



TAILWIND

U.S. SPACE FORCE



Travis Airmen become ...

GUARDIANS

PAGES 10-11

Officials testify on housing privatization

David Vergun

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE NEWS

WASHINGTON, D.C. — One goal of the Defense Department is to provide safe, quality housing for military members and their families, a DoD official told lawmakers Feb. 16.

Paul Cramer, principal deputy assistant secretary of defense for sustainment (installations), spoke Feb. 16 at a House Appropriations subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies. The topic was the Military Housing Privatization Initiative.

The military departments have increased their oversight of military housing by hiring more than 500 additional employees in the military housing offices, he said. These additional people are providing quality assurance, customer care services and advocacy for the residents.

Since the March 3, MHPI hearing before this subcommittee, the department has made significant progress in implementing MHPI reforms set out in the fiscal year 2020 and 2021 National Defense Authorization Acts, Cramer noted.

“We have worked to draw up department-wide privatization housing policies to reinforce and expand our programmatic oversight of MHPI housing projects,” he said.

Among them are:

- Senior leader engagement to collaborate internally and with MHPI companies on housing issues;
- Taking necessary corrective actions to rebuild trust with military members and their families;
- Accountability at all levels within the department by the MHPI



U.S. Army photo/Patrick A. Albright

U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Patrick J. Donahoe, commanding general of the U.S. Army Maneuver Center of Excellence at Fort Benning, Georgia, accompanied by other key officials, takes a “walking town hall” visit for a first-hand look at conditions at the Norton Court residential area Jan. 20.

companies;

- Providing transparency and frequent communication with MHPI tenants; and
- Ensuring the long term financial viability of MHPI projects and the

program.

Elizabeth A. Field, director, defense capabilities and management, Government Accountability Office, also testified at the Feb. 16 hearing.

Last year, GAO published a report in

which it identified weaknesses in DoD management and oversight of MHPI.

“We made 12 recommendations to address the problems we found. And I’m

See HOUSING Page 15



U.S. Air Force photo/Maj. Tyler Williams

U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Samuel Ley, a 66th Training Squadron, Detachment 1 survival, evasion, resistance and escape specialist, demonstrates how to use an MK-124 smoke and illumination signal Jan. 13 on the Chukchi Sea. The MK-124 is a smoke and illumination flare used to signal search and rescue personnel in the event of an emergency or extraction situation.

‘Cool School’ specialists conquer the Arctic

Airman 1st Class

Jose Miguel T. Tamondong

354TH FIGHTER WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

in Utqiagvik (Barrow), Alaska.

S-V81-C is a part of the SERE five-level upgrade course where SERE specialists gain valuable experience surviving in the harsh arctic environment.

“It’s the experiential factor that enables Air Force SERE specialists to provide the highest standard of arctic training to the Department of Defense,” said Master Sgt. Garrett Wright, Detachment 1, 66th Training Squadron, Arctic Survival School superintendent.

After leaving Barrow and completing training, SERE specialists have gained a new understanding of the difficult conditions isolated personnel could face in the Arctic. With this knowledge in hand,

SERE specialists are able to educate personnel across the globe on the various environments they operate in.

From Eielson Air Force Base, five SERE specialists from the 66th Training Squadron, Detachment 1 led S-V81-C training in Barrow.

Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Waterbury, 66th TRS, Det. 1 operations noncommissioned officer in charge, once a student, is now responsible for imparting his technical expertise to others at S-V81-C.

“It is cool to teach a course that I came through (years ago),” said Waterbury. “I never really thought that I would be doing it again; especially running operations for it.”

This year, two classes trained in Barrow and 44 students graduated the course. 24 participants from Jan. 9-16 and 20 from Jan. 16-23. Active duty, Guard and Reserve SERE specialists attended this year’s training along with personnel from the 123rd Contingency Response Group and the Air Force Joint Test Program Office.

This year, Cool School’s operations were supported by an independent medical duty technician from the 354th Medical Group and two defenders from the 354th Security Forces Squadron, who provided overnight polar bear guard.

Additionally, a team led by Lt. Col.

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Tailwind

Travis AFB, Calif. | 60th Air Mobility Wing

Air Force

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Daily Republic

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On the cover

U.S. Airmen assigned to Travis Air Force Base, California, transition into the U.S. Space Force during a ceremony Feb. 12 at the 621st Contingency Response Wing at Travis AFB.

U.S. Air Force photo/Nicholas Pilch

Tour lengths increase for some duties

Staff Sgt. Jeremy L. Mosier

SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Effective March 1, Airmen and Guardians overseas tour lengths are now 36 months for first-term unaccompanied permanent assignments at certain overseas locations.

Unaccompanied Airmen and Guardians, both enlisted and officers, who are on their first permanent duty assignment will serve 36 months at the following Pacific Air Forces and United States Air Forces in Europe locations:

RAF Mildenhall, United Kingdom;

RAF Lakenheath, U.K.; RAF Alconbury, U.K.; RAF Croughton, U.K.; London, Menwith Hill, U.K.; Fairford, U.K.; Welford, U.K.; Molesworth, U.K.; Aviano Air Base, Italy; Stavanger AB, Norway; Ramstein AB, Germany; Kaiserslautern, Germany; Sembach, Germany; Vogelweh, Germany; Landstuhl, Germany; Kapaun, Germany; Einsiedlerhof, Germany; Spangdahlem AB, Germany; Kadena AB, Japan; Misawa AB, Japan; and Yokota AB, Japan.

An unaccompanied overseas tour is a tour served overseas without command-sponsored dependents when dependents are authorized at that location.

“During these moves, service members not only have to adjust to their new jobs, but also to a new culture and country, which takes time,” said Lt. Gen. Brian T. Kelly, deputy chief of staff for manpower, personnel and services. “A 24-month tour was not adequate for our new Airmen and Guardians to thrive, nor was it enough time to provide the continuity needed for the unit. The change was made to support the mission and to ensure our members receive a longer transitional period.”

The new tour length provides the unit with more time to train and develop the service member, and it provides

stability during the member’s first few years in the Department of the Air Force, Kelly said.

During the initial assignment briefing, orders officials will inform affected members of the new 36-month tour length.

This policy does not apply to retrainees, crossflows and prior service members who receive a commission. The overseas tour lengths for accompanied service members remain the same, 36 or 48 months, depending on the tour type.

For more information on the changes to tour length, visit AFI 36-2110.

Vaccinations reaching smaller clinics, facilities

Military Health System Communications Office

WASHINGTON, D.C. — COVID-19 vaccinations are making their way through the military health system at installations both large and small in the most equitable way possible.

At a large military medical treatment facilities, such as Fort Bragg’s Womack Army Medical Center in North Carolina, inoculating troops with the COVID-19 vaccines is has been moving forward since mid-December.

At the Presidio of Monterey, the central California Army installation received two shipments of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine on Jan. 22 and began inoculations Jan. 27, said Army Col. Zack Solomon, commander, California Medical Detachment, director of Health Services, Presidio of Monterey.

The vaccinations were given at the Presidio and at the Military Oceanic Terminal Concord. “With these inoculations, we have nearly completed phase 1A” of the DoD’s immunization schema, Solomon said. Additional shipments will be used at Fort Hunter Liggett, in nearby Jolon, California.

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U.S. Air Force photo/Nicholas Plich

Second doses of the COVID-19 vaccine are ready for Department of Defense personnel Jan. 28 at the fitness center at Travis Air Force Base, California. The vaccine is being administered at smaller installations such as the Presidio of Monterey medical clinic and Military Oceanic Terminal Concord in California, two smaller installations in the DoD effort to push COVID-19 mass inoculations across the country.

Experts: COVID vaccine does not affect fertility

Military Health System Communications Office

WASHINGTON, D.C. — You’re pregnant, or you’re breastfeeding. Should you get a COVID-19 vaccine?

That’s a question on the minds of many military frontline health care workers today. The short answer is that it’s an individual’s choice, and military health experts say the vaccine is well worth considering.

As the COVID-19 vaccines continue to be administered across military hospitals and smaller clinics and outposts under Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidance, the advice from the military and a multitude of national maternal and fetal health professional associations is the same: For most pregnant people, getting the COVID-19 vaccine as soon as possible is the safest choice based on the science to date.

The COVID-19 vaccines made by Pfizer and Moderna are mRNA vaccines. These vaccines contain no live viruses that could directly infect a mother or baby.

“As of Jan. 21, more than 15,000 pregnant patients had received an mRNA vaccine,” said retired Navy Capt. (Dr.) Margaret Ryan, medical director,



U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Enjoli Saunders

U.S. Army Spc. Alexis Ruth, Maryland Army National Guard Medical Detachment health care specialist, prepares to administer a vaccine Jan. 30 at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Baltimore, Maryland.

Defense Health Agency Immunization Division, Pacific Region Vaccine Safety Hub, San Diego. “The experiences of these pregnancies are being followed very closely, and no specific safety concerns have been reported so far.

“As COVID-19 vaccines were

being developed, studies in the laboratory and animals showed no reproductive health problems,” Ryan added.

Pregnant people are entering clinical trials for COVID-19 vaccines “literally now and going into March, so more data will be known soon,” Dr. Anthony

Fauci, President Joe Biden’s chief medical adviser on COVID-19, told a Blue Star Families virtual town hall Feb. 4.

Of the 15,000 pregnant people who have received at least one of the 32 million vaccinations in the United States, “there have been no red flags of

adverse events. Many who are pregnant are health care providers who said the risk of getting COVID-19 from their patients was worse than that from getting the vaccine,” said Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases at the National Institutes of Health.

Said Ryan: “Although it is unclear how pregnancy may affect infection risk, some women who have been infected with COVID-19 during pregnancy have experienced serious illness or death. COVID-19 infection in pregnancy also seems to increase risk of preterm birth.”

As for those who do not want to take the vaccine, “we know there are significantly increased risks for pregnant people who contract COVID-19, e.g., they are three times more likely to be admitted to the ICU and need breathing support,” said Navy Cmdr. (Dr.) Monica Lutgendorf, division head Maternal Fetal Medicine, Naval Medical Center-San Diego, and chair, DHA Women and Infants Clinical Community. “People with comorbidities such as diabetes, Latinx, and Black people are also more at risk for COVID-19 and death. Therefore, it is often beneficial to get the vaccine,

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Keesler NCO derives purpose from heart

U.S. Air Force Senior Master Sgt. Jessica Player, Mathies NCO Academy director of education, laughs at a joke inside the Larcher Chapel Dec. 10, 2020, at Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi. As a practicing Muslim, Player follows her faith to help strengthen her purpose.

U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Seth Haddix



Airman 1st Class Seth Haddix
81ST TRAINING WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE, Miss. — “So many times, when I face adversity in my career, I would simply stop and think to myself ‘What would you do?’ That would be my compass and sound judgment on how to proceed. I love you Chief Master Sgt. Player.”

This was one of the last text messages that a close family member sent to Senior Master Sgt. Jessica Player before taking his own life.

Player, Mathies Noncommissioned Officer Academy director of education, began contemplating her purpose after losing her family member. Growing up in the small town of Greensboro, Alabama, separation and racism was no rarity to Player. After reminiscing of her days as the homecoming queen in high school, Player didn’t identify as just the queen, but as the queen of color.

From thriving as a dorm chief as the youngest trainee in her flight during basic military training to exceeding as a Black, religious leader, Player has embraced being different.

“I have always had a hesitation,” Player said. “I’m Black,

I’m a woman and I’m a Muslim. People question my religion when they realize I come from Alabama, but I believe in helping people, no matter race or religion.”

An inspiration such as religion provides Player a direction to follow. Knowing that she is different keeps her motivated to stay true to herself.

“Are my actions, decisions and behaviors pleasing in Allah’s eyes? At the end of the day, that is how I move,” Player said. “It is my job to spread his word without acting based on spirituality or religion. It is challenging sometimes, especially as a female. We need to focus on ourselves and not how others view us.”

Player is able to embody her persona with confidence. Being original is something she believes is important for not just herself, but others.

“I am a professional trouble maker,” Player said. “I am not afraid to stir up some good trouble. One of my favorite rappers, 2 Chainz, rapped about being a two dollar bill. I take that out of context and apply it to my people. Be a two dollar bill. Be rare. You cannot inspire people if you aren’t the

See HEART Page 18



U.S. Air Force photo/Chief Master Sgt. Jaimee Freeman

As an outcome of the 101st Air Force uniform board, Air Force women are able to wear their hair in up to two braids or a single ponytail with bulk not exceeding the width of the head and length not extending below a horizontal line running between the top of each sleeve inseam at the under arm through the shoulder blades. In addition, women’s bangs may now touch eyebrows, but not cover eyes. These changes took effect Feb. 10.

Reservists pivotal in new policy

Bo Joyner
AIR FORCE RESERVE COMMAND

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. — Reserve Airmen have been instrumental in helping bring about the first major change in the Air Force’s women’s hair policy since the late 1940s.

As an outcome of the 101st Air Force uniform board, Air Force women will be able to wear their hair in up to two braids or a single ponytail with bulk not exceeding the width of the head and length not extending below a horizontal line running between the top of each sleeve inseam at the under arm through the shoulder blades. In addition, women’s bangs may now touch their eyebrows, but not cover their eyes.

These new changes will be effective upon publication of the new standards in Air Force Instruction 36-2903, Feb. 10.

Maj. Alea Nadeem, a Reserve Airman who serves as the leader of the Air Force Women’s Initiative Team, played a key role in bringing about the hair policy change.

“The Women’s Initiative Team works to remove barriers

for Airmen so they can continue to serve successfully and uses a common-sense approach to change outdated policies,” she said. “The women’s hair policy has been on the WIT’s radar for a number of years.”

Nadeem said active-duty Master Sgt. Johnathon Lind deserves a lot of the credit for bringing problems with the old hair policy into the limelight and tirelessly and relentlessly working toward a solution.

“For me, this all started in 2016 when I had a very courageous, young Airman who came to me and told me about all the problems she was experiencing from having to wear her hair in a tight bun all the time,” Lind, who currently serves as the noncommissioned officer in charge of air traffic control training for the 4th Fighter Wing, Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, North Carolina, said. “When I talked to my wife (who also serves in the Air Force and was deployed at the time) about this, she told me she was actually considering getting out of the Air Force because of the same problems. I had no idea it was such a problem for my wife and countless

other women throughout the Air Force.”

Lind and his wife, Tech. Sgt. Jocelyn Lind, started the Warrior Braids Project in hopes of bringing about a change to the Air Force’s women’s hair policy. Lind interviewed hundreds of women and started working with his various chains of command to try and bring about a change to the policy, with varying degrees of success. Lind said a number of fellow Airmen have been critical to efforts over the years, including Capt. Hailey Garrett, 1st Lt. Natasha Monroe, Senior Airman Emily Stanley-Cruz and Master Sgt. Ashley McCarthy.

In 2019, Lind and Warrior Braids joined forces with the WIT in hopes of accelerating a change in policy.

“We had a lot of great data and the WIT had a lot of great contacts, so our partnership was critical to getting the change approved,” he said.

In addition to Lind, Nadeem said Capt. Sarah Berheide and 1st Lt. Montana Pellegrini have been instrumental in the WIT’s efforts to advocate for a

See POLICY Page 12

BX shoppers can save on Salad Wednesdays

Nguyen Ai Vy Tran
ARMY & AIR FORCE EXCHANGE
SERVICE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

TRAVIS AIR FORCE BASE — Better for you, better for your wallet – the Travis community can save money while making healthy eating choices every Wednesday at Army & Air Force Exchange Service restaurants.

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“The Exchange is committed to helping the Travis community stay fit to fight,” said Phonda Bishop, Travis Exchange general manager. “Saving with Salad

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“The Exchange is committed to helping the Fort Sill community stay fit to fight,” said Fort Sill Exchange General Manager Don Walter Jr. “Saving with Salad Wednesdays makes it easier to choose better-for-you options.”

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Disposition of personal effects

Lt. Isaac Bacon is authorized to make disposition of the personal property of Airman 1st Class Elias Solis, deceased, 60th Medical Support Squadron, as stated in AFI 34-501.

Any person having claims for or against the deceased person, contact Bacon by phone at 707-423-3967 or Isaac.I.bacon.mil@mail.mil.

— 60th Force Support Squadron

Voluntary Leave Transfer Program

The following Travis employees are approved as leave recipients through the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program:

- Rebecca Austria, 60th Maintenance Group;
- John Butler, Special Tactics Training Squadron;
- Jaqualynn Cabanlit, Travis AFB Commissary;
- Neftaly Clark, 1st Special Operations Force Support Squadron;
- David Duncan, 319th Reconnaissance Wing, Grand Forks AFB;
- Rabiye Hamilton, Travis AFB Commissary;
- Patrick Hodge, United States Transportation Command, Scott AFB;
- Mark Holmes,

10th Contracting Squadron;

- Dina Patterson-Steward, 60th Aerial Port Squadron;
- Jason Perkins, Grand Forks AFB;
- Gina Silva, Air Force Academy headquarters;
- Jean Sommer, Travis AFB Commissary;
- Maria 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 available paid leave to receive transferred annual leave directly from other employees. For more information, call 707-424-1720.



U.S. Air Force Airman 1st Class Ricardo Morales, an E8-C Joint Surveillance and Target Attack Radar System journeyman with the 461st Aircraft Maintenance Squadron at Robins Air Force Base, Georgia, presents an idea for a smart locker system to senior leaders during the 2021 Air Force Installation and Mission Support Center Innovation Rodeo Feb. 5 at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas.

Smart locker idea captures AFIMSC Innovation Rodeo

Shannon Carabajal
AIR FORCE INSTALLATION AND MISSION SUPPORT CENTER PUBLIC AFFAIRS

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-LACKLAND, Texas — An idea for a smart locker mail system in base dorms won the 2021 Air Force Installation and Mission Support Center Innovation Rodeo Feb. 5 at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland.

Airman 1st Class Ricardo “Noah” Morales, an E8-C Joint Surveillance and Target Attack Radar System journeyman with the 461st Aircraft Maintenance Squadron at Robins Air Force Base, Georgia, will receive a share of \$1 million in funding from AFIMSC to develop his idea for potential implementation across the Air Force and Department of Defense.

“We have seen so many good ideas today. The amount of work our finalists put into

these presentations and put into this work over the last (few) months is absolutely amazing and it really shined through today,” said Maj. Gen. Tom Wilcox, AFIMSC commander, as he announced winners of the third annual event designed to identify and fund top installation and mission support innovations.

Morales came up with the idea for smart lockers after joining the Air Force and realizing the service lacked package pickup and delivery options for Airmen living in base dorms. Because of work schedules, mail processing time and limited post office hours, he said Airmen sometimes wait several days to get their mail and packages.

“I wondered, ‘why we don’t bring this technology to the Air Force since it is an already proven solution in the commercial sector?’” he said.

A state of the art, secure mail locker system in the dorms is a simple way for the Air Force to boost quality of life for Airmen, he explained. The system would benefit the installation postal operations as well because it can free up space and improve mailroom-processing times.

Morales’ idea and commitment to making a change impressed the entire panel of senior installation and mission support leaders, including Chief Master Sgt. Edwin Ludwigsen, AFIMSC command chief master sergeant.

“I’m proud of you,” he told Morales during the award presentation. “You saw a problem, you thought of a solution and you went out there and found an avenue to get after it and that’s what we need. You are our future and our future is bright with Airmen like

See IDEA Page 16

Puzzles

Due to circumstances beyond the Tailwind’s control, the Sudoku and Str8ts are unavailable this week. The paper hopes they return in the Feb. 26 edition.

Box D Blues



Staff Sgt. Austin M. May



Visit Travis’ **FACEBOOK** page for up-to-date information. facebook.com/TravisAirForceBase



U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Darlene Setlman

The F-35 Lightning II makes its first appearance March 10, 2014, at Luke Air Force Base. The aircraft was flown in directly from the Lockheed Martin factory at Fort Worth, Texas, and is the first of 144 F-35s that will eventually be assigned to the base.

First overseas F-35A unit named

48th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

ROYAL AIR FORCE LAKENHEATH, United Kingdom — The 48th Fighter Wing has selected a new nickname for the first U.S. Air Force overseas-based F-35A Lightning II squadron.

The wing solicited help from the public to name the unit. Suggestions were originally submitted in the fall of 2020, and were narrowed down from 700 unique names to five finalists. In December, the 48th FW received thousands of votes from opinion polls, and the

wing is excited to announce that the 495th FS will be called the “Valkyries,” besting four other choices – Archangels, Sabres, Sentinels and Swords-men. In Norse mythology, Valkyries are female figures

See F-35A Page 16

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1) U.S. Airmen assigned to Travis Air Force Base, California, transition into the U.S. Space Force during a ceremony Feb. 12 at the 621st Contingency Response Wing at Travis AFB. Applicants were required to apply through a formal application process, provide a commander's letter of recommendation and meet a records-only board convened by the U.S. Air Force and Space Force. All applicants accepted received notice of transfer approval by the board.

Airmen become Guardians

Story and photos by Nicholas Pilch
60TH AIR MOBILITY WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

TRAVIS AIR FORCE BASE — Ten U.S. Airmen assigned to Travis Air Force Base, California, transitioned into the U.S. Space Force during a ceremony, Feb. 12. Four more Airmen are expected to transition at a later date while assigned to the base.

Sixteen total Airmen from Travis AFB have, or will transition into the U.S. Space Force, but continue to work in their units and current job positions to support the base's mission until billets open for the newest Guardians to fully transition into the new branch and move to a location that supports the Space Force mission.

"On Friday, Travis AFB had a transfer of service ceremony for 10 Air Force members," said Reynolds. "They transferred from the U.S. Air Force to the U.S. Space Force and took the oath of enlistment. The officiant is U.S. Space Force Col. Charles Galbreath, U.S. Space Force technology and innovation deputy chief."

While at Travis, the Guardians will have a unique opportunity for many joint-force, base-level operations.

"Having Guardians at Travis AFB will be a good start to ensure unity across the Department of the Air Force," said Master Sgt. Maurice Carbajal, 60th Communication Squadron plans and resources flight chief, and one of the newest Guardians.

Carbajal expressed that when we have a mixture of services working together, it strengthens confidence for Airmen and Guardians to work together, and also projects the joint force.

"I am excited and honored to be a pioneer on this new chapter for the Department of the Air Force," said Carbajal. "We're not only going to be providing air power any more but also providing Space power for the United States."

U.S. Space Force Gen. Raymond W. Johns, chief of space operations, said in a report explaining space power:

"Military space power has deterrent and coercive capacities – it provides independent options for national and joint leadership, but achieves its greatest potential when



2) U.S. Airmen assigned to Travis Air Force Base, California, salute Space Force Col. Charles Galbreath, U.S. Space Force technology and innovation deputy chief, via video during their transition into the U.S. Space Force during a ceremony Feb. 21 at the 621st Contingency Response Wing at Travis AFB. 3) U.S. Airmen assigned to Travis AFB pose together during the ceremony.

integrated with other forms of military power."

Another new Guardian at Travis AFB shared why he is transferred to the Space Force with similar praise as Carbajal.

"The Space Force ... it's new, shiny – so that was definitely the initial draw," said Tech. Sgt. Ronald Ferguson, 821st CRSS cyber transportation technician. "Seeing something from the beginning, helping and influencing from the beginning, is definitely going to be challenging, exciting and rewarding."

Applicants were required to apply through a formal application process, provide a commander's letter of recommendation and meet a records-only board convened by the U.S. Air Force and Space Force. All

applicants accepted received notice of transfer approval from the board.

"In May of 2020, there was a call-out for cyberspace and intelligence career field Airmen who were willing to transfer from the Air Force to the Space Force," said U.S. Space Force Senior Master Sgt. Nichole Reynolds, 821st Contingency Response Support Squadron cyber support group superintendent.

The Space Force was established within the Department of the Air Force. More information about the Space Force is available at <https://www.spaceforce.mil/About-Us/About-Space-Force/>.

If you are interested in transferring to the Space Force, more information can be found at <https://www.spaceforce.mil/Transfer/>.

Fertility

From Page 5

especially for pregnant or nursing individuals at increased risk of severe disease.”

Lutgendorf noted that although relative risks of COVID-19 are increased in pregnancy, this information should be provided in the context of overall low absolute risks for breathing support (2.9 per 1,000), heart and lung support (0.7 per 1,000), and death (1.5 per 1,000).

Ryan went on to say that specialists from the CDC, American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology, and American Academy of Breastfeeding Medicine “all agree that breastfeeding should not be a barrier to receipt of a COVID-19 vaccine. Breastfeeding should never be equated to pregnancy in terms of health considerations for mother or child.”



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Mariam K. Springs

A medical technician from the 19th Medical Group prepares a Moderna COVID-19 vaccine Feb. 12 at Little Rock Air Force Base, Arkansas. This was the first mass vaccination effort to administer the second dose of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine to members who received their first inoculation in January.

Policy

From Page 7

change to the women's hair policy. Also, the first historic photos of servicewomen with their hair down were taken by a Reserve Airman, Chief Master Sgt. Jaimee Freeman, the enlisted executive to the chief of the Air Force Reserve.

“Our research and the research done by Master Sgt. Lind showed that the old policy actually had a negative effect on both operational and medical readiness,” Nadeem said. “In addition, the policy didn't support a culture of inclusion for almost a quarter of our Total Force Airmen.”

Thousands of women across the Air Force provided feedback to the WIT and warrior braids. Many said that constraints to hair grooming standards resulted in damage to hair, migraines and, in some cases, hair loss.

When the time came to seek senior leader support for a new women's hair policy, one of Nadeem's first stops was Air Force Reserve Command headquarters.

“As a Reservist, my first thought was to find out what General Scobee and Chief White thought,” she said.

Lt. Gen. Richard Scobee is the chief of the Air Force Reserve and commander of Air Force Reserve Command. Chief Master Sgt. Timothy White is AFRC's command chief master sergeant and Scobee's senior enlisted advisor.

“I wholeheartedly support the WIT's efforts to reform the Air Force hair policy for women,” Scobee said. “It's imperative that we implement policies which account for all genders, ethnicities and backgrounds while ensuring leaders continue to foster a culture of inclusiveness. The time is definitely right to change the outdated hair policy for women serving in the Air Force.”

“To me, this was a no-brainer,” White said. “As a father of two daughters, I could see how the old policy could be a potential barrier for young women interested in joining the Air Force, and I could see how it was contrary to the culture of diversity and inclusion we are constantly striving for.”

Scobee and White immediately wrote a letter to the Air Force uniform board in support of women's hair policy reform, saying the proposed changes would “mitigate safety, medical and operational risks, while fostering a culture of inclusion within the Department of the Air Force.”

“Eventually, we got letters of support from seven of the nine major-command commanders and more than 40 wing commanders,” Nadeem said. “Having the support of General Scobee and Chief White from the beginning was critical to our success.”

With the backing of dozens of commanders and years of research and data in hand, the team made its case to the Air Force uniform board in November 2020. In late January, the board announced that the Air Force would be changing its women's hair standards.

In announcing the policy change, Air Force senior leaders expressed their support for the new standards.

“In addition to the health concerns we have for our Airmen, not all women have the same hair type, and our hair standards should reflect our diverse force,” said Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force JoAnne S. Bass. “I am pleased we could make this important change for our women service members.”

Nadeem is serving in an Active Guard Reserve position as a Congressional budget and appropriations liaison with the Secretary of the Air Force Financial Management Directorate. She volunteered to be part of the WIT in 2015 while serving on active duty. In 2017, she was asked to lead the team.

“We have more than 600 active-duty, Reserve, Guard and civilian volunteers serving on the WIT,” she said. “We are constantly striving to improve the lives of Airmen and their families by working with Air Force leaders to make policy changes. The new women's hair standards are a big win for the Women's Initiative Team and the Department of the Air Force.”

“I think this just goes to show what you can do if you don't give up,” Lind said. “If you believe what you are doing is the right thing, keep on pushing. You can make a difference.”

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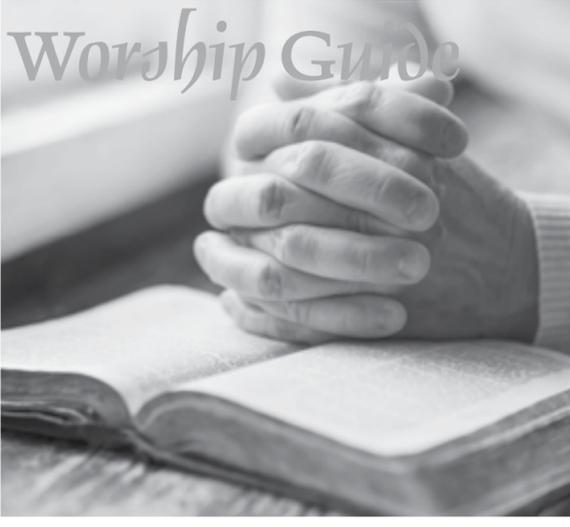


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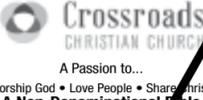
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Housing

From Page 2

pleased to report that as of today, DoD has either fully or partially implemented all of our recommendations and expects to complete the remaining work needed to implement them this year," she said.

Some of the key actions that the department has taken include:

- Instituting standardized quarterly reviews of the military department privatized housing portfolios, with a focus on quality and condition;
- Developing a process for collecting and calculating resident satisfaction data to ensure

that these data are more accurate and consistently used;

- Establishing criteria for monitoring the financial viability of privatized housing projects and assessing risk;
- Issuing a Tenant's Bill of Rights;

- Developing a Common Lease Agreement; and
- Piloting an effort to provide tenants with seven years of their unit's maintenance history.

"Given the significance of MHPI to the department's commitment to provide safe, adequate housing to service members and their families, sustained attention will be warranted for many years to come," she said.

inoculations was very quick." "We conducted a shot exercise for Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center personnel Dec. 24," said David Mark, public affair officer for Naval Hospital Twentynine Palms. "These shot exercises have been ongoing. We've turned the MCAGCC west gym into a vaccination center."

Meanwhile, other military facilities are using a combination of COVID-19 vaccines sent directly to them and local county vaccination efforts. Navy Medicine Readiness and Training Command Lemoore in California and Navy Medical Readiness and Training Unit Fallon in Nevada were sent the Moderna vaccine directly. They are using the Moderna vaccine due to cold storage limitations.

The Moderna vaccine needs to be kept at minus 20 degrees Celsius, as cold as a regular freezer, while the second currently-approved vaccine, from Pfizer-BioNTech, needs to be stored at minus 70 degrees Celsius.

Smaller

From Page 4

The California Medical Detachment is located on the U.S. Army Garrison Presidio of Monterey. It provides care to approximately 7,000 enrolled patients and supports the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center, U.S. Army Garrison Presidio of Monterey, the Naval Postgraduate School, Naval Support Activity Monterey, the Fleet Numerical Meteorology and Oceanography Center, and U.S. Coast Guard Station Monterey.

The ratio of inoculations at the facilities was 15% military and 85% Department of the Army civilian first responders and licensed health care providers, Solomon added.

"The transition at the Presidio in September 2019 to the MHS Genesis electronic health records platform works very well when it comes to mass inoculations," Solomon noted. "The process of setting up and giving

F-35A

From Page 9

who choose those that will live or die in battle. RAF Lakenheath is in the east of the United Kingdom, an area with extensive Viking and Norse history. Additionally, the 495th FS motto, "Mala Ipsa Nova," in Latin, means "Bad News Itself." Both factors emphasize "Valkyries" as an extremely suitable nickname for the UK-based unit.

"Valkyries' epitomizes the force's move toward more inclusivity and equally represents the fifth-generation stealth fighter's air superiority," said Lt. Col. Ian McLaughlin, the incoming 495th FS commander. "I am honored to be the first commander of the initial U.S. Air Force overseas-based F-35A unit. Like the Valkyries themselves, we'll be vital to determining the fate of our adversaries in

the battlespace."

The first F-35As are scheduled to arrive at RAF Lakenheath in late 2021. The base was selected to host the first U.S. F-35A squadrons in Europe based on very close ties with the RAF, existing infrastructure and combined training opportunities. The UK is a critical component in training and combat readiness for Air Forces in Europe due to its excellent airspace and F-35 program partnership.

"The amount of support we received, and continue to receive, from the community both here and back home has been overwhelming and highly appreciated," said Col. Jason Camilletti, 48th FW commander. "Basing F-35s at RAF Lakenheath will be a game changer as it will allow us to further advance interoperability with our European teammates, and is a visible demonstration that we and all of NATO will continue to own the skies."

PUBLIC NOTICE

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The United States Air Force (USAF) announces the intent to prepare an Environmental Assessment for the proposed management of invasive, non-native plant and animal species as well as nuisance aquatic plant species on Travis Air Force Base and Geographically Separated Units, lands owned by Travis Air Force Base but that are not contiguous with the Main Base. Because the Proposed Action would occur in wetlands and potential floodplains, and has the potential to result in impacts to wetlands, wetland buffers, and potential floodplains the action is subject to the requirements and objectives of Executive Order 11990, Wetlands, as amended and Executive Order 11988, Floodplain Management. As part of the Proposed Action, the USAF is considering Alternative 1 (No Action Alternative), Alternative 2 (Comprehensive Management; includes manual and mechanical removal, chemical control, grazing and prescribed burning), Alternative 3 (Limited Control Methods; excludes use of chemical applications and expansion of grazing areas), and Alternative 4 (Limited Control Locations; excludes control near federally listed species). The project area encompasses all of Travis Air Force Base and the seven Geographically Separated Units, totaling 5,137 and 358 acres, respectively. Only one Geographically Separated Unit, Defense Fuel Supply Point Ozol, which occupies about 52 acres, occurs in Contra Costa County. Travis Air Force Base and the other Geographically Separated Units are located in Solano County. Treatments would be conducted within these areas where invasive and non-native plants and animals and nuisance aquatic plant species occur. Travis Air Force Base and the Geographically Separated Units contain approximately 122 acres of wetlands that are potential Waters of the United States regulated under Section 404 of the CWA and 0 acres of Federal Emergency Management Agency-delineated floodplains though floodplains occur just outside the Base boundary and Union Creek (35.8 acres) flows through the Main Base. Wetland impacts in the long-term would be beneficial from the removal of non-native plant biomass and restoration of native vegetation in wetlands and adjacent uplands. Long-term impacts to potential floodplains would be beneficial, by reducing the hazard and risk of flood loss by improving water flow and floodplain functionality. Short-term, temporary impacts would occur to wetlands, wetland buffers and potential floodplains during control activities under the action alternatives. Under the No Action Alternative, minimal control activities would occur and invasive species would be expected to continue to spread into wetlands and floodplains causing ecological harm.

The USAF invites the public to provide comments on the proposal and any practicable alternatives that may reduce these impacts. Comments should be sent within 30 days from date of this publication to Mr. Seth Merdler, (707) 424-7516, seth.merdler@us.af.mil, 60 CES/CEIE, 411 Airmen Dr, Travis AFB, CA 94535. DR# 00044828 Published: February 19, 2021

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Arctic

From Page 3

Nathan Barrett, the AFJO joint test director, conducted shelter temperature testing as part of Cool School's efforts to modernize its instructional data.

S-V81-C training includes a day of academic instruction where students learn about health, sustenance, personal protection, signaling, recovery and travel in an arctic environment.

Throughout the week, students learn how to operate in the Arctic and build shelters from snow caves to igloos. In total, students construct six different shelter configurations over the course of four days, to enable their survival in the Arctic tundra.

The Cool School team brought the students out to the Chukchi Sea where they ignited MK-124s, a smoke and illumination flare, to learn about the intricacies of signaling and recovery.

One of the highlights of the training is the cultural immersion with the local indigenous people, giving many students a broader perspective and appreciation for the Arctic.

"Our students have a unique



U.S. Air Force photo/Master Sgt. Ryan M. Dewey

Tents line the snow during survival, evasion, resistance and escape training as specialists stay overnight Jan. 13 at Utqiaqvik (Barrow), Alaska. Prior to training in the Arctic environment, the SERE students trained in coastal, desert and tropical biomes around the world.

opportunity to learn from the indigenous people, so they can come to a better understanding of the cultural influences that enabled them to survive in such a harsh region for thousands of years," said Maj. Tyler Williams, 66th TRS, Det. 1 commander. "Before all of this modern equipment, it was the cultural values and practices that allowed them to thrive in this region."

This immersion also aligns with the Department of the Air Force Arctic Strategy through collaborative planning

opportunities particularly building upon relationships with indigenous communities in the Arctic region to learn from their expertise.

What makes this year's training different from its previous iterations is the introduction of the geopolitical aspects of recovery.

"There's a lot of people who live across the Arctic," Wright said. "Students have to understand that they may not be picked up by American forces and they may not even be military."

Idea

From Page 8

you. Thank you for what you've done and congratulations."

With a theme of Base of the Future, this year's innovation rodeo gave Airmen a chance to help shape how installations can look and function in the future.

Conducted virtually due to COVID-19, eight finalists spent a week learning from leading innovators and honing their pitches before trying to convince a panel of five senior Air Force installation and mission support leaders that their idea was the best.

Other 2021 Innovation Rodeo winners include:

Second Place: Auto-Ping - DBIDS scanner, Staff Sgt. Jordan Varnier, Vandenberg Air Force Base, California. Varnier's idea for an executable script for Microsoft

PowerShell sends a ping - test packets of data - to Defense Biometrics Identification System, or DBIDS, ID scanners to determine whether they are online or offline. The script allows a base security officer to determine if there are any offline scanners without traveling to each entry control point.

Third Place: 3D Interior Scanner, Master Sgt. Luke Rogan, Hill Air Force Base, Utah; Scott McClure, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska, and Capt. Nathanael Kohl, JBER. The team's idea involves a multi-phase strategic plan for modeling Air Force facilities in 3D. Using modern tools, the Air Force can establish a library of accurate 3D real property files at a fraction of current costs and labor hours.

In addition to naming the top three winners, Wilcox had a surprise announcement for all finalists.

"You are all winners today

because I'm going to put money to all eight of your ideas. (AFIMSC is giving) at least \$50,000 to each one of your ideas to push them to the next level, to scale them, to make them right," he said.

In addition to funding, finalists will receive support from the AFIMSC Ventures office which is uniquely positioned to help Airmen and Guardians develop, fund and implement an execution strategy for their ideas, said Marc Vanderveer, AFIMSC chief innovation officer.

"Since our office stood up in November 2018, we've helped installation and mission support Airmen land more than \$70 million for their ideas," he said. "We've connected innovative Airmen and Guardians with Department of Defense and industry partners to help develop and implement their ideas and we can't wait to get started with these finalists."

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Heart

From Page 6

real version of yourself.”
Although self-worth and confidence are the foundations of Player’s personal growth, it’s relaying her energy to those around her that fulfills her meaning.

“Perseverance makes you a good leader. Openness and being transparent with your people makes a great leader,” Player said. “When someone reaches out for help, they either want you to fix the problem, or feel it. When they want you to feel it, they want you to listen and be in the moment with them. When they want you to fix it, game on. I want my Airmen to show up and be the best version of themselves. Some days you won’t smile. Some days you will cry. Some days will be joyful. Just remember to show up and be yourself.”

As the director of education and leader of diversity campaigns around Keesler Air Force Base, Player strives for change. She draws inspiration from not being the norm and inspires to teach others to



Senior Master Sgt. Jessica Player, Mathies Noncommissioned Officer Academy director of education, takes time to give thanks inside the Larcher Chapel at Keesler Air Force Base, Dec. 10, 2020. As a practicing Muslim, Player follows her faith to help strengthen her purpose

embrace people who may be different from them.

“My goal is getting to the root of our problems together,” Player said. “Painful issues such as social injustice

may be bigger than what we can do on base, but we apply actions and behaviors that we can take outside of those gates. We are all different, but when we understand each other, we can

achieve our ultimate goal.”

Player was recently selected in 2020 to be one of five personnel to promote to the rank of chief master sergeant on Keesler AFB. She hopes to use her

position to work as a team player and inspire the Airmen she leads.

“Even though my relative is not here with us anymore, he gives me hope,” Player said. “I hope Airmen can look at me and think ‘My goodness. If she can act like this in and out of uniform, so can I.’ We need to allow Airmen to be themselves. We put too much pressure on people to be perfect when perfect doesn’t exist.”

Dealing with challenges has allowed Player to become a better person and leader for the people she cares about most. She has found her purpose from within and flourished to impact the people around her.

“I didn’t have him call me,” Player said. “It is people like him that I vow to let know- Am I scared sometimes? Yes, I am always scared. But if you are a little vulnerable, I can help you with whatever I can, or if I can’t, I can find someone who can. I want to bring hope, knowing my journey, as well as inspiration and a voice. As their leader, it is my job to be their voice. Play on, Player. That is my motto. Whenever I feel defeated, I remember who I am.”

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1) A C-130J Super Hercules assigned to the 36th Airlift Squadron sits on the flightline during the morning fog Jan. 25 at Yokota Air Base, Japan. The C-130J is capable of performing in-flight refueling, ground fueling, weather reconnaissance, electronic warfare, medical evacuation, search and rescue, paradrop, maritime mission and special operations. 2) A U.S. Air Force nurse assigned to the 18th Operational Medical Readiness Squadron talks with other medical personnel while participating in a simulated mass casualty aeromedical evacuation during exercise Cope North 21 Feb. 10 at Northwest Field, Guam. 3) A U.S. Air Force KC-10 Extender goes through a preflight inspection before a mission in the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility Feb. 2, 2021. The KC-10 delivers U.S. Air Forces Central Command a global reach capability to support joint and coalition aircraft throughout USCENTCOM.

U.S. Air Force photo/Yasuo Osakabe

A glimpse at life around the ...

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U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Duncan C. Bevan



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