



TAILWIND



Base begins rollout of flu, COVID-19 ...
VACCINES

PAGES 2, 10-11

Travis starts COVID-19 vaccination plan

Heide Couch

60TH AIR MOBILITY WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Military and Department of Defense personnel reported to the Travis Air Force Base Fitness Center Jan. 8 to receive the first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.

U.S. Air Force Col. (Dr.) Daniel Murray, 60th Air Mobility Wing public health emergency officer, was just one of many Travis AFB medical professionals on site to assist with COVID-19 vaccine efforts.

“This event was coordinated by several teams who have been working for months to prepare to make sure we could provide safe, rapid vaccination of personnel with the COVID-19 vaccine,” said Murray. “With the tremendous preparation they made coordinating across the (60th Air Mobility Wing), we were able to begin distribution of the vaccine shortly after receiving it, ensure our safety protocols were effective, and that our process was effective for rapid distribution.”

Personnel who volunteered to receive the vaccine coordinated through their respective units before Friday’s mass inoculation.

“Rapidly protecting people with this very effective vaccine will save lives and prevent suffering,” said Murray. “From a military and medical standpoint, it will also stem the tide of COVID-19 cases and ensure that military and medical operations can continue. This will relieve the strain on the hospital systems and improve people’s access to health care for other health conditions.”

The line nearly snaked around the fitness center building before doubling



U.S. Air Force photo/Heide Couch

Department of Defense personnel line up to receive the initial dose of the COVID-19 vaccine Jan. 8 at the fitness center at Travis Air Force Base, California. The vaccine requires two doses per person, separated by about four weeks between doses. It is designed to protect personnel against the coronavirus, and officials are encouraging all personnel to take the vaccine as it becomes available.

back on itself and continuing around the running track as people waited to receive the vaccine – waiting times stretched up to two hours.

“Wait times were long. Lines were long, but that just means people are willing to do their part,” said Col. Corey Simmons, 60th AMW commander. “I’m incredibly proud of the teams of Airmen and medical staff that got after this massive task and made it happen.”

Upon entry into the building, manpower from David Grant USAF Medical Center screened each individual, annotated each member’s records and administered the doses. After receiving the vaccination, personnel had to wait for a minimum of 15-minutes to be observed for potential side effects.

“I chose to receive the vaccine to receive the vaccine because I want to keep my family, Team Travis and the

community safe. ... We all want out of this pandemic, and we can better take care of each other by first taking care of ourselves,” said Simmons.

Travis AFB is administering the COVID-19 vaccine in accordance with the DOD distribution plan. The plan is designed to implement a standardized and coordinated effort by prioritizing,

See **VACCINATION** Page 18

Travis Airmen dispatched to Southern California



U.S. Army photo/Spc. Preston Robinson

U.S. Air Force Maj. Shannon Durham, a registered nurse stationed at Travis Air Force Base, California, assesses her patient’s condition Jan. 13 at Riverside University Healthcare System in Riverside, California. Durham is part of team of medical professionals who deployed to Southern California to help the state battle COVID-19.

Week honors Biomed Sciences Corps

Biomedical Sciences Corps

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Tailwind

Travis AFB, Calif. | 60th Air Mobility Wing

Air Force

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On the cover

U.S. Air Force Airman 1st Class Tyler Lancaster, 60th Healthcare Operations Squadron medical technician, administers a COVID-19 vaccine to Col. Corey Simmons, 60th Air Mobility Wing commander, Dec. 29, 2020, at Travis Air Force Base, California.

U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Alexander Merchak



Courtesy photo

WARRIOR OF THE WEEK

Name:
Staff Sgt. Brittany Vivens.

Unit:
860th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.

Duty title:
NCO in charge of commander support staff.

Hometown:
San Antonio, Texas.

Time in service:
Four years.

Family:
Dog, Bentley.

What are your goals?
To become an instructor, first sergeant and eventually make chief.

What are your hobbies?
Spending time with my dog, shopping, repurposing glass items and hanging out with friends.

What is your greatest achievement?
An in-squadron modified mentor session, a success that allowed for a new take on guided mentorship with an impromptu feel.

Former chief, DGMC volunteer dies

Nick DeCicco

60TH AIR MOBILITY WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Salvatore DiMarco, a fixture in the medical community at Travis Air Force Base, California, died Dec. 10, 2020, at age 85 of heart failure after a battle with cancer.

Between active-duty service and volunteering, DiMarco was a part of Travis AFB for more than 40 years.

DiMarco was the child of Italian immigrants, born Dec. 2, 1935, in Atlas, Pennsylvania. He joined the Air Force in 1958 serving as a medic at multiple bases in Germany, as well as Scott AFB, Illinois and the former Plattsburgh AFB, New York. He arrived at Travis AFB base in 1979. He retired as a chief master sergeant in 1988 after 30 years of service.

From then until 2020, DiMarco spent 20 hours a week volunteering at the Air Force's largest hospital, David Grant USAF Medical Center. He volunteered in the medical center's dental clinic, pharmacy and optometry departments, doing tasks such as dispensing medications, shredding papers, greeting patients and more.

Those who knew "Chief," as so many called him, describe DiMarco in glowing terms.

"Chief was like a ray of sunshine," said Darlene Causito, 60th Medical Diagnostics and Therapeutics Squadron pharmacy volunteer coordinator. "He really brought positive energy to the pharmacy. He was always greeting people, always smiling, always asking how you're doing, concerned about your well-being, actually genuinely interested in you."

That's exactly how he was according to his daughter, Maria Brana, an account



Courtesy photo

U.S. Air Force Senior Master Sgt. Salvatore DiMarco poses in the mid-1970s. DiMarco served in the Air Force from 1958 to 1988 and volunteered at David Grant USAF Medical Center at Travis Air Force Base, California, from the time of his retirement until March 2020. DiMarco died Dec. 10, 2020.

executive for Alpha Media's Vacaville, California-based KUIC 95.3 FM radio station. He was proud of his Italian heritage, she said.

"If you had a hint of anything Mediterranean in your body, he called you 'paisan,'" she said, an Italian term of affection meaning "friend."

He used the term over the years for many who passed through Travis. After retiring in 1988, he volunteered at DGMC to stay connected to his military life.

"I wanted to work because I wanted to stay active and I had a lot of friends in the military," he said in a 2011 story in the Daily Republic newspaper based in Fairfield, California.

Causito said volunteering was important to DiMarco.

"It seemed like he was pretty passionate about his volunteering," she said. "Even after retiring, he just had that energy and drive in him. It seemed to really make him happy, being here."

In March 2020, the coronavirus pandemic prevented DiMarco from volunteering at DGMC. However, he found time to visit with Airmen when he came to the base for his medical appointments. That was how he saw Senior Airman Xavier Laws, 60th Operations Medical Readiness Squadron optometry technician, for the last time, receiving the news that the Laws family was expecting a child.

See **VOLUNTEER** Page 12

Roth to serve as acting SecAF

Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

WASHINGTON — John P. Roth will serve as the Acting Secretary of the Air Force as of Jan. 20, until the president nominates and the Senate confirms a permanent replacement.

Roth succeeds Barbara Barrett, who served as the 25th Secretary of the Air Force from Oct. 18, 2019, until Jan. 20.

Roth has served as the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Financial Management and Comptroller since January 2018. From May 2019 to December 2020, he also performed the duties of Under Secretary of the Air Force, a role he held from June to October 2019.

"It is a privilege to serve Airmen and Guardians as the Acting Secretary of the Air Force," Roth said. "Protecting the nation is a solemn responsibility; one that the U.S. Air and Space Forces execute daily without fail. I look forward to working side-by-side with Gen. (Charles Q. Brown, Jr.) and Gen. (John W.) Raymond to ensure our Airmen and Guardians have the training and resources required to meet national security requirements and keep America safe."

"I'm eager to continue the momentum Secretary Barrett and these two great military leaders put into motion as we work together to accelerate change for our Air Force and continue building America's Space Force," he said.

As acting secretary, Roth leads the Department of the Air Force, comprised of the U.S. Air Force and U.S. Space Force. He is responsible for organizing, training and equipping Air and Space Forces and for the welfare of 697,000 active duty, Guard, Reserve, and civilian Airmen and Guardians and their families.



Courtesy graphic

CHPS to offer classes virtually

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For this month's class schedule, visit our website at usaf-wellness.com. Feel free to call the Travis CHPS office at 707-424-CHPS with any questions you may have. We are here for your support.

Reserve officer boards postponed

Headquarters Air Reserve Personnel Center Public Affairs

BUCKLEY AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — The Calendar Year 2021 Air Force Reserve Major Line and Nonline Promotion Board has been rescheduled for March 29, pushing it back two months from its original date of Jan. 29.

This change is due to new Department of Defense and Department of the Air Force requirements, and the time needed to implement them.

As a result of the changes to

major promotion boards, the captain continuation boards have also been postponed and will be held immediately following the major promotion boards.

Headquarters Air Reserve Personnel Center has made the necessary changes to the convening notice and will release additional information regarding the new requirements once they receive them from the Secretary of the Air Force. The board convening notices for

See **BOARDS** Page 16

DOD aims to return industrial base

C. Todd Lopez DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE NEWS

While the defense industrial base is healthy, there are single points of failure and dependencies on overseas suppliers that must be addressed, the undersecretary of defense for acquisition and sustainment said.

"Over a period of years, we have offshored many, many sources of supply," Ellen M. Lord said during an online discussion Jan. 14 with the Hudson Institute. "It's not for one reason; it's for a variety of reasons, whether it be regulations, whether it be labor costs, whether it be government support of different industries."

The deindustrialization of the U.S. over the last 50 years, the end of the Cold War and the focus it gave the U.S. on defeating the Soviet Union, digital technology and the rise of China have all created challenges to national defense.

In the newly released Fiscal Year 2020 Industrial Capabilities Report to Congress, Lord said the department looked into those challenges and their effects on the defense industrial base and proposed key actions to address them.



U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Sean Madden

Members of the New York National Guard organize and distribute swab kits May 26, 2020, at a warehouse in New York City as part of a multi-agency response to COVID-19.

"What we did in this report was try to really capture those risks, look at the opportunities and come up with some specific steps that we can really take to reform how we go about looking at that supply chain and, in the endgame, really get capability downrange to the warfighter as quickly and cost-effectively as possible," she said.

First, Lord said, the U.S. must re-shore more of its industrial base – bring it back to the U.S. and U.S. allies.

"There are a couple [of] key areas there with shipbuilding,

as well as microelectronics – fundamental to our capabilities," she said.

Development of a modern manufacturing and engineering workforce along with a more robust research and development base is also critical. Declines in U.S. science, technology, engineering and mathematics education and industrial jobs hurt the ability of the defense industrial base to innovate, Lord said.

"We want to make sure that we have modern

See **INDUSTRIAL** Page 12

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Air Force expands Palace Chase

Air Force Personnel Center Public Affairs

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas — The Department of the Air Force will implement several voluntary officer and enlisted force management programs for fiscal year 2021, including an expanded Palace Chase program and limited Active Duty Service Commitment waivers.

These programs provide provisions for both enlisted and officer members who meet specified criteria. The application window runs Jan. 20 – April 2.

“Voluntary force management programs provide Airmen with flexible options to

retire, separate or affiliate at times that suit their personal circumstances and allow the Department of the Air Force to balance certain specialties to ensure we meet the needs of the high-end fight,” said Col. Richard Cole, Military Sustainment and Transition Program Division chief.

The limited ADSC waiver program allows eligible Airmen to retire no later than Sept. 1, or separate no later than Sept. 29. Retirement-eligible Airmen must complete at least 20 years of total active federal military service and, for officers, at least 10 years of total active federal commissioned service, before the requested retirement date.

Enlisted ADSC waivers will be considered for permanent change of station, date estimated return from overseas curtailment, and senior noncommissioned officer promotions. Officer waivers will be considered for PCS, DEROS curtailment, tuition assistance, direct accession, Extended Active Duty Reserve Officer Training Corps and Officer Training School service commitments.

The FY21 Expanded Palace Chase Program provides an opportunity for Airmen in selected Air Force specialties and grades to apply for a transfer from active military service to an Air Reserve Component position. For enlisted

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COVID-19 puts hamper on blood donations

Military Health System Communications Office

Getting people to donate a pint of their potentially life-saving blood has never been easy. And, like almost every aspect of modern life, COVID-19 has made it even harder.

With strong recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control to keep one's distance from others and always wear a mask in public, volunteering to go to a facility for about 40 minutes to have blood drawn has not been a priority for many. And then there were the blood drive cancellations – too many to count, for months at a time.

“The public health guidelines to reduce interaction with others, social distancing, reducing time outside the home ... it translates into a decreased donor turnout,” said Army Col. Jason Corley, director of the Army Blood Program, from the U.S. Army Medical Command at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, Texas. “We're no different from our civilian blood agency counterparts. They've been experiencing the same things since March. Everybody's trying to do the right thing. Commanders and donors want to be safe and healthy. It makes it difficult to continue and schedule blood drives. It's just harder to meet our required quota numbers.”

Blood donations followed the wave of the pandemic, he said. Things got better, if not back to normal, during the summer



Capt. R. Wade Blizzard, the commanding officer of U.S. Navy Support Facility Diego Garcia, donates blood for the Navy Medicine Readiness and Training Units Diego Garcia walking blood bank Dec. 17, 2020.

months, only to rapidly drop off again in the fall.

“Now with the resurgence of COVID that really started in November, it's been going on since,” he said, adding that blood drive cancellations have again increased, and that where some have gone ahead as planned, the number of donors is again down.

So, while January is always a good time for National Blood Donor Month, it

is especially true this year.

“In December and January, historically, even without COVID, that's always a low turnout period due to the holidays, people going on vacation, and due to the weather,” Corley said. “It just is a low time period for collections overall, and then overlay on top of that the third or fourth wave of COVID.”

There are other factors as well for the 21 military donor centers around

the world.

“With organizations going into and out of quarantine, service members being placed on ‘restriction of movement’ and changes in our health protection levels, it's harder to schedule blood drives and make appointments for donors,” said Mark Salcedo, a blood donor recruiter with the Armed Services Blood Program (ASBP). “I was talking with a fellow recruiter and she reminded me of all the commands who have their staff teleworking.”

Salcedo said that when the ASBP cannot collect enough blood from donors, the blood bank must reach out to other military donor centers for blood, or even try to buy blood from the civilian market.

Collecting COVID-19 convalescent plasma meant blood collection during 2020 took on a new urgency. In April of last year, the FDA approved guidance for manufacture and transfusion of COVID-19 convalescent plasma, Corley explained.

“That has definitely been a product that the military and civilian blood industry has made in great numbers in order to support COVID patients,” he said. “Without a doubt, that blood product is having a great impact. For our standard blood products that we were already making, overall, there isn't a large blood use for COVID patients – for red blood cells, or platelets, or for whole blood. But for COVID convalescent plasma, it has been

See DONATION Page 16

Pence thanks Soldiers at Fort Drum

Jim Garamone DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE NEWS

FORT DRUM, New York — In one of his final appearances as vice president, former VP Mike Pence thanked the troopers of the 10th Mountain Division in Fort Drum, New York, for their service around the world and said they will be coming back to the North Country.

Pence gave his last speech as vice president, yesterday, to the soldiers and families of the most deployed division in the U.S. Army.

“With thousands deployed every day, 10th Mountain brigades have served a combined 46 deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan,” Pence said. “The first conventional units

to deploy into Afghanistan after 9-11 came from right here at Fort Drum. The 2nd Brigade Combat Team and the 10th Sustainment Brigade are deployed in Afghanistan even as we speak.”

Units of the 10th were the first conventional units in Afghanistan and division units may be the last conventional forces that must deploy to the country, the vice president said.

“Your mission in Afghanistan has been vital to the security of the American people,” he said. “This year, we'll mark 20 years since the forces of radical Islamic terror plotted and perpetrated the deadliest attack on the American homeland in the history of our country. From the safe haven of Afghanistan, the terrorists

of al-Qaeda struck the United States.”

Because of their service in Afghanistan, there has not been another major terrorist attack on America in the intervening 19 years, he said.

“And you've given the Afghan people the hope of freedom, a chance to determine their own destiny (and) to chart a better future,” he said. “Today, Afghans are in peace negotiations. I'm proud to report with gratitude to the 10th Mountain Division: Not a single American combat casualty has occurred in Afghanistan since February of last year.”

There are currently 2,500 U.S. service members in Afghanistan and 2,500 in Iraq.

Pence went on to describe


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DOD: 75 and older should get vaccine

Military Health System Communications Office

The Department of Defense recommends that adults ages 75 and older should now receive a COVID-19 vaccine as part of its official Vaccination Program across the United States. The DOD and the Military Health System is encouraging all beneficiaries in that age group to access vaccines through their closest military medical treatment facility.

Each MTF will determine local processes, and whether appointments are required or walk-ins are accepted. Vaccine availability may vary by location, but beneficiaries will be notified when and where the vaccine becomes available to them. There are more than 1 million beneficiaries in the TRICARE for Life health plan who need to be aware of this critical recommendation.

This age recommendation differs slightly from that of the Centers for Disease

Control and Prevention, which recommends vaccinations for those 65 and older.

“All older adults are at greater risk for becoming critically ill if they are infected with SARS-CoV-2, which causes COVID-19. The DOD is eager to reach out to this beneficiary population—including those not enrolled at an MTF—and let them know that it’s his or her turn if they so choose,” said Air Force Col. Tonya Rans, Defense Health Agency’s Chief of the Immunization Healthcare Division. “Offering these safe and effective vaccines through DOD provides another option to those who may not yet have access through their civilian provider or pharmacy.”

Answers to frequently asked questions can be found via TRICARE at <https://bit.ly/2LGXrVD>; and at the CDC website.

For more COVID-19 information check the Health.mil website.



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Azaria E. Foster

Airmen assigned to the 305th Aerial Port Squadron load the COVID-19 vaccine into a Boeing 757 assigned to Air Transport International Jan. 13 at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey. The 87th Medical Group and the 305th APS contributed joint efforts to support the first transportation of the COVID-19 vaccine to Thule Air Base, Greenland. The units ensured safe and secure shipping of the vaccine to help protect the health and mission readiness of Thule AB personnel.

Vaccine rollout includes Thule

Airman 1st Class Azaria E. Foster

JOINT BASE MCGUIRE-DIX-LAKEHURST
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

JOINT BASE MCGUIRE-DIX-LAKEHURST, N.J. — The 87th Medical Group and the 305th Aerial Port Squadron contributed joint efforts to support Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst’s first transportation of the COVID-19 vaccine to Thule Air Base, Greenland, Jan. 13.

In compliance with the Department of Defense’s COVID-19 vaccine operations, the units ensured safe and secure shipping of the vaccine to help protect the health and mission readiness of Thule AB personnel.

“By supporting Thule with the shipment of the COVID-19 vaccine, Thule AB is able to continue its real-time missile warning, defense, and space surveillance mission, while also maintaining a strong presence in the Arctic with our international partners,” said U.S. Air Force Capt. Daniel

Musleve, 305th APS operations officer. “The vaccine is one step in providing Thule with a means to quell the virus in a small, commingled population.”

Compared to other military bases Thule AB is limited in size and support, but U.S. Space Force Capt. Brienna Herdrich, 821st Air Base Group logistics flight commander, believes the vaccine could stop the spread of the virus.

“Receiving the COVID-19 vaccine shipment will align us with the rest of the military. It gives people the option to take the vaccine and help us get back to a new normal,” Herdrich said.

The 305th APS is the primary aerial port responsible for replenishing critical items such as cargo, rations, and medical supplies to Thule AB. They worked alongside the 87th MDG and brought in the Defense Logistics Agency to implement the proper cold chain requirements for transporting the vaccine.

“The 87th MDG has been

working closely with the Defense Logistics Agency to safely package and transport the vaccine for Thule,” said U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Ezequiel Villarreal, 87th Medical Support Squadron noncommissioned officer in charge of medical logistics. “They have provided us with insulated shipping containers [and material] to maintain [the vaccine’s] temperature throughout transport. The 305th APS has been very supportive in accommodating the strict cold chain protocols for the COVID vaccine. We are very excited to get the vaccines to Thule and help them combat any further spread of this disease.”

During transport, the 87th MDG escorted the vaccine to ensure Thule AB would receive a viable product.

“As vaccine availability increases, having the proper shipping procedures in place will ensure that we’re able to also scale our operations to meet the demand placed on the DOD transportation system,” Musleve said.

Virtual reality boosts suicide prevention

Karen Pettitt

375TH AIR MOBILITY WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, Ill. — Leaders from across the 375th Air Mobility Wing stepped into a virtual reality-inspired test phase Jan. 12 for a new training effort to help Airmen feel more comfortable about engaging with others to prevent suicide.

Senior leaders were asked to put on a virtual reality headset for a 30-minute interactive scenario with both a coach, who provided upfront training, and then an Airman, who was in obvious distress. They were prompted to ask a variety of questions, whereupon the responses would vary until the member’s distress was successfully assisted.

“This experience was definitely more powerful than just sitting through a boring Powerpoint briefing,” said Chief Master Sgt. Anthony Bekoff, 375th Mission Support Group. “I think the way the training is presented will resonate with our younger Airmen who are used to interacting in virtual worlds like this.”

He said that on a personal level, he felt he had more confidence after the training to stick to the “ACE” response method of “Ask, Care, and Escort,” but, that no matter what, any interaction with those who feel suicidal will be a hard situation.

This is one reason why the Air Force is going to great lengths to find ways to address the issue with updated and innovative ways to help Airmen recognize the signs and assist them in addressing a variety of situations. The scenario being tested right now involves an “Airman to Airman” experience, and future scenarios will involve training with a first sergeant, a commander, and a spouse as well.

Travis Air Force Base, California, along with Scott AFB, Illinois, were selected as the “pilot wings” for the Air Force’s “Virtual Reality Suicide Prevention Experience.” The company Moth+Flame was contracted to develop this immersive VR training experience. Training will be adjusted based on feedback during this test phase with possible final rollout later this year.

Leading point on this training effort for the wing is Kirt Davis, the



U.S. Air Force photo/1st Lt. Sam Eckholm

Travis Air Force Base, California, is one of two test bases that will provide feedback on a new suicide prevention training initiative using a virtual reality-based initiative that Air Mobility Command is testing on behalf of the Air Force.

Violence Prevention Integrator who also oversees the wing’s suicide prevention programs. Assisting him with the test phase logistics is Tech Sgt. Alisha Curtis, 375th Command Post. They both took the training and agreed that it’s a step in the right direction to get more people comfortable with reaching out to each other.

Davis said, “I think what’s really beneficial in this training is that it teaches you how to have the conversation. While there’s no right answer for everything, it does show you how to avoid judgmental language and observe the surroundings while ensuring the person remains safe until

additional help can be secured.”

He said that once the program is assessed and approved for additional implementation, there will need to be support from all the units to bring the technology to their teams. Because this specific Airman to Airman scenario is receiving positive feedback, commanders are also asking for more scenarios, and asking if there is a way to evaluate if they “did it right.”

Mike Arth of Moth+Flame described how the application can provide data for leadership to better understand how Airmen are performing and where training gaps may exist that can be closed with alterations to

the curriculum or additional exposure to key concepts. Moth+Flame’s goal is that a better understanding of where Airmen are struggling to employ ACE will lead to improvements that help Airmen learn faster and retain more of the material longer.

Davis added, “Anything we can do to enhance not only our training, but our ability to respond in these situations is worth trying. We still have an alarming number of people taking their life, and if we’re all prepared to engage when the time comes, then we can help those struggling to know that we care, we need them on our team and that there is hope for the future.”

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More than 1,200 at Travis receive flu vaccine in single day



1) U.S. Air Force Maj. Jeffery Legaspi, 60th Surgical Operations Squadron operation nurse, injects Maj. Brett Mattison, 60th Medical Diagnostic and Therapeutic Squadron medical physicist, with the influenza vaccine at the point-of-distribution event in a hangar Jan. 14 at Travis Air Force Base, California. The POD is an organized way of efficiently distributing a vaccine to a large amount of people and preparing medical personnel for future large-scale distributions, such as the COVID-19 vaccine.

Senior Airman Cameron Otte

60TH AIR MOBILITY WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

U.S. Airmen at Travis Air Force Base facilitated a point-of-distribution event inside an aircraft hangar to administer the yearly flu vaccine to base civilian and military personnel Jan. 14.

A POD is an organized way of efficiently distributing a vaccine to a large amount of personnel.

"We are trying to vaccinate the remaining personnel assigned to Travis who haven't received the flu vaccine yet," said Col. Bernard Van Pelt, Diagnostic and Therapeutic Squadron flight commander.

The influenza vaccine is a mandatory readiness item for active-duty personnel. Van Pelt noted more than 50 percent of the base population had already been vaccinated before Jan. 14, but several Airmen needed to be vaccinated as quickly as possible.

"The PODs are manned by medical personnel to administer the flu shot and access patient's files to log who has received the shot," Van Pelt said. "Those who volunteered from other units on the base worked as manpower to help guide people and keep the lines moving smoothly."

Patients who received the flu vaccine at the POD left surprised by its efficiency.

"My experience during the POD was great; everything was easy to understand and turned out to be an effortless process," said Airman 1st Class Tyler Burch, 60th Communications Squadron client systems technician. "The time it took me to sign in and sign out was only about three minutes, and for how many people were in there, I was pretty surprised."

Team Travis executed the mass inoculation for the first time inside their C-17 Globemaster III dual-bay hangar to accommodate the large numbers of personnel.

"I believe this is the most effective way to distribute vaccines to a large group of people in a reasonable amount of time," said Burch.

While the POD is usually held at the base gym, according to Van Pelt, the gym's normal capacity in a day ranges from 150 to 300 patients; this venue change increased the amount of patients seen to more than 1,200.

"Finding the best way to distribute vaccines is incredibly important for the readiness of our Airmen, especially now with this pandemic," Van Pelt said. "Everyone is trying to figure out the best way to get shots in arms when the COVID vaccine becomes more readily available, and when that day comes, we will be ready."



2) U.S. Airmen arrive at the influenza vaccine point of distribution in a hangar Jan. 14 at Travis Air Force Base, California. 3) U.S. Airmen from the 60th Medical Group check in military personnel at the influenza vaccine point-of-distribution event Jan. 14 in a hangar at Travis. 4) U.S. Airmen board a bus to return to their units Jan. 14 at Travis.

U.S. Air Force photos/Airman 1st Class Alexander Merchak

Puzzles

STR8TS

No. 526 Medium

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

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

Previous solution - Easy

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

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. 526 Very Hard

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

The solutions will be published here in the next issue.

Previous solution - Tough

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

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;
- Jaqualynn Cabanlit, Travis AFB Commissary;
- Neftaly Clark, 1st Special Operations Force Support Squadron;
- David Duncan, 319th Reconnaissance Wing, Grand Forks AFB;
- Rabiye Hamilton, Travis AFB Commissary;
- Patrick Hodge, United States Transportation Command, Scott AFB;
- Mark Holmes, 10th

Contracting Squadron;

- Dina Patterson-Steward, 60th Aerial Port Squadron;
- Jason Perkins, Grand Forks AFB;
- Gina Silva, Air Force Academy headquarters;
- Jean Sommer, Travis AFB Commissary;
- Maria Thammasen, 60th Force Support Squadron; and
- Dennis Weaver, Air Force Manpower Agency.

The VLTP allows an employee who has a medical emergency or is affected by a medical emergency of a family member and is without available paid leave to receive transferred annual leave directly from other employees. For more information, call 707-424-1720.

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

Volunteer

From Page 4

“He was teasing me about it. ‘Wow, Laws, you’re having a kid and you’re still a kid,’” Laws said. “He was super excited. ... He told me has was proud of me and I would do great.”

Brana, who was with DiMarco during the visit, said he was happy for Laws.

“Dad just lit up when he found out that news,” she said. “I never saw him light up like he did when he was with his military family. They made a big difference in his life. I’m not sure he would’ve lived the last 30 years of his life if he hadn’t been out there volunteering.”

Lori Diaz, 60th MDTs pharmacy secretary, said DiMarco served as a mentor to many.

“He was a role model for the younger Airmen,” she said. “To see a person of his age be as vital as he was and as productive as he was. He was a very caring person and to be that dedicated that he would come here said a lot for his character.”

Brana said her father’s character made a lasting impression.

“I remember when I was a little girl, my dad used to take me to the clinic where he worked,” she said. “People just respected him. I remember asking him about that one time. He said something I thought was really good to learn. He said, ‘You don’t always want to respect the man in the uniform, but you have to respect the uniform. When you do respect the uniform, you respect the man a little bit more than you thought



Courtesy photo

Salvatore DiMarco, a retired U.S. Air Force chief master sergeant, stands in dress blues in April 2001. DiMarco, who died Dec. 10, 2020, medically retired in 1988 and volunteered at Travis Air Force Base’s David Grant USAF Medical Center for three decades.

you might.’ I take that advice seriously as an adult.

“I’ve been in marketing for 30 years. I feel like the integrity that I got from my dad and his ability to teach me about respect taught me to respect my clients. ... It has a lot to do with watching my dad respect others.”

DiMarco’s family will host a memorial for him via Zoom from 11 a.m. to noon Jan. 30. The meeting ID is 890-249-37723 and the passcode is “family”.

DiMarco was interred Jan. 5 at the Sacramento Valley National Cemetery in Dixon, California.

Industrial

From Page 5

manufacturing and engineering expertise,” she said. “We do not have nearly the number of scientists and engineers as China has. We need to make sure that we leverage our talent to be able to leverage on these critical areas.”

The department must also reform and modernize the defense acquisition process to better meet the realities of the 21st century, Lord said.

“We’ve started with a number of those, but there’s much further to go,” she said. “We want to make sure that our traditional defense industrial base is widened to get all of those creative, innovative companies. We know the small companies are where most of our innovation comes from, and the barriers to entry – sometimes to getting into the Department of Defense – are rather onerous.”

Lord said part of modernizing and reforming defense acquisition is the recently

announced Trusted Capital Marketplace, which will match potential defense suppliers – many of them small companies that have never done business with the DOD – with the investors they need to keep operating and innovating. The Trusted Capital Marketplace will vet investors to ensure foreign ownership, control and influence is nonexistent.

Finally, Lord said, the department must find new ways to partner private sector innovation with public sector resources and demand.

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Pence

From Page 7

the Trump administration's efforts to make "the strongest military in the world, stronger still." He noted that the Trump administration inherited a military hobbled by readiness woes caused by sequestration and other budget cuts. The world in 2017 still had the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria controlling large swathes of Iraq and Syria. Iran was sponsoring terror groups throughout the Middle East. NATO nations were slow to live up to their pledge to budget 2 percent of gross domestic product to defense.

Budget cuts stopped ships from sailing, aircraft from flying and troops from training.

In 2021, this has changed. "With the support of our allies in Congress, we're once again giving our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, Coast Guard and Guardians, the resources and the support that you need to accomplish your mission and defend this nation," Pence said. "And we also provided the largest pay increase in the last 10 years, and



White House photo

Former Vice President Mike Pence speaks to Soldiers and their families Jan. 17 at Fort Drum, New York, the home of the 10th Mountain Division.

you deserve every penny."

The military is recovering from its readiness woes and "is now better equipped, better supplied, better trained than ever before," the vice president said. "We've upgraded our tanks, artillery, our rocket systems, we bolstered our fleet of attack helicopters and fighter planes."

U.S. leaders built on the U.S. commitment to convince allies to pay their fair share. "Since 2016, our NATO allies have increased their contribution to

our common defense by more than \$130 billion," he said.

Pence reached back to Roman times for the truism of "If you want peace, prepare for war." The United States has strengthened its national defense posture and is prepared to use that force in defense of America's vital interests. "I'm proud to report with just a few days left in our administration, our administration is the first administration in decades that did not get America into a new war," he said.

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Palace Chase

From Page 6

Airmen transitioning into an ARC position, the service commitment is reduced from a "two-to-one" service obligation to a "one-to-one" exchange. For officers transitioning into an ARC position via Palace Chase, the service commitment is reduced from a "three-to-one" service obligation to a "one-to-one" exchange.

"Air Force leaders are working hard to preserve the mission and care for the Airmen who accomplish it," Cole said. "Implementing a variety of voluntary programs allows the Department of the Air Force to offer retirement and separation options that may

align with an Airman's needs or goals."

Interested members should review the eligibility criteria and the list of eligible Air Force specialties, grades and year groups before submitting their applications for consideration. Applications will be processed on a first-in, first-out basis. Members in a specialty that is not on the list of eligible Air Force specialties may apply on a case-by-case basis.

Airmen approved for a service commitment waiver are required to repay the government for related unearned portions of bonuses, special pays, education assistance and all other monetary incentives. Airmen released under the expanded Palace Chase program are relieved of recoupment obligation for unearned bonuses. Recoupment of education

costs will be deferred contingent upon successful completion of the Palace Chase obligation.

Separation and retirement applicants who meet basic eligibility criteria and apply for release under these programs are not guaranteed approval, Cole said.

"While an Airman may be eligible, manning and mission requirements will be considered when evaluating applications," he said. "Airmen should consider their options and apply promptly if interested, as eligibility is subject to change quickly as applications are approved."

For more information, and to check eligibility, visit the CAC-enabled myPers websites at FY 21 Enlisted Voluntary Force Management Program and FY 21 Officer Voluntary

Donations

From Page 7

approved by the FDA under an Emergency Use Authorization as a COVID treatment option."

The convalescent plasma comes from recovered COVID-19 patients whose anti-body levels are at a certain level mandated by FDA, Corley said. Demand for that product has grown as the COVID-19 pandemic continues.

Air Force Tech. Sgt. Mark Friskel, an independent duty medical technician and flight chief at Arnold Air Force Base

in Tennessee, has given blood regularly for the past eight years.

The process is "super easy," he said, adding that he was not at all concerned about giving blood during the COVID-19 pandemic. "Basically, you lay down and relax, watch a movie - you don't have to do anything, really."

But Friskel, a 14-year veteran, is concerned that information is lacking about blood donations and blood banks. He added that mentorship of new troops, such as during the First Term Airmen Course, would be an ideal time to explain the ease of blood donation and its value.

Boards

From Page 5

the CY21 USAFR Major Line and Nonline Promotion Board (ARPCM 20-18) and USAFR Captain Continuation Board (ARPCM 20-30) can be found on myPers.

Eligibility requirements have changed due to the new convening date. Please note that the one-year requirement on the Reserve Active Status List is now March 29.

Military personnel support sections, please read the entire convening notice for changes concerning these promotion boards. Pull new MELs for your senior raters and ensure all eligible officers are showing under appropriate senior rater identification. ARPC/PBO will push the OPBs in AFPROMS and they will be available for 14 days.

For more information, email arpc.dpb@us.af.mil or call the Total Force Service Center at 210-565-0102, DSN 665-0102.

Biomed

From Page 3

will be there. While our career fields might appear to have little in common, we take pride as members of one of the Air Force's most diverse group of medical professionals and specialists.

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team initiative currently exists in 30 locations, however, it is expected to increase to 75 bases by fiscal year 2023.

Members of our BSC community enjoy multiple opportunities such as attending the Biomedical Officer Management Course, fellowships, residencies and post-graduate training programs as well as deployments, humanitarian missions and health promotion initiatives. Additionally, and not surprisingly, the BSC has also adapted and evolved to meet the requirements of an ever-changing landscape and mission even with COVID-19. For example, this past year, our base laboratory flight processed over 10,000 COVID-19 tests while both outpatient pharmacies continued to dispense over 20,000 prescriptions per month.

During the last week in January, we invite you to join us in celebrating our BSC heritage. We don't stop and we'll make sure that you won't either.

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Vaccination

From Page 2

distributing and administering the vaccine in a phased approach. The vaccine is a two-dose regimen, separated by about four weeks between doses.

"Our medical professionals at DGMC and leadership across the base are here to help so ask questions and share your concerns," said Simmons. "Transparency is important. Facts and figures are key. We want you to feel empowered to make informed decisions. The only way to get through this is together."

The end state of the DOD is to reduce the burden of the COVID-19 disease in high-risk populations and simultaneously mitigate risk to military operations.

For updates and information on the COVID-19 vaccine, visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/> and the David Grant USAF Medical Center Facebook Page at <https://www.facebook.com/dgmcofficial/>.



U.S. Air Force photo/Heide Couch
Department of Defense personnel line up to receive the initial dose of the COVID-19 vaccine Jan. 8 at the fitness center at Travis Air Force Base, California. The vaccine requires two doses per person, separated by about four weeks between doses. It is designed to protect personnel against the coronavirus, and officials are encouraging all personnel to take the vaccine as it becomes available.

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1) U.S. Air Force Col. Corey Simmons, 60th Air Mobility Wing commander, sits in the jump seat of a C-17 Globemaster III Jan. 15 at Travis Air Force Base, California. The look at the C-17, which celebrates 15 years at Travis in 2021, was part of the Leadership Rounds program. The program gives 60th AMW leadership an opportunity to interact with Airmen and receive a detailed view of each mission performed at Travis AFB. 2) U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Eric Jimenez, 21st Airlift Squadron C-17 loadmaster, looks up from the cargo area of a C-17 during Leadership Rounds Jan. 15 at Travis. 3) U.S. Air Force Maj. Jessica Foster, 21st AS C-17 pilot, performs a preflight inspection during Leadership Rounds Jan. 15 at Travis.



1

Leaders visit 22nd Airlift Squadron to look ...

FORWARD

U.S. Air Force photos by Tech. Sgt. Traci Keller



2



3



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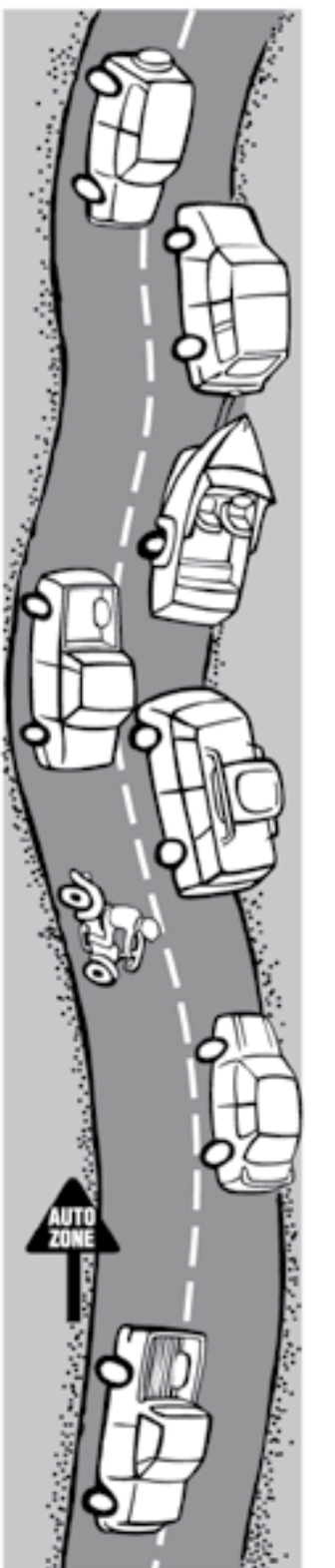
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