



**TAILWIND**

New initiative at Travis achieves ...

# LIFTOFF

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# Commander moves base to HPCON Charlie

**60th Air Mobility Wing  
Public Affairs**

The 60th Air Mobility Wing commander has directed Health Protection Condition Charlie in response to

COVID-19, beginning Dec. 16. Col. Corey Simmons, 60th AMW commander, has implemented HPCON Charlie in response to the increased spread of COVID-19 in the local community, substantial

public health alert in the state, and to align with Solano County's shelter-at-home order effective Dec. 17.

"Our primary focus is the health and safety of our Airmen and their families," Simmons

said. "We will balance the critical need to protect our Team Travis community while safeguarding our mobility mission."

Essential missions will continue on the installation. All visitors to the installation will require an approved base pass. Airmen and families are encouraged to limit personal travel except for essential purposes. For additional local impact, visit <https://www.travis.af.mil/Coronavirus/>.

# Devil Raiders help in Honduras after hurricanes

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

JOINT BASE MCGUIRE-DIX-LAKEHURST, N.J. — A team of 14 Devil Raiders from the 621st Contingency Response Wing deployed to Honduras to assist humanitarian aid and disaster relief efforts in the aftermath of Hurricane Iota, which hit the region Nov. 16.

The Airmen from the 621st Contingency Response Group formed an assessment team and deployed from Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey, accompanied by two language-enabled air advisors from the 571st Mobility Support Advisory Squadron at Travis Air Force Base, California, in support of U.S. Southern Command, Joint Task Force-Bravo and the U.S. Agency for International Development efforts.

The team facilitated the opening of landing zones and airports in the areas hit hardest by Hurricane Eta and Hurricane Iota.

The assessment team, also known as "Alpha Mike," routinely trains and prepares for humanitarian aid and disaster relief operations and was able to rapidly respond with its unique capabilities to assess airfield suitability to receive fixed wing aircraft.

In less than 84 hours from arrival, the

team surveyed, cleared and opened a contingency landing zone, said Col. Gregory Cyrus, 621st CRG commander.

The team assessed an international airport in San Pedro Sula after catastrophic flooding inundated the airport with several feet of water and mud, Cyrus said. The team also worked with Honduran officials and local representatives to clear hundreds of yards of dense vegetation from around another landing zone.

"Whether civilian or military-affiliated, the people of Honduras are friendly, welcoming, and most of all, resilient," Cyrus said.

The AM team integrated with JTF-B to support disaster relief operations and supported the completion of multiple mission tasking assignments for USAID.

"The U.S. Air Force and Air Mobility Command have unmatched capabilities to rapidly respond to world events, from combat operations to humanitarian crisis," Cyrus said. "Our small footprint allows us to move fast, and our flexibility allows us to tailor our equipment to meet almost any requirement and mode of transportation."

In a change of pace, air advisors from the 571st MSAS at Travis AFB were included in the team of 14 as language and culture experts.

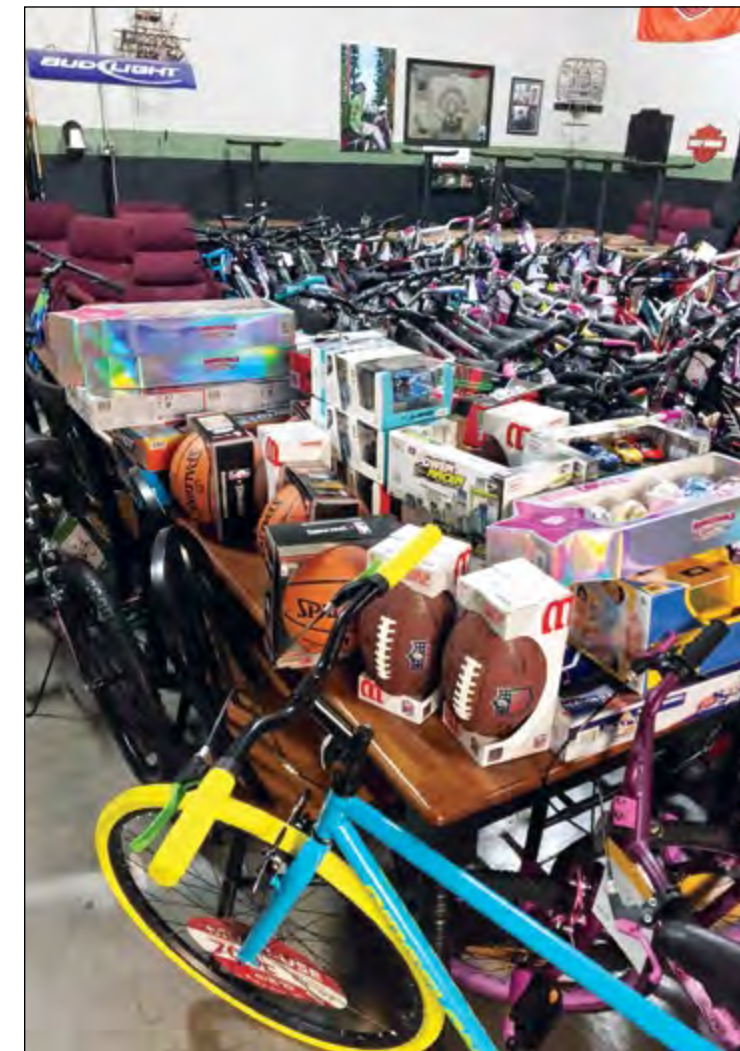
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U.S. Air Force photo

**U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Bryan Masters, 621st Contingency Response Squadron airfield manager, left, and U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Luis Barrios, 621st CRS airfield manager, on Nov. 24 perform a C-130 Hercules aircraft suitability check to assess the ability of the aircraft to safely land at Aguacate landing zone in Catacamas, Honduras.**

# 349th hands out toys, bikes



Courtesy photo

**Members from around the 349th Air Mobility Wing and Team Travis hosted a toy and bike giveaway Dec. 13 at Travis Air Force Base, California. U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Armando Lucero with the 749th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron served as the event coordinator. U.S. Air Force Senior Master Sgt. Jared Pitts of the 349th Security Forces Squadron, U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Laura Burk and U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Stephanie Pitts of the 349th Maintenance Group, and Senior Airman Armando Campaña, 749th AMXS, supported the event that served more than 500 families from the local area, giving away 244 bicycles and nearly 1,000 toys.**

# Flight uses artificial intelligence

**Secretary of the Air Force  
Public Affairs**

BEALE AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. — Signaling a major leap forward for national defense in the digital age, the Air Force flew with artificial intelligence as a working aircrew member onboard a military aircraft for the first time Dec. 15.

The AI algorithm, known as ARTUμ, flew with the pilot, U.S. Air Force Maj. "Vudu", on a U-2 Dragon Lady assigned to the 9th Reconnaissance Wing at Beale Air Force Base. Air Combat Command's U-2 Federal Laboratory researchers developed ARTUμ and trained it to execute specific in-flight tasks that otherwise would be done by the pilot.

The test flight was the result of years of concerted effort within the Air Force to apply cutting-edge technology to military operations as it competes with other world powers in the digital age.

"ARTUμ's groundbreaking flight culminates our three-year journey to becoming a digital force," said Dr. William Roper, assistant secretary of the Air Force for acquisition, technology and logistics. "Putting AI safely in command of



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Luis A. Ruiz-Vazquez

**Maj. "Vudu", a U-2 Dragon Lady pilot assigned to the 9th Reconnaissance Wing, prepares to taxi after returning from a training sortie Dec. 15 at Beale Air Force Base, California. This flight marks a major leap forward for national defense as artificial intelligence took flight aboard a military aircraft for the first time.**

a U.S. military system for the first time ushers in a new age of human-machine teaming and algorithmic competition. Failing to realize AI's full potential will mean ceding decision advantage to our adversaries."

During this flight, ARTUμ was responsible for sensor employment and tactical navigation, while the pilot flew the aircraft and coordinated with the AI on sensor operation. Together, they flew a

reconnaissance mission during a simulated missile strike. ARTUμ's primary responsibility was finding enemy launchers while the pilot was on the lookout for threatening aircraft, both sharing the U-2's radar.

The flight was part of a precisely constructed scenario which pitted the AI against another dynamic computer algorithm in order to prove the new technology.

See **AI** Page 16

## Power outage

A basewide power outage for Travis Air Force Base is scheduled from 6 a.m. to noon Dec. 19. During the power outage, maintenance will be completed. This power outage will impact Balfour Beatty housing residents, as well as dorm residents.

## Tailwind

Travis AFB, Calif. | 60th Air Mobility Wing

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60th Air Mobility Wing  
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The Tailwind is published by the Daily Republic, Fairfield, California, a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. Air Force.

While most of the editorial content of the Tailwind is prepared by the 60th Air Mobility Wing Public Affairs office for its Web-based product, the content for the Tailwind is edited and prepared for print by the Daily Republic staff.

Content of the Tailwind is not necessarily the official view of, nor is it endorsed by the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense or the Department of the Air Force.

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Deadline for copy is 4:30 p.m. Friday for the following Friday's issue. Swap ads must be brought to Bldg. 51 by noon Monday for possible print in that Friday's issue. Emailed or faxed Swap Ads are not accepted.

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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

**The 60th Security Forces Squadron tests a small unarmored aircraft Feb. 25 at Travis Air Force Base, California.**

U.S. Air Force photo/Nicholas Pilch



U.S. Air Force photo

# WARRIOR OF THE WEEK

**Name:**  
Airman 1st Class Erica Josue.

**Time in service:**  
One year.

**Unit:**  
60th Communications Squadron.

**Family:**  
Mom, Dad, three brothers and one sister.

**Duty title:**  
Cyber operations technician.

**What are your goals?**  
Traveling around the world and creating self-published graphic books/magazines.

**Hometown:**  
Stockton, California.

**What are your hobbies?**  
Digital art media, drawing, longboarding, and playing video games.

**What is your greatest achievement?**  
Winning technician of the month for February. Coined by the wing commander and command chief.



## Team explores supersonic executive transport

Daryl Mayer

AIR FORCE LIFE CYCLE MANAGEMENT CENTER PUBLIC AFFAIRS

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio — Always looking for new capabilities, Air Force Life Cycle Management Center's Presidential and Executive Airlift team is partnering with leading aviation companies to explore the possibility of supersonic travel.

"Think about shrinking the world by getting somewhere twice as fast," said Brig. Gen. Ryan Britton, Presidential and Executive Airlift program executive officer.

On the latest episode of AFLCMC's Leadership Log podcast, Britton spoke about industry efforts underway now that could reduce flight times by more than 50%.

The idea came about while exploring potential future requirements in executive travel and learning about burgeoning interest in supersonic travel within private business in the United States.

"We were able to identify several opportunities where we could use small-business money with some investments from my portfolio to begin to seed these opportunities for supersonic travel," Britton said.

To date, the team has partnered with Boom Supersonic in Colorado, Hermeus in Georgia and Exosonic in California. Each company is exploring different aspects or approaches to high-speed travel.

"From an Air Force perspective, we would never holistically invest in commercial transport for executive airlift to fly supersonic and do it all ourselves. But if we can pair our investments with

See SUPERSONIC Page 16



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Isaiah Miller

U.S. Air Force Col. John Schutte, 19th Airlift Wing commander, center, addresses Airmen at the first official Diversity and Inclusion Airmen's Forum Charter Oct. 6 at Little Rock Air Force Base, Arkansas. The forum is composed of Airmen ranging in rank from airman 1st class to major. The forum also includes Department of Defense civilians.

## Little Rock starts Airmen's forum

Airman 1st Class Isaiah Miller  
19TH AIRLIFT WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

LITTLE ROCK AIR FORCE BASE, Ark. — Little Rock Air Force Base is committed to delivering a diverse workforce that embraces a variety of perspectives and recognizes the talents of all of its Airmen. In direct support of this, the base has established a Diversity and Inclusion Airmen's Forum.

The mission of the forum is to assemble a council of Airmen from diverse ranks, backgrounds and communities, focused on forging organizational cultures in which trust, empowerment and accountability is melded with the warrior ethos; where diversity is valued as a personnel readiness multiplier and

each individual has the opportunity to exert their maximum potential to help one another.

"The Diversity and Inclusion Airmen's Forum is an awesome initiative that gives folks the opportunity to have some hard-hitting and sometimes difficult conversations in a safe and controlled environment," said Tech. Sgt. Langston Anthony, the forum's co-chairperson. "The forum removes any barriers or obstacles from Airmen having the opportunity to weigh in on decisions made at the base level with relation to diversity and inclusion."

The 19th and 314th Airlift Wing command chiefs assisted the forum by providing guidance and mentorship, as well as helping facilitate the forum's goals as

they move forward.

"This is about leveraging unique strengths, perspectives and experiences to help solve complex issues," said Chief Master Sgt. Steven Hart, 19th AW command chief. "The collective intelligence of these professionals of varying backgrounds will inherently bring out new and innovative ideas, which is vitally important to our mission."

The forum is composed of Airmen ranging in rank from airman 1st class to major. The forum also includes Department of Defense civilians. This provides a well-rounded and full-spectrum of experience, both personally and professionally.

"In order to create change, our first step is to look at ourselves to see

where we can change our own mindset and perspective," said Airman 1st Class Hajjii Frederick, Diversity and Inclusion Forum co-chairperson. "The challenge is a great one, but I believe no matter what my rank is, I bring a lot of personal experience to the table."

The vision of the forum is to foster an inclusive environment where individuals are respected and valued for their differences and abilities, that is not hindered by prejudicial barriers, stereotypes or restrictions.

"It is an honor to be a part of this," said Chief Master Sgt. John Chilcote, 314th AW command chief. "We have an opportunity to make meaningful changes through the recommendations provided to us from the forum."

## First trainees graduate directly into Space Force

Annette Crawford

37TH TRAINING WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-LACKLAND, Texas — History was made at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland Dec. 10 as the first seven people to enlist directly into the U.S. Space Force graduated from basic military training.

The five men and two women were among the 414 recruits who completed seven and a half weeks of training. Assigned to the 320th Training Squadron, their training began Oct. 20. The new Space Force professionals are: Amy Biggers, Virginia Beach, Virginia; Giahna Brown, Woodbridge, Virginia; Delvano Brown, Gaithersburg, Maryland; Benjamin Nevoraski, Virginia Beach, Virginia; Shane Brown, Elijah Engelby, Colorado Springs, Colorado; and Nathan Ramage, Falcon, Colorado.

Secretary of the Air Force Barbara M. Barrett was the featured speaker at the graduation ceremony, which was streamed live on Facebook. She spoke to the graduates about joining a heritage of integrity, service and excellence, and mentioned three Airmen who represent those ideals. One of those Airmen was retired Lt. Gen. Susan Helms, who flew more than 30 different types of aircraft as an Air Force test pilot and then served 12 years as an astronaut.

"General Helms was the first U.S. military woman in space. She still holds the world record for the longest spacewalk — 8 hours and 56 minutes," Barrett



U.S. Air Force photo/Sarayuth Pirithong

Basic military training trainees take the Oath of Enlistment during their graduation ceremony, Dec. 10, at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas. Seven members of the graduating class are the first Space Force trainees to graduate.

said. She added that Helms, in particular, represents the caliber of talent the Space Force is recruiting.

"So, it is fitting that we celebrate the historic milestone of graduating the first seven trainees to the United States Space Force," Barrett said.

The number of Space Force trainees will continue to increase over time as processes for recruiting and training are solidified, and the Space Force plans

to recruit a little more than 300 enlisted members through the end of the fiscal year. There are currently another 13 trainees at BMT with seven more scheduled to arrive later this month.

Through January, all Space Force accessions will become space systems operations specialists and in February, new accessions will join for positions in additional career fields such as operations intelligence and cyber systems operations.

Chief of Space Operations Gen. John W. "Jay" Raymond spoke to the graduates before administering the Oath of Enlistment. He said that while every Basic Military Training graduation ceremony was important, the one on Dec. 10 was historic as it was the first to send seven "of our nation's finest directly into the new United States Space Force."

Raymond challenged the seven Space Force professionals.

"I need you to be bold. You will help us build this service from the ground up. You will help us define our warfighting culture. You will build the Space Force as the first digital service. You will lay the foundation of a service that is innovative and can go fast in order to stay ahead of a significant and growing threat, and you, if deterrence fails, will fight and win the battle for space superiority which is so vital to our nation, our allies and our joint and coalition forces," he said, adding that "the nation expects you to deliver dominant Spacepower."

"The Air Force develops the best enlisted force in history, and we proudly and confidently secure our efforts on that foundation," said Chief Master Sgt. Roger A. Towberman, U.S. Space Force senior enlisted advisor. "We are proud our trainees know they're part of the Space Force from day one, and we added a bit of space flavor to the curriculum toward that end. Over the next year, we'll continue to improve their experience based on

See SPACE FORCE Page 12

## SCOTUS ruling boosts Air Force's effort to combat sexual assault

Charles Pope

SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

ARLINGTON, Va. — In a unanimous ruling, the U.S. Supreme Court has reinstated rape convictions against three men in the Air Force, deciding that a lower military court improperly nullified the prosecutions and that the error was so stark that "resolving the question does not require lengthy analysis."

While the case, United States v. Briggs, was arcane and narrow, the Dec. 10 ruling settled a troublesome legal question that required rape and sexual assault cases

to be investigated, prosecuted and completed within a 5-year "statute of limitations" for cases originating between 1986 and 2006.

That narrow window, established by a now discarded 2018 ruling from the Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces, differed from the current version of the Uniform Code of Military Justice, which, in 2006, made clear that for rape and sexual assault offenses, there are no statute of limitations. This parallels most civilian courts as well as provides victims time to decide what to do after such a traumatic event.

Though the Supreme Court specifically examined the role

of the death penalty in the cases and its treatment under the UMCJ, the Court acknowledged that a longer period of time is the correct constitutional approach given the difficulties inherent in rape cases.

"The trauma inflicted by such crimes may impede the gathering of the evidence needed to bring charges," Justice Samuel Alito wrote in the decision. "Victims may be hesitant for some time after the offense about agreeing to testify. Thus, under current federal law, many such offenses are subject to no statute of limitations."

As a result, the Court

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## B-1B completes external release demonstration

**Giancarlo Casem**  
412TH TEST WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. — The 419th Flight Test Squadron successfully conducted an external weapon release demonstration at Holloman Air Force Base, New Mexico, Dec. 4.

“The Air Force Test Center is enthusiastically teaming with Air Force Global Strike Command to enable greater flexibility in bomber payloads,” said Maj. Gen. Christopher Azzano, Air Force Test Center commander. “Demonstration of B-1B external carriage reflects the potential to keep weapon systems in the fight with increased combat capability.”

A B-1B Lancer assigned to the 412th Test Wing's 419th FLTS launched an inert Joint Air-to-Surface Standoff Missile from an external pylon underneath the aircraft's fuselage. The external pylon usually carries the “Sniper” targeting pod.

This release demonstration also put AFGSC one step closer to building the future bomber fleet for the Department of Defense and U.S. Air Force while utilizing current resources.

“Arming a limited number of B-1s with more weapons externally could enable Global Strike Command to provide more weapons for geographic combatant commanders while putting fewer aircraft and aircrew in harm's way,” said Gen. Tim Ray, commander of AFGSC. “Airmen continue to rise to the challenge, modernizing, adapting and innovating the fleet we have while bridging to the fleet of the future.”

“A targeting pod pylon was modified mechanically to allow for different connector configurations, and the internal wiring was replaced with harnesses that would support its new role,” explained N. Keith Maynard, 812th Airborne Instrumentation Test Squadron.

**See B-1B Page 12**



U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Lawrence Sena

**Two jack-screw mounting brackets for a KC-135 Stratotanker are displayed by the 92nd Maintenance Squadron aircraft metals technology flight during a demonstration Nov. 19 at Fairchild Air Force Base, Washington. The 92nd Maintenance Squadron aircraft metals technology shop, created a jack-screw mounting bracket for the KC-135 after the discovery of a damaged bracket during an inspection.**

## 92nd MXS innovates bracket

**Airman 1st Class Anneliese Kaiser**

92ND AIR REFUELING WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

FAIRCHILD AIR FORCE BASE, Wash. — The 92nd Maintenance Squadron aircraft metals technology shop, created a jackscrew mounting bracket for the KC-135 Stratotanker after the discovery of a damaged bracket during an inspection.

Tech. Sgt. Robert Sabins, 92nd MXS aircraft metals technology section chief, and Tech. Sgt. Eric Kozma, 92nd MXS aircraft metals technology shift lead, were tasked by the reverse engineering team at Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma, with designing and building a new bracket.

“Back in January, they [maintainers] found a cracked bracket,” Sabins said. “We got one in from supply and that one didn't work out, because these brackets are very specific. Back in the '50s when they designed the aircraft and started building them, they drilled the holes in the bracket

by hand.”

The blueprints available for the bracket are from 1954, and used an outdated magnesium casting process. Rather than using the outdated process to create the bracket, Sabins, Kozma and fellow metals shop Airmen, used their training and expertise to design a 3D model of the bracket and program a milling machine to create the first prototype.

“I used Computer Aided Design software to look at the blueprints and take all of those measurements to draw the bracket in 3D on my computer,” Sabins said. “Then the Computer Aided Manufacturer software communicates with the Computer Numerically Controlled milling machine. The software spits out numbers and coordinates to tell the machine where to cut on the block of metal so it'll end up matching what it looks like on the computer.”

After five months of working to create the first prototype, the bracket is now installed and awaiting testing.

Once the aircraft has flown with the bracket, the aircraft metals technology team will be able to generate more brackets, saving the fleet of KC-135s from the aircraft boneyard.

“We now have a proven program,” Kozma said. “Once the operations check and confidence flight happens, we have another chunk of metal ready to pump out another bracket, which will now only take about six days to make.”

Through the innovations and actions of the 92nd MXS aircraft metals technology Airmen, Team Fairchild can continue to ensure the revitalization of the KC-135 fleet and success of the rapid global mobility mission.

“Thanks to the teamwork of our aircraft metals technology section technicians, the KC-135 systems program office engineers and our partners at the Oklahoma City Air Logistics Center, we are able to solve this extremely complex problem,” said Col. Michael O'Connor, 92nd Maintenance Group commander.

## CBM+ may redefine aircraft maintenance

**Daryl Mayer**  
AIR FORCE LIFE CYCLE MANAGEMENT CENTER PUBLIC AFFAIRS

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AFB, Ohio — About five years ago, the Air Force embarked on a journey with Condition Based Maintenance Plus, to shift the sustainment enterprise from “flying to failure” to a “flying to forecast” mindset.

In a recent episode of Air Force Life Cycle Management Center's Leadership Log podcast, Chris Damani, CBM+ Program Office chief, described CBM+ as a new sustainment paradigm that is transforming the way the Air Force sustains its fleet. The central element is leveraging artificial intelligence and machine learning to turn sustainment data into valuable knowledge that puts the Air Force in control of their sustainment and logistics operations.

“Overall the future of CBM+, as I see it, is that CBM+ model or that CBM+ paradigm just being ingrained into the way we sustain our fleet and that it's just not just another gimmick or buzzword,

it's just the way,” Damani said.

Avoiding unscheduled downtime, being able to plan maintenance actions, forecast supply needs to avoid rush ordering parts, decreasing mission aborts and decreasing troubleshooting time are all benefits that ultimately lead to increasing fleet readiness, he said.

The program showed results from the beginning, he said. Prototype projects from CBM+ in the 2018/2019 time frame showed sufficient progress to warrant the Rapid Sustainment Office's board of directors to order CBM+ to scale.

“Meaning that the technology had proven the benefit and we were approved to implement the project across the Air Force,” Damani said. “Based on that decision in December 2019, less than a year ago, we were challenged to scale CBM+ to 12 weapons systems in Fiscal Year 2020.

The successful results of that effort, he said, show CBM+ as a scalable, repeatable process that can be applied to different platforms across the Air Force.

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# DOD 'transformative' in Warp Speed, official says

## Military Health System Communications Office

The director of the Department of Defense's Operation Warp Speed told The Society of Federal Health Professionals that he is 'incredibly proud' of the work his team has done with the Department of Health and Human Services in finding a vaccine for COVID-19.

Dr. Matthew Hepburn's praise for the DOD came during a speech to the AMSUS virtual annual meeting Dec. 8.

The DOD's role in Operation Warp Speed was "transformative," said Hepburn, OWS development lead, pointing to operational planning, logistics and supply chains, which "is in our DNA" at DOD. "It comes very naturally because that is what we do ... and that has made all the difference," he told the audience of more than 1,500 online attendees.

For example, he said DOD's expertise in obtaining contacts quickly resulted in OWS getting "a really good deal in record time that was mutually beneficial" to the six vaccine manufacturers the joint operation decided to pursue for an approved vaccine for COVID-19. Those manufacturers are Pfizer, Moderna, AstraZeneca, Janssen,

Novavax, and Sanofi.

"The Department of Defense's unique contracting experience ... and other transactions have allowed us to come from where we think are the right contacts to having long-term contracts," Hepburn said.

Pfizer and Moderna have applied for emergency use authorization from the Food and Drug Administration. Pfizer's application was reviewed by an FDA advisory committee of vaccine experts Dec. 10, and Moderna's application was scheduled for review Dec. 17. The FDA usually, but not always, accepts its advisory panels' recommendations.

The FDA announced Dec. 8 that its review of the Pfizer vaccine found it to be safe and efficacious, meeting the requirements for emergency use authorization. The vaccine showed a strong protective effect after the first of two doses, according to the FDA.

The OWS' chief operating officer, U.S. Army Gen. Gustave Perna, "has been very clear that we will have trucks rolling within 24 hours of approval of the first vaccine," Hepburn said.

Once the vaccine is first available to frontline health care workers and elderly care facilities, "we need you to tell



U.S. Army photo/Jason Edwards

**Crystal Tyler, pharmacy technician, prepares an injection for an Operation Warp Speed patient volunteer Nov. 16 at Brooke Army Medical Center Fort Sam Houston, Texas.**

our communities that this is just one layer of a multi-level strategy" to protect against COVID-19, he stated.

He urged the health care community "to convey a message that these vaccines are safe and efficacious, and that vaccination is important" as a counterpoint to widespread misinformation in the general public about vaccines and the need for vaccination against the disease.

Clinical trials for the

candidate vaccines are ongoing and represent the diversity of the general population, Hepburn said, and were done "in anticipation of trying to increase confidence" among the public. For example, at least 25% of clinical trial participants are over the age of 65, a population not normally used for clinical trials but one at greater risk from COVID-19, he noted.

The number of doses needed for immunizations is "really

a moving target, which is not necessarily a bad thing," Hepburn said. "The consistency and cadence of manufacturing improves over time, and more doses are available than we thought would be available last week."

OWS' project team asks for "more doses on a daily basis," he noted.

Armed services research efforts prior to the pandemic will allow for future innovation and speed of vaccine and therapeutics development, Hepburn said.

"If we hadn't made those investments 10 years ago, there is no way we could have achieved the speed" of going from research and development, to candidates, to clinical trials, to approval and distribution, he said.

He noted that the DOD's "clinical research enterprise led us to be involved in the enrollment right now in the AstraZeneca clinical trials."

He called the department's research enterprise "an incredibly powerful tool to confront 21st century threats," and that "this is the new standard for rapid product development, and will apply not only to pandemics but also to develop product for combat health in half the time. Imagine how fast we could go in force protection" using the new paradigm, he said.

## Hurlburt supports largest Army warfighter exercise

**Deb Henley**

505TH COMMAND AND CONTROL WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

**HURLBURT FIELD, Fla.** — The 505th Command and Control Wing supported the U.S. Army's Mission Command Training Program during its execution of 21-1, the largest WFX ever conducted.

The exercise trained more than 5,300 joint warfighters and accomplished training objectives for 12 training audiences using more than two dozen different systems connecting seven sites across the country.

WFX 21-1 was not initially planned for 12 training

audiences, but when WFX 20-4 and 20-5 were canceled due to COVID-19; their TAs moved to WFX 21-1. To ensure Army warfighters were adequately trained for current and emerging mission sets, WFX 21-1 increased its training audience by over 2,300 personnel.

The 505th CCW Detachment 1, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, served as the Air Force's liaison during WFX 21-1 and replicated doctrinally correct air component capabilities to the Army warfighters.

WFX 21-1 met all training objectives for the Army major combat units involved and senior leaders from both services.

# COVID-19 convalescent plasma collection

## Military Health System Communications Office

The Defense Health Agency's COVID-19 Convalescent Plasma, or CCP, collection was a significant success in 2020, exceeding its goal and helping more than 200 Department of Defense beneficiaries who had been hospitalized with the deadly disease.

The DOD campaign resulted in the acquisition of 10,745 units of the plasma donated by active-duty personnel, military retirees, their families, and non-DOD civilians who were designated as fully recovered from COVID-19. The goal of the secretary's campaign, which ended Sept. 30, was to collect 10,000 CCP units.

The Defense Health Agency launched this donation drive on June 1 through its more than 20 Armed Services Blood Program centers across the continental United States and overseas to collect plasma to support the development of an effective treatment for those seriously ill with the virus.

As of Nov. 30, 204 patients within the Military Health System had been transfused 322 units of CCP, said ASBP Division Chief Army Col. Audra Taylor. Typically, one or two units are administered to each patient. At the outset of COVID, when CCP became available as an investigational product by the Food and Drug Administration, the treatment was for severely ill patients.

"Since those early days, the recommendations for treatment are earlier," Taylor noted.

Almost all patients who require supplemental oxygen now also get CCP, noted Air Force Col. Stacy Shackelford, Joint Trauma System chief.

The immune system of a COVID-19-positive patient



U.S. Navy photo/Jaclyn Matanane

**Plasma collected from Sailors by staff at U.S. Naval Hospital Guam is displayed June 2. The Sailors have recovered from COVID-19.**

creates infection-fighting antibodies contained in their plasma. Plasma with these infection-fighting antibodies is called "convalescent plasma." By donating blood or plasma, a patient who has recovered fully provides CCP rich in antibodies to a sick patient who is still fighting the virus to boost their immune system and help them recover.

Since the close of the initial CCP drive, the Armed Services Blood Program has transitioned to a plan to ensure adequate supplies of CCP for future DOD beneficiaries.

"The ASBP recruiters and blood donor centers continue to use the tools and processes developed for the recruitment of potential donors to support the sustainment of the Department of Defense

CCP inventory," Taylor said, adding that "the designated inventory levels sustain the Military Health System, including the combatant commands."

Unfortunately, CCP has a one-year shelf life, so collected units will begin to expire in 2021.

Therefore, there is no end date for collection, Taylor noted. A new CCP collection challenge comes with the new COVID-19 vaccines, which, when approved by FDA and distributed for vaccination, will "have an impact on the availability of potential donors as the vaccines come with a deferral period," she explained.

At a Nov. 16 ceremony honoring the success of the CCP drive, Army Lt. Gen. (Dr.) Ronald Place, director of the Defense Health

Agency, said: "In my opinion, that's the best kind of outcome for our health system."

The reforms to military medicine remain inspired by the belief that a well-integrated organization across functions, across military departments, and unified in its strategic execution, both internally and with our partners in civilian medicine, strengthens the health and readiness of the force, he explained.

To donate convalescent plasma, donors must meet basic donation requirements. Donations can be done through whole blood or apheresis, a form of plasma collection.

To qualify for the program, participants must:

- Have evidence of COVID-19 documented by two

FDA-approved serological tests for SARS-CoV-2 antibodies after recovery, if prior diagnostic testing was not performed at the time COVID-19 was suspected.

- Have a complete resolution of symptoms at least 14 days before donation.

- Undergo potential additional testing if ever pregnant to determine if HLA antibodies have developed.

The DOD's primary goals against the pandemic are to protect its people, maintain readiness and support the national COVID-19 response. In addition to aiding in the development of new therapeutic treatments for COVID-19-positive patients in DOD facilities, CCP contributes to the overall efforts to combat the disease, thus helping accomplish each of those goals.

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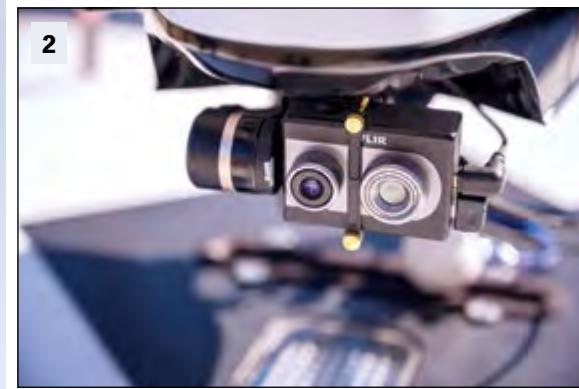
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# Travis launches small unarmed aircraft initiative



1) Vazgen Petrosyan, engineer for the Easy Aerial drone, inspects the drone before a test flight Feb. 25 at Travis Air Force Base, California. The drone will provide security forces Airmen with additional quick response options for a variety of scenarios. 2) The 60th Security Forces Squadron tests a drone Feb. 25 at Travis.



2

**Airman 1st Class Karla Parra**  
60TH AIR MOBILITY WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The 60th Security Forces Squadron, in collaboration with Easy Aerial, a leading provider of autonomous drone-based monitoring solutions, launched the first automated drone-based perimeter security system for the United States Air Force here Dec. 11.

The small unarmed aircraft initiative redefines on-base perimeter security systems to potentially advance warfighting capabilities, enhance strategic deterrence and foster full-spectrum readiness across the Air Force.

“Easy Aerial’s unmanned aerial systems are a game-changer,” said Master Sgt. Joshua Hicks, 60th SFS small unmanned aircraft system instructor. “This jointly developed technology will provide unparalleled security and safety for our Airmen and critical assets.”

Upon receiving a security trigger such as a fence alarm, fire alarm or other distress call, the Smart Air Force Monitoring System, can be programmed to automatically deploy from its base station and autonomously navigate to the triggered site to provide complete, unparalleled situational awareness. After mission completion, the small unarmed aircraft autonomously returns to its base station, where it recharges and waits for its next mission.

The small unarmed aircraft initiative is part of the Small Business Innovation Research Phase II program, which adheres to Air Force perimeter security and situational awareness operational requirements.

“This was a joint effort as we worked closely together from start to finish, resulting in a customized solution for the Air Force that meets all of their operational desires and requirements,” said Ivan Stamatovski, Easy Aerial chief technology officer.

Hicks stressed the technology could save lives, time and money.

While the sight of seeing small unarmed aircraft fly around Travis may seem suspicious to some, Hicks said, there is no need for alarm as the drones will enhance mission effectiveness.

“The sUAS has the capability to assist civil engineering for fire response, maintenance for tail inspections ...



3



4

3) U.S. Air Force Maj. Marie Steffen, 60th Air Mobility Wing small unmanned aerial system chair, discusses with various individuals observing a drone test Feb. 25 at Travis Air Force Base, California. 4) The 60th AMW Security Forces Squadron tests a new patrolling drone Feb. 25 at Travis AFB. 5) Brandon Feldmann, 60th SFS trainer, watches a tethered drone test Feb. 25 at Travis AFB.



5

and that is just the beginning,” he said. “The impact this program is going to have on the Air Force will be seen in many different capacities.”

When Gen. Jacqueline Van Ovost, Air Mobility Command commander, announced her priorities for AMC in October, she stressed the importance of expanding capabilities to project the force, defend installations and

networks while maintaining the joint force.

“Key to that methodology and mission success is innovation; seeing things as they can be, not how they are,” Van Ovost said.

This is truly a pioneering moment for the Air Force and the Department of Defense championed by Travis, Hicks added.

U.S. Air Force photos/Nicholas Pilch



### Disposition of personal effects

Maj. Jeffrey Legaspi, 60th Surgical Services Squadron, is authorized to make disposition of the personal property of Capt. Kelliann Leli, deceased, 60th Healthcare Operations Squadron, as stated in Air Force Instruction 34-501, Mortuary Affairs Program. Any person having claims for or against Leli should contact Legaspi by phone at 707-424-0861 or email at jeffrey.n.legaspi.mil@mail.mil. — 60th Force Support Squadron

## Puzzles

### STR8TS

No. 521 Easy

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

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

Previous solution - Medium

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

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. 521 Tough

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

This week's solutions appear on Page 16

Previous solution - Medium

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

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

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

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



U.S. Air Force photo/Ethan Wagner

**A B-1B Lancer assigned to the 419th Flight Test Squadron, 412th Test Wing, releases a Joint Air-to-Surface Standoff Missile during an external release demonstration in the skies Dec. 4 over Holloman Air Force Base, New Mexico.**

## B-1B

From Page 6

Maynard serves as the special instrumentation flight chief, leading a group of more than 60 engineers, technicians, project managers and logisticians.

“Although the modification required to reassign one of the internal weapon stations to the external location was well within our capability, it wasn’t part of our normal charter of data acquisition,” Maynard said. “Regardless, we jumped on the opportunity to help our customer and immediately assisted with the planning and provisioning and, when approved to do so, executed the modifications to the pylon and aircraft.”

The flight culminates the B-1B expanded carriage

demonstration that began with a modified internal bomb-bay demo in 2019. “Box drop” ground tests were conducted in October 2020 to verify the mechanical modifications to the pylon. A captive carry flight then took place in November which helped set up the external release mission.

“In this case the Air Force Seek Eagle Office performed modeling of the separation characteristics and determined that the JASSM separation from the B-1B pylon should replicate the normal JASSM control surface deployment timeline that occurs when launched from the Left Pylon station 2 of the B-52H,” said Agustin Martinez, 419th FLTS electronics engineer. “The prior captive carry flight verified that the JASSM received the correct information in order for it to follow the B-52H surface

deployment timeline.”

The orifice settings and cartridges used for the MAU-12 Ejector Rack Assembly also ensured that the JASSM would separate with a nose-down pitch moment, which was confirmed during the box drop test earlier this year, Martinez added.

However, there is no substitute for physically releasing a JASSM while in-flight, said Cory Coffman, 419th FLTS operations engineer and test conductor.

“I’d say it’s pretty important,” Coffman said. “Flight testing is a unique environment; ground tests and simulation are great, but there’s no alternative to a flight test.”

To aid engineers in acquiring weapon release data and characteristics, the B-1B was outfitted with the high-speed cameras able to capture up to 500 frames per second.

## Space Force

From Page 5

their feedback and in partnership with (Air Education and Training Command).”

Lt. Gen. Brad Webb, commander of AETC, and Chief Master Sgt. Erik Thompson, AETC command chief, were also at the ceremony.

“Today’s graduation represents the great partnership we have forged while supporting the United States Space Force,

and our commitment to recruit, train and educate exceptional Space professionals,” Webb said. “The cadre and staff at Basic Military Training are producing Space professionals who have the foundational competencies to succeed in any environment, and who can adapt, decide and act at the speed needed today and for tomorrow’s challenges.”

“These graduates from Basic Military Training will take the foundational concepts laid here in ‘The First Command’

and will use them to help build a bold and agile Space Force, which will ensure our nation’s long term competitive advantage in space,” Thompson said.

The seven Space Force professionals will attend Space Systems Operations technical training at Vandenberg Air Force Base, California. Once that training is complete, they’ll perform a wide range of duties from detecting ballistic missiles and tracking satellites to assisting in rocket launches and space flight operations.

## 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; Jaquayllyn 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.

Visit Travis at [FACEBOOK.com/TravisAirForceBase](https://www.facebook.com/TravisAirForceBase)



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# Ruling

From Page 5

restored rape convictions against Lt. Col. Michael Briggs, Lt. Col. Humphrey Daniels and Master Sgt. Richard Collins, all Air Force personnel who had been convicted in separate cases.

"The three offenders whose cases were decided by the Supreme Court will not have their lawfully-obtained convictions and sentences erased by the technicality" as directed by the Court of Appeals of the Armed Forces, Air Force chief prosecutor, Col. Shaun Speranza said.

"Their punishments will be restored, as should their victims' faith in our dedication to justice," he said. Speranza's attorneys from the Air Force

Government Trial & Appellate Counsel Division played an instrumental role supporting the case, working closely with the U.S. Solicitor General's office which argued the case before the Court.

While the Supreme Court's focus was limited to three known cases across the 20 years in question, Speranza said the emphatic ruling carried a broader significance in the effort to combat sexual assault and violence in the Air Force and across the entire military.

"The Supreme Court decision in Briggs effectively closes the window on military sexual offenders escaping prosecution under the Uniform Code of Military Justice due to the date of their crimes," he said. "Now, no matter when the alleged rape occurred after 1986 or when the victim has the

courage to report the offense, we can exercise criminal jurisdiction over the accused service member."

Harmony Allen is the human face of the legal complexities and trauma at the core of the case. Allen was raped and beaten by Collins in 2000, when both were stationed at Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas. She was 19. Collins was not only her superior but also her instructor in her coursework to become a radiology technician.

Collins was convicted in 2017 and sentenced to 16 1/2 years in jail. But Collins appealed and won because the conviction came seven years after the rape. The verdict was set aside and his sentence erased. He was released after serving two years.

"To get that justice, yes, it did restore my faith that there

is still justice," she said in an interview. "Yes, I feel it's justice."

The outcome of the case, she said, "has huge implications"

for the larger efforts across the military to address sexual assault. It also means that Collins must serve the remainder of any sentence.

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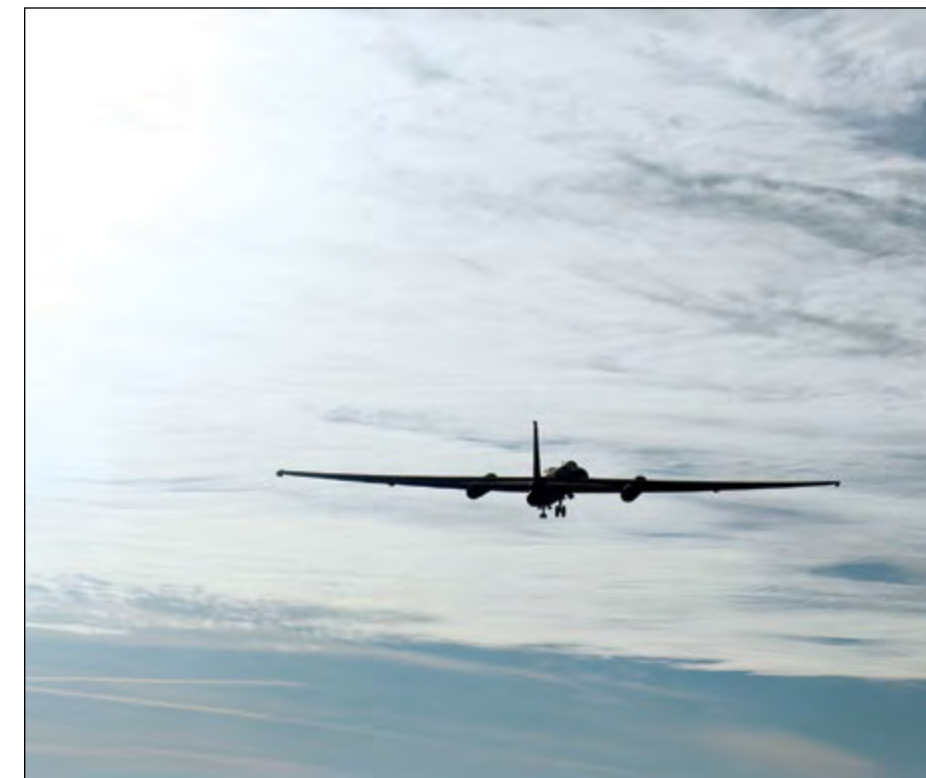
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A U-2 Dragon Lady assigned to the 9th Reconnaissance Wing takes off from the runway Dec. 15 at Beale Air Force Base, California.

# AI

From Page 3

"We know that in order to fight and win in a future conflict with a peer adversary, we must have a decisive digital advantage," said Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Charles Q. Brown, Jr. "AI will play a critical role in achieving that edge, so I'm incredibly proud of what the team accomplished. We must accelerate change and that only happens when our Airmen push the limits of what we thought was possible."

After takeoff, the sensor control was positively handed-off to ARTUμ who then manipulated the sensor, based on insight previously learned from over a half-million computer simulated training iterations. The pilot and AI successfully teamed to share the sensor and achieve mission objectives.

The U-2 Federal Laboratory designed this AI technology to be easily transferable to other systems and plan to further refine the technology. Today's flight provided invaluable data for not only the team to learn from, but also ARTUμ.

"Blending expertise of a pilot with capabilities of machine learning, this historic flight directly answers the National Defense Strategy's call to invest in autonomous systems," said Secretary of the Air Force Barbara Barrett. "Innovations in artificial intelligence will transform both the air and space domains."

The U-2 Federal Laboratory is a 15 U.S.C. compliant organization established to bring together a "confluence of warfighter, developer, and acquirer" vertically-integrated under the same operational roof. The lab has developed and been approved by the National Institute of Standards and Technology to establish the 20th Laboratory Accreditation Program in the federal government. It promotes "edge development" – a concept to develop new software integration on operational systems in a bounded, safe environment.

The historic flight with AI comes just two months after the U-2 Federal Laboratory team updated inflight software for the first time during a U-2 training mission. The team leveraged the open-source container-orchestration software Kubernetes, another military first.

# Supersonic

From Page 4

what private investors are doing, well then you have a ten to fifteenfold increase in the amount of money available to actually do something that could change the way we do business for executives or military teams," Britton said.

From a modest \$4.5 million Air Force investment teamed with millions more in private investment, the team is looking to make some huge strides in the near future toward proving out supersonic capability.

"That's a huge payoff if we

are able to make this happen not only for the DoD, but specifically to build the industrial base for the nation," he said.

Beyond learning about new materials, new engine technology and benefits resulting from research, there could be benefits in military strike or reconnaissance missions as well, he said.

To hear the full conversation, you can watch Leadership Log on YouTube at https://youtu.be/c-J5KzIeZc. You can also listen by searching "Leadership Log" on Apple Podcast, Google Podcast, Spotify, Overcast, Radio Public or Breaker.

# Puzzle solutions

Str8ts

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

Sudoku

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

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## Honduras

From Page 2

"In a first of its kind, the CRG partnered with the (621st) Air Mobility Advisory Group to employ multiple mission sets that addressed various requirements in the affected areas," Cyrus said. "Due to language barriers, Air Mobility Command recognized the need for language-enabled air advisors to augment the team."



U.S. Air Force photo

Though not typically part of the AM team, the air advisors' expertise was vital to completing this mission. "Outstanding Airmen, air advisors, and now honorary AM team members -- I'd take them with me anywhere regardless of area of responsibility," Cyrus said. "They provided invaluable guidance, language skills, and direction in support of the AM mission."

**U.S. Airmen from the 621st Contingency Response Group travel Nov. 22 to Honduras from Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey, with their equipment onboard a C-17 Globemaster III aircraft.**

The AM team is an example of AMC developing teams of multi-capable Airmen to accomplish tasks outside their core Air Force Specialty Code. "The small team dynamic is one of a kind," said Tech. Sgt. Lance Oakes, 321st Contingency Response Squadron equipment and training manager. "The team is the epitome of a multi-capable Airman. Each person is considered a subject matter expert for their respective

Air Force Specialty Code and is highly knowledgeable with other AFSCs on the team."

Devil Raiders remain agile and flexible to ensure they are ready to respond and assist partner nations in their time of need.

"It's incredible watching such a small team accomplish so much," Cyrus said. "The AM sets the bar high for multi-capable Airmen. I couldn't be prouder to be a part of this team."

The team members returned to their respective bases Dec. 4.

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U.S. Air Force photo/Joshua Armstrong

1) Nova, a full white-phase Gyrfalcon and the latest member of the United States Air Force Academy's falconry team, perches on a handler's arm Dec. 3 in Colorado Springs, Colorado. The Academy has had a falconry team for more than 60 years, flying the birds at events and educating the public. 2) A U.S. Air Force F-16 Fighting Falcon, assigned to the 77th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron, flies alongside a KC-135R Stratotanker, assigned to the 340th Expeditionary Aircraft Refueling Squadron, Dec. 4 over Southwest Asia. The F-16 is a compact, multi-role fighter aircraft that delivers airpower to the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility. 3) U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Raymond Flores, 12th Combat Training Squadron tactical air control party Airman, talks on his radio Nov. 13 during a Green Flag West 21-02 exercise at Fort Irwin, California. The 12th CTS supports up to 11 rotations of Green Flags yearly, enabling the joint task force to execute decisive operations.

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U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Taylor Harrison



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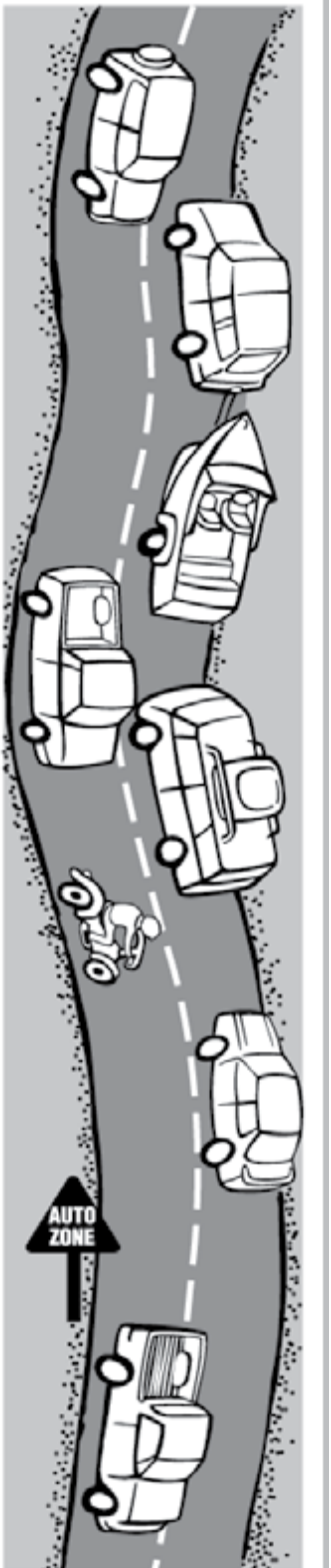
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