



# Innovation aims to protect ... **MEDICS**

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**TAILWIND**



# Reserve wing conducts first virtual UTA

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

While training for an Air Force Reserve mission is typically conducted at home station or military bases around the world, the 349th Air Mobility Wing stepped into cyberspace to conduct its first virtual Unit Training Assembly for its Reserve citizen Airmen May 16-17.

In line with guidance from the Department of Defense all the way to local government, the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic necessitated a conversion to a virtual UTA. 349th AMW leadership rescheduled the April UTA to a date later this summer. But as shelter-at-home guidelines continued to be extended, it was important for the wing to look at other methods of operating.

“These are unprecedented times for us,” said Col. Charles Metzgar, acting 349th AMW commander. “We need to balance the needs and safety of our Airmen with readiness requirements and our ability to accomplish the mission.”

With the charge to conduct a UTA in cyberspace, Airmen across the wing identified various technological platforms and combined DoD systems with commercial products to develop plans for the virtual UTA that included administrative tasks, readiness



Senior Master Sgt. Rachel Martinez, 349th Air Mobility Wing public affairs specialist, attends a virtual meeting during the May drill weekend, May 17, in Monterey, California. The 349th AMW held the May UTA virtually to safeguard Airmen from COVID-19.

training, and professional development. While each unit was given space to plan for how they wanted to approach the weekend, the goal for most was the same – make the UTA matter.

“We want our members to participate, to get paid, and earn enough points to have a good year, but it had to be relevant,” said Senior Master Sgt.

Robert Teames, 349th Security Forces Squadron senior AGR. “By waiting this additional month to conduct a virtual UTA, we were able to put out a program with more of an impact. We’re moving the needle on readiness virtually, and that’s huge.”

For most Airmen assigned to the maintenance and

operations group, a typical UTA involves hands-on time with one of the three aircraft systems on base. While flying missions have continued, they have been conducted with minimum personnel. The majority of ops and maintenance Airmen spent their UTA virtually, and unit leadership like that of the 349th Operations Support

Squadron spent considerable time building the UTA plan.

“The leadership team got together (virtually) once or twice a week to map out our plan and go through all the pieces,” said Senior Master Sgt. Rhonda Rooney, 349th OSS first sergeant. “We conducted pre-check with our members to resolve any connectivity issues. We followed up with an itinerary and rules of engagement for the weekend. We came up with a very structured plan, with full accountability, for our members.”

The plan for OSS Airmen included accomplishing readiness items such as mobility folder reviews, total force ancillary training, breakout-sessions for individual section training, physical fitness time, and the kick-off of a unit-level professional development program.

The 349th Medical Group immediately set out to see how they could conduct virtual physical health assessments.

“We were able to benefit from the examples of other units who have conducted virtual UTAs, plus we’re blessed to have three very forward-facing units,” said Col. Meredith Goodwin, 349th MDG commander. “We examined all our requirements and identified exactly how many of the PHAs we could accomplish virtually and

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## Travis gasses up Thunderbirds for recognition flights



U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Traci Keller

**1) A KC-10 Extender from Travis Air Force Base, California, refuels one of the United States Air Force Thunderbirds May 15 over Southern California. The flying demonstration team flew in formation across parts of Southern California as part of America Strong, a collaborative salute from the Air Force and Navy to recognize health care workers, first responders, military, and other essential personnel while standing in solidarity with all Americans during the COVID-19 pandemic. 2) The United States Air Force Air Demonstration Squadron Thunderbirds receive fuel over Texas May 13 from the a KC-10 from Travis.**



U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Cory Bush

# Month honors hidden heroes

**Shannon Hall**  
AIR FORCE WOUNDED WARRIOR PROGRAM

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas — May is recognized as the Department of Defense’s Month of the Military Caregiver.

This time is used to honor, commend and show appreciation for those that care for wounded, ill and injured service members.

The Air Force Wounded Warrior Program, or AFW2, has a Caregiver Support and Family Program to assist caretakers in multiple ways.

The caregiver program was founded in 2014 to improve caregiver resiliency by connecting them with other caregivers who can share experiences, provide guidance and ultimately build trust and long-lasting relationships.

“We currently have 1,612 caregivers enrolled in our program who have created a network of support for each other,” said Tonya McGough, Caregiver Support and Family Program manager. “They develop strengths from one another and establish healthy relationships that enhance the quality of life for themselves and their families.”

Becoming a caregiver to a wounded, ill or injured service member can bring forward new challenges for a family. Without the proper training, guidance and support system, some can have a hard time thriving and being successful with this new lifestyle while still maintaining their own mental health.

“For the first time in 13 years, I felt like I wasn’t alone anymore,” said Sara Gray, member of the caregiver program. “Through this program

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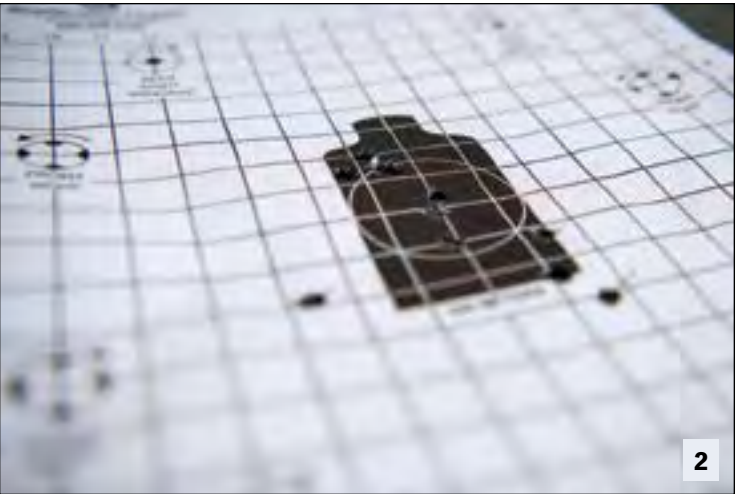


1) Master Sgt. Ronald Weaver, 921st Contingency Response Squadron, marks target hits at the 60th Security Forces Squadron Combat Arms Training and Maintenance range on Travis Air Force Base, California. Weaver is the 921st SFS flight chief.

# 921st CRS visits combat arms range for ... TRAINING

U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. David W. Carbajal

2) A target with several M4 carbine hits at the 60th Security Forces Squadron Combat Arms Training and Maintenance range May 13 at Travis Air Force Base, California. Security forces members of the 921st Contingency Response Squadron completed M4 proficiency training to ensure they were prepared for the squadron's upcoming alert cycle. 3) Tech. Sgt. Ali Williams, 921st CRS, briefs proper weapons handling during M4 proficiency training at the 60th SFS Combat Arms Training and Maintenance range at Travis.



## Ruck March honors fallen defenders



U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. David W. Carbajal

Staff Sgt. Alexa Ammerman and Tech. Sgt. Aarapaho, 60th Security Forces Squadron military working dog team, run May 15 during the 24-hour ruck march at the Duck Pond on Travis Air Force Base, California. Security forces members from the 60th Air Mobility Wing and the 821st Contingency Response Group honored 13 fallen defenders with this memorial ruck march.

## 618th AOC undergoes extensive organizational transformation

Capt. Alexis Burdon  
618TH AIR OPERATIONS CENTER

SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, Ill. — The 618th Air Operations Center implemented its largest, full-scale organizational transformation in nearly 30 years on May 18, which entailed a complete structural overhaul that realigned directorates and established new positions.

This transformation is critical to better support Air Mobility Command's transformation to a warfighting major command to ensure AMC is postured to meet the requirements of the National Defense Strategy and help the mobility community better support the Air Force efforts of Joint All-Domain Command and Control, or JADC2.

The transformation effort is the largest in the AOC's nearly

30-year history and replaces an organizational structure that has remained relatively static since the mid-1990s.

"This transformation is a monumental shift for our AOC and a launch pad for the future success of mobility operations," said Brig. Gen. Jimmy Canlas, 618th AOC commander. "The AOC has undergone minor changes over the years, but nothing as significant as this initiative. I'm grateful for the hard work by the team, who took our reorganization idea and turned it into a transformational effort. I have great hope and excitement for future AOC missions."

The new organizational structure will consist of eight directorates, 24 divisions and 11 branches; replacing the existing 10 directorates, 29 divisions and six branches. Historically, funding streams

determined where functions were positioned, but this realignment will streamline functions with similar mission sets under newly created directorates. This effort will allow all AOC personnel to increase warfighting effectiveness and more rapidly respond to mission requirements.

"The realignment is a huge step in the right direction for the future of the AOC and our (Mobility Air Forces) enterprise," said Col. Dan DeVoe, 618th AOC Vice commander. "As we move toward the eventuality of JADC2, this transformation will posture the MAF and enhance our AOC's ability to sustain the joint force throughout the entire spectrum of operations."

The transformation will greatly enhance the 618 AOC's ability to provide

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## F-35 crashes at Eglin AFB

### 33rd Fighter Wing

EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. — An F-35A Lightning II assigned to the 58th Fighter Squadron crashed upon landing around 6:30 p.m. May 19. The pilot successfully ejected and was transported to the 96th Medical Group Hospital for evaluation.

The pilot is in stable condition. At the time of the accident, the pilot was participating in a routine night training sortie. First responders from the 96th Test Wing were on the scene and the site is secure.

The accident is under investigation. There was no loss of life or damage to civilian property. The name of the pilot is not being released at this time.

For more information, contact the 33rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs office at 850-226-3876 or 33fwpublicaffairs@gmail.com.

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## APS, 860th AMXS load TIS



U.S. Air Force photo/Heide Couch

Vernon Kennedy, 60th Aerial Port Squadron loading supervisor, secures a Transport Isolation System capsule onto the deck of a Tunnor 60K loader May 9 at Travis Air Force Base, California. Travis AFB has a C-17 loaded with a TIS capsule on alert status to ensure the aircraft is ready to launch at a moment's notice. The TIS unit allows the transport of individuals with highly contagious diseases without infecting other passengers or aircrew on the aircraft.



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# Bioenviro engineers expand mission in aeroevac

**Shireen Bedi**

AIR FORCE SURGEON  
 GENERAL PUBLIC AFFAIRS

FALLS CHURCH, Va. — Bioenvironmental engineers across the Air Force are working to keep the workplace safe during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Col. Brian Peake, Air Force Bioenvironmental Engineering associate corps chief, says bioenvironmental engineers are using their experience in exposures and risk mitigation to combat the spread of the disease.

"Bioenvironmental engineers can take our knowledge of exposure science and apply it to any environmental threat, like COVID-19," said Peake. "We can take what we have

done for decades to mitigate Airmen exposure."

The aeromedical evacuation mission became a top priority as COVID-19 began to spread.

Bioenvironmental engineers within Air Mobility Command lent their expertise in exposure mitigation when the Air Force was tasked with moving COVID-19 patients.

The Air Force is using the Transportation Isolation System, which was created in 2014 during the Ebola epidemic, and adapted to move COVID-19 patients.

The Transportation Isolation System is an infectious disease containment unit that fits inside cargo aircraft and reduces risk to aircrew while allowing for en route medical care.

A cross functional team led by Master Sgt. Michael Huller, AMC Bioenvironmental Engineer functional manager, constructed a disinfection concept of operations and training plan in only 10 days in advance of the first mission.

"Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, there were only a handful of people trained on Transportation Isolation System support," said Col. Vincent Falls, command bioenvironmental engineer with Air Mobility Command. "To expand this capability to move more patients, we had to develop plans to project this capability

to multiple locations, and come up with procedures to properly disinfect and reuse the (Transportation Isolation System)."

On April 10, the Air Force used the TIS for the first time to move three COVID-19 patients from Afghanistan. Bioenvironmental engineers were on the flight, working alongside aeromedical evacuation crews and critical care air transportation teams.

"As part of that Transportation Isolation System support team, we ensured it maintained its integrity, and diagnosed and fixed any issues that arose in flight," said Maj. Somvang

Xayarath, deputy command bioenvironmental engineer with AMC and the bioenvironmental engineer on the first mission.

Xayarath played a key role in the support planning. He ensured everything on the aircraft was disinfected properly after the mission, and helped the follow-on support team prepare the next mission.

After that first mission, AMC deployed 42 bioenvironmental engineer technicians to Joint Base Charleston, South Carolina, in preparation for

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Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Kaleth O. Wright, left, and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David L. Goldfein, right, are introduced to new innovations being made at Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota, during a tour May 14.

# Minot showcases readiness

**Tech Sgt. Crystal L. Charriere**  
MINOT AIR FORCE BASE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

MINOT AIR FORCE BASE, N.D. — Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David L. Goldfein and Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Kaleth O. Wright visited Minot Air

Force Base, May 14. The senior leaders saw how Minot AFB has remained mission-ready and resilient throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

“There is no more important mission than what’s going on right here at Minot (AFB). We know that we are not going

to get relief from this critical, nuclear mission despite COVID-19 challenges,” Goldfein said. “And I couldn’t be prouder of this team, and what we’ve seen today.”

Goldfein and Wright toured

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# AFRAMP enables rapid production of supplies

**Staff Sgt. Jordyn Fetter**  
AFWERX PUBLIC AFFAIRS

ARLINGTON, Va. — To respond to the growing demand for COVID-19-related supplies, the Air Force is piloting an initiative called the Rapid Agile Manufacturing Platform to leverage the full capacity of the U.S. manufacturing base.

This initiative, which kicked off April 10 as part of the Department of the Air Force Acquisition COVID-19 Task Force, is designed as a framework to keep the Air Force supply system independent of the civilian medical supply market.

“This pandemic has placed a massive strain on the medical industry due to a significant increase in demand for supplies like masks and ventilators,”

said Maj. Chris Wood, DAF ACT AFRAMP lead. “Many U.S.-based suppliers are doing what they can to increase their capacity, but there’s more unmet demand out there. We decided to turn to nontraditional suppliers like car manufacturers and 3D-printing factories to explore how they can contribute in making different products for the Department of the Air Force.”

With a background in logistics innovation, Wood has spent years exploring disruptive supply chain concepts and understands the types of challenges the U.S. faces in the midst of global crises like the pandemic.

As COVID-19 cases were increasing in the U.S., Wood connected with Col. James

See SUPPLIES Page 18

# Air University, ASU partner to transform online PME

**Air University Public Affairs**

MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE, Ala. — Air Force students recently crossed a digital threshold by logging in to a new, custom Squadron Officer School portal made possible by an innovative collaboration.

Air University partnered with Arizona State University, one of America’s leading public research universities with advanced learning and support systems, to transform the distance learning experience for Air Force officers and civilians worldwide.

By the first week of May, 1,650 SOS students had successfully on-boarded and embarked upon their new educational journey, completing 760 courses in the ASU environment, an enriched digital-learning environment marked by enhanced accessibility, reliability and support.

This partnership, an integral part of the Air Force’s efforts to enhance online learning, was a long time in the making. After a year of dialogue and collaborative exchange of ideas, the two

universities signed an Intergovernmental Support Agreement in September 2019. This agreement integrates, sustains and transitions the AU eSchool of Graduate Professional Military Education programs and curriculum to the enhanced ASU learning environment.

This is the first time a U.S. military service utilized a civilian university partner to enable the delivery of officer PME.

“Air University is committed to providing quality, relevant education anywhere at any time. This partnership with Arizona State University strengthens and demonstrates our resolve to honoring that commitment,” said Lt. Gen. James Hecker, Air University commander and president. “This is a unique partnership for the U.S. military, and I believe our students will truly benefit from the enhanced online educational experience it provides.”

Air University’s PME programs will still be developed, managed and taught by eSchool faculty, but will be delivered through the ASU Enterprise

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# Innovation keeps frontline medics better protected from COVID-19



1) U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. James Martin, right, 60th Medical Group emergency department shift leader, explains the capabilities of an intubation protection box May 14 at Travis Air Force Base, California. The box is a transparent physical barrier that helps limit airborne pathogens to the confines of the box, protecting medical providers performing intubations. 2) Martin describes the capabilities of an intubation protection box to Ariel Roman, right, 60th MDG emergency department paramedic, and to Airman 1st Class Jaheem Prioleau 60th MDG emergency department technician, May 14 at Travis. 3) Martin explains the capabilities of the isolation pod to Airman 1st Class Jaheem Prioleau, center, 60th MDG emergency department technician, and Staff Sgt. Casey Cross, 60th MDG ED paramedic, while inside an ambulance April 28 at Travis. 4) Martin explains the capabilities of the isolation pod to Prioleau and Cross April 28 at Travis. The pod provides protection for first responders because it serves as a barrier between them and infected patients.

Story and photos by  
Senior Airman Jonathon Carnell  
60TH AIR MOBILITY WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Team Travis Airmen prototyped personal protective equipment April 17 to help base medics safely treat and transport potential coronavirus patients.

Members of the 60th Medical Group emergency department at David Grant USAF Medical Center joined forces with the 60th Maintenance and the 60th Operations Support Squadrons, all here, to develop an isolation pod and an intubation protection box.

An isolation pod includes an enclosed gurney, a wheeled stretcher medics use to transport hospital patients. A intubation protection box, a portable transparent box that serves as a physical barrier between health care professionals and patients, limiting airborne pathogens to the confines of the box.

"These products have functionality not only for the coronavirus pandemic, but also for any airborne illnesses we could encounter in the future," said Tech. Sgt. James Martin, 60th MDG emergency department shift leader.

Designing the isolation pod and the intubation box was a team effort and had its challenges, said Capt. Gabriel Marcus, 60th MXG maintenance operations officer.

"Our biggest challenge was incorporating the mitigation of contaminants into our design while using materials we had on-hand," said Tech. Sgt. March Tighe 60th Maintenance Squadron metals technology craftsman. "We needed to minimize the use of fasteners and any cracks or crevices where contaminants could survive during DECON procedures. Strictly incorporating the needs of our medical professionals, while designing a product that was structurally sound and functional, allowed us to take our profession to the next level."

Producing the intubation box took eight days and the isolation pod required 10 days.

"(For the isolation pod) we spent one day determining the requirements and one day manufacturing the frame with aircraft structural maintenance," Tighe said. "From there, we passed off the gurney to aircrew flight equipment in order to have a clear covering manufactured to help contain suspected contaminants during the transportation of patients."

During the production of the isolation pod, the team also spent time manufacturing the components of the intubation protection box and sealing them together, Tighe said.

"From there we designed arm seals that were installed by aircraft structural maintenance so our medical professionals are protected during intubation procedures," Tighe said.

The products have not been used yet; however, both are held at DGMG and are ready for use when needed, Martin said.

"Designs that prove to be effective will be shared across organizations in the military and in our community to deliver safer health care," Martin said. "We are sharing the designs with Wright-Patterson (Air Force Base, Ohio).

The COVID-19 pandemic led to a collaboration between maintainers and medical professionals that might not otherwise have happened, Martin said. Creating PPE alternatives has demonstrated how Travis' total force units are able to work together for one common goal: design and prototype personal protective equipment for medics treating potential coronavirus infected patients.

"The opportunity to leverage our skills to aid in the fight against COVID-19 ignited a fire in us like no other," Tighe said. "This fire was not only fueled by the needs of the world, but it was also personal in knowing we could potentially be saving the lives of friends and family."





# Minot

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the 5th Medical Group to see the efforts to reduce exposure to the virus while still providing medical operations. These efforts included the pharmacy drive-up location, mandatory face-covering guidance, collaboration with the local medical community and innovative, virtual telemedicine appointments.

“We have done an incredible job of maintaining social distancing and keeping the infection rate low,” said Col. Brad Cochran, 5th Bomb Wing commander. “I believe that’s truly based on quick decisions we

made months ago, our Airmen’s efforts to stay disciplined, and by staying engaged and connected to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, local government and public health officials.”

Along with the medical group, Goldfein and Wright had a video chat with Airmen on duty at all the 91st Missile Wing’s Missile Alert Facilities with Col. Glenn Harris, 91st MW commander.

“Rough Riders have been on the front line of the COVID-19 response, providing combat-ready nuclear capability throughout the crisis,” Harris said. “I’m glad General Goldfein and Chief Wright could see firsthand the innovation and

discipline our Airmen demonstrate every day as we execute this 24/7 nuclear mission.”

Both Goldfein and Wright were briefed about missile field security and new measures to maintain the health of Airmen performing alert missions, such as self-isolation procedures and COVID-19 screenings.

“I recognize that this is a challenging time, and I’ve seen our Airmen respond to challenging times before quite often, so I look forward to seeing how this impacts us in a positive way,” Wright said. “This will ultimately make us stronger. It will make us more resilient. It’ll help us connect and communicate in a different way. I think it will help us build different types of bonds both as professionals and as Airmen. Folks are developing new skills and I think it’s going to have a positive impact on our enlisted force.”

They also had lunch with base resiliency agencies where they discussed COVID-19 video updates from base leadership, videos from helping agencies,

as well as the #MinotStrong video series that featured Minot AFB Airmen and key spouses sharing their experiences. The resiliency agencies provided additional information on virtual activities offered such as online chapel services, Airmen and Family Readiness Center virtual classes, and a virtual family paint night.

“I want to say thank you to the families, especially our spouses and family members,” Goldfein said. “You exhibited a special kind of courage. We can’t thank you enough for who you are, and what you bring to our Air Force and Minot (AFB). Chief (Wright) and I are really proud to serve with you.”

Bomber flights and intercontinental ballistic missile crews also continue to train and maintain readiness with added precautions. This was demonstrated when the 69th Bomb Squadron returned from a nine-month deployment in support of the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command’s Continuous Bomber Presence mission in April. Goldfein and Wright saw the level of

readiness first-hand during several stops on their tour of the base. They received a weapon-load trainer demonstration, toured the weapon storage area with COVID-19 mitigation measures and the 91st Missile Security Operations Squadron Vehicle Control Center. They also had the opportunity to see several locally-developed innovation projects and new technology in development.

“Wing-command leadership, bomber wing and missile wing, have done a spectacular job looking at the mission,” Goldfein said. “Assuming we would get zero relief, that the nuclear mission is a no-fail mission ... on the worst day as a nation, our job is to get the commander in chief where he needs to be, when he needs to be there, stay connected to the forces in the field and be able to operate. We can’t get any relief from that, so I asked the commanders across the Air Force how we build breadth and depth to be able to operate through this virus. Minot AFB has done a spectacular job of that.”

# PME

From Page 8

system and enhanced with access to more than 130 digital learning technologies. In addition, ASU’s Experience Center will supplement the AU Help Desk, providing 24-hour support to students enrolled in the online Squadron Officer School, Air Command and Staff College, Air War College and the Online Master’s Program, or OLMP. A combined 13,000 students are currently engaged in these eSchool programs.

This is a first for Arizona State University as well. The school has entered into numerous other partnerships, but none where the partner brought their entire curriculum to ASU to help deliver it to their students.

“This partnership represents the link between two commitments very important to Arizona State University – our support and engagement with those who serve in our military and our ongoing efforts to make higher education accessible to everyone who wants it regardless of where they are in their life or in the world,” said Michael M. Crow, ASU president.



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**Tuesday**  
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Bible Study: 7:00-8:00 p.m.

**Web Site:** [www.stpaulfairfield.com](http://www.stpaulfairfield.com)  
**Email:** [stpaulbcfairfield@comcast.net](mailto:stpaulbcfairfield@comcast.net)  
**Church Phone:** 707-422-2003

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Minister: Ryan Brewer

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9:30 AM

Sunday Morning Worship  
10:30 AM

Sunday Evening Worship  
6:00 PM

Wed. Evening Bible Study  
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**Pastor Ben Smith**  
**[www.vacavillebiblechurch.com](http://www.vacavillebiblechurch.com)**  
**[office@vacavillebiblechurch.com](mailto:office@vacavillebiblechurch.com)**

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# UTA

From Page 2

we put our clinicians to work on that.”

In addition to testing our virtual PHA capabilities, Airmen in the medical group were able to accomplish several computer-based training courses. While beneficial, they can’t be a replacement for in-person training and Airmen will need to get back to clinics soon, said Chief Master Sgt. Michele Ortiz, 349th MDG superintendent. Until that point, she said she hopes the virtual gives Airmen two important things – connectivity and time.

“We’re social creatures and need interaction; being sheltered at home for so long can become difficult,” she said. “We want to make sure people are OK, and we were able to do that. And by having our UTA virtually, hopefully we were able to give Airmen back some of their time. It certainly cuts down on the travel time.”

In addition to individualized unit plans, a few wing-wide virtual events were held. A virtual commander’s call was conducted, with several options for tuning in. This allowed Airmen sheltered at home to hear directly from wing leaders. For the first-time, a Bring On Leadership Development course was opened up to all ranks and offered via a virtual platform. Focusing on the topic of resilience, the workshop included speeches from a psychologist, comedian and a motivational speaker. Nearly 500 Airmen participated in the course.

“I’ve been impressed by the resiliency our Airmen have demonstrated – we’re all following shelter-in-place and social distancing guidelines, but we’re staying connected,” said Chief Master Sgt. James Burmeister, 349th AMW command chief. “I encourage everyone to continue to look out for their wingmen.”

As the first, virtual UTA concludes, units are busy conducting after action reviews and collecting feedback in order to improve processes. The 349th AMW has plans to conduct the June UTA virtually as well.



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From Page 8


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one factory line and one supply chain would limit the flexibility of getting supplies where they were needed most; a significant percentage of manufacturing is still occurring overseas, which decreases the nation's positive control over the supply chain.

“In times of crisis, relying on one company or those outside of our direct reach drastically reduces the U.S.’s ability to respond in an agile manner,” Gherdovich said. “If we were to shift the model slightly and incentivize production from businesses outside the traditional supply chain, we’ll be far more

resilient and equipped to take on national and global challenges like COVID-19.”

Retooling the manufacturing capabilities of U.S.-based suppliers that don't already make medical supplies and increasing their rate of production would require a significant uptick in their spending on things like equipment, property, technology and employees.

For organizations looking to implement a similar model in COVID-19 or other response efforts, contact Maj. Chris Wood at chris.wood@afwerx.af.mil.

U.S. Air Force photo/Capt. Justin Brockhoff  
Senior Master Sgt. Donna Crone works at her desk in the 618th Air and Space Operations Center's Tanker Airlift Control Center, Dec. 16, 2010, at Scott Air Force Base, Illinois.

AOC

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resilient command and control of AMC's four core competencies – airlift, air refueling, aeromedical evacuation and global air mobility support.

“The men and women of the 618th AOC truly manage the heartbeat of our global, 24/7 mobility mission,” said Gen. Maryanne Miller, AMC commander. “A lot has changed over the past 30 years, including the threats we face and AMC's transition to a warfighting component command. The AOC's transformation, along with the construction of a new state-of-the-art facility to house it, will further our ability to compete, deter and win as we execute rapid global mobility in support of the NDS.”

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Expand

From Page 7

additional missions across the globe.

“Aeromedical evacuation is usually not a primary mission for bioenvironmental engineers,” said Huller. “Because we are skilled in doing health risk assessments, industrial operations, and hygiene plans, we can transition and operate in this arena.”

The bioenvironmental engineers’ involvement in safely moving COVID-19 patients highlights their flexibility, applying their skillset and foundational knowledge to new and emerging threats.

“We always talk about every Airman a problem solver,” said Huller. “As bioenvironmental engineers, we are a career field of problem solvers. We were tasked with adapting one system originally designed to move Ebola patients for a new use, and we did that in 10 days.”

Because there is a large aerosol hazard with COVID-19, bioenvironmental engineers are also considering how this



U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Allison Payne

**U.S Air Force Capt. Naomi King, 628th Operational Medical Readiness Squadron infectious disease team lead, reviews COVID-19 cleaning procedures with Airmen in the Transport Isolation System April 5 at Joint Base Charleston, South Carolina.**

impacts Airmen in otherwise safe workspaces where respiratory exposures are not usually hazardous. Bioenvironmental engineers are ensuring N95 masks are properly tested to meet regulatory requirements, and identifying ways workspaces can be made safer.

“We ensure N95 masks meet the U.S. Department of Labor’s Occupational Safety and Health Administration guidelines,” said Falls. “We make sure that these masks are fit tested, that it has an appropriate seal on the user’s face, and that it works properly.”

To further safeguard Airmen, bioenvironmental engineers are also considering the use of high-efficiency particulate air filtration, or HEPA filtration. Bioenvironmental engineers are leading an initiative to develop filtration capability where it would be most effective.

“We usually take for granted that the air we breathe is safe,” said Peake. “COVID-19 puts us in new territory where we have to figure out ways we can protect Airmen working in tight quarters.”

From aeromedical evacuation, to air filtration and mask checks, bioenvironmental engineers are working around the clock to keep Airmen safe and the Air Force mission going.

“Bioenvironmental engineers provide highly reliable health risk expertise to protect Airmen from workplace hazards and ensure their readiness to support the mission,” said Chief Master Sgt. Curtis McGehee, Air Force Bioenvironmental Engineering career field manager. “That is normal operations for us and we are applying this process to keep Airmen safe amid the COVID-19 pandemic.”

Heroes

From Page 3

I met people who understood all my emotions, provided tools to help me keep pushing forward and helped me realize how strong I truly am. The best benefit is other caregivers I remain in touch with.”

The Caregiver Support Program identifies, connects and improves caregiver resiliency by providing resources, workshops, resiliency tools and new skill sets to ensure caretakers reach their ultimate potential. During times

like these of unpredictability and isolation, the program has turned to social media to stay connected.

AFW2, and the Caregiver Support Program, host daily virtual socials live on Facebook. Visit the program’s Facebook pages to hear stories of resiliency and engage in activities hosted by Air Force wounded warriors and caregivers. For additional information, visit [www.woundedwarrior.af.mil](http://www.woundedwarrior.af.mil) to refer an Airman to the program, read about the program’s mission, or learn about additional services offered to caregivers and families.



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