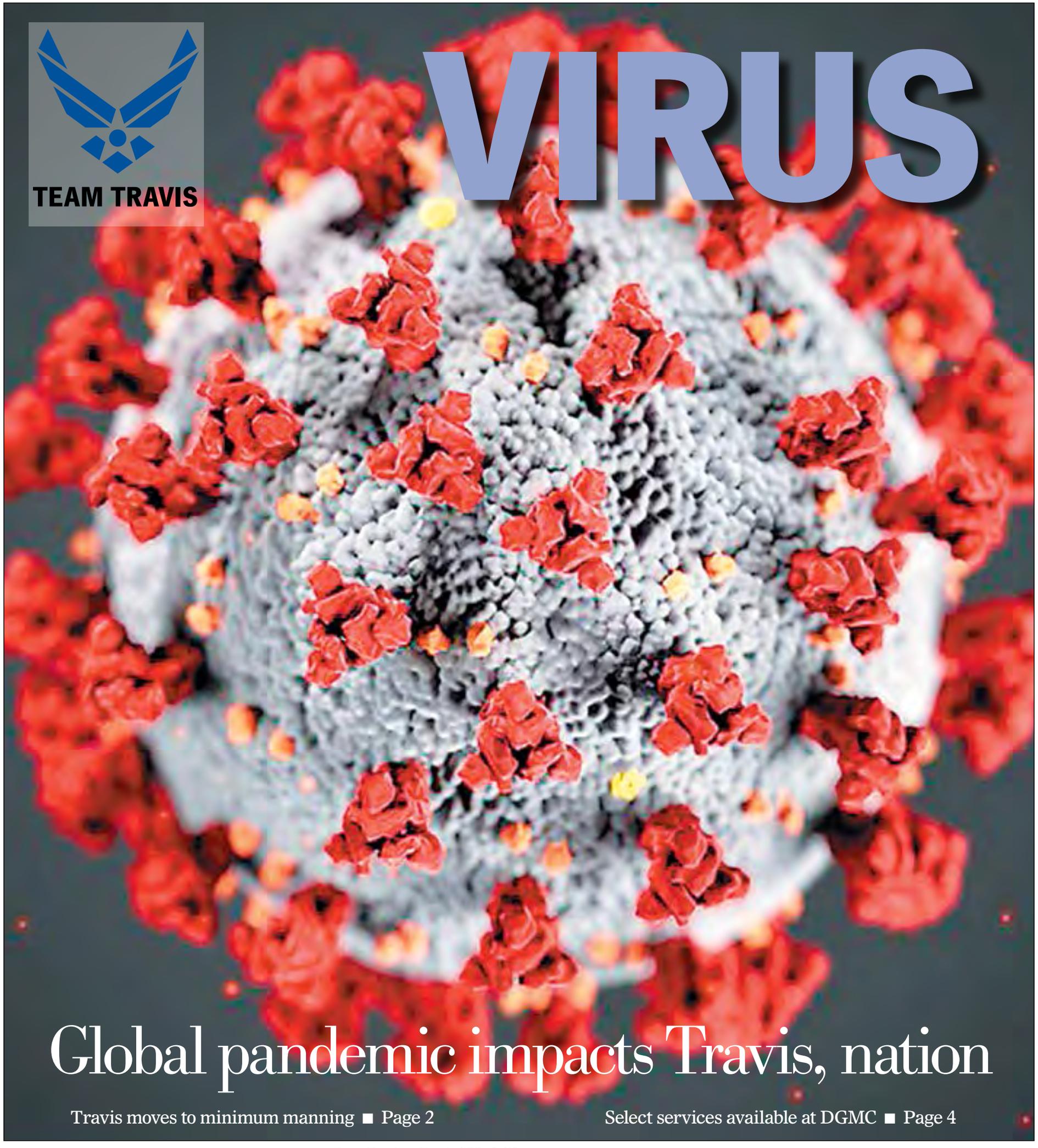




VIRUS



Global pandemic impacts Travis, nation

Travis moves to minimum manning ■ Page 2

Select services available at DGMC ■ Page 4

Impact of virus ripples through base

Commander elevates Travis' Health Protection Condition to Charlie

60th Air Mobility Wing Public Affairs

On March 18, Solano County officials issued a shelter-at-home order.

Due to the evolving situation in the local area, Col. Jeffrey Nelson, the 60th Air Mobility Wing, commander has directed Health Protection Condition Charlie. This is a substantial health alert in response to public health risks in the local community.

The condition measures and considers include:

- All Travis personnel should shelter

at home as well with the following exceptions: to obtain food, care for a relative or family member, seek necessary health care or go to an essential job.

- Continue to practice strict hygiene measures such as frequently washing and/or sanitizing hands; wiping common-use items with disinfectant; covering mouths and noses with a tissue or sleeve when coughing or sneezing; and staying home when sick.

- Practice social distancing and refrain from physical contact such as hand shaking, fist bumps, etc. All on-base,

gatherings (defined as more than 10 people) are cancelled from now through April 30, 2020, unless they are mission-essential as directed by your unit commander. In such cases, group size should be limited to the smallest practical and include proper social distancing.

- If you are exposed, self-quarantine, call ahead to alert medical personnel, and contact your chain of command for further guidance. Continue to stay educated through Centers for Disease Control and Prevention announcements, routine health alerts, regular preparedness

activities, and your chain of command.

As if March 19, Travis is monitoring two positive cases of Covid-19.

For more information visit:

- Travis Covid-19 Info: www.travis.af.mil/coronavirus
- Covid-19 Info: <https://bit.ly/2w1ULoA>.
- Department of State Travel Advisories: <https://bit.ly/2WqAvvwy>.
- What the U.S. Government is Doing: <https://www.usa.gov/coronavirus>
- To view the Solano County announcement, please visit: <https://bit.ly/2QuxuHL>.



Defense Secretary Dr. Mark T. Esper briefs reporters about the department's Covid-19 response March 17 at the Pentagon. Department of Air Force personnel have been authorized to telework when the mission allows in order to disperse the workforce during the ongoing Covid-19 crisis.

TEAM TRAVIS

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Base moves to minimum manning

60th Air Mobility Wing Public Affairs

The 60th Air Mobility Wing commander has directed the base to operate with mission-essential personnel only, effective March 16-27, according to a March 13 post on the base's Facebook page.

The commander is implementing this manning change to protect Travis members and their families from the evolving Covid-19 health risk.

All Travis members should contact their supervisors to determine their status and reporting requirements. Some members will report to work, while others may be required to work

from home. Members should also discuss child care needs and requirements with their leadership as child care services will only be available for personnel deemed to be mission essential.

David Grant USAF Medical Center will cancel all appointments for routine care and elective procedures. The emergency department will remain open.

The status and operations of other base services will be updated and communicated via social media and Travis website as soon as possible.

If there are any additional concerns or questions, please route them up the chain of command, so they can be addressed promptly.

First cases identified at Travis AFB

60th Air Mobility Wing Public Affairs

Travis Air Force Base is currently monitoring two positive cases of Covid-19 for an active-duty airman and a dependent of

a service member.

Samples from the individuals were taken and sent to a Department of Defense laboratory where the tests were confirmed

See CASES Page 20

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On the cover

This illustration reveals ultrastructural morphology exhibited by

coronaviruses. A novel coronavirus, named Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome coronavirus 2, was identified as the cause of an outbreak of respiratory illness first detected in Wuhan, China, in 2019.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention illustration

Travel restrictions seek to minimize contact

60th Air Mobility Wing Public Affairs

The Department of Defense announced travel restrictions for service members, DoD civilians and their families.

This restriction halts all domestic travel, including permanent changes of station and temporary duties.

Those who have already begun PCS and TDY travel may continue on to their final destination. Individuals whose TDY ends within stop movement period may return home. Travelers should still be mindful of the health protection measures like social distancing and handwashing.

For those currently on leave outside

the local area, the intent is to bring personnel back to the local area in an orderly fashion, while taking appropriate precautions while traveling in order to reduce their risk of Covid-19 exposure. Commanders will use their best judgment based on the individual's circumstance and the needs of the mission for the timeline of returning members

currently on leave. Additionally, service members will be authorized local leave only through May 11. The local area for the 60th Air Mobility Wing is defined as 150 miles of driving distance from a member's residence and no air travel (commercial

See TRAVEL Page 20

Coronavirus disrupts routine at DGMC

60th Medical Group

Due to current operational requirements in support of priority to protect active-duty members as it relates to the coronavirus, all clinics at David Grant USAF Medical Center will only see urgent/emergency medical needs through March 27 and possibly beyond.

All routine or nonurgent medical procedures and appointments, including surgeries, are canceled.

The following will remain open:

- Emergency department.
- Pharmacy (main location in hospital and satellite pharmacy at Bx).
- Hemodialysis treatments.
- All cancer treatment services (Joint Radiation Oncology Center, hematology/oncology).
- All obstetric services for pregnant women (scheduled appointments, deliveries, inductions, C-sections, ultrasound).
- Laboratory services.
- Diagnostic imaging services (X-ray, CT scan, MRI, ultrasound).
- Pediatrics (only well-child visits for children 2 months old and younger).
- Immunizations (only for 2-, 4-, 6-, and 12-month-old immunizations on a walk-in basis in the Pediatric clinic).
- Flight medicine (urgent care for personnel enrolled to this clinic).
- Any medical requirements for pre-deployment and for returning deployers.
- All inpatient services.

Those with scheduled appointments in other DGMC clinics should expect phone calls from staff members prior

to their appointment with additional information.

All other care is suspended as DGMC personnel is occupied in supporting the 60th Air Mobility Wing and the medical facility in manpower, security, triage and other roles as required.

Patients can also use the MHS GENESIS Patient Portal to send a secure message to providers via patientportal.mhsgenesis.health.mil.

Additionally, Travis has set up a hotline to call for those developing symptoms or to answer questions about Covid-19.

Tricare beneficiaries with concerns should call the hotline at 707-423-3000, option 1, from 6:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, or the Tricare nurse advice line at 1-800-874-2273. Non-Tricare beneficiaries are encouraged to contact their health care provider.

For more information, check the 60th Medical Group Facebook page for updates to this statement. For those with urgent or emergency issues, call the DGMC appointment line at 707-423-3000.

For further updates and information, follow pertinent county/state Facebook pages for the latest information relevant to our state and local area such as the California Department of Public Health, Solano Public Health, Solano County Office of Education and the Solano County Office of Emergency Services.

Government-wide information is available via the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html> as well as <https://www.usa.gov/coronavirus>.

Grocer curtails hours

60th Air Mobility Wing
Public Affairs

The Defense Commissary Agency has reduced its footprint at all locations and reinforces social distancing guidance.

However, the Travis Air Force Base location remains open for eligible patrons during the following hours:

- 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Thursday.
- 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday.
- 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sunday.

“Early bird” hours are suspended to allow for restocking and cleaning.

For more information, visit the Defense Commissary Agency at <https://commissaries.com/coronavirus>.

Service commits to tenant rights

Zoe Schlott

AIR FORCE INSTALLATION AND MISSION
SUPPORT CENTER PUBLIC AFFAIRS

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-LACKLAND, Texas — Air Force privatized housing residents who want to exercise the rights outlined in the recently-signed Tenant Bill of Rights will have several options to raise concerns and resolve issues.

Secretary of Defense Dr. Mark T. Esper and the service secretaries signed the Tenant Bill of Rights Feb. 25,

See **TENANT Page 18**



Defense Secretary Dr. Mark T. Esper, second from right, tours the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases with Army Brig. Gen. Mike Talley, right, commanding general of the Army Medical Research Development Command, during his visit March 17 to Fort Detrick, Maryland.

DOD poised to aid in virus fight

Department of Defense News

As part of the president's whole-of-government approach to fighting the coronavirus pandemic, the Defense Department has agreed to provide medical supplies and capabilities to the Department of Health and Human Services to help combat further infections, Defense Secretary Dr. Mark T. Esper said.

The Defense Department will make available up to 5 million respirator masks and other personal protective equipment from its strategic reserves to the Department of Health and Human Services for distribution,

Esper said during a news conference March 17 at the Pentagon, adding that the first million masks would be made available immediately.

Esper said some 2,000 deployable ventilators would also be made available to HHS. Those devices, he said, are different from civilian equivalents and will require special training for civilian users, so DOD personnel likely will provide that training.

To help measure the spread of the coronavirus, the Defense Department has also made 14 certified testing labs available to test non-DOD personnel, and two labs would be added to that

total, the secretary said.

Additionally, Esper said, DOD officials are considering use of the National Guard, the Reserve components, and capabilities such as the Navy's hospital ships USNS Comfort and USNS Mercy. He said the Comfort is undergoing maintenance now and the Mercy is in port.

“We've already given orders to the Navy, a few days ago, to lean forward in terms of getting them ready to deploy,” Esper said.

But while those ships and other DOD medical facilities such as hospitals and tent-based deployable medical facilities do provide

capability, the secretary said, those capabilities are geared in many cases toward trauma care, rather than patients with Covid-19.

“They don't necessarily have the space, the segregated space, you need to deal with infectious disease,” he said. Still, he added, those facilities might be used to take loads off civilian medical facilities might treat Covid-19 cases.

“One of the ways you could use the field hospitals, the hospital ships or things in between is to take the pressure off the civilian

See **AID Page 15**

DHA officials answer coronavirus queries

Department of Defense News

The Defense Health Agency hosted a live Facebook town hall meeting to answer questions about Covid-19.

Navy Cmdr. (Dr.) Cameron J. L. Nelson, chief of the occupational medicine branch in DHA's public health directorate, advised people who suspect that they have Covid-19 to call, rather than visit, their primary care provider or treatment facility to discuss whether the symptoms warrant testing. This, he explained, would avoid the possibility of spreading the virus to health care personnel and patients.

Army Col. (Dr.) Neil Page, deputy director of DHA's of the clinical support division, described the symptoms. One of the first, he said, is a runny nose. As the body responds to the virus, an individual will then develop a fever.

Covid-19 then typically progresses to coughs, inflammation, constant pain or pressure in the chest, confusion, bluish lips or face, muscle aches, low energy, trouble moving and shortness of breath. “Those are symptoms that are much more likely to be Covid-19,” he said.

However, that doesn't mean that it actually is Covid-19, he added. “There are hundreds of viruses that can produce those very same symptoms, but in this day and age, we are very concerned about Covid-19.”

Also, this is the time of year when allergies are high. Allergies typically result in a runny nose, sneezing and itchy eyes, but they don't generate fevers and some of the other symptoms. That would rule out Covid-19, Page said.

Nelson noted that this is flu season. Flu has to be ruled out before Covid-19 testing is recommended, he said, and instructions on where to go for testing will be provided if flu is ruled out.

Page cautioned that getting tested too early might result in a false negative because it takes some time for the viruses to multiply and produce positive test results.

Nelson said knowledge of the virus is still evolving daily, and he recommends periodically visiting the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website to get



Courtesy photo

Kerry Pollard, a microbiologist with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, performs a manual extraction of the coronavirus inside the extraction lab March 6 at the Pennsylvania Department of Health Bureau of Laboratories.

the latest and best information.

People should be vigilant in cleaning common surface areas with sanitizing wipes, Page said, because viral particles can survive on an inanimate object for a few hours and even a few days.

Regina M. Julian, chief of DHA's healthcare optimization division, said washing hands thoroughly for at least 20 seconds with soap and water should become a frequent habit as well. If soap and water aren't available, she said, people should use a hand sanitizer that is at least 60% alcohol.

Nelson said that anyone who has been in contact with a Covid-19 carrier, traveled to an infected area or exhibits signs of Covid-19 should self-quarantine for 14 days to monitor for

symptoms and to protect others.

Following the town hall meeting, DHA posted some additional advice:

- Get a flu shot. The flu vaccine won't protect you from Covid-19, but the flu currently poses a greater threat to the public than Covid-19.
- Avoid public activities or areas visited by a lot of people.
- Cough away from others and into a sleeve.
- Maintain social distancing.
- If possible, avoid frequently touched surfaces such as elevator buttons, door handles, handrails and other surfaces. If unavoidable, wash as soon as possible and don't touch the face.
- Get the pneumonia vaccine if eligible. It's recommended for adults 65 and older, all

Access to north gate cut

Nick DeCicco
DAILY REPUBLIC

Beginning March 20, access to the north gate at Travis Air Force Base is reduced to 6-8 a.m. Monday through Friday.

The gate is closed to visitors at all other times due to the ongoing coronavirus emergency.

The base advised visitors in a March 19 post on its Facebook page that airmen patrolling the gate may don additional protective equipment.

“We don't want our members to be surprised, but to be assured this is another mitigation effort to help protect the health and safety of our Airmen and our Team Travis community,” the post states.

Access to the main gate, hospital gate and south gate are unchanged as of March 19.

The south gate is limited to commercial traffic only.

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Airmen from the 92nd Logistics Readiness Squadron pose with an upgraded transit van March 5 at Fairchild Air Force Base, Washington. The 92nd Mission Support Group and 92nd Maintenance Group collaborated to modify the vehicle to improve convenience, safety and efficiency.

Fairchild fashions helpful vehicle

Airman Anneliese Kaiser
92ND AIR REFUELING WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

FAIRCHILD AIR FORCE BASE, Wash. — The 92nd Maintenance Group and the 92nd Mission Support Group collaborated to create the maintenance vehicle of the future. Since November 2019, the groups have designed, tested and approved a new innovative maintenance van to better equip 92nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron's airmen with convenience, safety and efficiency.

Fairchild Air Force Base leases utility vans to service aircraft on the flightline. The vans, which get replaced every 20 years, have a stripped

interior, with the exception of the driver and passenger seats, and come without insulation.

"AMXS noticed limiting factors in regards to their replacement vans and they teamed up with us to come up with a solution to best accomplish their mission," said 2nd Lt. Robert Waterman, 92nd Logistics Readiness Squadron vehicle management flight commander. "Maintenance pointed this out as being a problem, so we geared ourselves towards safety and improving the quality of life for our airmen and the working conditions that they have by putting this idea into action."

By modifying the van's interior, maintenance is saving

money by not purchasing complete vans.

"The MXG and the MSG teamed up to create a vehicle that exceeds the rigorous demands of flightline maintainers," said Tech. Sgt. Michael Barreras, 92nd AMXS sortie support dash-21 section chief. "Their partnership will enhance team Fairchild's capability to deliver global reach for America."

Thanks to the partnership between the 92nd MSG and 92nd MXG, Fairchild AFB continues its success by innovating to win.

"We created the design and they gave us all the inputs, requirements and everything they needed," Waterman said. "This is just a testament to how Fairchild (AFB) does things, and how good we are with it."

The new design for the vehicle is not only more cost efficient, it is in place to improve the efficiency of maintenance crews and increase their quality of life, with a goal to spread this idea to maintenance units Air Force-wide.

"This project really shows the creativity of our airmen,"

See **VEHICLE** Page 12

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Rescue dogs help heal wounded warriors

Josh Plueger
55TH WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

OFFUTT AIR FORCE BASE, Neb. — Muffled gunfire reverberates from an unknown location within the building; Peter's unwavering gaze is focused on his partner's "six" — three weeks of training is about to be put to the test.

The Omaha Gun Club is the host to certified training sessions between military service dogs and their handlers. It is also where Russ Dillon of Dillon's Dogs likes to see dogs complete their final test.

"Peter is a rescue dog out of Georgia," said Master Sgt. Tim Williams, a maintainer who transitioned to the Office of the Warrior Advocate. "He was found hit on the side of the road with a broken leg and he was left there for two days."

The two-year-old mutt would eventually find his way into William's life as a service dog trained in anxiety reaction, motivation, and medication reminders.

"He's going to be one of the fastest graduates from Dillon's Dogs," Williams said. "He is extremely zen and he gets me and I get him."

In order to graduate from Dillon's Dogs, Peter would need to prove that he can be undeterred from the sound of gunfire, that he couldn't be distracted by another dog, how he walks up and down isles with his handler, and finally if he would eat food placed in front of him without permission. Peter would pass these tests, being the fastest dog to graduate the course.

William's career was on the fast track. He was selected to the rank of master sergeant on his first test and was selected as his squadron's senior noncommissioned officer of the year in 2018.

Behind the patina of an ideal military career was the invisible wound of a traumatic brain injury that was suffered over multiple deployments and the reason he now finds himself and Peter with the OWA.

"This is a special program with special people that really

helps bridge the gap and emptiness between active duty service and the time that you are medically incapable of performing your duties," Williams said.

Vested service dogs are a common feature in the OWA facility, a small annex found just over abandoned train tracks that once brought supplies into the historic Martin Bomber Building.

The OWA is a first-of-its-kind organization that was founded by two wounded warriors that saw a need for such a facility to exist. It is in that same spirit of seeing needs and answering the call that service dogs are becoming part of Offutt's landscape and cultural norms.

Organically, a small group of veterans was in the right place, with the right skills, the right heart and passion to create a system that would help their fellow wingmen who were suffering from invisible wounds.

Dillon was a former dog handler for the Air Force. After eight years of service, he separated and moved back to Omaha to start working as a part-time dog trainer.

It was from the advice of Marilyn Offut, great, great

grand niece of Jarvis Offutt, Offutt AFB's namesake, that convinced Dillon to work as a dog trainer full time after working with her dog.

Dillon has trained dogs for every purpose and function with the exceptions of seeing-eye dogs and hearing-impaired dogs. But it was in service dogs, for his fellow veterans, where he saw an opportunity to help.

Trained service dogs typically cost \$25,000 to \$30,000 and can take years to obtain.

"The problem with raising tens of thousands of dollars every 10 years (the working life of a service dog) is that you may require three or more service dogs within your lifetime and most people can't afford an expensive service dog on a 10-year rotation," Dillon said. "I give the customer the tools to train their own dog."

Though more economical, when a veteran brings their dog, typically a rescue dog, to Dillon's Dogs they still need to pay for the training and that is where another veteran, Bob Dean, saw a need.

Dean, a retired sheet metal troop and current quality assurance inspector from the 55th Maintenance Group, along

See **DOGS** Page 12



Staff Sgt. Chelsea Wells, 55th Communications Group cyber surety technician, poses with her service dog, Velma, Jan. 9, in Papillion, Nebraska. A member of Offutt's Office of the Warrior Advocate, Wells has been clinically approved to have a service dog assist with her invisible wounds as she transitions out of the Air Force.

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Software to ease scheduling for C-17 training

Corrie Poland

AIR FORCE OPERATIONAL ENERGY, SAF/1EN

ARLINGTON, Va. — Scheduling training for C-17 Globemaster III pilots and crew is about to get easier with the launch of Puckboard, a data-powered software application to plan aircrew qualification flights automatically. The tool, developed by and for airmen, allows schedulers to rapidly match aircraft commanders, pilots, and loadmasters with available flights to complete currency requirements such as aerial refueling and tactical training events required throughout the year.

The digital interface, which will start using live data March 20, enables planners to visualize flight schedules and generates recommended schedules for each crew member while taking into consideration required qualifications, crew rest and conflicting events.

Previously, the process required airmen to shuffle ‘pucks’ around a whiteboard to determine the best match manually – often taking a 10-20 person operations team several days to produce a viable plan for the week, with changes frequently required at the last minute. With Puckboard, events are automatically populated in a matter of



U.S. Air Force photo/Nicholas Pilch

U.S. airmen from the 860th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron prepare to call it a day after refurbishing various parts of a C-17 Globemaster III, Feb. 20, at Travis Air Force Base.

seconds, allowing planners to dedicate additional time to developing more individualized and dynamic training for each crew member.

“Before Puckboard, the process of scheduling training was slow and outdated,” said Capt. Eric Robinson, 15th Wing Aloha

Spark team and director of the newly established agile software development effort dubbed ‘TRON’ at Pacific Air Forces in Hawaii.

“We are now at the beginning of a complete overhaul (of the scheduling process), starting with the current Puckboard

product, that will continue to be improved until the old process is an afterthought.”

According to Robinson, the team’s goal is to help provide “the tools and technology that airmen need to be able to refocus on their training, families and the mission.”

Puckboard also enables easier schedule modifications when conflicts occur, like mechanical issues and mission changes, for example. With more adaptable and consistent planning, the development team expects to see more productive training sorties and better utilization of allotted squadron flying hours.

“Twenty first-century technologies like Puckboard can have a tremendous impact on

Air Force readiness and its ability to generate combat capability, not only by saving airmen time and effort, but by optimizing how we fly, train and utilize our assets,” said Roberto Guerrero, deputy assistant secretary of the Air Force for Operational Energy, whose office is supporting the initiative.

The team of airmen and contractors at TRON began the project in September 2019, utilizing work already completed with the Defense Innovation Unit and the Marine Corps on a similar initiative for the MV-22 Osprey fleet. By February 2020, they were able to create a Minimally Viable Product on an Air Force Cloud One secure platform.

“By using open source architecture, we’re demonstrating how the Air Force can use off-the-shelf code to develop and execute effective software quickly,” Robinson continued. “Our goal is to make this type of platform the new standard for mobility operations.”

While the first phase of development is complete and Puckboard is being implemented for the C-17 fleet, the team and AF-WERX are hosting a “Datathon” in the coming months to improve the application further.

With support from the Business and Enterprise Systems Directorate, TRON has begun the next step of integrating with the Aviation Resource Management System to ensure the tool can expand, scale and synchronize with existing systems of record. The team aims to make the source code available by request inside of Platform One, the Defense Department’s combined software delivery capability, for any DoD team in need of a similar solution.

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Basic training to continue

Air Education and Training Command Public Affairs

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas — The Department of Defense response to the coronavirus outbreak continues to be dynamic and policy may quickly change, but as of March 17, U.S. Air Force’s basic military training, technical training and flying

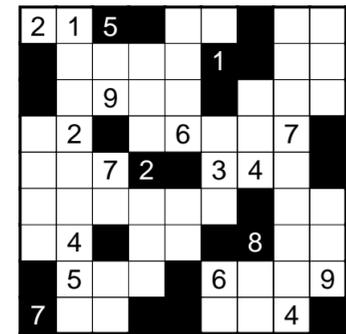
training operations have been deemed mission essential and will continue with mitigation for COVID-19, Air Education and Training Command announced.

Additionally, all technical training and undergraduate flying training students will continue to out-process after graduation and travel to their first duty station upon completion of training.

Puzzles

STR8TS

No. 482 Medium



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

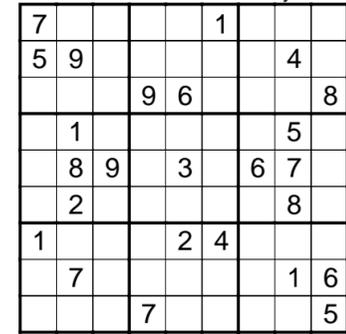
Previous solution - Easy



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

SUDOKU

No. 482 Very Hard



The solutions will be published here in the next issue.

Previous solution - Tough



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

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Airstrikes to bird strikes: Island tackles new battle



1



2



3

**Airman 1st Class
Emily Farnsworth**
JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Heavily bombarded during a bloody two-week battle in World War II and the subsequent 44-month occupation by the Japanese before being handed over to U.S. forces on Sept. 4, 1945, Wake Atoll has attested to the resiliency of U.S. military members and civilians.

Since those historic days, the island has been named a National Historic Landmark and serves as a trans-Pacific refueling stop for military aircraft.

Now under the 11th Air Force's Pacific Air Force Support Center, the island is fighting a new battle – preventing bird aircraft strike hazards, commonly known as BASH.

The island contains a large number of seabirds as part of the Wake Atoll National Wildlife Refuge and lies within the boundaries of the Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument, both of which raise special considerations in regards to natural resource management.

By hosting a wildlife refuge, the island has the added challenge of preventing bird strikes to minimize the environmental impacts while also taking readiness impacts with military aircraft in the area into careful consideration.

"The BASH program is so important on Wake because we do have a National Wildlife Refuge overlay and we also have a lot of migratory seabirds," said Travis Pearson, Wake Island Atoll BASH specialist. "This creates an interesting balancing act. First and foremost, we have to keep the birds out of the way of the aircraft for flight safety, but secondly so they can support healthy populations."

The BASH program also has to tackle how many birds are attracted to the island.

"The problem with Wake is the sheer number of birds," said Dillon Brown, 611th

Civil Engineer Squadron Natural Resource Program Manager. "Most airfields have tens or hundreds of birds. Wake Island Atoll has hundreds of thousands of birds."

These numbers mean the island has a higher risk of bird strikes than other airfields and averages about five strikes a year.

"This [number] is about 30 to 40 times the national average when you account for the number of flight operations," Brown said. "However, given that the number of birds surrounding the runway is hundreds or thousands of times higher than other runways, this is actually a very low number. This attests to the effectiveness of our BASH program."

The multi-tiered BASH program on the island involves a large range of projects and efforts to deter birds from the flight line area while maintaining a healthy wildlife population.

"A lot of what we do involves habitat management and actively hazing birds who are on the airfield," Pearson said. "We haze them by running at the birds and using vehicles to scare them. We also use noise like sirens and pyrotechnics which make a loud banging sound."

The atoll is made up of Wilkes, Wake and Peale islands, Wake being the largest and containing most of the infrastructure of the island as well as the flight line.

Currently the majority of the birds inhabit Wilkes Island, which lies at the end of the airfield and is covered by the runway's approach.

Brown said this poses a major risk to incoming flights which have to fly over hundreds of thousands of birds to land.

To combat this risk, the BASH program is conducting a project to encourage birds to move from Wilkes Island to Peale Island, out of the flight path.

"The idea is that through active habitat management and bird attractants, we will

gradually make Peale more attractive to the birds and Wilkes less attractive," Brown said. "Our planning and habitat management is targeted at moving these birds of greatest risk away from the runways."

The project involves changing the habitat in ways that will attract breeding birds to Peale by making it a better environment for nesting.

Brown notes that the variety of birds and their nesting habits is proving to be a challenge.

"There are numerous types of birds breeding on Wake Atoll," Brown said. "Unfortunately they do not all have the same nesting requirements. Some breed on bare ground, some in tall grass, some under bushes, in bushes, or on the tops of trees. Therefore, habitat management is very difficult because as you make an area more attractive to some birds, you make it less attractive to others and vice versa."

In addition to habitat management, the project employs decoys and recordings of an active seabird colony through loudspeakers to attract birds to move across the lagoon.

Another new technological approach the island is taking to its BASH program is using radar to detect the number and location of birds in the flight path.

The radar, installed in March, can sense birds size, speed and direction.

"A benefit from the radar is it can look a good six or seven miles off of the end of the runway which gives us a way to warn aircraft about birds that we would never be able to see," Pearson said.

The island records this data from the radar to enable the airfield to see trends that may affect flight line operations in the long term.

Overall, through a culmination of the vital, multiple-tier BASH program the island employs, Wake Atoll demonstrates its commitment to a posture of mission success and readiness needed to support the U.S. military presence in the Pacific.



4

U.S. Air Force photos/Airman 1st Class Emily Farnsworth

1) Terns fly, Jan. 31, over Peale Island, Wake Atoll. The atoll is home to large colonies of seabirds as part of Wake Atoll National Wildlife Refuge and the Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument. This causes the atoll to employ a vital, multiple-tiered bird aircraft strike hazard program to prepare for mission success and readiness. 2) An avian radar system sits, Jan. 31, at the end of the runway at Wake Island, Wake Atoll. The radar system was installed in March 2019 and is used by bird aircraft strike hazard specialists to collect data to track bird trends in the area. The radar also serves as a way to warn airfield operations so they can communicate risks to incoming aircraft. 3) A seabird egg rests, Jan. 31, on Wilkes Island, Wake Atoll. Large colonies of seabirds nest on Wilkes Island, which lies under the runway approach for the atoll. 4) Peale Island is a location where bird aircraft strike hazard specialists have chosen to attract birds, Feb. 1, on Wake Atoll. The bird attracting project involves habitat management, lifelike decoys and recordings of an active seabird colony through loudspeakers to attract birds to move across the lagoon.

Dogs

From Page 8

with a few others, started the nonprofit JAVELAN, where people can donate to help sponsor a service dog for veterans.

JAVELAN, an acronym for Jack Assisting Veterans Enjoy Life Again, was named after his wife's service dog 'Jack' and initially had a mission to provide up to six dogs per year for veterans. However, they found that the need for their services far exceeded their initial expectations and has graduated over 70 teams since inception.

Dean was skeptical of the effectiveness of service dogs when his wife Charlotte adopted and trained Jack following a month long stay at the Veterans Affairs hospital, while coping with post-traumatic stress disorder.

"Having Jack forced her to get out into public and face her fears uncomfortable, but she could do it because she had Jack," he said.

Within three years of having Jack, Charlotte went from taking 32 medications to three.

Soon the stand-alone

nonprofit was approached by Omaha's First Responders Foundation, headed by former U.S. Strategic Command Chief of Staff, retired U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Allen W. Batschelet, and was asked to align with their organization.

The merger of JAVELAN and the First Responders Foundation effectively consolidated first responders with military veterans, allowing them to sponsor numerous dogs each year.

Before Dillon and Dean get involved with their respective companies, a mental health professional needs to recommend a service dog. That is where Michelle Logsdon, a case management nurse from the 55th Wing Medical Group, becomes a central hub of the process.

A nurse of 42 years, Logsdon has spent the past six years working with wounded warrior patients or wounded warrior candidates.

Looking for a more local and streamlined way of getting quality dogs to her clients, Logsdon reached out to JAVELAN.

"The biggest benefit of JAVELAN is that they are local and the dogs are consistently



U.S. Air Force photo/Josh Plueger

Peter, a rescue dog turned service dog, performs his final test for certification by resisting a piece of food placed in front of him at the Omaha Gun Club, Dec. 10, in Omaha, Nebraska. Peter has been trained to provide an anxiety reaction, motivation, medication reminders and to sense anxiety for Master Sgt. Tim Williams.

well-trained," Logsdon said. "It makes me so happy when I see how well Peter helps Tim be calm."

Though scientific evidence is largely anecdotal and based on self-reporting, numerous studies indicate that service dogs can augment their handlers'

treatment of PTSD by giving them something to care about, protect and be responsible for.

Logsdon observes the benefits of the program first hand for those suffering from invisible wounds and their need to be productive, busy and working, all things required of a dog

handler as they transition out of the military.

"Here I am. This great warrior who's worked all these years and done all of this cool stuff, and now I have this horrible 'moral injury' that has turned my life upside down and now I can't control my anger — I'm anxious all the time, irritable," Logsdon said. "When you look at those symptoms and it's hard to be in a unit, that's where the dogs really make a difference."

The stigma of service dogs has been slowly progressing into that of acceptance and normalization at Offutt.

"We are a good wingman when we have places like OWA that support our members," Logsdon said. "Programs like Wounded Warrior, teams of providers that support them and having dogs is a big part of it."

Veterans suffering from PTSD, or other invisible wounds, point to the consistency that the service dog provides in their medical treatment as one of the largest benefits; medications continually need to be filled, the mental benefits of physical therapy wane when at rest, counseling sessions need to be scheduled, but a dog is always there.

Vehicle

From Page 8

Waterman said. "Our goal right now is to get it right and settled here at Fairchild (AFB), and if we see that it works here and it works well, we want to

eventually push it out across the Air Force."

Innovation is a top priority at Fairchild AFB and the addition of this vehicle is just one of the many contributions the maintenance group has provided.

"We have the attitude of making things better for us and

our people. The jobs they work in the MXG have long hours, sometimes in inclement weather, in order to get the mission done," Waterman said. "In the Air Force, they're driving ingenuity and creativity, so if there's anything we can do to make the processes better for our people, we will."

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Aid

From Page 4

hospitals when it comes to trauma cases to open up civilian hospital rooms for infectious diseases," Esper said.

He also pointed out that DOD medical facilities such as the Navy medical ships require staff, and getting that staff in place means pulling them from elsewhere.

"All those doctors and nurses either come from our medical treatment facilities, or they come from the reserves, which means civilians," Esper said. "What we have to be very conscious of and careful of as we ... use them to support the states [is] that we aren't robbing Peter to pay Paul, so to speak. What I don't want to do is take reservists from a hospital where they are needed just to put them on a ship to take them somewhere else where they are needed."

Esper spent the first part of the day today visiting some of the DOD doctors and scientists at Fort Detrick, Maryland, who are working on advancing vaccine and treatment efforts to combat the coronavirus. While

there, he said, he visited both the Army Medical Research and Development Command and the Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases to learn about those efforts.

"They have incredible capabilities," he said. "They're well-knitted, extremely well-knitted into the interagency efforts."

Esper said he learned at Fort Detrick that the expectation is about 12 to 18 months for a vaccine, but that facilities there have the ability to help in vaccine production if a private-sector facility were to develop a vaccine earlier. He also said he was told Fort Detrick officials will soon increase their capacity to conduct virus testing with the purchase of new equipment.

"In my conversations with governors and members of Congress about the DOD's resources, I've made it clear that we will continue to support the administration's comprehensive efforts and the country every step of the way, while ensuring our nation's security remains the top priority of the Department of Defense," Esper said.

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SERVICE SOURCE

Tenant

From Page 4

empowering residents with processes to receive information, assistance, advocacy and insight into the housing maintenance work order processes.

"The Air Force is committed to providing the full benefit of the 15 rights in the Bill by May 1," said John W. Henderson, assistant secretary of the Air Force for Installations, Environment and Energy. "Three crucial rights are still in coordination to ensure formal, standardized processes including access to maintenance history of a unit prior to the signing of leasing documents, a standard dispute resolution process and a

mechanism for withholding rent until disputes are resolved."

In recent months, Air Force housing officials have worked with residents, Air Force leadership and policymakers to develop programs and tools to improve the housing program's effectiveness. "Those processes strengthen the Tenant Bill of Rights and give residents a pathway to resolving issues," Henderson said. "The Air Force is taking steps to give residents the mechanisms they need to use those rights for their benefit, and the benefit of their families."

"Air Force residents have four main channels to resolve concerns," said Col. Michael Beach, Air Force housing program chief, "the project owner,

military housing offices, their chain of command and the Air Force Civil Engineer Center."

"Each entity has a role in ensuring residents have safe, healthy housing options," he said. "Most problems can be resolved at the project owner level, but we have installed a full-spectrum approach to ensure everyone from leadership to residents are empowered to take action."

Project owners

Ultimately, it is the responsibility of the project owner to maintain the housing units and communities. Residents should start with the project owner. But when the project owner fails to meet standards, residents can reach out to their installation's

military housing office for assistance

"Problem solving begins with the project owners," Beach said. The Tenant Bill of Rights captures residents' basic rights to housing that meets community health and environmental standards, and has working fixtures, appliances and utilities. Project owners are responsible for meeting this requirement, and the Air Force is working to ensure residents can better track work orders.

Military housing offices

Under the Tenant Bill of Rights, residents can request a plain-language review of the lease before signing and up to 30 days after move-in from a military housing officer at their installation. The housing office is the liaison between the resident and the project owner when needed, and represents resident concerns to installation leadership. The military housing office also connects residents to other forms of advocacy, such as the military attorney assistance and in the near future, the resident advocate.

"We want residents to start with the project owner. But residents are encouraged to reach out to their installation's military housing office for assistance without fear of reprisal if efforts to resolve issues directly with the project owner are unsuccessful," Beach said.

means of on-base support, such as the military housing office, military attorney assistance and the resident advocate.

"Military legal assistance attorneys are available, and soon so will resident advocates, at the installation level to provide support and advice to our airmen," he said. "This support can range from tenant responsibilities during the move-out process to assistance on navigating the tenant-landlord dispute resolution process."

Air Force Civil Engineer Center

The Air Force Civil Engineer Center stood up the toll-free housing helpline in May 2019, as a direct line to the program directors to assist privatized housing residents in resolving their housing concerns. They are currently working with the Department of Defense to ensure the common forms, documents and processes are established across the enterprise and are working to create the vehicles for resident's rent to be held in escrow during the dispute resolution process, and processes for rent reduction/refund based on the decision rendered in the dispute resolution process.

"The residents' right to advocacy is a key element in the bill. The Air Force Civil Engineer Center is standardizing the dispute resolution program so residents with persistent issues can use the formal processes after having tried to work with project owners without success," Beach said.

As the program managers, the Air Force Civil Engineer Center plays a central role in ensuring residents are able to execute the rights spelled out in the Bill. If housing concerns are unable to be addressed at the base level, residents can utilize the toll-free housing helpline by calling (800)-482-6431.

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Cases

From Page 2

positive.

The individuals are in isolation at their respective off-base residences. The appropriate county public health officials have been notified.

"We are coordinating closely with our (Travis AFB) and local county medical professionals to provide important care to the Airman and family member," said Col. Jeffrey Nelson, 60th Air Mobility Wing commander. "My leadership team and I are committed to the continued safety of our entire community and actively engaged and monitoring this evolving situation. We will continue working together with on- and off-base health

care agencies to mitigate the effects of this virus and provide pertinent updates as timely as possible."

Public health officials have begun the contact tracing process to notify those who may have come into contact with the positive individuals.

The base remains in Health Protection Condition Bravo, or HPCON B, where Travis members and families are encouraged to practice prevention measures including following strict hygiene, social distancing, staying home if sick, self-isolating if exposed, avoiding contaminated food or water and contacting their healthcare provider for notification of personal symptoms.

For any additional questions outside the scope of this statement, contact Travis AFB Public Affairs.

Travel

From Page 3

or Space-A). Members of the 349th Air Mobility Wing and 621st Contingency Response Wing should contact their chain-of-command for clarification on their respective local leave policies.

Civilian dependent family member travel that is not government funded is not subject to the local area restriction. While they are not restricted from traveling, they need to decide whether they should travel. Additionally, there are no restrictions for a leave area for civilian government

employees at this time, although they are encouraged to take appropriate precautions.

This new guidance is effective March 16 and continues through May 11.

Similar to other travel guidance regarding COVID-19, travel exceptions may be granted for compelling cases where the travel is mission-essential, for humanitarian reasons, or warranted due to extreme hardship.

More information can be found at <https://bit.ly/3b9Rkjo>.

Additional questions regarding your specific and unique situations should be directed to your chain of command.

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