



2 TAILWIND **TRAVIS** FEBRUARY 26, 2021

# All-Black heritage flight reflects, looks forward

**60th Air Mobility Wing Public Affairs** 

TRAVIS AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. -With palms sweat-slicked from hours at the controls and eyes heavy from poring over switches and levels, Capt. Christopher Tobiere, 9th Air Refueling Squadron KC-10 Extender instructor pilot, takes a short swig from his canteen and flashes back a grin from the flight deck.

"When I find myself struggling, I always think of how much the Tuskegee Airmen had to go through to get their wings," he said.

Tobiere, the aircraft commander of an all-Black heritage flight that took off Feb. 18 from Travis Air Force Base, California, knows he hasn't faced the same adversity that the aviation icons did. Even so, he's careful to stay conscious of what challenges he negotiates as a Black Airman in today's Air Force.

It wasn't always that way, though, he

"Believe it or not, I was uncomfortable with Black History Month about 10 years ago," Tobiere admitted. "Being the only Black person 99 percent of the time, I didn't like the idea of highlighting my struggles. I wanted to stay under the radar and avoid rocking the boat. I let 'jokes' slide, even when they made me feel uncomfortable. But as I mature and raise my son, I understand how important it is to highlight Black history in the United States and how it has shaped who we are today.

On Feb. 11, acting Secretary of the Air Force John Roth addressed the force, stating, "We have a responsibility to defend the nation for all Americans.'

In regards to the heritage flight,



An all-Black aircrew from the 9th Air Refueling Squadron, Travis Air Force Base, California, poses for a picture in front of a KC-10 Extender See HERITAGE Page 18 after a routine aerial refueling mission Feb. 18. The purpose of the heritage flight was to honor Black History Month.

Tailwind

Travis AFB, Calif. | 60th Air Mobility Wing

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## On the cover

U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Shedrian Williams, 22nd Airlift Squadron flight engineer, holds wooden artwork of a C-5M Super Galaxy Feb. 21 at Naval Air Station Cecil Field, Florida.

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

FEBRUARY 26, 2021 **T**RAVIS TAILWIND 3

# **Travis AFB takes part in bringing aid to snow-snarled Lone Star State**









1) U.S. Airmen from the 821st Contingency Response Group prepare to offload a pallet of bottled water Feb. 19 at Galveston, Texas. A team of 30 Airmen from the 821st Contingency Response Group traveled from California to Texas to support the Federal Emergency Management Agency request for assistance to airlift 64 tons of bottled water to storm-ravaged areas of Texas. 2) U.S. Airmen from the 621st Contingency Response Wing board a C-17 Globemaster III Feb. 18 at Travis Air Force Base, California. 3) U.S. Air Force Airman 1st Class Jasmine Shoemaker records refueling information while refueling a C-17 on the flight line Feb. 18 at Travis AFB.

Time in civil service: One year.

Family:

60th Air Mobility Wing Public Affairs.

Duty title: Photographer.

Name:

Nic Pilch.

Hometown: Midlothian, Texas.

Daughter, Chandler; son, Caleb.

What are your hobbies? Love watching cooking shows,

doing puzzles and playing video games.

To be the official photographer for the president and to have a family

What is your greatest achievement?

What are your goals?

My children. They are more important to me than anything else and I am most proud to be their father.

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# Travis tests VR suicide prevention training

**Nicholas Pilch** 

60TH AIR MOBILITY WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

TRAVIS AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. - Leaders from across the 60th Air Mobility Wing at Travis took part in a suicide prevention, virtual reality training test phase Feb. 17 – 19.

The 30-minute training is aimed to help Airmen's comfort in engaging with others to prevent suicide.

The training involves participants putting on a virtual reality headset and entering a scenario in which they interact with a person who is in obvious emotional distress. The goal is for the participant to convince the distressed person to get help. If participants don't ask the distressed person the right questions to prompt them to get help, a training coach chimes in to assist the participant.

Gen. Jacqueline Van Ovost, Air Mobility Command commander, awarded a contract to Moth + Flame. which specializes in creating virtual environments and applications. She hired the company to develop suicide prevention training that would allow Airmen and their spouses to interact with fellow distressed, Airmen in a virtual environment.

"We are excited and highly motivated to be the catalyst for this innovative suicide prevention program," said Brig. Gen. Norm West, Air Mobility Command surgeon general stated, The VR scenario is very realistic and this is the type of training we need to save lives in the real world. One life lost to suicide is too many".

AMC is the first VR project in the Department of Defense to utilize immersive, conversational training for suicide prevention.

"We believe this training will not only save lives but prepare our Airmen for tough conversations that will build a more resilient force," said Mr. Victor Jones, AMC Suicide Prevention program manager.

Master Sgt. Shawn Dougherty, a VR training facilitator here, said one of the most common occurrences in the current training, which involves role playing with fellow trainees, is that when someone needs to say something tough, they don't say it as loud as the rest of what they say.

"The unique part of this VR training is that it's voice-activated, so you're required to say things out loud



U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Glenn Cameron, 60th Civil Engineer Squadron commander, participates in a test-virtual reality program Feb. 18 at Travis Air Force Base, California. The resiliency program is being tested at Scott and Travis AFBs and is the only training of its kind across the Department of Defense.

that maybe you've never had to sav before," said Dougherty, "Actually saying phrases to Airmen in distress like 'do you have a gun in the house?' ... or 'Are you thinking about harming yourself?""

Scott and Travis AFBs were selected as pilot bases for this first phase of the training. During this phase, base leadership, squadron commanders, superintendents and first sergeants are participating in close-to-real-world, virtual scenarios.

"This module is an Airman-to-Airman scenario," Dougherty said. "The training gives you an opportunity to be face-to-face with another Airman, in an Airman's perspective with someone that's in distress. You are trying to talk them down, resolve the situation, figure out what is going on with him and find out the best scenario to get him to safety."

Dougherty said leadership is their primary audience for this first phase

**See PREVENTION Page 12** 

# What is it like to take the training? A member of Travis AFB's public affairs team gets a first-hand look

**Commentary by Nicholas Pilch** 60TH AIR MOBILITY WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

fter you put on the VR goggles, you sign in. Then you are greeted by an Air gles, you sign in. Then Force official to discuss the importance of resiliency and tough conversations about suicide.

After that, you are welcomed in to Tony Dungy's office, who volunteered to be a part of this interactive experience. Dungy's son took his life in 2005, and his father was a Tuskegee Airman.

While interacting with Dungy, he probes about your service and reminds you of the Air Force's A-C-E protocol to ask, care and escort someone in distress.

Then, you are catapulted into a real-life scenario. You get a call from

a woman asking you to check-in on Mike. Then images from social media showing warning signs that Mike is in distress scatter across the screen. Finally, you are face to face with Mike who wants to know why you are in his house.

From there, it plays out like any conversation. However, depending on what you say, Mike either shuts down or agrees to get help. Regardless of how the conversation goes, you feel like you're actually in the room, even if you don't at first.

I found myself feeling empathy for Mike. I answered incorrectly a couple times to see what his reaction would be, and the actor really pulled me into his story. His wife has left him and taken the kids. She won't

See PILCH Page 12

# **Awards celebrate Travis AFB's best**



U.S. Air Force Col. Corey Simmons, second from left, 60th Air Mobility Wing commander, and Chief Master Sgt. Robert Schultz, far right, 60th AMW command chief, present the 2020 Squadron of the Year award to the 60th Civil Engineering Squadron during the 60th AMW 2020 Annual Awards ceremony, Feb. 19 at Travis Air Force Base, California. The wing leadership recognized and highlighted Travis AFB's top military and civilian personnel for the year.

# Air Force leaders direct second IG Disparity Review

**Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs** 

ARLINGTON, Va. — Acting Secretary of the Air Force John P. Roth, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Charles O. Brown Jr., and Chief of Space Operations Gen. John W. Raymond directed the Department of the Air Force Inspector General to conduct an additional independent review of racial, gender and ethnic disparity in the Department of the Air Force.

The review follows the department's 2020 Racial Disparity Review released in Dec. 2020 and expands its focus into three additional racial categories (Asian, American Indian/Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander), gender, and one additional ethnic category (Hispanic/

"The IG team has already begun to gather information contained in a wide array of previous reports, studies and various databases across the Department of the Air Force," Roth said. "Although the data is helpful, the most important information will come directly from our Airmen and Guard-

"We learned a lot from the Department of the Air Force's initial disparity review and we know we'll learn much more from this second review as well," Roth said.

In directing the IG review, the senior leaders emphasized the need for further analysis. stating that "Ensuring fair and equitable discipline and development for all our Airmen and Guardians is critical. We are

committed to promoting an environment free from personal, social and institutional barriers that might prevent our members from rising to their highest potential. Diversity makes us a stronger and more capable force."

Findings of the follow-up review will be released in conjunction with the results of a 6-month assessment of actions taken in response to the initial racial disparity review.

In the coming days, enlisted, civilian and officer Airmen and Guardians across the services will receive an anonymous email survey from the DAF IG and facilitated by the Air Force Survey Office.

"It is critical that we hear from you because you are a central part of the solution,"

# Sergeant revisits suicide attempt

43rd Air Mobility **Operations Group** 

POPE FIELD, North Carolina — Joining the military and completing basic training is difficult enough without additional obstacles, U.S. Air Force Air Force Base, Guam, along Technical Sgt. Alex West would have been more than happy if those were the only things he encountered. Unfortunately, there was much more.

The current 43rd Air Base family. Squadron Munitions Inspector grew up in rural Tennessee with his mother and older brother. Living in a single parent home and constantly on the move to stay in housing, there wasn't much money to go around. Looking for something to be involved in and thinking about post-high school life, he joined the Air Force JROTC at Franklin County High School in Winchester, Tennessee, to explore potential career op-

Since college was out of the question due to financial constraints, he found that the values he adopted in JROTC pointed him to the Air Force.

He was eager to join. In fact, so eager that he joined at the age of 17 with his mother's per-

He zoomed through basic training and received his first assignment to Andersen with his best friend from tech school. Before leaving the country, he visited home to propose to his girlfriend, Allison, and spend time with his

There was much to celebrate in the household with Alex on his way to his first assignment and new career, an engagement to his high school sweetheart, and his brother, Corev, had just been released from jail after a 24-month sen-

> Everything had come together for the young Airman. Just as quickly, everything turned sideways.

> A few days before he was scheduled to depart for Guam, he received a call that Corey had committed suicide. While the situation was obviously terrible, Alex was thankful he did

> > **See SERGEANT Page 18**



Star Jech

# 60th LRS expands commercial driver training

60TH AIR MOBILITY WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

FEBRUARY 26, 2021

TRAVIS AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. — The idiom goes "Kill two birds with one stone." Base, California, is aiming to do the old saying one better: "Get two licenses with one

As of December 2020, 60th LRS ground transportation operators have been subject to a new, more rigorous certification process for their driving credentials in the interest of aligning their own curriculum with that of their private sector counterparts like the Department of Motor Vehicles.

The benefit of the new process is twofold, said Patrick McCarthy, 60th LRS ground transportation manager.

"Our new training requirements don't just churn out more confident drivers," minted Even Exchange Program, military drivers can now apply the experience they've gained to waive the knowledge and skills tests for a civilian Commercial Driver's License. This sets our veterans up for a iob on the outside that can po-

tentially pay up to six figures." McCarthy explained that the American Association of

**Senior Airman Christian Conrad** vehicle rental to perform the happen to find themselves." driving test, a fee for the writ-

"In the end, it lowers the cost of entry into an indus-The 60th Logistics Readiness try that's historically about 20 Squadron at Travis Air Force to 25 percent undermanned," he explained. "That pays dividends not only for the trucking industry at large, but also for those who get out of the service without much lined up. With this, we make that transition to the private sector more of a bridge for them instead of a cliff."

Staff Sgt. Patrick Eglinton, 60th LRS equipment support noncommissioned officer in charge, is one Airman who's seen the program grow from its infancy to what's now a program that's either been implemented or in the implementation process in 26 states.

For Eglinton, who's expressed his desire to make the military his career, the he said. "Through the newly-program represents a way of training military truck drivers in a more holistic way that brings to bear a host of situations they might've otherwise never been exposed to.

"When we say we made a military equivalency program that serves to satisfy the requirements and standards of the private sector, we're talkthe program, co-sponsored by ing about all 50 states," Eglinton said. "We're not training Motor Vehicle Administrators our people to just drive on a as well as the Department of flat-grade flight line. Our driv-Transportation, has interest- ing tests make sure to expose ed applicants pay a small ac- our Airmen to all kinds of tercreditation fee for their civil- rain and situations so that they ian licenses instead of multiple won't only succeed at Trafees: a fee for the commercial vis AFB, but anywhere they

Whether an Airman wants ten test and a fee for the license to stay in the service as a career or do a four-year enlistment and separate, it's the Air Force's desire to see everyone who chooses to defend their country cared for and successful, Eglinton said.

"At the end of the day, everyone in a uniform rose their right hand to serve our country, and now it's the country's hope to serve them in return," he said.

The Even Exchange Program is currently active on some level in 26 states with plans to become active in the remaining 24, according to McCarthy. Plans to allow Department of Defense civilian workers to participate in the program are also in develop-



U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Joel Wilson, 60th Logistics Readiness Squadron ground transportation operator, backs up a bus as part of a commercial vehicle evaluation Feb. 17 at Travis Air Force Base, California. As of Feb. 9, 26 states either currently or are working to waive Commercial Driver's License knowledge and skills tests for certain trained and experienced military drivers.

Served-You\Save





Deborah Skelton, Airman's Attic program director, sorts through various donations in the backroom of the Airman's Attic Oct. 17, 2020, at Travis Air Force Base, California. The Airman's Attic offers a variety of goods at no cost to service members and their families.

# Airman's Attic helps save money on goods

Statt Sgt. Ryan Green

349TH AIR MOBILITY WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

TRAVIS AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. — It can be tough saving money, especially with borrow anything from clothtoday's ever-rising costs.

Travis Air Force Base in California has made it a mission over the years to help service managing the Airman's Atmembers save money and provide them with any necessary vice members. The experience items they may need for free.

That organization is the Airman's Attic at Travis Air Force Base, which is open to all service members, whether they and have always volunteered are active duty, reservists or

rive here at Travis without items or are still waiting came up with an opening to run for their stuff to arrive from

overseas or another state," says Deborah Skelton, Airman's Attic program director and facility manager. "We have a loan locker where they can ing to household goods and we Luckily, one organization at even have a food pantry that is stocked several times a month."

> Since 2018, Skelton has been tic and offering support sergives her a sense of joy and fuels her passion to help people.

"I've always been very passionate about helping people with other entities from care homes to schools wherever I "Sometimes members ar- could get the opportunity," said Skelton. "The Airman's Attic

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CENTURY 21

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# **DoD targets multiple** priorities in virus battle

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE NEWS

WASHINGTON, D.C. — When the COVID-19 virus spread to the United States. the Defense Department took on many roles: protecting its people, supporting the national pandemic response, and ensuring the armed forces were ready to meet DOD's national security mission, a department official said Feb. 23.

Robert G. Salesses, performing the duties of assistant secretary of defense for homeland defense and global security, Feb. 23 addressed DOD's work during the pandemic at a virtual meeting of the National Defense Transportation Association's Gov-Travels, its new symposium for government travel and passenger service.

DOD is actively implementing President Joe Biden's new national strategy on COVID-19, he said. And DOD's priorities going forward are aimed at education, reinforcing mitigation efforts, expanding testing capability,



Robert G. Salesses, performing the duties of assistant secretary of defense for homeland defense and global security, discusses the Defense Department's many roles during the pandemic at a virtual meeting of the National Defense Transportation Association's GovTravels, its new symposium for travel and passenger service.

tinuing to support the nation.

"You can imagine the Department of Defense with 2.2 million people in uniform and 700,000 civilians in the contract workforce," he said, adding that communication was and is - vital when put- lectively, has been significant ting in place restrictions of

getting the vaccine and con- movement, social distancing, mask wearing and other mitigation measures. The 15.000 COVID-19 tests that are administered every day are also critical in controlling the spread of the virus.

> "That kind of work, col-See BATTLE Page 16

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# Events, info set for Nutrition Month

60TH OPERATIONAL READINESS MEDICINE SQUADRON HEALTH PROMOTION COORDINATOR

March is National Nutrition Month – an annual campaign created by the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics.

This year's theme is "Personalize Your Plate." It emphasizes that everyone is different and, due to varying backgrounds, health conditions, body types and goals, there is no singular approach to nutrition and health.

To celebrate National Nutrition Month and bring awareness healthy eating and maintaining a healthy weight, Travis Health Promotion is coordinating the following events:

• 3-5 p.m. March 4 – Informational table in the Travis Fitness Center lobby promoting healthy eating, weight management, supplement safety and the importance of physical activity. Hosted by the health promotion coordinator and health promotion registered dietician, there will be a giveaway of National Nutrition Month-themed prizes, goodie bags and heath promotion swag to those who stop by and ask questions.

• 11 a.m. to noon March 12 – Cooking demonstration hosted by Mckinzie Alston at the commissary. The demonstration will provide samples and showcase ways to make healthy, satisfying and tasty smoothies. There will be National Nutrition Month-themed giveaways, healthy cooking recipes and health promotion swag to take

• March 23 – Staff from the Health Promotion and Nutritional Medicine office are visiting the Youth Center to provide healthy eating education. There will be games and activities to reinforce the benefits of healthy

• 4. March 25 - Healthy eating briefing in the First Term Airman Center. The briefing will focus on the needs of young Airmen by providing tips and strategies to healthy eating despite the unique barriers they face. National Nutrition Monththemed prizes and health promotion swag will be given to those in attendance.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention defines a healthy weight as a body mass index within the range of 18.5 to 24. Individuals with a BMI below 18.5 are considered to be "underweight;" those with a BMI greater than 24.9 are considered to be "overweight" or

In the U.S., the prevalence of adults considered to be overweight and/or obese is 71.6%, with obesity being recognized as the second-highest cause of preventable death secondary to numerous, weight-related health issues such as heart disease, type 2 diabetes, stroke, and some cancers.

While a BMI exceeding 24.9 may be associated with multiple comorbidities and poor health outcomes, it is important to note that BMI is simply a metric used to help screen for weight categories predictive of potential health concerns,

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U.S. Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Charles Cambern, a hospital corpsman, holds up a numbered sign as patients circle through to receive the **COVID-19** vaccine as part of Operation Warp Speed at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland.

# **Study investigates** impact of COVID-19

**Military Health System Communications Office** 

es' Infectious Disease Clinical Research Program is leading

a multi-year study to identify risk factors for COVID-19 in the military population, under-The Uniformed Services stand the symptoms and University of the Health Scienc- disease course, and investigate

See STUDY Page 15



# Desert Storm's end hits 30 years

SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

ARLINGTON, Va. — Even before it began, before the first tactical decision and the first sortie flown, the 1991 conflict that would become known as Desert Storm acquired a notable profile.

Today, 30 years after combat ended on Feb. 28, 1991, Desert Storm's influence on the United States military. and Space Force, remain substantial and entrenched.

For any student of history, Desert Storm's accounting is well known. The U.S. and its allies flew more than 116.000 combat air sorties and dropped 88,500 tons of bombs over a six-week period that preceded the ground campaign. The air bombardment was so successful that the ground campaign was over in 100 hours.

Desert Storm was the first time stealth aircraft were used in a major way. It also tem was used in combat to



and especially the Air Force Thirty years after combat ended on Feb. 28, 1991, Desert Storm's influence on the United States military, and especially the Air Force and Space Force, remain substantial and entrenched. The U.S. and its allies flew more than 116.000 combat air sorties and dropped 88.500 tons of bombs over a six-week period that preceded the ground campaign.

> featured an extensive use of intercept and defeat Scud misprecision-guided munitions. All of it was effective. The ground campaign began after six weeks of sustained air attacks drove Iraqi forces out of Kuwait in four days.

There are other notable

Desert Storm was the first time the Patriot missile sys-

siles. It was also the first time the Air Force relied heavily on stealth and space systems to support capabilities against a modern, integrated air defense.

Desert Storm, said Chief of Space Operations Gen. Jav Raymond, "is the first time

See DESERT Page 12

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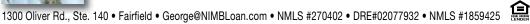
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# Travis AFB Airmen advance Tuskegee lineage



U.S. Air Force photos/Senior Airman Jonathon Carnel

1) U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Tiandra Reid. 60th Aeromedical Evacuation Medical technician. looks outside the door of a C-5M Super Galaxy, Feb. 20, at Joint Base Charleston, South Carolina. Reid was one of 27 crew members who flew a heritage flight, honoring Black service members and aviators. 2) U.S. Airmen pose for a group photo in a C-5M Feb. 19 at Travis Air Force Base, California. 3) U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Kirk Gibson, 6th Air Refueling Squadron KC-10A Extender flight engineer, stands in a C-5M Feb. 19 at Travis AFB.

**Senior Airman Jonathon Carnell** 

60TH AIR MOBILITY WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

TRAVIS AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. – "In the Air Force we all have a family, but (for) an all-Black crew to come together and achieve such a remarkable thing is nothing short of amazing," said Capt. David Brown, 22nd Airlift Squadron pilot and aircraft commander.

A crew of 27 Black Airmen from Travis Air Force Base, California, flew a heritage flight on a C-5M Super Galaxy honoring Tuskegee Airmen Feb. 19-21 — a rare feat as only two percent of the Air Force are pilots and only two percent of those pilots are Black, according to Gen. Charles Q. Brown Jr., Air Force Chief of Staff.

"When I was a captain, I did an interview for Air Force Times, and it talked about the percentage of African Americans that were pilots," stated Gen. Brown in an article published by Airman Magazine in December 2020. "It was two percent. That was 30 years ago. You know what it is right now? It's still two percent."

Capt. Brown explained that the historic mission was intended to demonstrate that any minority group could be an aviator in the Air Force, and it was deeply meaningful to the Airmen involved.

"This was a once in a lifetime flight," said Capt. Brown. "Being part of an all-Black crew is kind of like having someone on board who gets everything about you. I believe something like this should happen multiple times a year."

Capt. Jeff Jordan, 321st Air Mobility Operations Squadron C-17 Globemaster III pilot and a thirdgeneration service member, echoed Capt. Brown's sentiment.

"When I was a young boy, I never envisioned being a pilot," said Jordan. "I never saw a Black pilot before, so I never considered flying a plane even though that was my

Today, Jordan is a part of the small percentage of Black aviators that Gen. Brown discussed, something Jordan said he hopes changes in the future.

close friendship to first lady Eleanor but never saw combat action. to lobby against segregation and for and universities.

Tuskegee Airmen's roots go back to World War II

 Eleanor convinced the Rosenwald Fund to expand the pilot training program at Tuskegee. Early in the year, Eleanor visited the Tuskegee Institute's Moton Airfield, asking the chief flight instructor, Charles A. "Chief" Anderson, if he would take her flying. Despite extreme objections from the Secret Service, Eleanor spent more than an hour flying

icated, determined young men who volunteered to become America's first Black military Airmen. Those who possessed the physical and mental qualifications and were accepted for aviation cadet training were trained initially to be pilots, to become pilots, navigators or bombardiers. Tuskegee University was awarded the U.S. Army Air Corps contract to help train America's first Black military aviators because it had already invested in the development of an airfield, had a proven civilian pilot training program and its graduates performed highest on flight aptitude exams.

The all-Black 332nd Fighter Group consisted originally of four fighter squadrons: the 99th, the 100th, the 301st and the 302nd. The 477th Bombardment Group consisted of four bomber squadrons: the the U.S. military forces.

generations.

Part of the crew's trip included a visit to Naval Air Station Cecil Field, Florida, where 30 Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps cadets toured the aircraft and interacted with the crew — an experience that had a profound impact on one cadet.

"We had a young Black man in the cockpit and he couldn't help but get emotional when he saw four Black pilots," said Jordan. "He left our air-"Being one who is in the two for us, and it is imperative that we craft and said, 'This changed my life. feels surreal."

Roosevelt's "Black cabinet" and her 616th, 617th, 618th and the 619th,

From 1941-1946, some 1,000 Black pilots were trained at Tuskegee. The Airmen's success in escorting bombers during World War II – having one of the lowest loss records of all the escort fighter groups, and being in constant demand for their services by the allied bomber units – is a record unmatched by any other fighter group.

The 99th Squadron distinguished itself by being awarded two Presidential Unit Citations (June-July 1943 and May 1944) for outstanding tactical air support and aerial combat in the 12th Air Force in Italy, before joining the 332nd Fight-

The 332nd Fighter group was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation for its longest bomber escort mission to Berlin, Germany, on March 24, 1945. During this mission, the Tuskegee Airmen - then known as the "Red Tails" - destroyed three German ME-262 jet fighters and damaged five additional jets. The tenacious bomber escort cover provided by the 332nd "Red Tail" fighters often discouraged enemy fighter pilots from attacking bombers escorted by the 332nd Fighter Group.

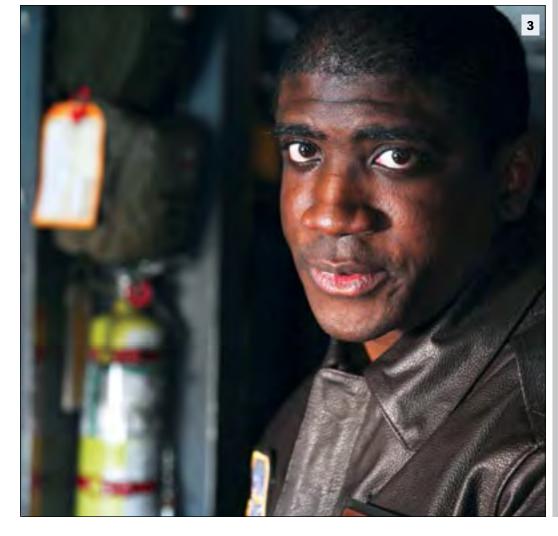
In 1948, President Harry Truman enacted Executive Order No. 9981, directing equality of treatment and opportunity in all of the U.S.Armed Forces, which in time led to the end of racial segregation in

You all look like me, laugh like me, we are the same, and I know I can pursue this life. I can do this."

That is the goal of an experience like this, Capt. Brown said.

"Believe in yourself," he said. "I'm not supposed to be here — I'm from a small conservative background, no planes around, airfields or any of that. Being able to come out of that environment, make something of myself and be a pilot in the United States Air Force as a minority





CHAPTER HISTORIAN integrating the pilot program. The A 1925 study conducted by the key was to get the government to U.S. military concluded that "Blacks open training programs on the camdidn't have the intelligence, ability puses of historically Black colleges or coordination to fly airplanes."

In 1938, President Franklin D. Roosevelt announced an expansion of the civil pilot training program. However, due to the strict and segregated nature of the military, the NAACP and various Black newspapers began pressing to make sure African Americans would be included. In response, Roosevelt announced the Army Air Corps would also train Black pilots. All training over the Tuskegee airfield. would be conducted at the Tuskegee The Tuskegee Airmen were ded-Army Air Field in Alabama, which was under construction at the time

of the announcement. There were three women, whom without them, the Tuskegee Airmen may not have existed. Mary McLeod Bethune, Willa Beatrice Brown and Eleanor Roosevelt played vital parts in the integration of the pilot program as well as in the African American interest in aviation.

• Brown, one of two women in the all-Black Challenger Air Pilots Association, was one of approximately 100 licensed, Black pilots in the entire country and was also the first African American woman to receive a commission as a lieutenant in the U.S. Civil Air Patrol.

**Aubrev Matthews** 

LEE A. ARCHER JR. TRAVIS AFB

• Bethune, a famed educator and head of the National Council of Negro Women, used her authority as the only female member of

percent of the two percent is something I take pride in," Jordan said. "It's also something I want desperately to change."

Jordan said the all-Black flight represents a world of opportunities for Black youth. "Seeing Black leaders in our

schools, communities, Air Force, and honestly anywhere for that matter, redefines what young Black kids set as goals for their lives," said Jordan. "Tuskegee Airmen started the path continue to pave the road for future

12 TAILWIND FEBRUARY 26, 2021

# Desert

From Page 9

that we integrated strategic space capabilities into the theater for operational advantage."

Desert Storm was also the first war since the adoption in the 1970s of the Total Force policy, which made the services far more dependent than previously on the National Guard and the Re-

Gen. Charles Q. Brown, Jr., notes the "firsts" achieved during Desert Storm and their continuing legacy.

Yet while that legacy is

alliances and partners.

Desert Storm, he said, fostered a new set of alliances that have remained mostly steadfast - and mutually beneficial – since the war ended.

"Allies; that's the one thing that's been constant since then," he said. "You build these relationships with allies and partners and that pays huge dividends." The benefits derived from combined operations, exercises and collaborations over the years continue to demonstrate their Air Force Chief of Staff importance whether the adversary is ISIS or a peer competitor or a humanitarian effort. Brown said.

It's true that by the time combat operations began on significant. Brown main- Jan. 17, 1991 following Iraq's tains that another major - invasion and annexation of and often underappreciat- Kuwait, 39 countries included – feature of the campaign ing the United States, several is the importance of strong Arab states, NATO partners

and others had formed a cohesive coalition.

It was a potent and effective force. By the time fighting ended 43 days after it to the success of the effort began, the force, which included 697,000 service men and women from the United States, overwhelmed Iraqi forces.

Desert Storm also did something else: it rearranged and updated American warfighting strategies in a way that maximized new technologies and spawned new tactics and doctrines. It showed the importance of space and stealth, of using a truly multidomain strategy and using a Force Lt. Gen. S. Clinton Hi-"Total Force" doctrine.

Nowhere is that more true than the military use of guirements. space.

Desert Storm is recognized as the first true "space" to trace the roots of the Space war," one that used GPS, Force to Desert Storm.

precision-guided weapons and satellite communication. Those technologies and tools were central - and essential rather than cobbled on as an

accessorv.

And unlike previous conflicts, Desert Storm utilized the "Total Force" concept in which the National Guard and Reserve played crucial and expanded roles.

"The seeds of an independent Space Force were absolutely sown during Desert Storm. Up until Desert Storm, most people thought of space as an add-on," said Air note, deputy chief of staff for Strategy, Integration and Re-

It's not an overstatement, historians and analysts say,

# **Pilch**

From Page 4

talk to him, and during a tussle, she fell and hit her neck on something that left a mark. Mike is at his wits' end, and he doesn't come out and say he is going to hurt himself, but it's implied.

Eventually, you are prompted by Mike's demeanor that he needs help, and you ask him to come with you to see the first sergeant.

The training closes with Dungy talking about his connection to the Air Force, the subject matter and the importance of resiliency and these conversations.

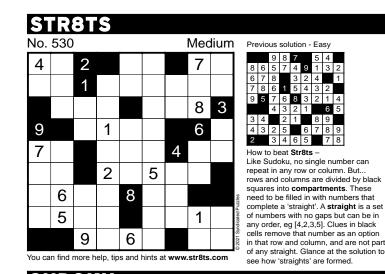
"We need to have these tough conversations because they will help us get to that spiritual strength," Dungy said, "This is something that happens as a community and the more we can encourage the tough conversations, the stronger we'll get, together."

# **Puzzles**

Below left are last week's missing puzzles as well as solutions for the Feb. 12 edition. Solutions for the No. 530 puzzles are located on Page 15. Below right are this week's scheduled puzzles. Their solutions will appear as scheduled in the March 6 edition. The Tailwind thanks its readers for their patience.

other puzzles, check out our books,

iPhone/iPad Apps and much more or



The solutions will be published here in the next issue.

SUDOKU No. 530 Very Hard Previous solution - Tough 2 3 5 5 9 5 9 6 7 2 4 8 5 3 1 4 To complete Sudoku, fill the board by entering numbers 1 to 9 such 8 3 | 5 contains every number uniquely. 7 | 8 For many strategies, hints and tips visit **www.sudokuwiki.org** 6

STR8TS No. 531 Tough 5 3

SUDOKU

No. 531 Easy 5 9 8 6 4 6 3 7 3 9 2 | 8 |

The solutions will be published here in the next issue.

# **Prevention** From Page 4

because before Airmen can accept the new training, leaders need to first.

"I think this is a great opportunity to see how technology is being used to leverage a similar experience to that of a pilot," said Lt. Col. Glenn Cameron, 60th Civil Engineering Squadron commander and participant in the VR training. "This allows you to have an experience of a tor who doesn't feel like scenario before you're actually in it."

Cameron leads one of the largest squadrons on base, and having this training available to his Airmen is something he thinks would benefit them all, from the youngest to the oldest Airman because these conversations

are not easy to have. "We're having wing leadership come in because their feedback is vital to making sure that we get this program right," Dougherty said. "We have to have the best solution to roll it out and reach as many Airmen as possi-

Dougherty said being immersed in to a VR fair.'

"It's a pretty intense experience. to be honest."

> - Lt. Col. Glenn Cameron

experience with dialoguebased training makes the conversation feel real.

"It's a pretty intense experience, to be honest," Cameron said. "You actually see a bona fide acanything except a real human being talking to you. and he gives you real answers, and there's an interaction that gives you an opportunity to see when you cheese it up, he calls vou out."

Cameron also said it was an honest and emotional experience.

"AMC is preoccupied with suicide, predicting duress, modeling and intervening at our earliest opportunity," said West. "The VR training increases our sensitivity to the subtleties and sub-threshold warnings necessary to make a positive difference. This is a family afFEBRUARY 26, 2021 TAILWIND 13 14 TAILWIND FEBRUARY 26, 2021

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# local worship services

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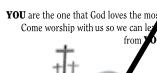
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Adult Studies.. ..2:00 pm AWANA for Kids .... ...6:15 pm Adult & Youth Studies ......6:30 pm

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Sunday Morning Warship	10 A
Sunday Evening Torship	6 P
Wed. Evening lible Study	7 P
Homele's ministry at Missio	n Solano

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7:00 pm Contemplative Prayer Come Home to Unity It's Like Blue Jeans for the Soul





FEBRUARY 26, 2021 TAILWIND 15 16 TAILWIND

# Study

From Page 9

clinical outcomes.

Epidemiology, Immunology, and Clinical Characteristics of Emerging Infectious Diseases with Pandemic Potential - or EPICC – study hopes to inform the Military Health System on ways to improve the patient care and treatment, infection, and disease prevention of those with COVID-19. USU is working in partnership with a network of military commands, treatment facilities, and laboratories across the country for EPICC.

Findings from the study "will support further understanding of the impact of SARS-COV-2 infection on active-duty readiness, acute and chronic clinical outcomes, the effectiveness of new treatments and vaccines, and address questions related to the emergence of new variants and their clinical impact," said Dr. Brian Agan, deputy science director of IDCRP and principal investigator of the study.

The study is also evaluating how long the immune response to the COVID-19 vaccines lasts, breakthrough infections which happen when a vaccinated individual becomes sick from

Previous solution - Medium

4 5 6 9 7 8 3

2 3 5 1 4

4 1 2 3

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the same illness the vaccination Burgess. "Particularly, health is designed to prevent – and how they behave over time, and estimating vaccine effectiveness, said Agan, who is also an employee of the Henry M. Jackson Foundation for the Advancement of Military Medicine, Inc.

Department of Defense service members and MHS beneficiaries of any age with COVID-19-like illness who are admitted to the hospital or treated as outpatients at an EPICC site can join. Likewise, those 18 years or older who have been tested for COVID-19, whether they tested positive or negative, can participate in the online portion of the study, which includes self-collected blood specimens for se-

lected participants. The protocol was recentupdated to also enroll COV-ID-19 vaccine recipients and will initiate recruitment upon approval, said Navy Capt. (Dr.) Timothy Burgess, program director of IDCRP, who oversees the study. Eligible beneficiaries who are interested in participating in EPICC can submit an online screening form to join.

"In addition, asymptomatic individuals with a high risk of exposure are also eligible for enrollment in EPICC, which includes health care workers and close contacts of cases," said

Previous solution - Very Hard

7 5 2 3 9 1 8 6 4

6 3 9 4 8 2 1 5 7

4 8 1 6 7 5 9 3 2

1 4 6 9 3 7 5 2 8

2 9 5 1 4 8 3 7 6

8 7 3 5 2 6 4 1 9

5 1 7 8 6 4 2 9 3

9 6 4 2 5 3 7 8 1

3 2 8 7 1 9 6 4 5

Feb. 19 puzzle solutions

Ready to shed that quarantine cyt? Tired of cytting

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care workers who have received a COVID-19 vaccination will be an important population for studies to examine vaccine ef-

> Data from inpatient, outpatient, and online participants, including their clinical characteristics, comorbidities, the clinical course of their illness, treatment, immunology, and outcomes, is being collected for the study.

fectiveness and outcomes."

"Ouestionnaires are provided to enrollees to collect information on demographics, symptoms at initial presentation and chronic or persisting symptoms during follow-up, exposure history, and lifestyle factors," said Burgess. "Clinical and research specimens collected from enrollees are examined using molecular, serological, and other immune assays in collaboration USU and non-USU

partner laboratories."

Initiated in March 2020, EPICC is expected to continue enrolling participants at least through March 2022, or for knowledge gaps related to this disease, explained Agan.

are actively followed for one year to fully capture specimens and data including chronic outfollowed for up to four additional as vears through electronic medical record review," Agan said.

EPICC is being conducted at 10 military medical treatment facilities throughout the United States:

- Brooke Army Medical Texas
- Carl R. Darnall Army Medical Center in Fort Hood. Texas
- Fort Belvoir Community

Hospital in Fort Belvoir, Vir-

- Joint Base Lewis-Mc-Chord, Washington
- Naval Medical Center as long as needed to fill in the Portsmouth in Portsmouth, Vir-
- Naval Medical Center San "Once enrolled, participants Diego in San Diego, California
  - Tripler Army Medical Center in Honolulu, Hawaii
- William Beaumont Army comes and sequelae and will be Medical Center in El Paso, Tex-
  - Womack Army Medical Center in Fort Bragg, North Carolina
  - · Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda. Marvland

By the first week of Febru-Center in Fort Sam Houston, ary, more than 1,600 active-duty service members and MHS beneficiaries had enrolled in EPICC, the majority of whom are being treated as outpatients, said Agan.





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# **Nutrition**

From Page 8

suggesting that individuals with a BMI greater than 24.9 can also achieve peak performance and optimal health.

It is generally assumed that military members are among the fittest individuals in the U.S. Currently, 41% of active duty members stationed at Travis Air Force Base, California, are considered to have a healthy weight, suggesting that 59% may be overweight or obese.

Additionally, roughly only 24% of active-duty members are consuming the daily recommended amounts of fruits and vegetables, and 78% of activeduty members are meeting the recommended guidelines for cardiovascular and resistance training. Alternatively, 63% of active-duty members are consuming beverages loaded with sugar.

Current nutrition guidelines for maintaining a healthy weight are: 1) follow a healthy eating pattern across the lifespan, 2) customize and enjoy nutrient-dense food and beverages, 3) focus on meeting at 707-423-7867.

ent-dense foods and beverages, and stay within calorie limits, 4) limit foods and beverages higher in sugars, saturated fat and sodium, and limit alcoholic beverages. As outlined by the USDA, the nutritional goal is to consume less than 10% of calories from added sugar, less than 10% of calories from saturated fats and consume less than 2.300 milligrams of sodium per Adapting healthier eating

food group needs with nutri-

FEBRUARY 26, 2021

habits and following the recommended dietary guidelines will drastically improve overall health and aid in maintaining a healthy weight - and Health Promotion and Nutritional Medicine is here to help. Health Promotions offers tons of squadron-level educational materials, briefings, incentive-based challenges, tips and strategies and healthy eating policies.

The Nutritional Medicine Clinic offers group lifestyle balance and lifestyle performance medicine classes, body composition testing and one on one counseling.

For more information, call Health Promotions at 707-423-7417 and/or Nutrition Medicine

# **Battle**

From Page 8

for the nation and for the Defense Department," he said, noting that nearly 990.000 doses of vaccine have been administered across DOD, so far.

"We have to adapt and evolve as we see the situation," Salesses said. It became clear that the medical professionals were needed around the country. so DOD adapted by providing medical professionals to help out in public and private hospitals.

Additionally, the Army Corps of Engineers designed and built 38 alternate-care facilities to house patients in multiple states. The National Guard has been on the frontlines of the COVID-19 mission. At the height of the pandemic crisis, there were more than 47,000 National Guard members deployed, he said. "They were supporting testing and emergency medical care and public health efforts in different states and territories, communications, transportation [and] logistics. And, even today, we have over 28,000 National Guard deployed around the states and territories, assisting the state and local officials.'



Department of Defense photo/Lisa Ferdinando

Robert G. Salesses, performing the duties of assistant secretary of defense for homeland defense and global security, discusses the Defense Department's many roles during the pandemic at a virtual meeting of the National Defense Transportation Association's GovTravels, its new symposium for government travel and passenger service.

The Defense Department was in- Health and Human Services and vacstrumental in supporting federal, state cine manufacturers has now led to the and local partners, he noted. For ex- distribution of about 78 million vaccine portant to put aggressive mitigation ample, a public-private partnership doses, while about 59 million vaccinaamong DOD, the federal Department of tions have been administered, he said.

"There's been tremendous work done over the last year, and, in particular, over the last couple of months with the Biden administration to make sure the vaccine is going to be available and implemented," Salesses said. "And one of the initiatives [Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III] made clear on his first day [was] that DOD must move further and faster to counter this pandemic. To that end, DOD is partnering right now with [HHS, the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Centers for Disease Control] and state and local authorities to stand up mega and large vaccine centers."

DOD has also been focused on CO-VID-19 internationally. "A lot of great work was being done with our allies and partners, he said, adding that the department has helped more than 143 countries with testing, diagnostics, medical supplies and equipment.

As the United States continues to operate in a COVID-19 environment and go forward, it's vital to have strategic communications with coherent and consistent messaging so people know what's expected of them. It's also immeasures in place to get the vaccine out to be more effective as a nation.

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Sergeant

From Page 5

have the brief experience and training from the military. He was the most prepared person in the family to manage the stress and commotion that came along with an unexpected and devastating loss of a loved one.

But he wasn't alone.

When Alex called his friend to inform him what happened and that his arrival in Guam would be delayed, he responded, "It doesn't matter when you get here, I'll be here for you." Turns out, there were a whole lot more in his support network than he ever could have realized.

After spending extra time at home making sure his family was OK, he left for the other side of the world while having to process a slew of stress from loss, grief, a long distance relationship, unfamiliar surroundings, a new job, and the struggles of newfound adulthood Through it all, the Air Force family was

"During the most transitory time I had ever experienced, the one constant I could embrace was the wingmen I met along the way, including my supervisor," West remembers. "With their help,

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U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Alex West, 43rd Air Base Squadron munitions inspector, poses with his wife, Allison, during a vacation. West recently shared his experiences with suicide to help others.

support structure and mentors I knew I could count on no matter what."

encountered. "Until recently, only my very close friends and supervisor knew His only true regret is that he hasn't what happened," West said. "I realize shared this experience sooner so that now that by not sharing my experienc-I was able to seek counseling and have a others can learn from the obstacles he es, not only did I close myself off to more were there for me when I needed it most.'

"As Airmen, we need to be ready to support them and get them the help they need."

- Tech. Sgt. Alex West

avenues of support, but I also did a disservice to my wingmen who may have needed to hear my story."

He shares his experiences to help fellow Airmen should they ever have something similar occur in their life, telling them that "Something like this may never happen to you, but there may come a time when it will happen to a loved one, a coworker, or even a supervisor. As Airmen, we need to be ready to support them and get them the help they need."

Now 10 years later, he remains friends with the men and women who were there for him. He's still married to the woman that he proposed to at 18. And, he is still thankful for all of them.

"Thanks to the foundation of support in the Air Force, I know the value of wingmanship and mentorship like few others. I don't think I would be the same man that I am today without those who



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# **Heritage** From Page 2

Tobiere hopes it will become more than just a celebration, but a catalyst for deeper con-Household • Commercial • Warehousing • Boat & RV versation – something he feels is vital for the Air Force mov-

> ing forward. "This flight is awesome because like that tough conversation about race, diversity and unconscious bias, it is starting to become the 'norm," he explained. "Instead of this flight making people feel uncomfortable, it should give them an opportunity to reflect. If nothing else, it's a fantastic conversation starter, which is the first and most important step in changing the Air Force for the

As the flight lands, Tobiere again reflects on the Tuskegee Airmen. What America had they lived in, and perhaps more importantly, what about it, despite the flood of abuse and injustice they'd faced, was worth fighting for, dying for and, ultimately, making better?

"The first black pilots were

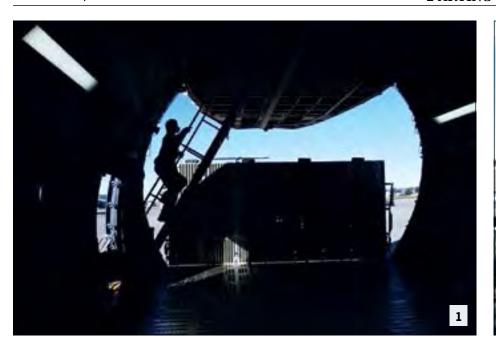


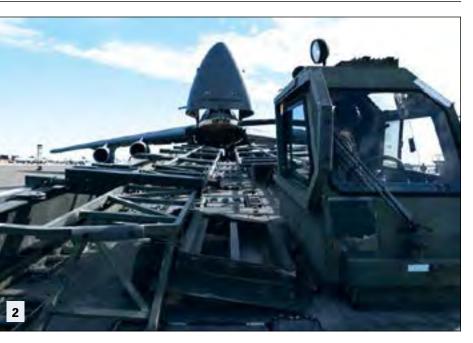
U.S. Airmen pose for a group photo in a C-5M Super Galaxy Feb. 19 at Travis Air Force Base, California. Twenty-seven crew members flew a heritage flight, honoring Black service members and aviators.

perseverance and being resilient, they're a perfect example. I owe my life to every American who fought and died so that I can be free. That's a given. to the Tuskegee Airmen who fought for a country that didn't trained in 1940," he said. support them and treated them forting.'

"Racial segregation wasn't as less than human. That's why banned until the 1960s, so I think it's important to rememwhen you talk about dedication, ber and honor these trailblaz-

"We are not a perfect organization. We have failed each other in more ways than one, but I do have hope that we can But we owe this conversation turn this around. I don't know when, but for the first time, I do know how, and that's comFEBRUARY 26, 2021 Parting Shots TAILWIND 19 20 TAILWIND





# Two Travis wings team up for C-5M training

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

1) U.S. Air Force Airman 1st Class Molly Connors, 22nd **Airlift Squadron loadmaster** apprentice, walks up the stairs of a C-5M Super Galaxy Feb. 17 at Travis Air Force Base, California. This was Connors' second time having hands-on mission training on the aircraft. 2) **U.S. Air Force Airman 1st** Class Aluko Adedeji, 821st **Contingency Response** Support Squadron aerial port journeyman, awaits direction to maneuver a K-6 loader onto a C-5M Feb. 17 at Travis AFB. Airmen from the 621st **Contingency Response** Wing and 22nd AS trained together loading four pallets and two motorized vehicles onto a C-5M. 3) **U.S. Air Force Airman 1st** Class Angel Castillo, 22nd AS loadmaster apprentice, opens a door on a C-5M Feb. 17 at Travis AFB. Prior to a flight, loadmasters complete a series of checklists to ensure the aircraft is ready for departure.



# **Attic**

From Page 6

the program and I took the opportunity to do that and make it my own, since helping people really brings me joy."

While it is mostly lower ranking individuals that receive aid from Skelton and the Airman's Attic, the organization is open to all service members of any rank. Some who used the Attic in the past, like retired Master Sgt. Chrisalda Jimeno, now even work as volunteers.

"After retiring, I wanted to do something worthwhile that could help out both myself by staying active and everyone else," said Jimeno. "By helping, I feel like I am contributing to the welfare of the people here on base."

The aid from Jimeno and others at the Airman's Attic continues to help many service members, with some getting creative over the years with the treasures it has to offer.

"I found a working projector that was taken apart, but I located all of the parts scattered throughout the Airman's Attic.



U.S. Air Force Airman Dynaeja Nimmons assists customers at the Airman's Attic Oct. 17, 2020, at Travis Air Force Base, California. All ranks and service members are welcome to utilize the Attic, including reservists and spouses.

including all of the necessary cords and tools needed to set up and put it together," said Senior Airman Pierre Brewu, an Inventory Technician for the 60th Logistics Readiness Squadron. "Now I currently use it as my living room television, since I don't have one."

Along with such free items, about to pass away or had althe Attic also strives to make ready passed away," said Skelsure that members and their families know their services are available to them, no matter what the circumstances.

"We got a call one time to get a uniform together for a retired military member who was

ton. "The family could not find his original uniform. We immediately told them to come over to the Airman's Attic and get burial service."

Attic offers, like other services, it is dealing with many restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic and needs more volunteers once those restrictions are loosened. Some activities that volunteers can assist with include sorting the many donations the Attic receives and making sure they are of good quality and are acceptable for service members and their families. In addition, the Attic sometimes receives larger donations, such as furniture, and requires a team to help move the items indoors as well as help load it into the vehicle of a new owner.

FEBRUARY 26, 2021

"Debbie runs a good place and we make sure everything is in order, but we need more volunteers," said Leo Jimeno, Chrisalda's husband and another volunteer. "There's only three of us at the moment and there's a lot to do."

The Airman's Attic is located at 560 Hickam Ave. and is open from 4 to 6 p.m. every Monday and Wednesday as well as Saturday of every primary Reserve Unit Training Assembly from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Memwhatever they needed for his bers can also contact the Attic at 707-424-8740 or through the Despite the aid the Airman's organization's Facebook page.



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