



TAILWIND



TRAINING

... mission prepares AE for anything

**PAGES
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Reservists reflect on coronavirus deployment

Senior Master Sgt. Rachel Martinez
349TH AIR MOBILITY WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

In mid-April, as the novel coronavirus pandemic spread across the nation, the 349th Air Mobility Wing deployed 23 Reserve Citizen Airmen to assist with the surge of COVID-19 patients in the New York City area.

After approximately six weeks serving on the frontlines of the coronavirus health crisis, at the Javits Medical Center and other area hospitals, the final group of Reserve doctors, nurses, and medical technicians returned home on June 5.

Air Force Reserve Command mobilized more than 1,000 Reserve Citizen Airmen in support of COVID-19 relief efforts, including approximately 120 medical personnel to New York City. When the 349th Medical Group was called upon to join those efforts, they had no trouble filling the positions.

“We had more than a hundred Airmen volunteer to go,” said Chief Master Sgt. Michele Ortiz, 349th MDG superintendent. “Within one night we validated who was eligible to go, and they were on their way days later.”

For many of the deployers, the reason for volunteering was simple – they wanted to help and serve others. Dr. (Maj.) George Gallardo, an internal medicine physician, had already volunteered to work with COVID-19 patients at the civilian hospital he works at in Sacramento, but said this was a once in a lifetime opportunity.

“There was so much uncertainty on whether there would be a similar surge of patients here in California,” said Gallardo, who is assigned to the 349th Medical Squadron. “I had to balance that with volunteering to go to New York City where there was an immediate need. I felt like



Medical volunteers from the 349th Medical Group pose for a photo in New York City. Air Force Reserve Command mobilized more than 1,000 Reserve Citizen Airmen in support of COVID-19 relief efforts, including approximately 120 medical personnel to New York City.

I would make the most impact in New York. It was an opportunity to use my skills as an internal medicine physician and make a direct impact on the whole.”

Other Airmen echoed those sentiments, adding that their military service led them to be ready.

“I volunteered because of the dire need,” said Tech. Sgt. Gary Sumter, 349th Aeromedical Staging Squadron emergency medical technician. “You watch the news and you see what’s going on. We’re not trained to be bystanders; we’re trained to take action.”

With short notice to get out the door, the Airmen had little time to prepare.

Most of what they knew about the situation on the ground in New York came from watching news reports. Many started brushing up on their medical skills and learning what they could about the coronavirus.

“My whole family is in the medical field and they’ve all be dealing with COVID-19 since the beginning,” said Senior Airman Jeremiah Thiel, 349th Medical Squadron medical technician. “My mom works in the intensive care unit, and I have aunts who work in emergency rooms. They showed me things they thought would be helpful.”

Most of the Airmen from the 349th

AMW were initially assigned to the Javits Medical Center where they worked alongside Navy and Army personnel in the make-shift hospital for COVID-19 patients.

Sumter, who works as a defense contractor and United States Postal Service letter carrier in his civilian capacity, spent a lot of time doing online research, especially in the area of in-patient and respiratory care. Despite any preparations, working in the ICU at the Javits Medical Center and seeing first-hand the spread and effects of COVID-19 was jarring.

“It’s shocking to see what was going on with our own citizens,” said Sumter. “I never saw so many people die in such a short time. I saw first-hand what COVID-19 does to a person’s body. I’ve never seen anything like that. One day a patient is fine, and then next he’s not. It’s sad to see.”

Also shocking to the Airmen was the personal protective equipment. While they had plenty of it, and never felt like it was lacking, wearing it constantly was an adjustment.

“We were in it for the entire shift – 10 to 12 hours,” said Tech. Sgt. Jose Cabrera, 349th MDS medical technician. “That’s a long time to be covered in so much PPE.”

Sumter agreed, adding that the PPE adds a layer of difficulty to the job. “The masks tear up your face – it’s hard to breathe, hard to see,” he said.

The Javits Medical Center appeared to hit its peak patient-load about a week prior to the Airmen arriving. As the patient load fell, the Airmen were reassigned to local area hospitals including Bellevue Hospital in Manhattan, Jacobi Hospital in the Bronx, and Elmhurst Hospital in Queens.

See REFLECT Page 18

California Guard distributes 50M meals

Staff Sgt. Edward Siguenza
CALIFORNIA NATIONAL GUARD

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — The California Military Department set another unprecedented milestone, June 9, as it surpassed 50 million meals packed and distributed as part of its ongoing statewide COVID-19 humanitarian support mission.

California National Guard and California State Guard service members began working food banks across the state in late March just as coronavirus restrictions were initiated and the number of regular food bank volunteers dwindled due to personal safety precautions against the virus.

Roughly 70 days into the mission, Cal Guard hasn’t stopped its critical support to this viable community operation, even during a period of civil unrest.

“I don’t think we’re going to be slowing down either,” said U.S. Army Sgt. Maj. Ernest V. Serrato, operations sergeant major at 115th Regional Support Group, which transformed into Joint Task Force 115 to execute the mission. The task force oversees food-bank operations and tracks daily output numbers. “It’s a conjunction of the Soldiers and Airmen coming together to support their communities. They believe in what they’re doing. They believe in helping out whenever we’re called upon, whether its civil unrest or food-bank operations. We’ll continue to work as hard as we can to make sure we can support everybody who we can.”

Cal Guard operated at more than 30 food banks in 20 counties across the state. As many as 700 Soldiers and Airmen have supported the mission, but numbers recently shortened as regular food-bank volunteers begin to return



A California National Guardsman assigned to Joint Task Force 115 packs food into a box June 9 at the Sacramento Food Bank & Family Services in Sacramento, Calif. The California National Guard surpassed 50 million meals packed and distributed at food banks throughout the state since initial operations began in March as part of Cal Guard’s humanitarian response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

and other community-based organizations step up to help.

“Reaching 50 million just shows how committed Cal Guard is to serving and assisting citizens and communities of this great state,” said 1st Sgt. Scott Flynn, 132nd Multi-Role Bridge Company noncommissioned officer in charge. Flynn oversees more than two dozen troops at Santa Cruz County Food Bank where U.S. Army-trained engineers adapted their skills to provide warehouse

support and enhance Cal Guard’s mission.

“They absolutely know the importance of the mission. In these uncertain times, with many Californians out of work and experiencing hardships, we got to see firsthand, especially during distribution days, the value and effect food bank operations have in Santa Cruz county and California in general,” Flynn said.

“I will say that the California Guard

has been undeniably very valuable,” said Lauren Reid, California Association of Food Banks communication director. “There haven’t been a lot of volunteers because of COVID-19. The National Guard really stepped up and is doing a great job.”

The Sacramento Food Bank & Family Services became Cal Guard’s first operation in late March. It was there where efforts spurned outward, as

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Tailwind

Travis AFB, Calif. | 60th Air Mobility Wing

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On the cover

U.S. Airmen assigned to the 43rd AES Det. 1 and 349th AES walk toward a C-17 June 3 at Travis. The squadrons worked together to remain proficient at aeromedical evacuation procedures during a routine training mission.

U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Jonathon Carnell



U.S. Air Force photo/Hedrick Couch

WARRIOR OF THE WEEK

Name: Staff Sgt. Toan Nguyen	Time in service: Six years	What are your hobbies? Hiking, biking, spending time with family.
Unit: 60th Aerospace Medicine Squadron	Family: Spouse, Katherine; two children, Ace and Cali.	What is your greatest achievement? Deploying to Afghanistan as medic in 2016-17 where I provided direct care for patients of a suicide bomber attack.
Duty title: Medical technician	What are your goals? Hopefully, serving 20 years in the military. I also would like to be financially independent and retire early.	
Hometown: Fort Worth, Texas		

Leader delivers welcome message

349th Air Mobility Wing
Public Affairs

Col. Lee E. Merkle assumed command of the 349th Air Mobility Wing June 7 at Travis Air Force Base.

Merkle delivered his virtual introduction message via social media due to COVID-19 restrictions.

To watch the message, visit <http://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=538414023501162>.

Town halls to discuss Juneteenth

60th Air Mobility Wing
Public Affairs

A series of town halls are scheduled to take place June 19 and 26 at the Base Theater recognizing Juneteenth.

The town halls take place from 8-9 a.m., 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 3-4 p.m. June 19 and June 26.

Juneteenth commemorates June 19, 1865, the day all previously enslaved people in Texas learned they were free.



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Exercise demonstrates agility

Senior Airman
Kristine Gruwell

19TH AIRLIFT WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

LITTLE ROCK AIR FORCE BASE, Ark. — Little Rock Air Force Base and Dyess Air Force Base launched 19 C-130J Super Hercules aircraft in support of the U.S. Air Force Weapons School's Joint Forcible Entry exercise at the Nevada Test and Training Range on June 6.

The exercise, known as JFE Vul, is a large-scale air mobility exercise designed to simulate the joint forcible entry of paratroopers into a contested battlespace.

Although Little Rock and Dyess had separate mission planning cells, both were able to join each other's formation and head to the simulated JFE drop area.

"Training in a joint-base exercise is very realistic," said Maj. Darshan Subramanian, 317th Airlift Wing chief of tactics. "The ability for multiple mobility bases to synchronize effects from distributed locations is a critical component of future air mobility conflicts."

In total, the exercise featured approximately 75 aircraft who engaged in an intricate airdrop operation in a simulated enemy environment where sophisticated Integrated Air Defense Systems were employed.

JFE showcased that we as a military are able to maintain readiness on a national scale even amid the COVID-19 pandemic, said Capt. Patrick Waters, 61st Airlift Squadron pilot and 19th Airlift Wing planner for the Little Rock AFB-based aircraft.

"The C-130 community pulled together 19 tails, which is huge, especially amidst the pandemic," Waters said. "Airmen were brought in to launch, fuel and load the aircraft along



U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Kristine M. Gruwell

Three C-130J Super Herculeses from Little Rock Air Force Base, Arkansas, fly in formation during the Joint Forcible Entry exercise June 6 near Las Vegas, Nevada. More than 20 C-130Js and C-17 Globemaster IIIs flew in formation during the U.S. Air Force Weapons School's Joint Forcible Entry exercise with numerous other aircraft from across the Air Force.

with anything else we required to get off the ground and participate in this training."

Waters noted that the integration of forces in this particular exercise provided participants with a joint perspective on how to best support airdrop operations and assess air threats, surface-to-air threats and ground threats.

"Our main mission was to get Soldiers on the ground," Waters said. "This formation had many layers to ensure the paratroopers were able to start their descent ... bomber aircraft cleared the airspace, fighter aircraft protected the C-130Js, and C-17 Globemaster IIIs dropped equipment the Soldiers needed to complete their mission."

Subramanian echoed Waters' sentiment, adding that the JFE allows us to practice the planning and muscle

movements required to achieve mission success in a contested environment.

"The ability to airdrop the Army deep into enemy territory via C-130s while supported by the Combat Air Forces is a critical option for the national command authority when viewing options to project American strength," he said.

Air Mobility Command also dual-purposed the JFE construct by utilizing it as a testing ground for a tactical data link experiment intended to increase aircrew situational awareness of the threat environment before and during the mission.

The experimentation involved new computers aboard two C-17s, enabling high-speed data transfer via commercial satellites to the entire formation.

The commercial satellite link and new computers are intended to dramatically

increase connection and refresh speeds, providing much more up-to-date information about the threat environment. Also, the network bandwidth allows for multiple users to connect, whereas the current capability becomes dramatically slower as users join the network.

"Pilots have used tactical data links to communicate through satellites for some time now," Waters said. "But instead of communicating as normal, the C-17 pilots used a new network band to communicate confidential information across the formation on a secure and rapid system."

Waters continued to say that investing in this level of communication allows for accelerated operations that will ultimately overwhelm adversaries with simultaneous challenges from every domain.

Van Ovost nominated to be next AMC commander

Air Mobility Command
Public Affairs

SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, Ill. — As Gen. Maryanne Miller, Air Mobility Command commander, prepares to retire after a 39-year career, Lt. Gen. Jacqueline Van Ovost, AMC deputy commander, has been nominated as her successor.

Van Ovost and Miller marked the first time in history that an Air Force major command has been led by female commander and deputy. If confirmed, Van Ovost will pin on her fourth star, assume command of AMC, and, upon Miller's retirement, become the highest-ranking woman in the United States military.

"I am honored and humbled by the nomination to serve as the next commander of Air Mobility Command," Van Ovost said. "I look forward to the opportunity to build upon the incredible work of Gen. Maryanne Miller and the commanders who served before her, ensuring the success of the air mobility enterprise

and its people who make up the heart of our global reach mission every day."

Both generals previously served at Travis Air Force Base, California.

Van Ovost was the vice commander of the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center from March 2012 to September 2013. Miller commanded the 349th Air Mobility Wing from January 2008 to November 2009.

Van Ovost has led at all levels of the Air Force and her technical expertise as a pilot ranges from heavy airlift aircraft to nimble fighter jets. She began her Air Force career flying the C-141 Starlifter, became a test pilot and subsequently flew over 30 different aircraft, accumulating more than 4,200 flight hours.

She commanded a refueling squadron at McConnell AFB, Kansas, served as



Van Ovost

vice commander of the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center and commanded the 89th Airlift Wing at Joint Base Andrews, Maryland, responsible for one of the Air Force's no-fail missions: safely transporting the president and our nation's most senior leaders.

"I have no doubt Lt. Gen. Jacqueline Van Ovost will be an extraordinary leader for our Mobility Airmen," Miller said. "She has served exceptionally, most recently in direct support of our Air Force chief of staff and secretary, and I am excited for the future of AMC with her at the helm."

Van Ovost is nominated to offer her broad leadership and expertise to AMC during an unprecedented time in our nation's history. AMC provides rapid global mobility every day, no matter the circumstances, and is at the forefront of the DoD's effort to support American and global needs in the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, moving patients, delivering life-saving supplies and developing new technologies to execute the mission safely.

Foundation awards academic scholarships

Balfour Beatty
Communities Foundation

Travis Family Homes recently announced that three of its residents, Shyanne Perry, Justine Mica Legaspi and Terrin Griffeth, have received scholarships for the 2020-21 academic year through Balfour Beatty Communities Foundation.

The scholarships will aid Perry, Legaspi and Griffeth in their pursuit of degrees in natural sciences, nursing and biology, respectively. The annual scholarship program is open to residents throughout Balfour Beatty Communities' residential portfolio, including 55 military housing communities throughout the United States.

"Without fail, we are consistently impressed by our residents who apply for this scholarship, and this year's applicants were no exception," said Kathy Grim, board member of the Balfour Beatty Communities Foundation. "These students have shown immense devotion both in their communities and their studies. We are honored to have the opportunity to assist these students with

furthering their education and are excited to see what they accomplish in the future. Congratulations to all of this year's recipients."

The Balfour Beatty Communities Foundation scholarship program awards academic scholarships to residents living in an owned and managed Balfour Beatty Communities community who are attending or plan to attend an accredited higher education or technical institution. Scholarship recipients are selected on the basis of academic achievement, demonstrated leadership qualities and a commitment to community involvement.

Balfour Beatty Communities Foundation is a nonprofit organization which principally focuses on supporting the post-secondary education goals of residents who live in communities owned and managed by Balfour Beatty Communities. Since the scholarship program's inception in 2009, Balfour Beatty Communities Foundation has awarded more than 400 academic scholarships.

For more information, visit bbcommunitiesfoundation.org.

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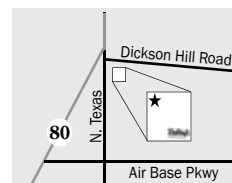
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Reserves work to consolidate recruiting squadrons

Master Sgt. Chance Babin

AIR FORCE RECRUITING SERVICE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas — Air Force Recruiting Service continues to forge ahead with total force recruiting. The order to form a classic associate partnership with AFRS and Air Force Reserve Recruiting Service is now signed and published with an effective date of June 14.

The partnership will bolster effectiveness and combine strategies.

As part of the association, AFRC Recruiting Service has officially aligned its four recruiting squadrons to become the 367th Recruiting Group. The 367th RCG is now the fourth group under the AFRS umbrella.

“I am beyond proud to lead this team as our re-designation is now official,” said Col. Timothy Martz, 367th RCG

commander. “This is a historic milestone in support of integrated total force recruiting for our United States Air Force. In 2019, we began the process of forging a strong classic recruiting association between the regular Air Force and the Air Force Reserve. The official order standing up the 367th Recruiting Group signals that we are approaching mission complete with regard to Reserve organizational transformation in support

of the total force.”

Since 2017, AFRS has been working toward integrating all of its recruiting functions. The goal is for all of the recruiting organizations – regular Air Force, Air National Guard, Air Force Reserve, Air Force Academy admissions, Air Force Civilian Service and Air Force ROTC – to integrate strategies and activities to present a unified total-force presence in each recruiting market.

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Virus pushes care management online

Military.com

Military Health System beneficiaries turned to online resources like the TRICARE Online Patient Portal and the MHS GENESIS Patient Portal in record numbers in May to remotely manage their health care during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The TOL PP logged a million-plus active users on May 17, the largest total in the portal's 15-year history.

“This is a remarkable achievement,” said Army Col. Francisco Dominicci, chief of the Defense Health Agency Solution Delivery Division (SDD, J-6), which manages the TOL PP. “The TOL PP team achieved this milestone by quickly responding to patient and provider needs during the pandemic.”

Dominicci stated that, the TOL PP team added several COVID-19-related enhancements to the portal, enabling beneficiaries to manage their care remotely rather than risking exposure to themselves and others by visiting military medical treatment facilities.

In March, the team set up a COVID-19 Virtual Visit functionality within TOL PP that allows patients who believe they are infected with COVID-19 to book virtual visit appointments. Inside the portal, patients provide a phone number and answer two screening questions before being allowed to make a COVID-19 virtual

visit appointment. The application facilitated more than 15,000 virtual visit appointments through May.

“The short screening process allows us to quickly assess whether patients have COVID-19 symptoms or some other ailment,” said Dominicci. “If they don't have COVID-19 symptoms, they are told so, giving them reassurance. If they do have COVID-19 symptoms, they can make a virtual visit appointment, and a health care provider will contact them at the number they provided.”

In April, the TOL PP team updated the portal to provide patients expedited COVID-19 and flu test results after the DHA waived the mandatory four-day wait period for the test results. The functionality allowed patients tested for COVID-19 or the flu at MTFs to receive expedited test results in the blue “Health Record” section of the portal after results are certified.

“Using the TOL PP relieves the anxiety of patients waiting for test results, letting them know if they need to self-isolate,” said Dominicci. “It also frees MTF providers from having to field patient calls or contact patients awaiting test results, allowing them to focus on patient care during the pandemic.”

Dominicci explained how patients can also find links to COVID-19 updates and resources on TOL PP along with other helpful features.



Air Force Materiel Command Commander Gen. Arnold Bunch Jr. speaks at a press conference July 24, 2019, during a visit to Tinker Air Force Base, Illinois.

Bunch reflects on time at AFMC

Marisa Alia-Novobilski
AIR FORCE MATERIEL COMMAND

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio — When Gen. Arnold W. Bunch Jr. took command of the Air Force Materiel Command on May 31, 2019, his first goal was to get “regrounded” in the diverse missions and responsibilities spread across AFMC's six centers and its 87,000 Airmen.

“When I came here, I thought I understood the command since I was part of it when it was started in 1992, and I spent most of my career in it. What I learned is that there is so much more that goes on that I needed to understand more deeply,” Bunch said.

During a year that has included an Air Force-wide focus on modernization, lethality and readiness through faster, more agile business processes, the ability of AFMC to successfully meet the needs of the National Defense Strategy was a major focus of Bunch's first year as commander.

“Our Airmen play a key role in every facet and aspect

of what the Air Force is doing. Watching them execute missions this year has only reinforced how important AFMC is to the successful execution of the NDS and driving to the Air Force we need,” Bunch said.

Making “listening” an early priority, his first big action was to launch the AFMC We Need initiative, an enterprise-wide effort that solicited feedback and recommendations from Airmen, both uniformed and non-uniformed, across the command to better posture the command for success in achieving the goals of the NDS now and in the decades to come. The effort, which yielded more than 88,000 inputs, continues to drive changes in processes, business practices, personnel management, training and more, leveraging innovative ideas and solutions from the ground up.

“Initially we had Airmen who weren't really sure we were going to take actions with the AFMC We Need, and to many of them, my message was to ‘find out where no lives

and squash it.’ As we've moved

forward, we're seeing some initial results of the effort begin to play out and have others in work,” Bunch said.

Some of these results include the implementation of the AFMC Acculturation program for new hires, standardization of new-comer onboarding processes, a new supervisor development course and a command-wide IdeaScale Campaign to source innovative ideas for continued improvement to processes and practices across the mission set. A Commander's Accelerated Initiatives Office was established under the AFMC deputy commander to continually source, track and implement changes.

“We continue to make sure we're making the right investments and are implementing the right strategies to make sure we can get our mission done. We continue to mine for additional good ideas,” Bunch said.

These investments include efforts to improve information technology infrastructure as

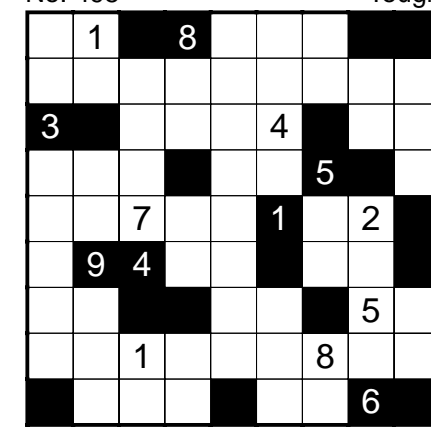
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Puzzles

STR8TS

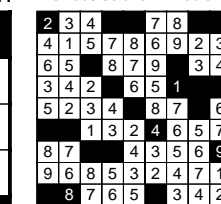
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Tough



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

Previous solution - Medium

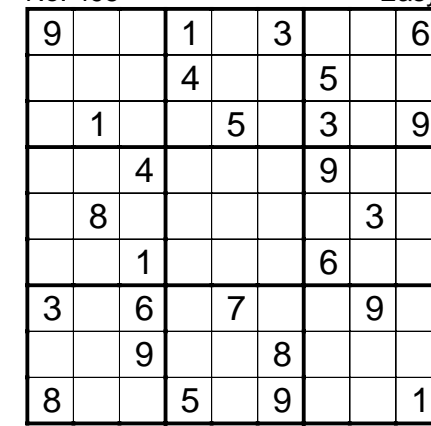


How to beat Str8ts – Like Sudoku, no single number can repeat in any row or column. But... rows and columns are divided by black squares into compartments. These need to be filled in with numbers that complete a 'straight'. A straight is a set of numbers with no gaps but can be in any order, eg [4,2,3,5].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

SUDOKU

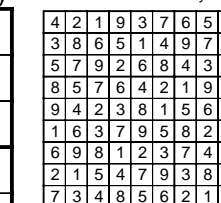
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Easy



The solutions will be published here in the next issue.

Previous solution - Very Hard



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

For many strategies, hints and tips, visit www.sudokuwiki.org

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

Voluntary Leave Transfer Program

The following Travis employees are approved as leave recipients through the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program: Rebecca Austria, 60th Maintenance Group; John Butler, Special Tactics Training Squadron; 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 Thammassen, 60th Force Support Squadron; and Dennis Weaver, Air Force Manpower Agency.

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AFRS releases Aim High mobile app

Master Sgt. Chance Babin
AIR FORCE RECRUITING SERVICE
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas — To help better communicate, inform and inspire new recruits and with embedded tools to guide them into the right total-force career path, the Air Force Recruiting Service's Innovation team launched the "Aim High" mobile phone application June 15.

With recruiters no longer meeting potential recruits or applicants in person due to the COVID-19 outbreak that has crippled much of the nation's industries, AFRS expedited the

release of the app to help recruiters overcome this obstacle and allow them to communicate better with recruits throughout the process of joining the service on active duty or going to the Air National Guard or Air Force Reserve.

"The Aim High app has been in the works since 2018 and was originally set to be released this summer," said Chief Master Sgt. Jason O'Donley, AFRS Innovation superintendent. "But with the current COVID-19 situation, we have been working tirelessly to get it released sooner to help our recruiters accomplish their mission. The app is full of information about the Air Force and

many of the features will help recruiters and applicants communicate, allowing people to make an informed decision based on the information all in one location."

The Aim High app is a comprehensive, intuitive recruiting tool powered by a data-rich, enterprise solution that helps the Air Force find elite Airmen, as well as guides recruits to discover their passions through intuitive, interactive means. The app also provides family and friends a way to have insight into a recruit's training and keeps Airmen involved in recruiting well after being assigned to their first duty stations.

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7th Air Force hosts virtual change of command



U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Darien Perez
U.S. Army Gen. Robert "Abe" Abrams, left, commander of U.S. Forces Korea and USFK's United Nations Command and Combined Forces Command, and U.S. Air Force Lt. Gen. Kenneth S. Wilsbach, former 7th Air Force commander, listen to U.S. Air Force Gen. Charles Q. Brown Jr., Pacific Air Forces commander, deliver a speech virtually June 12 at Osan Air Base, South Korea.

Tech. Sgt. Matthew Davis and Master Sgt. Rachelle Blake
SEVENTH AIR FORCE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

OSAN AIR BASE, Republic of Korea — Lt. Gen. Scott L. Pleus assumed command of the Air Component Command and Seventh Air Force and assumed responsibility as the deputy commander of United States Forces Korea from Lt. Gen. Kenneth S. Wilsbach June 12 at Osan Air Base, South Korea.

In a Seventh Air Force first, some members of the official party attended the ceremony via a shared video teleconference due to COVID-19 mitigation measures.

Gen. Robert "Abe" Abrams,

commander of USFK and USFK's United Nations Command and Combined Forces Command, presided over the change of command of the Air Component Command and the change of responsibility for the deputy commander of USFK.

"The resounding success during Lieutenant General Wilsbach's tenure would not have been possible without his rock steady leadership," Abrams said. "Thank you for your services to the United States Forces Korea, especially the (Republic of Korea)-U.S. alliance. Your engaged leadership carried us through the many challenges we have faced here on the Korean

Peninsula, and your ability to inspire the absolute best for your Airmen here in Korea will be sorely missed."

Wilsbach is moving to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, to take command of the Pacific Air Forces. His replacement, Pleus, recently relinquished command as Headquarters PACAF director of air and cyberspace operations. "He has big shoes to fill, but I am absolutely confident that he is the exact right senior leader for these critically important positions," Abrams said. "Welcome to the team."

Gen. Charles Q. Brown Jr., PACAF commander, presided over the Seventh Air Force

See **VIRTUAL** Page 15

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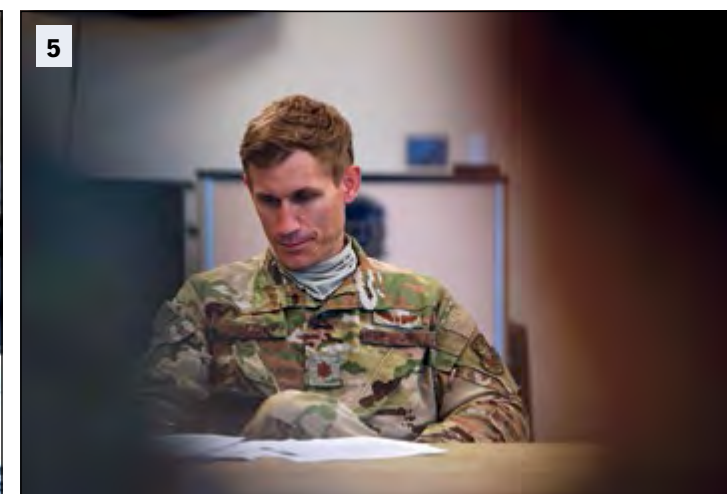
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Travis' AES perform routine training mission

U.S. Air Force photos by Senior Airman Jonathon Carnell



1) U.S. Air Force Maj. Jered Beard, 43rd Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron flight nurse, directs Airmen on a C-17 Globemaster III June 3 at Travis Air Force Base, California. Beard was in charge of the training mission that enabled the unit's members to practice patient care on medical dummies while aboard a C-17 Globemaster III. The 43rd AES inactivated June 9 at Pope Army Airfield, 2) U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Tristen Meadors, 43rd AES Detachment 1 medical technician, asks a question to Capt. Christine Aye, 349th AES flight nurse, during a training mission June 3 at Travis. Flight nurses are responsible for administering medical care to a patient and medical technicians assist the flight nurse. 3) Aye secures aeromedical evacuation equipment in a C-17 June 3 at Travis. 4) U.S. Airmen assigned to the 43rd AES Det. 1 offload a medical training dummy from a C-17 June 3 at Travis. 5) Beard debriefs his crew after a routine training mission June 3 at Travis. 6) Aye secures AES equipment in a C-17 June 3 at Travis. Aeromedical evacuation squadrons can use the C-17, C-130 Hercules and KC-135 Stratotanker to transport patients to medical facilities for treatment.

Bunch

From Page 7

well as the modernization of facilities across the command footprint.

Among other big successes this year, Bunch mentioned is the progress on the rebuild of Tyndall Air Force Base,

Florida, in the wake of Hurricane Michael in 2018, mission testing of the HH-60W Jolly Green II helicopter, advances in hypersonics, updates to female defender gear, the banner year for foreign military sales and the reduction in cost per flying hour of the F-35A Lightning II.

He also lauded the command-wide effort to support requirements born out of the recent

coronavirus pandemic. In addition to the innovative work of research, program, test and sustainment teams to find ways to keep missions on track, Bunch specifically praised the work of the command teams on the transport isolation system for travel of COVID-19 positive patients and the efforts of the Air Force Research Laboratory Epidemiology to test global

COVID-19 samples in support of Department of Defense medical teams.

“We went from a statement of need to transport COVID-19 positive patients from in-theater on the back of a C-17 to capability cleared for use in just 3 weeks,” Bunch said.

Bunch also lauded the effort of the Air Force Sustainment Center Basic Expeditionary Airfield Resources teams at Holloman Air Force Base, New Mexico, in establishing a second base for basic training needs, ensuring the Air Force would continue to have a supply of talent. BEAR team

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Lt. Gen. Kenneth S. Wilsbach, right, salutes Gen. Robert "Abe" Abrams, commander of U.S. Forces Korea and USFK's United Nations Command and Combined Forces Command, as Chief Master Sgt. Philip Hudson, Seventh Air Force command chief, holds a flag June 12 at Osan Air Base, South Korea. Due to COVID-19 mitigation restriction, no official passing of the flag was conducted.

Virtual

From Page 9

change of command ceremony. "Pleus is primed to lead (Seventh Air Force)," he said. "He is a servant leader with an impeccable career and flight record in the F-16 (Fighting Falcon) and F-35 (Lightning II). He is no stranger to the security challenges of the region and particularly the peninsula and the importance of the relationships that are foundational to the U.S.-ROK alliance.

"He will continue to focus efforts across the full spectrum of operations, and we will remain ready, resilient and postured and, should the need arise, be ready to fight tonight with our joint teammates and allies to be able to provide precise, intense and overwhelming airpower whenever and wherever needed," Brown said.

This is Pleus' third assignment on the peninsula. For Pleus, his new position means taking command of more than 8,900 total force Airmen. From quarantine, he took a moment to address them.

"I am so excited to serve the Airmen of Seventh (Air Force), our joint partners of USFK and our Korean allies," he said. "One of the best parts of being back is the intense feeling of family, the commitment we have to our ironclad alliance and the 24/7 focus on the fight-tonight mission in order to deter aggression, defend the ROK and defeat enemy attack against the alliance. Our steadfast commitment forges a common bond between us that leads to deep and lasting friendships and links us together as warriors."

Twenty-four years ago, Pleus completed a remote tour to Kunsan AB, South Korea, and eight years ago, he served as the 8th Fighter Wing commander at Kunsan AB.

"The friendships I have made over the past 24 years still hold strong today," Pleus said. "I wholeheartedly believe this is the best assignment you can get in our Air Force, and just like my last two tours to Korea, this is my assignment of choice. It is an honor and privilege to serve the Airmen of Seventh (Air Force), our joint partners and allies."

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Notice of Class 1 Permit Modification Request
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Travis Air Force Base operates a facility located at 411 Airmen Drive, Travis Air Force Base, CA, that stores, consolidates, and transfers hazardous waste generated on-site. The California Department of Toxic Substance Control (DTSC) issued a Hazardous Waste Facility Permit effective December 25, 2019, that authorizes Travis Air Force Base to conduct these activities.

On March 27, 2020, Travis Air Force Base submitted a request for a class 1 permit modification to update the RCRA Subtitle C Site Identification Form with California Waste Codes 221 and 223. Any person may request that DTSC review any class 1 modification. The full administrative record on the facility is available at the DTSC Regional Office, 8800 Cal Center Drive, Sacramento, CA 95826, (916) 255-3545.

For additional information, please contact Ms. Vinke Menardo, DTSC Project Manager, by telephone at (916) 255-6668 or by e-mail at Vinke.Menardo@dtsc.ca.gov. TDD users may obtain additional information about this project by calling the California State Relay Service at (888) 877-5378. Please ask them to contact Vinke Menardo at (916) 255-6668 about the Travis Air Force Base facility.

DR# 00040297

Published: June 19, 2020

Reflect

From Page 2

"Going in to the hospital was challenging," said Gallardo, who was assigned to work internal medicine at Elmhurst. "The staff there had gone through a lot over the previous month. They were all trying to cope. It was just humbling to show up and work alongside those physicians. It felt good to show up and provide some relief for them."

Several Airmen worked on the prone team at Elmhurst Hospital. As more was learned about COVID-19, research showed that turning patients over could have positive effects.

"Working with the team at Elmhurst - the civilian, Air Force and Army doctors - we all came together to get this prone program going," Thiel said. "My job was to switch patients from their backs to stomachs and back. It sounds simple but there's a lot of checklists to follow and equipment to check. We were always improving and making changes to our checklists."

The patient load, seeing so much death, and being exposed to a virus that so little is known about, also presented physical and mental difficulties for the deployed Airmen.

"The hospitals there were chaotic," said Sumter. "Everyone there was just trying to get

challenges for all the medical professionals.

"COVID-19 is still so new, and we don't know a lot about this disease," Gallardo said. "Things are changing on a day to day basis, and we're having to stay fluid. There's so much that still needs to be learned - how it spreads and its effect on our bodies - it's still a mystery we're trying to solve. The thing I've learned the most is that it's not 'one size fits all.' Some things we know in medicine, just don't apply. We've had to be flexible with our practice."

"Fortunately, we had some great infectious disease experts that we could look to for advice, and they helped to keep us up to date on the research," Gallardo said. "The amount of research coming out of New York has been phenomenal, and some of our Air Force colleagues were able to help with that."

The patient load, seeing so much death, and being exposed to a virus that so little is known about, also presented physical and mental difficulties for the deployed Airmen.

"The hospitals there were chaotic," said Sumter. "Everyone there was just trying to get

by; they were overwhelmed. You couldn't help but feel bad. We were used to dealing with two to three patients at time in the Air Force; there we were dealing with six to seven patients."

Sumter added that on the military side, the team was very regimented in how they approached their work.

"We were trained, we kept order, and stepped up. Our resiliency level was high. We're used to this, we train for this, and we have trust in each other," Sumter said. "Still, it was the first time I've seen cracks in my own armor. I pride myself on being a tough person and steadfast. But the death rate was daunting. We're not used to seeing so many deaths."

Elmhurst Hospital was one of the most overwhelmed hospitals in the nation with COVID-19 patients, said Thiel, a full-time student with two years of military service. Being around a virus that caused so much death was nerve wracking. Others agreed.

"It's hard because you can't see the virus; 35 percent of patients didn't realize they had it," said Sumter. "When you deploy to a base overseas, you can typically see the enemy. The

situation is black and white. But here, everything is gray."

To deal with the psychological effects of working in such an environment, the Airmen turned to each other. When they had downtime, they would share information and training. They also held physical fitness training sessions together. Most importantly, they had a safe place to talk with others who were going through the same experiences.

"So many different factors added to the stress - the job itself, seeing patients not doing well despite your best effort, trying to avoid getting sick yourself," said Gallardo, who served as the officer in charge of the Travis Reserve team. "Our team has gotten close over the last six weeks. We've been creating safe spaces to decompress and vent, talk about what we were experiencing. There was a culture of being open and recognizing problems; it was good to see, and important to have a space to share those feelings."

"Thank God we had each other," Sumter said. "I can't imagine being alone, without my squadron mates. Those people

were a big positive. You develop strong bonds in these environments - we became a tribe. While we're glad to be back home, we will miss that tribal bond with our teammates."

Sumter added that he had mixed feelings about returning home.

"Once you are here, you want to feel like you made a difference and that the mission is complete," he said. "We don't have that sense of completion - there's still no cure. COVID-19 is still here, and it hasn't burned itself out."

With the virus still spreading, everyone needs to stay vigilant with social distancing and safety guidelines, Sumter emphasized. It's easy to be lackadaisical and not take it seriously if you aren't seeing it. The biggest precautions people can take is to continue to wear a mask, clean surfaces, and wash hands frequently.

Before returning home, each Airman was tested for COVID-19. Once home, they undergo a quarantine period as a precautionary measure. Despite the intense experience, they are glad they volunteered for such an opportunity to serve.

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1

1) Airmen assigned to the 347th Rescue Group drop flares from an HH-60G Pave Hawk during a final flight for U.S. Air Force Col. Bryan Creel, 347th RQG commander June 5 at Moody Air Force Base, Georgia. The final or "fini" flight is a long-standing Air Force tradition that occurs when a pilot departs from an assigned unit. 2) Instructors and trainees with the 322nd Training Squadron conduct an Air Force basic military training graduation and coining ceremony June 4 at the Pflugston Reception Center on Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, graduation ceremonies are closed to the public until further notice to ensure safety and security of the Airmen and their family members. 3) Airmen march on the base perimeter May 28 at Schriever Air Force Base, Colorado, during their substitute Bataan Memorial Death March. Airmen at Schriever AFB decided to host their own march on base after the original annual event held at White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico, was canceled due to COVID-19.

U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Hayden Legg

CHANGE

Air Force careers, seasons take new forms



2

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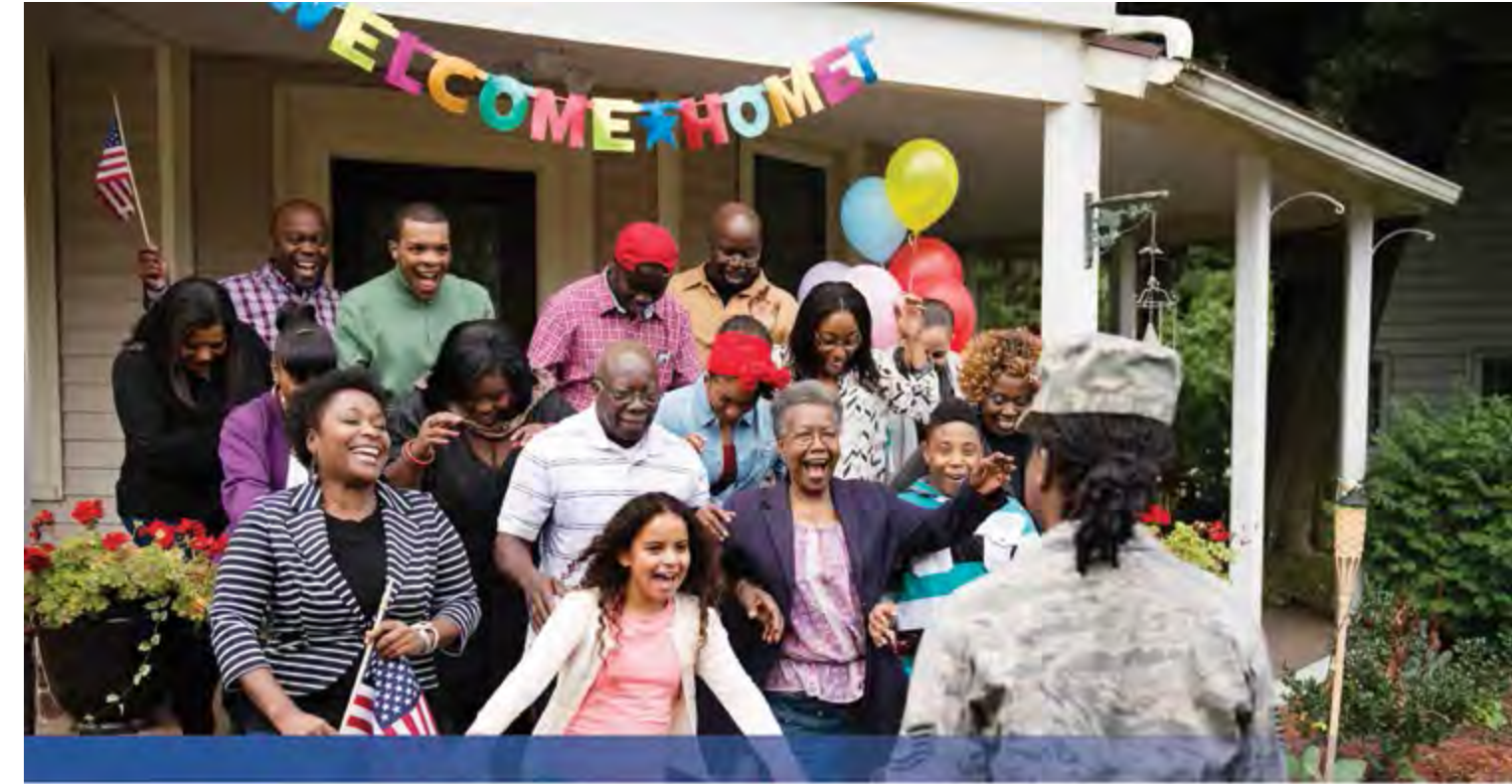


3

U.S. Air Force photo/Johnny Saidvar

Meals

From Page 3



other food banks requested the Guard's assistance and where Cal Guard focused its COVID-19 priorities.

"Our primary mission is to ramp up our operations to support the entire community and help all those affected by COVID-19," said Blake Young, Sacramento Food Bank & Family Services president and chief executive officer. "We requested from the National Guard troops to help us break down all the food that we have, package it and be able to get the food out to the distribution sites to feed ... families of our county."

Young added, "because of COVID-19, we've had an increase in need. What we're trying to do is build the capacity of the network and get them food as quickly as possible. The California National Guard helped us ramp up those operations so people that need food will be able to get it."

The coronavirus pandemic put many community charities in difficult spots in March. Food-bank volunteers stayed home with many adhering to the state's stay-at-home policy. Yet the demand for food assistance didn't stop.

"I remind them, they're feeding folks from five different counties," said 2nd Lt. Ian Panlilio, commending his Soldiers at the Redwood Empire site in Northern California. "I couldn't ask for a better platoon. (The) majority are immigrants or the first generation of their family to be born in America. We have a very diverse group, and I think it serves to only enhance our capabilities."

"It just feels good knowing we made a significant societal impact with our team," Panlilio added.

California Gov. Gavin Newsom, in a press release March 20, announced the deployment of Cal Guard "to provide short-term food security to isolated and vulnerable Californians."

"Due to COVID-19, many food banks have been affected by a significant decline in volunteerism, impacting logistical and local infrastructure for food distribution," Newsom said.

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