITY WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

More than 579,000 people in the United States have been infected with the novel coronavirus, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Millions have filed for unemployment benefits over the past few weeks, according to the U.S. Department of Labor, and more than 25,000 people in the United States have died because of Covid-19, according to Johns Hopkins University.

All of this can lead to a significant increase in stress, conflict, anxiety and a variety of problems, according to Jaye Hurt, 60th Force Support Squadron Airman and Family

Readiness Center team leader.

"This pandemic is creating a large amount of stress and strain on our people; I've never seen anything like it," Hurt said. "Many parents have lost their jobs; children are home from school; and much of the country is under a stay-at-home order."

With all this uncertainty, it's more important now than ever that military family life consultants are available, she said.

Military family life consultants support service members and their families with non-medical counseling worldwide. They offer confidential counseling services on a short-term basis, according to the Military OneSource website.

From March 16-29, Travis AFB MFLCs were unable to see clients due to fears of potentially spreading Covid-19. Despite the challenges the virus presented, Hurt said her team wanted to find a way to continue offering counseling services and transitioned to doing so online March 30 through Zoom, a video conferencing application.

"We wanted to make the best use of our resources and continue to provide counseling services during this difficult time," she said. "We need a resilient Air Force and resilient Airmen. We must do all we can to ensure our people can resolve issues without potentially becoming suicidal."

Demand for counseling services has increased

significantly across the United States in the past month, said Ashley Womble, who works in New York as the head of communications for Crisis Text Line, a free text-based counseling service.

"We have seen an increase in the number of texters per day by 50 percent since the Covid-19 pandemic hit the United States," Womble said during an interview with NPR.

Nearly 80 percent of texters reporting a Covid-19-related concern also reported anxiety, Womble added.

"I had one shift where I worked for about three hours, spoke to around 12 people, and every single conversation was about the virus," said Sara Schaller, a CTL counselor. "The

fear grows as this virus does."

Providing an outlet so people can address those fears is important, said Hurt.

"Our MFLCs have provided services at Travis AFB since July 2008, and some of our clients have had to drive from up to two hours away to see an MFLC in the past," Hurt said. "It's vital we are here to support service members and their families."

Since offering their first Zoom counseling session, Travis MFLCs are averaging four clients a day. They are on pace to provide support for 120 people a month.

To make an appointment for a Zoom session with a Travis MFLC, call 510-480-8993 or 424-395-9624.

Tailwind

Travis AFB, Calif. | 60th Air Mobility Wing

Air Force

Col. Jeffrey Nelson

60th Air Mobility Wing commander

Senior Airman Christian Conrad

Capt. Erica Feehan

Chief of command information

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Visit the Travis public web site at <http://www.travis.af.mil>. Read the Tailwind online at <http://tailwind.dailyrepublic.net> or by accessing the Travis SharePoint.

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On the cover

A computer screen displays a 3-D print design of a protective face mask at Travis Air Force Base, California.

Courtesy photo



Courtesy photo

Families drive through the Airman and Family Readiness Center parking lot to pick up relief kits, April 2, at Travis Air Force Base. The kits were part of a Covid-19 pandemic relief effort in conjunction with a San Jose-based nonprofit, the Cost of Courage Foundation.

Relief kits help families of deployed service members during pandemic

Nick DeCicco

60TH AIR MOBILITY WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Nearly 150 families received relief kits April 2 at Travis Air Force Base, California, as part of the base Airman and Family Readiness Center's response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The kits consisted of two meals, personal hygiene items and activities for children. They were made in conjunction with the Cost of Courage Foundation, a San Jose-based nonprofit that supports veterans, service members and their families.

Teneika McKoy, A&FRC community readiness specialist, said the obstacles created by the pandemic underscores the importance for people to help each other.

"It's a challenging time; a time to get together as a community," she said.

"We're going to be OK. We've just got to look out for each other."

In order to maintain physical distancing, the kits were provided via a drive-through in the A&FRC parking lot.

McKoy said the kits were primarily given to families with deployed service members. Families with a service member at high medical risk for the virus received kits as well. In order to minimize the risk of exposure to the virus, some kits were delivered to families, McKoy said.

"We want to lessen the burden on them," she said.

The kits were assembled during the weekend of March 28-29. Food items featured taco kits or macaroni dishes. Hygiene products included shampoo, conditioner, hand sanitizer, body wash and, for some

recipients, wipes. The kits also included jump ropes, chalk, coloring books and notepads.

The deliveries were a relief to families, said Jannet Rodriguez, 60th Security Forces Squadron unit program coordinator and the unit's key spouse. She said two families she knew had three sons and one deployed spouse, so each was "really happy that there was this resource available."

"I've got messages on my phone, and they were so grateful for it," she said. "For both of them – spouses are deployed, both working and they have to juggle everything with the boys, I think they were really grateful."

Rodriguez, a veteran whose spouse was deployed last year, said she relates to the difficulties families are facing during the pandemic.

"Our deployed families are kind of feeling it a little more," she said. "I've been a key spouse for about a year now, and I've never come across as many resources as there are now (due to the pandemic). I'm definitely grateful that communities and organizations are coming together."

McKoy said the Cost of Courage Foundation typically makes a donation to food pantries, but provided this donation instead to help families at this time.

McKoy also said she's leading an effort to pair service members with veterans and older members of the community who can do grocery shopping for them during the pandemic. She encouraged those interested in helping to contact her via email at teneika.mckoy1@us.af.mil or reach out to the A&FRC Facebook page.

BX caters to online shopping, pick up

Lorraine Harris-Ortega

ARMY & AIR FORCE EXCHANGE SERVICE
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

For Travis Army and Air Force Base military service members and families, contending with the social distancing challenges of Covid-19, leveraging their Exchange benefit is made easier with the Army & Air Force Exchange Service's "Buy Online, Pick Up in Store" service.

Military shoppers can go to ShopMyExchange.com, click on what they need and select the "Pick Up in Store" option. The Travis BX will contact shoppers when their order is ready to be picked up at the Customer Service desk.

"Buy Online, Pick Up in Store adds convenience and saves shoppers time at no extra cost," said Phonda Bishop, Travis BX general manager. "While some products may be subject to rationing or temporarily unavailable during the Covid-19 pandemic, the ability to order online and pick up at the store helps reduce time spent shopping to better protect the community."

ShopMyExchange.com offers more than 2 million items and military-exclusive pricing – tax free. One-hundred percent of Exchange earnings, including those from online purchases, support war fighters and their families through military quality-of-life programs and improving the customer shopping experience.

For more information, shoppers can visit www.ShopMyExchange.com/customer-service/shipping-delivery/click-to-brick. Follow the Exchange at www.facebook.com/shopmyexchange, on Twitter @shopmyexchange or on Instagram: @shopmyexchange.

Face covering required to enter commissaries

Defense Commissary Agency
Corporate Communications

FORT LEE, Va. – Commissaries are requiring some form of face covering for store employees and customers to enter a commissary.

The Defense Commissary Agency guidance is effective April 10 and applies to all agency stores and other facilities worldwide where no local directive has yet been issued, said retired Rear Adm. Robert J. Bianchi, Department of Defense special assistant for commissary operations.

"If an installation commander has already issued a directive to require face coverings in DeCA commissaries, this order shall not supersede their policy, and all patrons and employees shall adhere to current rules," Bianchi said. "Many bases have already imposed this requirement, but at locations where there is no guidance, this is protection of our employees and our customers."

DeCA's guidance falls in line with April 5 Department of Defense guidance mandating that "all individuals on DoD property, installations, and facilities will wear cloth face coverings when they cannot maintain 6

feet of social distance in public areas or work centers."

On April 3, DeCA announced to employees it was working through the procurement process to purchase and distribute personal protective equipment (PPE) to stores as fast as possible.

The commissary agency is purchasing disposable masks and gloves through the commercial supply system that will be made available to employees.

As supplies of masks and gloves make their way to commissaries, store employees are wearing their own masks or some form of material such as scarfs, bandannas, clean t-shirts or cloths to cover the nose and mouth.

Army Lt. Col. Angela Parham, DeCA's director of health and safety, emphasized that PPE is only one part of the preventive measures required to help combat Covid-19.

"DOD's face covering mandate aligns with CDC guidance to help prevent asymptomatic people, who may not know they're infected, from spreading the virus to healthy folks," Parham said. "Even when you wear a mask or other face covering, it is still important to practice good hand hygiene,

social distancing, and refrain from touching your face."

In addition to requiring face coverings for employees and customers, commissaries have implemented the following operational policies to help make stores safer during this pandemic:

Commissaries are installing clear, acrylic sneeze shields in all regular checkout lanes to add extra protection for customers and cashiers.

Commissary personnel are wiping down checkout areas, product display cases, restrooms and shopping carts with disinfectant, and practicing routine hand washing and other basic sanitation measures to reduce transmission risk.

Hand sanitizer is provided at each register and staff are encouraged to use it at the end of each patron transaction.

DeCA encourages its employees to closely monitor their health, and asks them to stay home if they, or someone in their household, are sick.

Stores are working with their installations to implement procedures regarding social distancing.

A "no visitors" policy was instituted to reduce the number

See COVERING Page 18



U.S. Air National Guard photo/Senior Airman Shannon Chace

Senior Master Sgt. Ray Allen, 168th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron production superintendent, tests the fit of a 3D-printed Montana Mask, April 1, at the 168th Maintenance Group hangar on Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska.

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Easter Bunny visits children of deployed parents



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Cameron Otte

The Easter Bunny prepares to give candy to children from military families with deployed parents, April 11, at Travis Air Force Base, California. The Easter Bunny hand-delivered 163 bags of candy to the children's homes.

Airman 1st Class Cameron Otte
60TH AIR MOBILITY WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Easter Bunny made a stop at Travis Air Force Base April 11 to visit families of deployed service members.

Jannet Rodriguez, a unit program coordinator for the 60th Security Forces Squadron at Travis AFB, organized the visit to deliver some cheer during the coronavirus pandemic.

"With all the gloom of being in quarantine and the lockdowns, I think it's important to spread some joy," Rodriguez said. "I wanted to allow the opportunity for children to have an Easter event and not feel left out. We were going to have a squadron event, but since they were unable to come to us we decided to come to them."

The Easter Bunny went door-to-door to visit with Travis families and delivered 163 candy bags.

"We started by purchasing 800 eggs and all the decorations needed to pack them," Rodriguez said. "Then, we coordinated with the volunteers to pack the eggs and make the bags. After we finished, we mapped all the houses that we were going to deliver to on Saturday."

The volunteers also made Easter bags for deployed service

members to receive upon their return.

"I have a child, so I can relate to the other spouses on base who feel they are missing out on this holiday," Rodriguez said.

The families seemed to really enjoy the event and the unexpected visit from the Easter bunny.

"I think what they are doing is great," said Ericka Hrkach, spouse of U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Jordan Hrkach, 60th SFS military working dog handler. "My kids were so excited to see the Easter Bunny for the first time. It made us happy and was a very special moment for our kids."

Rodriguez said the event was a success because the Travis community came together.

"It feels so great getting involved with events like these," Rodriguez said. "Sometimes I go a little overboard and end up getting in over my head, and that's why I'm so thankful to all the volunteers who helped support this with me. I think all the effort is worth it when you see a child's face light up with excitement because nothing is more precious than a child's smile."

"I think it's great people are still willing to volunteer even with all the extra precautions people have to take because of the coronavirus."



U.S. Louisiana National Guard photo/Senior Master Sgt. Dan Farrell

Louisiana National Guard Soldiers and Airmen collect nasal swabs from patients during a drive-through, community-based Covid-19 testing site March 20 in New Orleans. More than 28,000 National Guard members have been mobilized throughout the country as part of Covid-19 response efforts, with additional Soldiers and Airmen expected to come on duty in the coming weeks.

Guard chief: More members likely to be called into action

Sgt. 1st Class Whitney Hughes
NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU

ARLINGTON, Va. — More than 28,000 National Guard members are on duty as part of Covid-19 response efforts, and that number is expected to grow, the Guard's top general says.

"Over the past few weeks, each day has seen about 1,000 additional Soldiers and Airmen called up throughout the 54 states, territories, and the District of Columbia," Air Force Gen. Joseph Lengyel, the National Guard Bureau chief, said.

Guard members are supporting Covid-19 testing sites, constructing and staffing alternate care facilities, assisting state agencies in testing analysis, medical care, communication capacities and delivering needed supplies and equipment.

"Nearly three out of every four you see in uniform (are)

supporting testing sites, enhancing medical capacity or delivering critically needed medical supplies and food, are likely to be Guardsmen and women," Lengyel said.

In Louisiana alone, Lengyel said, Guard members have delivered more than 600,000 N95 masks, 3 million gloves, 300 ventilators and nearly 100,000 protective suits to testing sites. Guard Soldiers and Airmen are also working at food banks and have distributed more than 400,000 pounds of food.

"Disasters are not new to us, but like each disaster, this one is unique," said Army Brig. Gen. Keith Waddell, adjutant general of the Louisiana National Guard, adding that many Louisiana Guard members have taken on different roles than during typical disaster response.

"We have traded missions like search and rescue and distributing (meals ready-to-eat) and water for swabbing at the

See **GUARD** Page 20

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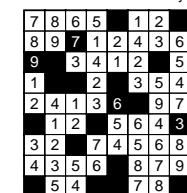
Puzzles

STR8TS

No. 486 Medium



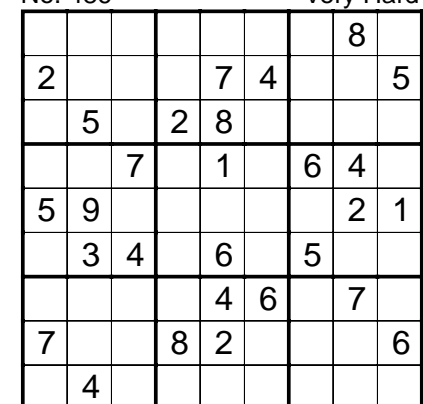
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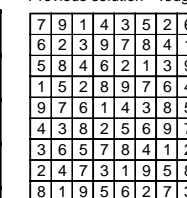
How to beat STR8TS - Like Sudoku, no single number can repeat in any row or column. But... rows and columns are divided by black squares into compartments. These need to be filled in with numbers that complete a 'straight'. A straight is a set of numbers with no gaps but can be in any order, eg [4,2,3,5]. Clues in black cells remove that number as an option in that row and column, and are not part of any straight. Glance at the solution to see how 'straights' are formed.

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The solutions will be published here in the next issue.

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Airmen participating in Transport Isolation System training prepare a mock patient for transport during a training scenario April 5 at Joint Base Charleston, South Carolina.

U.S. Air Force photo

Travis sergeant part of aero evac training

**Joint Base Charleston
Public Affairs**

JOINT BASE CHARLESTON, S.C. — Air Mobility Command has designated Joint Base Charleston as the sole Transport Isolation System training hub for aeromedical evacuation Airmen in response to the ongoing Covid-19 global pandemic.

Maj. Donna Eaton, assigned to Headquarters AMC's Standards and Evaluations division, is one of the initial cadre that now consists of 10 instructors who have trained approximately 100 AE personnel on how to safely utilize the TIS when transporting potentially infectious patients.

"Charleston is our hub where we house the TIS and have the bio-environmental engineers' expertise out of the 628th Medical Group," she said before noting how they build

and maintain the TIS. "Also, the 437th Airlift Wing supports us in the use of their airframes and other ground support necessary to perform training. (The base resources) are vital to accomplishing our mission."

The TIS is an aircraft-based Air Force system designed to transport infectious patients in support of U.S. Transportation Command and the Department of Defense. According to Eaton, the system was implemented after the Ebola virus outbreak in 2014, but the Air Force has been working since 2017 to expand its mission to include other high-consequence infectious diseases. Eaton highlighted the level of interagency collaboration involved in setting up the TIS training program at JB Charleston, noting the diverse group of subject matter experts required to succeed.

See TRAINING Page 15



U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Master Sgt. Shannon Nielsen

Brett Edwards, Universal Energy Systems research scientist, tests fog particles dispersed throughout a KC-135 Stratotanker aircraft April 8 at the 155th Air Refueling Wing, Nebraska National Guard Air Base, Nebraska. Air Mobility Command, in coordination with the National Strategic Research Institute at the University of Nebraska and Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, examined airflow and particles to assess ways to eliminate virus transmission to aircrew when transporting Covid-19 patients.

AMC, academia partner to conduct aircraft airflow testing

**Senior Master Sgt.
Shannon Nielsen**
155TH AIR REFUELING WING

LINCOLN, Neb. — In an effort to mitigate the effects of the Covid-19 outbreak and to continue executing rapid global mobility operations, the U.S. Air Force's Air Mobility Command sent multiple airframes to participate in particle and airflow testing at Nebraska Air National Guard air base, Nebraska, April 4-11, 2020.

The weeklong test brought active-duty, reserve and Air National Guard components from AMC together to preserve the nation's operational capability to meet its global mobility requirements, which starts with protecting the force.

"United States Transportation Command expressed a joint, urgent, operational need request for high-capacity airlift of Covid-19 passengers," said Maj. Dave Sustello, AMC Test and Evaluation Squadron

operations officer.

Air Mobility Command, in coordination with the National Strategic Research Institute at the University of Nebraska and Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, spent the week at the 155th Air Refueling Wing examining airflow and particles to assess ways to eliminate risk to aircrew. The first set of airflow tests were conducted on the KC-135 Stratotanker, C-17 Globemaster III and C-130J Hercules aircraft, followed by tests on the

KC-46 Pegasus, KC-10 Extender and C-5M Super Galaxy aircraft.

"(We're) evaluating different air frames for the ability to transport potentially symptomatic patients safely while protecting aircrew and medical personnel," said Dr. Joshua Santarpia, NSRI, research director. "(To do this, we're) looking at what happens to particles produced by people and how they might move around the airframe."

See AIRFLOW Page 18

Campaign honors those working the front lines

Master Sgt. Chance Babin
AIR FORCE RECRUITING SERVICE
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas -- The Air Force is promoting a campaign to recognize those on the front lines battling the Covid-19 pandemic. Air Force Salutes is a way Airmen can honor someone in their community who doesn't wear the Air Force uniform but still embodies the Air Force core value of service before self.

"Normally, Americans thank our Air Force men and women for the work they do every day serving our great nation," said Maj. Ross McKnight, Air Force Recruiting Service, National Events Branch chief. "But we are flipping the script. We are thanking and saluting the hard working Americans who are

working the front lines of the Covid-19 epidemic. This includes the grocery store worker, the medical and healthcare staff, the truck driver, the students, and everyone else who is keeping our country going during the pandemic and social distancing to protect one another."

Part of the campaign includes challenging four other Airmen to post a similar video saluting those front line workers.

"We are trying to inspire the nation to remain strong, to acknowledge their sacrifice, and salute them as a thank you for their selfless service," McKnight said. "We are also engaging with the people we serve through social media. Although very important, the recruiting aspect of our mission is not the focus of

See CAMPAIGN Page 15

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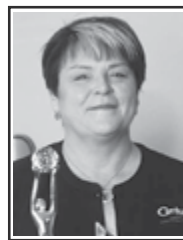
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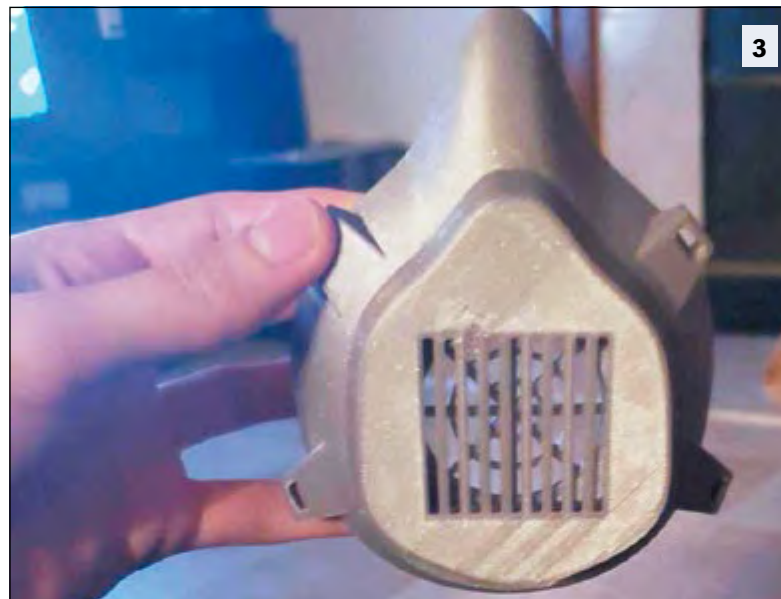
Travis innovates PPE, helps hospital fight spread of virus



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



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



Courtesy photo

Senior Airman Jonathon Carnell
60TH AIR MOBILITY WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

At the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention stressed that wearing the proper personal protective equipment was the key to keeping medical personnel safe.

Medical professionals across the United States quickly realized that maintaining a healthy supply of PPE posed a challenge.

This concern was no different for the healthcare providers at Travis AFB, but innovative solutions from Airmen would soon help tackle the problem.

David Grant USAF Medical Center medics here contacted the base's 60th Air Mobility Wing Phoenix Spark innovation cell, which quickly sprang into action prototyping and developing N95 mask covers and face shields for 3D printing to prolong the life cycle of certified N95 masks.

Phoenix Spark is modeled to bridge the gap between rapid, innovative solutions and challenges at the unit level.

In this case, the focus was on finding a way for medical professionals at DGMC to remain fully equipped to handle the Covid-19 outbreak.

"We worked with the bioenvironmental engineering and fabrication flights to come up with a design that could work for DGMC," said Staff Sgt. Maximilian Estrada, Phoenix Spark noncommissioned officer in charge of agile manufacturing. "The current designs are very simplistic to enhance our ability to mass produce them."

As the nation works to mitigate the spread of Covid-19, there is a proactive, team effort here to deliver a local solution to the Travis AFB community. While Phoenix Spark is prototyping the designs, other base units are assembling and testing the products. The

60th Maintenance Squadron fabrication flight is helping produce the mask covers and face shields, and the bioenvironmental engineering flight is testing their effectiveness.

"We are the experts who advise what PPE and respirator equipment should be used," said Lt. Col Aaron Weaver, 60th Aerospace Medicine Squadron bioenvironmental engineering flight commander.

As the collective teams work for a local, ready-made solution to a real-time problem, leadership continues to work closely with the 60th Medical Group to determine requirements and ensure that solutions are safe and adequate for medical and non-medical personnel at DGMC.

"Our goal is to come up with techniques in optimizing PPE usage," Weaver said. "It all depends on what area of the hospital is requesting PPE. Some medical units require much more PPE than others."

This entire effort is about Airmen stepping up at the local level to help the Team Travis Community, Estrada said.

"Our primary goal is to make sure they are well taken care of," Estrada said. "That's what we do – attack individual and base problems because it's our duty to assist wherever we can."

The team can currently make 12 face shields a day; however, through rapid innovation, they are working on a process that will increase their production to 400 shields a day, Edwards said.

Medical professionals at DGMC received the first batch of face shields April 6, and more will soon be on the way.

Within the next couple of weeks, the shield production team should be able to generate the equipment at a much more rapid rate, Edwards said.

Anyone looking to contribute their ideas or follow Phoenix Spark please visit <https://travisspark.org/>.



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

1) A water jet cuts through old aircraft material to create parts for face shields March 31 at Travis Air Force Base, California. 60th Air Mobility Wing Phoenix Spark, 60th Maintenance Squadron and 60th Bioenvironmental Engineer Squadron collaborated to come up with easy-to-manufacture personal protective equipment for David Grant USAF Medical Center personnel. 2) Senior Airman Robert Lee Prankard, 60th MXS aircraft metals technician, monitors a water jet as it cuts through old aircraft material to create parts for face shields March 31 at Travis. 3) Here is a prototype of a 3D-printed, protective face mask that the 60th AMW Phoenix Spark innovation cell at Travis designed. The Phoenix Spark team has been working with other base organizations, such as the 60th Aerospace Medicine Squadron bioenvironmental engineering flight and the 60th MXS fabrication flight, since the beginning of March to deliver innovation personal protective equipment to Airmen amid Covid-19. 4) Jeffrey Bruns, 60th MXS sheet metal section chief, assembles a face shield prototype March 31 at Travis.

AAFES, Unilever offering \$2K in scholarships

Lorraine Harris-Ortega

ARMY & AIR FORCE EXCHANGE SERVICE
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Army & Air Force Exchange Service and Unilever are recognizing excellence in community service among students in sixth through 12th grades.

Students with a grade-point average of 2.5 or higher (on a 4.0 scale) can enter the Unilever Rewards of Caring contest by submitting an essay in English detailing why their community and their involvement in community service projects are important to them through April 30.

"Members of the military community, from the oldest to the youngest, have an attitude of service," said Phonda Bishop Exchange General Manager, Phonda Bishop. "There are a lot of wonderful students at The Travis Army and Air Force Exchange Service who serve the community, and we hope one of them will be among the winners of this contest."

Students can find an entry form at www.OperationInTouch.com and should send their essays of 500 words or fewer via U.S. mail only to:

Exchange Rewards of Caring Scholarship 2020 Spring Contest, P.O. Box 7778, Melville NY 11775-7778.

Entries must be post-marked by May 1 and received

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Unilever's Operation In Touch team will select the winners. Visit www.OperationInTouch.com for complete details.

Facebook-friendly version: The Exchange and Unilever are recognizing excellence in community service by awarding 10 \$2,000 college scholarships. Students in grades 6-12 can submit essays explaining why their communities and community service projects are important to them. Travis Army and Air Force Exchange students can visit www.OperationInTouch.com for complete details.

Since 1895, the Army & Air Force Exchange Service (Exchange) has gone where Soldiers, Airmen and their families go to improve the quality of their lives by providing valued goods and services at exclusive military pricing. The Exchange is the 62nd-largest retailer in the United States. Its earnings provided \$2.3 billion in dividends to support military morale, welfare and recreation programs over the last 10 years. The Exchange is a non-appropriated fund entity of the Department of Defense and is directed by a Board of Directors.



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U.S. Air Force photo/Chief Master Sgt. Kenneth Gardner

Lt. Col. Nora DeLosRios, 341st Recruiting Squadron commander, administers the oath of enlistment to future Airmen just before they were bused to training from a recruiting office April 7 in Live Oak, Texas.

Agile recruiting methods required to maintain basic training pipeline

Wes Fleming

AIR FORCE RECRUITING SERVICE
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas — Travel restrictions, canceled flights and social distancing guidelines due to the Covid-19 pandemic aren't getting in the way of the Air Force Recruiting Service's mission.

As the world is telling people to stay at home, the Air Force is finding new and diverse ways to ship applicants to basic military training.

"Today's Air Force calls for our recruiting team to adapt to the constant changes in their current needs and requirements for each new ship week to basic military training," said Capt Eric Roe, 364th Recruiting Squadron director of operations. "Our recruiting team must be ready to pivot, prioritize and match applicants to an optimal job and enter active duty date on a weekly and

sometimes hourly basis."

This requires agile shipping, which AFRS has employed in the past.

"We've always had to be agile, make changes during shipping days," said Master Sgt. Dana Bazile, 360th Recruiting Group operations officer. "For example, if an applicant's health condition has changed at the last minute, this could delay their departure. Each week we'd see one or two applicants in this situation and we'd have to quickly adjust ship dates or switch to an applicant from another location."

The biggest difference is now, those changes are significantly larger in scale.

"We've had to adjust on the fly to Military Entrance Processing Station closures just two days before shipment," Bazile said.

As MEPS locations shut down, or come back online due to Covid-19, AFRS finds ways to transport recruits to adjacent

MEPS to complete their final medical checks before going to BMT. This allows AFRS to continue to meet Air Force accession requirements while minimizing the pandemic's effect on the MEPS operational status at any given time.

Bazile says there is a reason the Air Force continues to bring in new recruits.

"We have to balance our (mission) to build and maintain the strength of the Air Force with the need for public safety, but we also have to understand that we have a promise of a career to these people joining our team," Bazile said.

Communication between the recruiter and the applicant is the single most important part of the process. Normal applicant engagement is centered upon recruiters meeting face-to-face with potential applicants and members in the Delayed Enlistment Program to discuss options and go over accession paperwork.

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Training

From Page 8

"This is a collective effort involving SMEs from aeromedical evacuation, infectious disease personnel, the TIS support team and the Critical Care Transport Team," she said. "This group has been working collectively since 2018. The training success depends on this collaboration - bringing all the moving parts together."

Staff Sgt. Raneil Buenviaje, an aeromedical evacuation medical technician assigned to the 43rd Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, Detachment 1, at Travis Air Force Base, California, has been an instructor for less than a month and has already had to adapt to the challenges presented by the unique Covid-19 situation. Buenviaje volunteered to be part of the TIS mission at JB Charleston after attending an HCID training event in March.

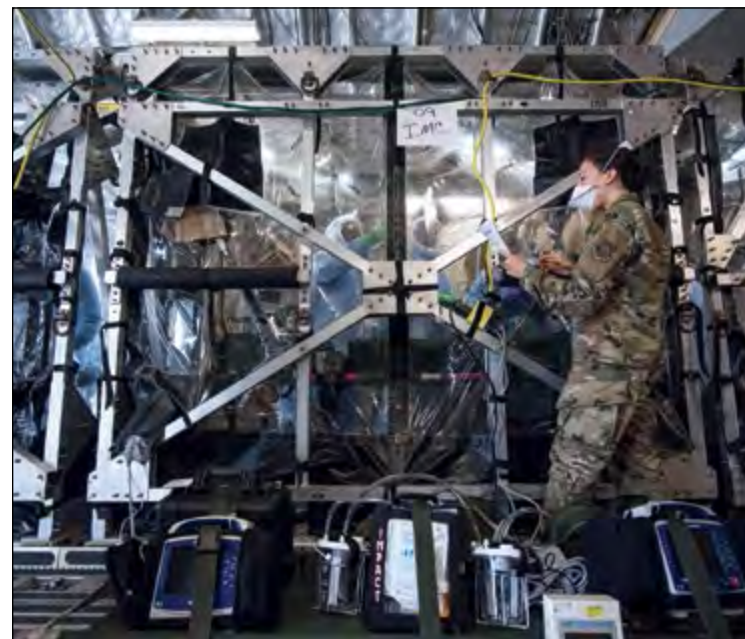
"It was such an interesting topic that I accidentally got passionate about," he said. "I found it very interesting that we have those capabilities so I asked the team what I would have to do to become an instructor for HCID TIS training."

After the Covid-19 pandemic emerged, Buenviaje was assigned to one of the TIS ground teams at JB Charleston. He ran into two of his HCID TIS training instructors - Eaton being one of them - and was offered a position as a Covid-19 TIS instructor, an offer he gladly accepted.

"I feel like every generation has their moment of battle or trial and this is our time," he said. "This is where we shine; I feel like this is going to be pretty much the biggest thing I'm going to do in my career. I'm really glad to be a part of it and that they let me be an instructor for this and gave me an opportunity, it's amazing!"

Buenviaje's other instructor at the HCID TIS training was Tech. Sgt. Samantha Pinzon, an aeromedical evacuation medical technician assigned to the 43rd AES at Pope Airfield, North Carolina, who was hand-selected and approved as a Covid-19 TIS instructor by AMC.

Pinzon said she and her fellow trainers utilize a variety of resources, including infectious



U.S. Air Force photo

Capt. Naomi King, 628th Operational Medical Readiness Squadron, infectious disease team lead, reviews Covid-19 cleaning procedures with Airmen in the Transport Isolation System April 5 at Joint Base Charleston, South Carolina.

disease doctors, and their experiences to deliver the most effective training possible. She also noted that staying healthy and hydrated is a must for trainees since they can be required to wear personal protective equipment for as long as 90 minutes at a time.

"Once you put that PPE on, it's exhausting sometimes, being in there for long periods of time," she said. "I'm a firm believer that if you train every day for the worst case scenario - the highest standard where everything is going wrong - (then) when you get on the aircraft and actually have a patient, it's a less stressful environment. If they're stressed out here, when they get a patient, they'll say 'ok this is doable.'"

Pinzon cited the team's most recent training class, which took place April 4-6 as an example of how teams gel when tested in a realistic training environment. During the training, a team of aeromedical evacuation professionals - including flight nurses and technicians, critical care air transport teams, infection disease specialists and TIS support team members - learned to safely don and doff PPE specific to Covid-19, prepare patients for evacuation and load patients to and from the TIS.

"I think the training went really well," said Pinzon. "Once we had our two days of instruction and got to go out to the

aircraft, they really came together as an entire TIS team. Any potential roadblocks they came across, they came together as a crew, which is what we expect them to do, and maneuvered through that as a team."

Buenviaje echoed Pinzon's sentiment on the need for realistic training based on worst-case scenarios, noting that a major part of the curriculum revolves around "throwing curveballs" at the trainees that include in-flight emergencies, fires or crew members becoming incapacitated.

"We try to stress critical thinking skills for the entire crew because when they actually have a mission, they're going to have to count on each other for ideas on what's safe and best practices," said Buenviaje. "We leave it to each crew to decide their plan for how to onload and offload. We have a standard (and) as long as they're meeting the standards and they're safe, we try to have them lock in their process. That way, in a real-world mission, everyone knows their roles and responsibilities."

Eaton credited everyone at JB Charleston and all of the other partners who helped establish the training hub for their support in accomplishing the TIS training mission.

"Our goal is not only to protect the patient and the people, but also to protect our aircraft," she said. "The collaboration has been tremendous."

Campaign

From Page 9

this campaign."

Air Force Salutes is available to all Airmen and Air Force civilian personnel. If an Airman's hair is not within Air Force grooming standards, due to physical distancing, the Airman can have their uniform hanging neatly in the background, otherwise a uniform being worn is encouraged.

Airmen were given instructions on how to film their Air Force Salutes video and post it to Facebook or Instagram. This includes a few video tips to help them produce a quality product. First, speak directly

into the camera and introduce yourself. Then recognize a particular person or group in your community and let them know why they play an important role during this time. Conclude the remarks by saying "The U.S. Air Force salutes you. " Finally, salute the camera and say "Aim High."

In the text portion on Facebook or Instagram, explain the subject of your video and challenge four other Airmen by tagging them. Include the hashtags #AirForceSalutes and #AimHigh at the end of your message.

If you post to Facebook also include @USAirForceRecruiting and for Instagram include @usaf_recruiting in your tags.

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Airflow
 From Page 9

Experts from multiple scientific fields used a method of dispersing aerosol DNA tag beads during the testing process, a concept Santarpia invented two years ago.

After the beads were released, multiple tests were performed in the air and on the ground. These included taping off and numbering small areas of the aircraft's floor to capture surface samples.

"Basically, we run multiple tasks on an airframe to understand if bead one, released at the rear of the aircraft, made it up to the front; or if bead two, released in the middle of the plane, [made] it up to the front of the aircraft," said Dillan Cunningham, NSRI Special Projects and Extensive

Field Sampling Expertise director. "We can look at their spread in real-time ... to make sure that they are representative of a particular size of interest relative to the spread of different potential infectious substances."

Cunningham cited understanding the airframe's aerodynamics - the airflow - as vital to minimizing infectious molecule spread within the aircraft. This includes directing airflow to segregate the cabin and crew to minimize exposure.

"The best potential way to achieve success of this mission is understanding the best configuration to transport personnel, service men and women, and everyone else back home for treatment without potentially infecting everyone, endangering other people and putting undue risk and burden on the crew," Cunningham said.

Sustello credited NSRI and all the entities that took part in supporting this mission to preserve and protect the health of the mobility force.

"This was world-class support," Sustello said. "Anything and everything that we've asked for they've been able to provide, and I'm seeing that that Nebraska work ethic shine through."

The 155th Air Refueling Wing was selected for the high priority mission because of the proximity of the air base, allowing multiple aircraft to fly in and remain on the ramp space provided.

"The testing that took place this week is all about mitigating the risk to our Airmen while providing combatant commanders around the world with the capability to rapidly repatriate personnel who are either infected or exposed to Covid-19," said Col. John Williams, 155th Air Refueling Wing, Operations Group commander.



U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Master Sgt. Shannon Nielsen
Sean Kinahan, National Strategic Research Institute at the University of Nebraska senior threat scientist, watches the fluorescent tracer particles in real-time on a computer after they were released by David Silcott, chief executive officer for S3I, April 6, from inside a KC-135 Stratotanker located at the Nebraska National Guard air base in Lincoln, Nebraska.

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Covering
 From Page 5

of people in the stores.

Early bird hours were suspended to allow stores more time to clean and restock the store

Patrons cannot bring reusable bags into the commissary to help reduce the risk of virus.

Cashiers no longer handle patron ID cards. Instead, customers will be asked to scan their own ID or cashiers can use the handheld scanner if available.

DeCA encourages the use of credit or debit transactions to limit the use of cash and coins

Local commissaries work closely with the public health assets on the installation to monitor transmission risk related to staff and patrons.


Commissaries have temporarily suspended the requirement to sign credit card receipts to prevent multi patron handling of the credit card reader pen.

"We will continue to follow the highest standards of DOD health protection in our stores," Bianchi said. "DeCA's objective is always to deliver the necessary goods our customers need in stores that are safe and clean for them and our employees."

Commissary customers should continue to refer to the federal government's response to coronavirus, Covid-19 website and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Coronavirus site for updates and guidance regarding this virus. Updates related to the commissaries can be found on DeCA's Coronavirus page.

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1) U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Chris Thackaberry, 62nd Operations Support Squadron commander, packages cloth face masks at the 62nd OSS aircrew flight equipment fabrication shop April 6 at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington. 2) U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Richard R. Neely, adjutant general of Illinois, tours the McCormick Place Convention Center April 8 in response to the Covid-19 pandemic in Chicago. 3) Airmen walk in formation during basic military graduation April 2 at the 331st Training Squadron's Airman Training Complex on Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas. Due to current world events, the graduation ceremonies are closed to the public until further notice for safety and security of the newly accessioned Airmen and their family members due to Covid-19.

ADJUSTING

Air Force absorbs changes due to Covid-19



3

Guard

From Page 7

drive-through medical testing sites and distributing personal protective equipment – PPE – and ventilators,” he said. “While the products we deliver change, the mechanisms and procedures we use to track and deliver these products have not and, thankfully, we have a lot of experience in this arena.”

The Louisiana Guard has completed more than 600 missions distributing protective equipment and ventilators throughout the state, Waddell said.

“Logistics operations (are) our center of gravity,” he said. “Our team’s goal has been to receive and try to push out all PPE and ventilators within 24 hours of receipt.”

Louisiana Guard members have also had an impact at Covid-19 testing sites, specifically in Louisiana’s Orleans and Jefferson Parishes.

“These Soldiers and Airmen have swabbed over 11,000 symptomatic citizens from these two parishes,” Waddell said, “and we have more medics

supporting other medical testing sites throughout Louisiana.” Louisiana and New York are among the states most affected by Covid-19.

In New York, Guard members have supported nine testing sites screening as many as 5,000 people a day, said Lengyel. Guard members delivered more than 300,000 meals to all five boroughs in New York City and were instrumental in converting the city’s Javits Convention Center into an alternate care facility able to handle up to 2,500 patients.

The Guard has also helped stand up similar facilities in other states.

“We’ve been involved in many ways and are involved in many ways right now working with the (U.S. Army) Corps of Engineers to develop these sites,” Lengyel said, adding that in some instances Guard members have also staffed the care sites.

“In some cases, members of the National Guard from individual states are actually supplying that staff to these alternate care facilities,” he said.

However, said Lengyel, the Guard’s medical capacity is largely designed for a different

medical need. “It’s not the kind of capacity that you need to run hospital kind of operations,” he said. “The medical capacity that we have in the National Guard was built to sustain predominantly combat operations in the battlefield – to get people from point of injury to sustain them until they actually get to a medical facility that is able to treat them for the longer term.”

That doesn’t lessen the medical impact Guard members are able to make, Lengyel said.

“We do have a good number of doctors and nurses and physicians’ assistants and medical technicians that are engaged throughout the entire enterprise,” he said, adding many of those Guard members have civilian careers in the medical field.

“They, too, are serving on the front lines of this response – only in their civilian uniforms,” Lengyel said.

While Guard members continue to be part of Covid-19 response operations, others are deployed overseas.

“We have about the same amount, just under 30,000, that are mobilized Title 10 around the world – that are in the



U.S. Air National Guard photo/Senior Airman Neil Mabini

Senior Master Sgt. Desiree Spruel, 163rd Attack Wing, California Air National Guard, catches a commander’s coin during a ceremony April 5 at March Air Reserve Base, California. The coin, traditionally given via handshake as a token of gratitude, was tossed to each recipient to comply with social distancing health guidelines.

Middle East and in the Pacific and doing other things,” Lengyel said.

And with hurricane season beginning in June, others are planning for potential hurricane-response efforts.

“We always plan on a heavy hurricane season,” Lengyel said. “We, in fact, are looking

at implications of what it might be like to have to do a hurricane response in a COVID environment.”

Lengyel said he’s been impressed by Guard members’ efforts.

“I am proud of the service all of our Guard members are providing,” he said.

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