

Air Force recognizes sergeant for being ...

# SELFLESS

PAGES 10-11



**TAILWIND**

# ‘Movember’ stirs discussion about sexual violence

Commentary by Travis Air Force Base Special Victims’ Counsel

## Commentary

‘M’ovember,” as it is sometimes known, is a campaign seeking to raise awareness for various men’s health issues, specifically certain cancers, by growing mustaches.

While this is not as steeped in military tradition as “Mustache March,” in which Airmen honor Brig. Gen. Robin Olds, military installations do see a noticeable rise in crumb catchers each November.

This year, members of the Special Victims’ Counsel community wanted to highlight another societal health issue facing men, which might not be discussed as much as various forms of cancer affecting men or other gender-specific health concerns – sexual assault.

According to the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network, approximately one out of 33 men have experienced an attempted or completed rape in their lifetime. RAINN’s research also estimates that one out of every 10 rape victims are men.

The Department of Defense fiscal year 2019 annual report on sexual assault in the military captured that 980 men identified as an alleged victim of sexual assault and filed unrestricted reports of these crimes during that year. This number accounted for 18% of the unrestricted reports filed in

fiscal year 2019.

Additionally, another 440 men filed restricted reports of sexual assault, which accounts for 21% of restricted reports filed over that same period.

While each victim of sexual assault may face similar perceived barriers for reporting, men may face different barriers than women due to social expectations. These potential differences pose challenges for those advocating for male survivors of sexual assault.

A fear of not being believed, in addition to various control dynamics that often exist, may discourage male victims from reporting. Such challenges also include a view that male victims are less likely than female victims to receive appropriate support. Recognizing challenges specific to male survivors of sexual assault is something an SVC is trained to do in order to better represent their clients in the military justice process.

SVCs can help alleviate these challenges by educating and advising victims about the military justice and administrative action processes, including the differences between restricted and unrestricted reporting. SVCs do this while providing independent legal representation to qualifying victims of certain Uniform Code of Military Justice offenses relating to sexual assault.

Beginning Dec. 1, SVC



Courtesy photo

**U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Chester Rafan, left, special victims’ paralegal, gives a cupcake to Master Sgt. Dominic Durgin-Rodriguez, 60th Comptroller Squadron first sergeant, at Travis Air Force Base, California. Rafan handed out cupcakes to raise awareness about the special victims’ counsel.**

services will expand to certain offenses related to domestic violence. SVCs are able to independently represent clients because they have a separate chain of command from both the perpetrator and victim, allowing for the SVC to advocate without fear of negative repercussions from those chains of command or any perception of bias.

SVCs also ensure their clients, including male victims, have a voice that can be heard at all levels of authority and decision making. This includes

advising clients on providing input regarding who maintains investigative and prosecutorial jurisdiction over the alleged offenses and providing disposition input on what a client believes should happen in a case to the reviewing authorities on a case.

As we continue to work to eliminate all forms of sexual assault from society and our ranks, we must remember that the challenges each victim faces when confronting their assault.

While it may not be the first thing you think about when you

hear “Movember” or “No Shave November,” male sexual assault is a societal health issue deserving attention and awareness.

While the process of confronting sexual assault can be overwhelming to victims, the SVC program is a resource available for all victims, including male victims, to help navigate that process.

For more information, contact the Travis AFB SVC Office at 707-424-1097 located at 540 Airlift Drive, Bldg. 381, Room D-207.

**Tailwind**  
Travis AFB, Calif. | 60th Air Mobility Wing

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Visit the Travis public web site at <http://www.travis.af.mil>. Read the Tailwind online at <http://tailwind.dailyrepublic.net> or by accessing the Travis SharePoint.

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### On the cover

**U.S. Air Force Senior Master Sgt. Marcus Hewett, 6th Air Refueling Squadron superintendent and flight engineer, performs a preflight inspection Nov. 5, 2020, at Travis Air Force Base, California.**

U.S. Air Force photo/Christine Minoda

## Holiday shifts access to base

### Daily Republic Staff Report

Access to Travis Air Force Base, California, will tighten temporarily due to the

Thanksgiving holiday weekend.

On Nov. 26, the hospital gate and visitor’s center will close. The South gate is open only for mission-essential deliveries.

The North gate is open both days from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. The main gate remains open around the clock.

The base observed identical

hours on Nov. 25.

For more information, visit the base’s Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/TravisAirForceBase>.

# MTI of Year attributes win to co-workers

Annette Crawford  
37TH TRAINING WING

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-LACKLAND, Texas — Master Sgt. Roslyn Ball, 319th Training Squadron military training instructor, credits the mentorship and bonds she’s shared with her fellow military training instructors in receiving the 2020 MTI of the Year award.

“The camaraderie of working with such a diverse group of (noncommissioned officers) and senior NCOs is very rewarding. I’ve pushed flights and built bonds with people from a lot of different (Air Force specialty codes) that I may not have interacted with in my previous career field,” Ball said. “These people have mentored me and pushed me far beyond what I thought I was capable of and I’m very appreciative.”

The Columbus, Georgia, native joined the Air Force in January 2003 as an education and training management specialist. She felt she wasn’t ready for college but she also wanted to be completely independent and make her family proud.

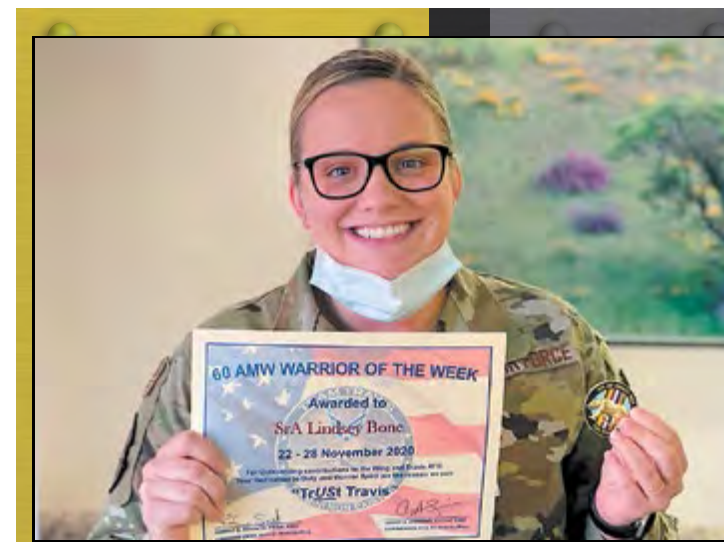
“My family has a military background and I thought about joining every branch before my oldest brother convinced me to join the Air Force,” Ball said. “He was in a different branch of the military and bluntly told me that branch wasn’t for me and that I needed to join the Air Force because they had the best quality of life. To this day I am so thankful for that piece of advice from him.”

See MTI Page 12



U.S. Air Force photo/Johnny Saldivar

**Lt. Col. Raymundo Vann, 323rd Training Squadron commander, Master Sgt. Roslyn Ball, 323rd TRS military training instructor, and Chief Master Sgt. Gabriel Lewis, 323rd TRS superintendent, stand at attention as Ball holds the 2020 Military Training Instructor of the Year award Nov. 5 at the basic military training graduation ceremony at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas.**



Courtesy photo

## WARRIOR OF THE WEEK

**Name:**  
Senior Airman Lindsey Bone.

**Unit:**  
60th Dental Squadron.

**Duty title:**  
Dental assistant.

**Hometown:**  
Traverse City, Michigan.

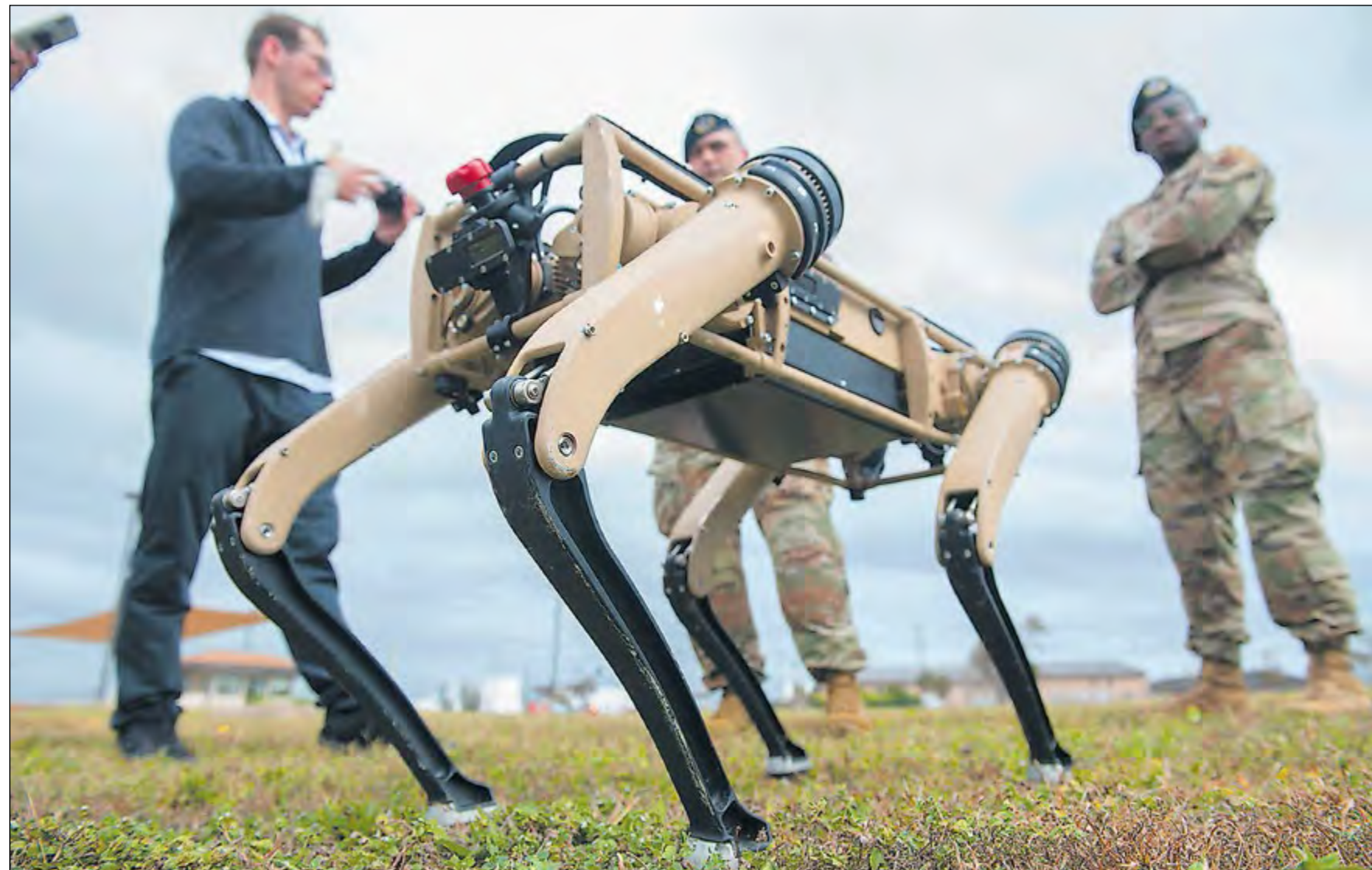
**Time in service:**  
Three years.

**Family:**  
Spouse, Brian Bone; dog, Tucker; expecting a baby boy in March.

**What are your goals?**  
Gathering everything for my baby’s arrival and finishing prerequisites for dental hygiene school.

**What are your hobbies?**  
Spending time with my husband and dog, Tucker, while preparing for my baby.

**What are your greatest achievements?**  
Bachelor’s degree, surviving husband’s short tour and making staff sergeant on the first attempt.



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Tiffany Price

An unmanned ground vehicle is tested Nov. 10 at Tyndall Air Force Base, Florida. Tyndall AFB is one of the first military bases to implement the semi-autonomous UGV's into its defense regiment. The "computerized canines" will aid in reconnaissance and enhanced security patrolling operations across the base.

# Computerized canines to join Tyndall AFB

**Airman 1st Class Tiffany Price**  
325TH FIGHTER WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

TYNDALL AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. — Over the last year, Tyndall Air Force Base and the 325th Security Forces Squadron have been working with Ghost Robotics to develop a system to enhance security and safety for the base population.

Tyndall AFB will be one of the first Air Force bases to implement semi-autonomous robot dogs into their patrolling regiment. These computerized canines demonstrated their abilities Nov. 10 at an event attended by Maj. Gen. Tom Wilcox, Air Force Installation and Mission Support Center commander, and leadership from the 325th Fighter

Wing and the Tyndall AFB Program Management Office.

"We are very excited," said Maj. Jordan Criss, 325th Security Forces Squadron commander. "We are the first unit within the Department of Defense to use this technology for enhanced security patrolling operations."

While these robots walk on all fours and resemble a dog, they are not intended to replace the military working dogs. Instead, they will aid in patrolling operations and, in doing so, allow Tyndall AFB's defenders to focus their efforts on security actions that require a physical presence.

"These robot dogs will be used as a force multiplier for enhanced situational awareness by patrolling areas that

aren't desirable for human beings and vehicles," Criss said.

Criss explained that the robot dogs will be given a patrol path which will be set and monitored by the Security Forces Electronic Security Sensor System noncommissioned officer in charge.

"We will be able to drive them via a virtual-reality headset within our Base Defense Operations Center," Criss said. "We will be able to see exactly what the robot dog is detecting through its mobile camera and sensor platform if desired, we will also be able to issue verbal commands to a person or people through a radio attached to the dogs."

The semi-autonomous canines allow defenders that would otherwise be

patrolling these areas to focus on training, security and overall situational awareness across the base.

"These dogs will be an extra set of eyes and ears while computing large amounts of data at strategic locations throughout Tyndall Air Force Base," Criss said. "They will be a huge enhancement for our defenders and allow flexibility in the posting and response of our personnel."

This technology has the potential to replace and exceed the capabilities of certain static defense equipment especially in a contingency, disaster, or deployed environment. This makes Tyndall AFB, post Hurricane Michael, the perfect home for the Air Force's newest computerized canines.

# COVID-19 tips to stay healthy during pandemic

**Joseph Jones**

MADIGAN ARMY MEDICAL CENTER

MADIGAN ARMY MEDICAL CENTER, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash. — COVID-19 has changed many of our daily routines in a way no one anticipated.

Many of us are at home more to minimize exposure. Isolation and being at home can illicit the temptation to eat snacks high in sodium, junk food and low-quality meals that provide instant gratification for our taste buds rather than nutrient-dense whole foods that can also be delicious.

This is a challenge for many in these times of social distancing and self-isolation.

A day that may have previously included many steps, physical activities like walking from your car at your workplace parking lot twice per day, shopping for groceries, outings with the family or visiting shopping mall are absent for many.

With this unprecedented lifestyle shift, there is a potential for the normalization of a more sedentary lifestyle packed with activities like watching television, sitting while reading for long periods, or sitting at your computer for

longer-than-usual periods of time. We must stay proactive, and in some cases creative, to maintain an active lifestyle in the era of social-distancing.

Even if you are not directly affected by COVID-19, or tested positive, it no doubt has had a drastic impact on your day-to-day routine, which could negatively affect your overall health.

So what are some things we can do to maintain a healthy and active lifestyle and routine while the world around us has adapted to limiting exposure to COVID-19?

- **Stay active:** The gyms may not be open, however, there are lots of safe alternatives to getting physical activity without going against the preventive best practices recommended by the CDC like social distancing and avoiding large crowds. Aerobics can be done successfully at home. Another important point to consider is that avoiding crowds does not mean avoiding nature. Going for a brisk walk or jog outside in uncrowded areas outdoors is still considered relatively safe. Push-ups, sit-ups, jumping-jacks and more exercises are great ways to stay fit away from the gym. For more ideas, visit: <https://www.afcmc.af.mil/>

News/Article-Display/Article/2147181/staying-physically-active-during-covid-19/.

- **Adequate sleep:** Good sleep is essential to our overall health. According to The National Institutes of Health (NIH), a part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the nation's leading medical research agency: "Immune system activation alters sleep, and sleep in turn affects the innate and adaptive arm of our body's defense system." While the amount of sleep needed for good health and optimum performance mostly depends on the individual, the CDC recommends adults age 18-60 years get seven or more hours of sleep per night.

- **Diet and nutrition:** Practicing self-discipline and avoiding "emotional eating" due to stress that may be related to the drastic changes surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic and how it affects our lives is imperative. According to the CDC, whole foods like dark, leafy greens, oranges and tomatoes—even fresh herbs—are loaded with vitamins, fiber and minerals. Make it a habit to try to eat more whole nutritious foods instead of processed



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

U.S. Army Pvt. Daniel Murtagh, a combat medic specialist assigned to the 1st Squadron, 40th Cavalry Regiment (Airborne), 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division, U.S. Army Alaska, pauses for a photograph between testing patients for COVID-19 Nov. 20 at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska.

See TIPS Page 16

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U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Lawrence Sena

**Wyoming Air National Guard 1st Lt. Chris Hendricks, 187th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron flight nurse, performs training prior to an aeromedical evacuation mission Nov. 10 en route to Japan.**

## Wyoming ANG, Airmen help move 18 patients

**Senior Airman Lawrence Sena**  
 92ND AIR REFUELING WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

FAIRCHILD AIR FORCE BASE, Wash. — Airmen from Fairchild Air Force Base's 92nd Air Refueling Squadron, 93rd ARS, 384th ARS, 97th ARS and 92nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, conducted an aeromedical evacuation mission Nov. 7-13, bringing 18 patients in need of medical care across the Pacific Ocean back to the United States.

Fairchild AFB Airmen worked alongside Wyoming Air National Guardsmen from the 187th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron and 18th AES, traveling across the Pacific Ocean to Kadena Air Base, Japan.

"It takes a lot of coordination and communication," said Tech. Sgt. Alex Klinger, 187th AES aeromedical evacuation technician. "Most of our (aeromedical evacuation) units are pretty new to working with KC-135s, so working together is crucial, and communication is key."

Aeromedical evacuation missions consist of critical care transport teams executing patient movement and care, using mobility aircraft such as the C-17 Globemaster III, C-130 Hercules and KC-135 Stratotanker.

"We normally operate out of our unit C-130 and work in

C-17s," Klinger said. "Working in the KC-135 is a great training opportunity for both crews to work together."

Even though the primary mission of the KC-135 is extending global reach through air refueling, the aircraft are capable of supporting a variety of missions including cargo delivery, aeromedical evacuation, passenger delivery, serving as a communication platform and more.

"The tanker is built to refuel other aircraft, but we can also lift a considerable amount of cargo," said Capt. Chris Perry, 384th ARS KC-135 pilot. "We are one of the fastest heavy aircraft the Air Force has, and we have plenty of space to carry patients and other passengers as well."

Aeromedical evacuation is one of the most important and challenging missions for aircrew, and can take place anytime, anywhere.

"Sometimes we have service members who are in need of urgent medical care they may not have access to," Perry said. "As a KC-135 unit, our responsibility is to be a stable platform they can rely on. We have to be on time to make sure the medical team is able to get what they need and ensure the successful transportation of patients."

Not only did Fairchild AFB  
**See PATIENTS Page 16**

## Tuition assistance cap, AF COOL funding restored

**Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs**

WASHINGTON — The Department of the Air Force restored military tuition assistance to \$4,500 per fiscal year and Air Force Credentialing Opportunities Online preparatory course funding for fiscal year 2021, effective immediately.

The Air Force noted increased usage of tuition assistance since the start of COVID-19 and continuing into the new fiscal year.

"We are excited our members are taking advantage of their time under COVID(-19) to improve themselves and pursue education. The Department of the Air Force was able to reprioritize funding to encourage our service members to maximize their development through these educational benefits," said Lt. Gen. Brian T. Kelly, deputy chief of staff for manpower, personnel and services. "The Department of the Air Force is committed to education and to the continued professional and personal growth of our Airmen and Space Professionals in support of our nation's defense."

As a result of the reinstatement, both programs will resume the same benefits as before.

For military tuition assistance, Airmen and Space

Professionals are eligible for up to \$4,500 per fiscal year and a maximum of \$250 per semester hour or quarter hour equivalent to cover tuition and allowable fees. For AF COOL, funding for preparatory courses, also known as boot camps, is restored. AF COOL funding limits remain at \$4,500 per lifetime.

"Voluntary education and military tuition assistance programs continue to be important to the development of our force," said Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force JoAnne S. Bass. "I'm glad we were able to take a look at the budget again and allow our Airmen to focus on self-improvement, especially during a time where our world has become increasingly virtual during COVID(-19)."

Additionally, Department of the Air Force officials noted comparing school costs, utilizing other resources such as Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support's subject standardized tests, college-level examination programs, pursuing Community College of the Air Force degrees and other funding sources, such as scholarships and grants, all help maximize education benefits.

For more information, consult Air Force Instruction 36-2670, "Total Force Development."

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## Immigrant lives American dream

**Master Sgt. Chance Babin**  
 AIR FORCE RECRUITING SERVICE  
 PUBLIC AFFAIRS

HOMESTEAD AIR RESERVE BASE, Fla. — Airman 1st Class Sourav Basu Roy, an air transportation specialist assigned to the 482nd Fighter Wing at Homestead Air Reserve Base and a commercial airline pilot, is living the American dream.

Born and raised in the small, mountainous and underdeveloped city of Agartala, India, Basu Roy had big dreams as a little boy, and, thankfully, parents who encouraged him to shoot for the stars.

"My childhood dream was to be an astronaut someday," he said. "But, in my society, there was so much prejudice that not many people supported me, except my parents."

He recalled writing an essay on his life goals when he was just 6 years old and receiving an unusual reaction from his teacher about his future aspirations.

"I wrote an essay saying I would like to be an astronaut and how I would start by being a pilot," he said. "But my teacher got mad at me. She thought I was being a daydreamer even though I was a good student at the time. She spanked my hands with a bamboo stick until my palms got red. She even made fun of me with a few other teachers. But I believe those kinds of experiences made me a strong and successful person today."

Unlike his teacher, Basu Roy's parents supported his dreams.

"I remember my parents said, 'if you dream big over

here, people will think you are crazy. We will work very hard and save money so we can send you to the only land of opportunity, which is the United States of America. Nobody will judge you there. You will have enormous opportunities and freedom."

Basu Roy continued to do well in school and he never lost his passion for aviation and space.

"I remember myself playing with paper airplanes and pretending to be a pilot as a child. Many of my friends did the same," he said. "Our paper aircrafts competed, formed flying squadrons, and participated in important air missions. Years passed by, and while my friends moved on with their dreams and changed the love for the games in the air for other

**See DREAM Page 18**

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**Disposition of personal effects**

Lt Morgan Comer is authorized to make disposition of the personal property of Senior Airman Adrian Fundora, deceased, 821st Contingency Response Squadron, as stated in AFI 34-501.

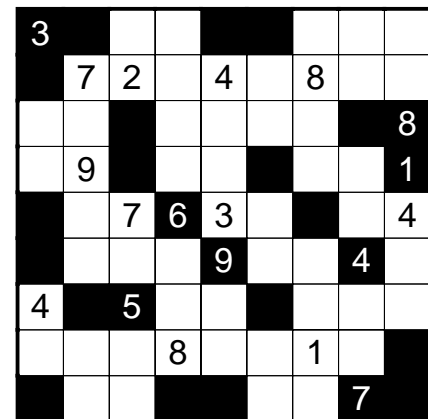
Any person having claims for or against the deceased person, please contact Comer by phone at 707-424-0861 or by email at morgan.comer.1@us.af.mil.

— 60th Force Support Squadron

**Puzzles**

**STR8TS**

No. 518 Medium



Previous solution - Easy

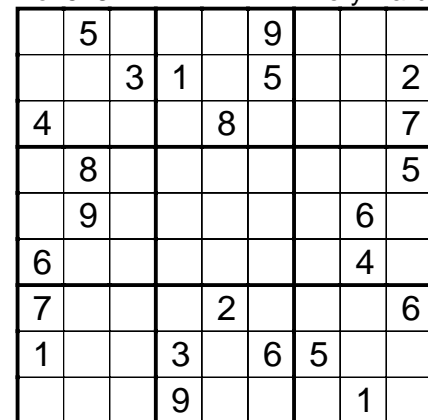


How to beat Str8ts - Like Sudoku, no single number can repeat in any row or column. But... rows and columns are divided by black squares into compartments. These need to be filled in with numbers that complete a 'straight'. A straight is a set of numbers with no gaps but can be in any order, eg [4,2,3,5].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

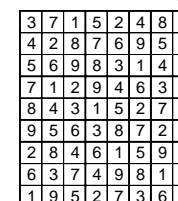
You can find more help, tips and hints at [www.str8ts.com](http://www.str8ts.com)

**SUDOKU**

No. 518 Very Hard



Previous solution - Tough



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

For many strategies, hints and tips, visit [www.sudokuwiki.org](http://www.sudokuwiki.org)

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

The solutions will be published here in the next issue.



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Tyrone Thomas

**Airmen assigned to the 730th Air Mobility Squadron inspect the rear suspension on a C-5M Super Galaxy aircraft Nov. 6 at Yokota Air Base, Japan. The C-5M training embodies the Agile Combat Employment concept of training multi-capable Airmen.**

**Yokota Airmen train on C-5M**

**Airman 1st Class Tyrone Thomas**

374TH AIRLIFT WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — Maintainers from the 730th Air Mobility Squadron spent ten days training on a C-5M Super Galaxy aircraft from Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, Nov. 2-12 on Yokota Air Base.

Yokota often serves as a refueling station for aircraft flying through the Pacific, which means a variety of transient aircraft divert through the base, often requiring maintenance.

"It's important to be

knowledgeable about this aircraft because Japan, Laos, Thailand and a host of other nations in the Pacific are potential pit-stops for the C-5M," said Staff Sgt. Adrian Saetern, 515th Air Mobility Operations Wing Regional Training Center instructor from Hickam.

Many bases in the Pacific have no dedicated C-5M maintenance crew, which leaves Yokota maintainers at the helm for repairs if necessary.

"If we're not actively working on a specific platform, we tend to lose that muscle memory," said Capt. Kris Haniff, 730th AMS maintenance

officer in charge. "That makes this training extremely important and valuable. Even though we may not do these tasks on a daily basis, when the time comes, our guys will be good to go."

The 515th members also refreshed Yokota maintainers on various system diagnostics procedures throughout the aircraft.

The 374th Logistics Readiness Squadron, Civil Engineering Squadron firefighters, Airmen on temporary duty travel from Kadena Air Base and Japanese Self Defense Force members also joined in to train extensively on aircraft functions, with aims to familiarize any agency that might need to respond to the Super Galaxy if diverted to Yokota.

One of the goals of this training is to incorporate the multi-capable Airman concept. We want our personnel to learn operations that don't require extensive training but provide exceptional benefits, like the support and defense of our allies in the Indo-Pacific, said Haniff.

**Air Force doctor retires after 48 years of service**

**Tech. Sgt. William A Keele**

168TH WING

When Craig Thomas enlisted as an Aerial Port Squadron Technician in the U.S. Air Force in December 1971, he never imagined he would become a doctor, let alone that he would go on to serve for more than 48 years.

"It's been quite a journey," said Thomas.

He retired this past spring with little fanfare, as the entire Department of Defense medical community was engaged in response to the COVID-19 national

emergency.

For his final assignment he served as commander and a chief flight surgeon for the 168th Wing in the Alaska Air National Guard. Before assuming command of the medical group, Thomas was the State Air Surgeon for Alaska at Joint Forces Headquarters Alaska, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson.

His first duty assignment at Norton Air Force Base, San Bernardino, California would eventually lead to a congressional appointment to the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

After graduating and commissioning as a 2nd Lt. from the academy in June 1977, he went on to become a Communications-Electronics officer and was station at Naval Air Station Jacksonville, Florida; and Bergstrom AFB in Austin, Texas.

Thomas stated that his time at the Air Force Academy helped him be prepared for medical school rigors and balancing his new military career as a communications officer in the Air Force Reserve.

Upon graduation from medical school at the University of North Texas in 1990, Thomas reentered Air Force active duty,

accomplishing his residency at Carswell AFB in Fort Worth, Texas. His first assignment as a primary care doctor was at Malmstrom AFB, Montana, where he became a flight surgeon and return to the Reserves to pursue a civilian career as an anesthesiologist.

After finding his way to Alaska in 1997 for his civilian practice as an anesthesiologist, he formed a relationship with the Alaska Air National Guard while still serving as a reservist. Once a medical position opened in 2005, Thomas joined the Air National Guard as chief

See **DOCTOR** Page 20

**Palmetto Challenge preps Airmen**

**Airman Gage Rodriguez**

JOINT BASE CHARLESTON PUBLIC AFFAIRS

MCENTIRE JOINT NATIONAL GUARD BASE, S.C. — More than 100 Airmen from Joint Base Charleston, South Carolina, participated in the Palmetto Challenge, a global mobilization exercise, at McEntire Joint National Guard Base, S.C., and Pope Army Airfield, North Carolina, Nov. 16-20.

Palmetto Challenge gives Airmen the ability to experience a simulated deployment that includes different real-world situations ranging from simulated gas attacks and Mission Oriented Protective Posture (MOPP) readiness, to security forces arming a Mobile Anti-Drone Systems Kit.

"Palmetto Challenge is an exercise we do at Joint Base Charleston that involves total force, 628th Airbase Wing, 437th Airlift Wing, and also the 315th Reserve unit," said Lt. Col Lee Holfert, 628 MSG deputy commander. "we work together as a team, to exercise our readiness and to make sure our readiness is polished up and ready to go if ever needed."

Chad Hashley, chief of



U.S. Air Force photo

**Airmen assigned to the 628th Air Base Wing disembark from a C-17 Globemaster III to begin training for Palmetto Challenge, Nov. 17 at McEntire Joint National Guard Base, South Carolina.**

exercise plans for the 628th Air Base Wing Inspector General office, oversees planning and execution of exercises that occur during the week-long simulated deployment.

"The overall purpose of Palmetto Challenge is to make sure that we're still concentrating our efforts on our readiness, as a base, and overall Air Force," said

Hashley. "Now that we're coming into a lull of war where we are not doing as much deploying as we have in the past, we need to make sure that we're still maintaining that same level of readiness for the next war that comes."

Rapid response and overall readiness is key to a deadly air power. Palmetto Challenge allows the Wing

Inspection Team to inspect and grade the preparedness of all Airmen involved in each scenario.

"This gives us the opportunity to evaluate their capabilities, but also to learn and keep their training up," said Hashley.

Many situations would require the cooperation between multiple units

See **PALMETTO** Page 15

**Digital University to boost knowledge**

**Capt. Laura Hayden**

AIR COMBAT COMMAND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

JOINT BASE LANGLEY-EUSTIS, Va. — The Air Force recently launched a program called Digital University to help increase digital literacy, by providing access to free courses from Udemy, Pluralsight and Udacity to all Department of the Air Force Air and Space Professionals.

Digital University strives to fit the needs of all Airmen by providing 100,000 licenses to access more than 12,000 courses.

"ACC (Air Combat Command) is leading the way for our United States Air Force, and we are happy to carry this forward," said Brig. Gen. Chad Raduege, ACC director of cyberspace and information dominance. "This is a foundation for our force as we move forward into the future."

According to Lt. Gen. Christopher P. Weggeman, deputy commander of ACC, he knows one size won't fit all and that all Airmen learn at a different pace, in different ways and each individual's knowledge

See **KNOWLEDGE** Page 16

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# Caring for Airmen provides sergeant recognition



1) U.S. Air Force Senior Master Sgt. Marcus Hewett, 6th Air Refueling Squadron superintendent and flight engineer, poses Nov. 5 at Travis Air Force Base, California. Hewett received the Staff Sgt. Henry E. "Red" Erwin Outstanding Career Enlisted Aviator of the Year Award on Sept. 18, 2020. The "Red" Erwin Award is an Air Force-level honor given annually at the junior enlisted, noncommissioned officer and senior NCO tiers to Airmen with outstanding accomplishments in the aircrew operations career fields.

## Nick DeCicco

60TH AIR MOBILITY WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Ask Senior Master Sgt. Marcus Hewett's colleagues about him and they practically throw a dictionary at you.

Selfless. Phenomenal. Leader. Servant. Sharp. Enabler. Friendly. Kind. The descriptors just keep flowing.

"I'm happy to talk all day about Senior Master Sgt. Hewett," said Lt. Col. Justin Alberico, commander of the unit in which Hewett serves, the 6th Air Refueling Squadron at Travis Air Force Base, California. "If I could impress anything on you about him, about his personality, it's the desire to serve, the kindness and the goodness that he displays. He's a selfless servant."

Chief Master Sgt. Jess Reeson, 6th ARS chief enlisted manager, agreed, noting that Hewett always seems to go the extra mile to help, to teach and to lead.

"When you're watching him interact with Airmen, he's asking them questions about flying, asking, 'hey, what can I do to better myself?' (He does) anything to take care of people," Reeson said. "He is the epitome of service before self."

Hewett enjoys making jobs and lives easier. It's a key component of how the 6th ARS superintendent views his role in the Air Force and a fundamental reason why he was selected as the Staff Sgt. Henry E. "Red" Erwin Award for Career Enlisted Aviator of the Year on Sept. 18.

It's not the first time Hewett has been recognized for helping others. His Air Force career started in 2001 as a security forces Airmen before cross-training to become a firefighter paramedic.

At Shaw AFB, South Carolina, in 2008, Hewett was part of a team that used the Hurst Jaws of Life to save a 5-year-old child after a three-car vehicle collision. For their efforts, the Shaw AFB fire department was awarded the 2008 Green Cross Rescue of the Year Award.



2) U.S. Air Force Senior Master Sgt. Marcus Hewett, 6th Air Refueling Squadron superintendent and flight engineer, performs preflight procedures Nov. 5 at Travis Air Force Base, California. Hewett received the Staff Sgt. Henry E. "Red" Erwin Outstanding Career Enlisted Aviator of the Year Award on Sept. 18.

"We truly made a difference that day and saved that 5-year-old's life, thanks to Hurst tools," Hewett said in 2009.

Though he said he loved being a firefighter paramedic, his career field faced manning overages, so Hewett changed gears again, becoming a KC-10 Extender flight engineer.

There, as he added more stripes to his uniform, the 6th ARS superintendent focused on looking out for Airmen.

"I care," Hewett said. "I care. I care about people. I care about taking care of others."

The investment in the lives of his Airmen isn't exclusive to duty hours. As a private pilot and certified flight instructor, Hewett prioritizes safety while also trying to pass on his passion for aviation.

"It's one reason I became a flyer," he said. "We're gatekeepers. If we can (make an impact on) someone at an early age in their flying career, that ripples throughout the rest of their career."

Hewett has other notable marks as well. He was a distinguished graduate in his Senior Noncommissioned Officer Academy class. He's a Federal Aviation

Administration Safety Team representative, the only one at Travis AFB, giving him the opportunity to host and teach safety seminars for the base's aviation community.

The "Red" Erwin Award is an Air Force-level honor given annually at the junior enlisted, noncommissioned officer and senior NCO tiers to Airmen with outstanding accomplishments in the aircrew operations career fields with significant results, major mission impact, demonstration of outstanding leadership and professional qualities, and superior contributions to the roles and missions of the Air Force.

The award is named for an Army Air Forces radio operator whose quick thinking during a World War II mission after a white phosphorous bomb ignited prematurely saved the lives of his crew while he sustained life-long wounds that required dozens of surgeries.

In keeping with his personality, he insists he didn't earn the award on his own, thanking his spouse, Capt. Christina Hewett, who serves in the 349th Aeromedical Staging Squadron, as well as his leadership.

Alberico took leadership of the 6th ARS in July 2020. While only serving as his commander for four months, Alberico said Hewett's reputation preceded him.

"Before I had the opportunity to meet anybody in the squadron, one person who was singled out as one of the hallmarks of the squadron was Senior Master Sgt. Hewett," Alberico said. "I absolutely could not say enough about things he's doing. He invests in his Airmen and subordinates underneath him."

Hewett's wingmen, Reeson and Alberico both bet on Hewett being a chief someday. Reeson said there is "no doubt in (his mind)" it would happen.

"He's a leader amongst leaders," Reeson said. "One of the biggest things I talk about is there's this quote from Gen. Mark Welch, former Air Force chief of staff. He said, 'Leadership is a gift. It's given by those who follow. You have to be worthy of it.' Senior Master Sgt. Hewett has plenty of followers and he is very much worthy of being a leader. That expression fits him perfectly."

U.S. Air Force photos/Christine Minoda

## MTI

From Page 3

Two events stand out in her mind from her basic military training experience.

"I remember when the (dining facility) had this glass case full of desserts right by the 'snake pit' that no trainee ever dared to touch," she said. "In the later weeks of training, I got a 341 pulled for not giving a reporting statement. That same evening, my MTI told the flight that anyone who didn't get a 341 pulled that week could get cake out of the dessert carousel. I was so mad at myself for not giving that reporting statement."

More importantly, she remembers the looks on her mom's and grandfather's faces when she graduated from BMT.

"I could tell how proud they were of me without them saying it," she said.

The thought of becoming an MTI first crossed her mind when the developmental special duty listing came out at her last base. She was told to rank the duties that had openings, and she marked MTI as her last choice.

"I honestly came to BMT kicking and screaming. This is not something I wanted to do and it showed, at first," Ball admitted. "I wasn't very motivated in MTI school or during the training qualification process, but I always had my family in the background cheering me on."

Ball said she struggled with being an MTI because it was something that didn't come easy for her.

"It wasn't until I arrived at my assigned line squadron to a section full of amazing instructors that I found who I was as an instructor and I started to actually love what I did. They gave me the tools I needed to be successful and they held me accountable when I didn't meet the mark. I feel like that is where I was meant to be at that time. They all knew my story and they still took me under their wing and showed me what the true definition of an MTI was. They made the job fun. Having good coworkers and leadership can make or break an assignment and they all assisted in making this assignment my most memorable," she said.



U.S. Air Force photos

**1) Master Sgt. Roslyn Ball marches with fellow 2020 Military Training Instructor of the Year award nominees at the basic military training graduation ceremony Nov. 5, 2020, at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas. Ball won the award. 2) Ball was named 2020 Military Training Instructor of the Year.**

"I'm not surprised Master Sgt. Ball was selected MTI of the year because I've seen the caliber of her work firsthand. I'm very proud of her achievements, and I know she is leading by example," said Lt. Col. Eve McCloud, 319th TRS commander.

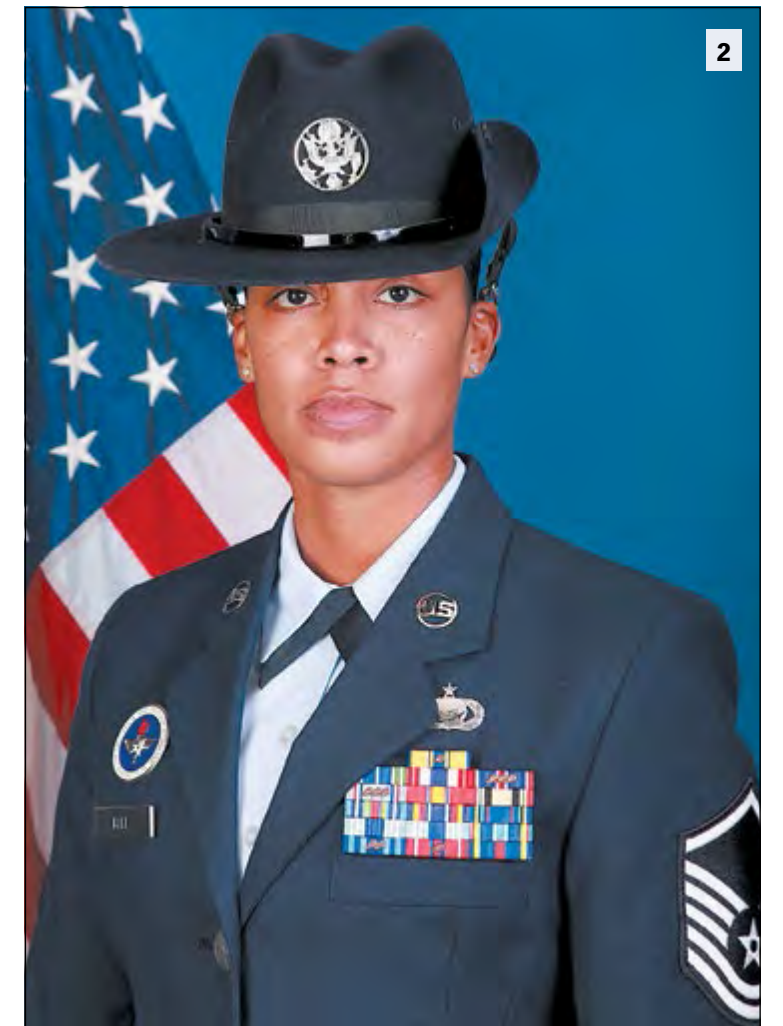
Ball said that being a part of the transformation trainees make from civilian to Airman has to be the most rewarding aspect of being an MTI because she has contributed to the beginning of their Air Force story.

"There have been numerous times where a trainee has come in and had a very rough beginning but by the end of BMT they were the sharpest Airmen in the flight," Ball said. "There are times when you can see the moment a trainee realizes what it means to be an Airman and they step up to meet the expectations levied upon them. Seeing how proud the trainees were of themselves on graduation day

and then hearing how proud their families and friends were during open house after graduation made me feel like what I did mattered. It made me remember the day I graduated and how proud my family was of me."

While she's not sure of the number of Airmen whose lives she's impacted, Ball said "there's been so many trainees that I've interacted with and hopefully set up for success in their Air Force careers."

"Our MTIs are the backbone of Basic Military Training," said Col. Michael Newsom, 737th Training Group commander. "Every year, thousands of civilians enter through our gates. Nearly eight weeks later, they leave as proud Airmen. It's all made possible because of the efforts of outstanding MTIs such as Master Sgt. Ball. Being selected for this award speaks volumes of her accomplishments and it is no surprise that she was selected for this honor."



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# Palmetto

From Page 9

including Security Forces, Explosive Ordnance Disposal, the Crisis Action Team, and many other mission essential units. The benefits Airmen receive from this experience allow senior leaders from the WIT team to critique and help develop Airmen during each real world scenario.

Preparation for Palmetto Challenge comes with a lot of planning and objectives that need to be met to ensure that Joint Base Charleston as a base is as ready as possible.

“It starts out with a concept and objective meeting where you’re basically getting the information from the commander and identifying what their intent is and what needs to be tested,” said Hashley.

Participating in regular training promotes readiness and awareness, and the ability to train consistently allows the Airmen to sharpen their skills and remain prepared for any real-world situation.

“We’re not deploying to the same environments that we used to, so you have Airmen that may never get a chance to see what we have done or what we’re preparing to do,” said Hashley. “Whether it be at war or at peace, we are always ready for that next big thing to come around.”



**U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Bradley Moorer, an Inspector General Wing Inspection Team superintendent for the 437th Airlift Wing, left, and Mark Vickers, the 437th AW IG director of inspections, right, watch as a C-17 Globemaster III containing Airmen and supplies lands, Nov. 16 at McEntire Joint National Guard Base, South Carolina.**

Col. Bobby DeGregorio, 315th Airlift Wing Support Group Commander and a Senior Palmetto Challenge leader, described the importance of planning and how much of a team effort it was.

“This is the first time in a long time that the players planned all the logistics of the exercise and because of that it has been much smoother than previous,” said DeGregorio. “You could feel the positive energy from all because many had ownership in making it happen.”

During the exercise DeGregorio had polled the Airmen that attended this training and found that 40% had never taken part in an exercise before.

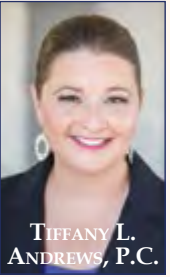
“This is a huge first step for members to really get a feel for why they wear the uniform,” said DeGregorio.

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**Capt. Amanda Scanlon, 18th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron flight nurse, and Air National Guard Tech. Sgt. Alex Klinger, 187th AES aeromedical evacuation technician, load a litter of medical supplies onto a KC-135 Stratotanker Nov. 10 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii.**

## Patients

From Page 9

Airmen ensure the safety and care of patients and their families, they delivered more than 2,000 pounds of cargo to additional units across the Pacific.

“It is really awesome to be able to go somewhere and give people help that they otherwise would not be able to receive,” Perry said. “It’s a different kind of mission to go and save lives, and being a part of that has definitely been rewarding.”

By working with Pacific Air Forces and Total Force partners from the 187th AES and 18th AES, Fairchild AFB Airmen were able to ensure a continued investment in a high quality of life and medical service for Airmen and joint partners in the Pacific.

## Knowledge

From Page 9

base varies. Digital University offers something for everyone, covering subjects such as, leadership, public speaking, conflict management, game development, language learning, computer programming and more.

Chief Master Sgt. Patricia Ford, ACC support functional manager, has already completed a few Digital University courses in Photoshop, Excel Pivot Table and is currently working on her Project Management Professional Certification on

the platform. “I challenge anyone to find anything that they can’t do in Digital University. It’s for the novice, the intermediate and the expert,” Ford said.

Like Ford, Raduege also took Digital University for a test drive, completing courses in resiliency, 5G technologies, and Python programming, finding ways to grow his digital literacy.

Licenses for Pluralsight and Udacity, which offer nano-degrees, are planned to be added when the pilot program wraps up in June 2021.

Weggeman is encouraging all ACC Airmen to participate and

discover what Digital University courses are best suited for their unique interests.

“We are asking you to take the lead in the pursuit to build the digital Air Force we need. Every Airmen, regardless of the AFSC, is vitally important to executing the Air Force mission and advancing digital literacy,” Weggeman said. There is hidden talent and untapped potential out there – our job is to seek it out and feed the digital hunger in our Airmen. Lead the way.”

Digital University can be accessed from any device once registered. To register and create an account, visit <http://digitalu.af.mil/>.

# Tips

From Page 5

snacks or fast food.

- Self-care: Take time to take care of yourself. Be supportive and suggest the same for those close to you. Meditation, relaxation, quality time with family, personal care of yourself promotes overall wellness. The Defense Health Agency has free, evidence-based, self-care tools developed by psychologists that you can check out here: <https://bit.ly/33aM8dx>.

- Health care maintenance: If you have medications prescribed for any condition, be sure to take them as directed by your provider. Chronic conditions such as hypertension, diabetes, asthma and many others should be kept in check with taking your medications as prescribed. Be sure to reach out to your health-care team with any concerns as well. In the age of COVID-19, telehealth solutions are available if you want to speak with a provider about a health concern unrelated to COVID-19. Madigan patients, for instance, can still utilize Secure Messaging in the MHS Genesis Patient Portal to request an appointment or call the Puget Sound Military Appointment Center at 1-800-404-4506 to schedule a telehealth appointment.

- Cope with stress and anxiety: Positively cope with stress and anxiety induced by new precautions we must all now take to combat the spread of COVID-19 in our communities. Positive coping mechanisms would include exercise, meditation, reading, further developing certain skills or hobbies etc. Use this era to increase your daily repetition of these positive activities and develop new or even better routines than you may have adhered to prior to the emergence of the current COVID-19 pandemic.

- Stay connected: Talking with loved ones while in isolation can help reduce the anxiety and instances of feeling down. Take time to utilize the multitudes of technologies and apps (many free) that can help you stay in touch with those you love. Our busy lives before the COVID-19 may have limited how often we connected with distant loved ones, now’s the time to fully exploit these modern capabilities for fellowship, companionship, and camaraderie.

The guidance above is to improve overall health and wellness. Please be aware that although eating nutritious foods, physical activity, adequate rest and taking care of our mental health makes us more resilient, it’s not a cure nor does it guarantee immunity from contracting COVID-19. In addition to these suggestions, first and foremost be sure to practice CDC guidance on social distancing, self-care, self-quarantine, wearing of cloth masks when social distancing is not possible and talking with your provider about any concerns you may have regarding your health. If you have a medical emergency, visit an emergency room. If you have an injury or illness unrelated to COVID-19, be sure to visit an Urgent Care Center. If you have questions or do not know exactly what to do, call the MHS Nurse Advice Line at 1-800-TRICARE (874-2273), option 1.

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## Dream

From Page 7

interests, I realized that my passion for aviation and space is a lifetime crush."

When he was 18, his parents decided it was time to send Basu Roy to the United States.

"We had many family members and friends living in the U.S.," he said. "For my parents, it was the best place they could send their only child. I think that decision forever changed my life."

Within 19 days of arriving in the U.S., Basu Roy began flight training. Having spent endless hours on a computer-based flight simulator growing up in India, he was well prepared for the actual training.

"My instructor was so happy that I already knew so much about the aircraft," he said. "On top of that, I was able to do all the maneuvers by myself without his intervention. In my first entry in my pilot logbook, he wrote 'Excellent Job.'"

Basu Roy did his first solo

flight when he was 19 and he passed his first exam for his private pilot's license with flying colors. He received his instrument rating and his commercial pilot's license in only six months.

With his pilot certificates in hand, he enrolled at Miami Dade College to work on his associate's degree and began working toward his certified flight instructor rating.

He earned an Associate of Science degree in pilot technology and a Bachelor of Science degree in information technology while simultaneously pursuing his aviation career.

"Four years ago, when I started flying as a flight instructor, I trained many new pilots who passed with flying colors and now work for airlines worldwide," he said.

An accomplished flight instructor, Basu Roy accepted a job with Air Wisconsin Airlines, a regional partner of United Airlines.

"I joined them as a first officer about three years ago and accumulated more than 3,000

hours in total flight time. I now have more than 1,500 hours in jet time," he said.

He became an airline captain at age 24, then Basu Roy turned his attention to reaching his lifelong dream of becoming an astronaut.

"I applied for the U.S. Navy in 2016, thinking that someday it will open a pathway for me to apply for Test Pilot School, which will make it easier for me to one day be a NASA astronaut," he said.

During his application process, the Navy stopped recruiting people without a residency card due to a government directive. Undeterred, Basu Roy continued to look for a way to chase his dreams of becoming an astronaut and serve his country. Since he is not an American citizen yet, he is not eligible to be an Air Force pilot. But he talked to an Air Force recruiter who explained that he could enlist. He set his sights on joining the Air Force Reserve.

"When I first met Basu Roy, I was impressed because he was a 24-year-old airline pilot," said Tech. Sgt. Reynaldo Rodriguez, 351st Recruiting Squadron line recruiter. "He was willing to join as an enlisted member, with hopes of becoming a pilot later. He did whatever we asked of him. He has always been motivated. He has always been active and confident in everything



U.S. Air Force courtesy photo

**Airman 1st Class Sourav Basu Roy, 482nd Fighter Wing air transportation specialist, Homestead Air Reserve Base, Fla., and his co-pilot, Nicholas Emery, a warrant officer serving in the Army National Guard, sit Nov. 16 in the cockpit of a Bombardier Canadair Regional Jet.**

he does. I never had an issue with him."

Basu Roy was all set to join the Reserve in late 2019, when an opportunity he couldn't refuse came up. He received an offer from United Airlines to transfer from the regional carrier to the main airline.

"So, I stopped the enlistment process for some time," he said. "My plan was to start with United and then eventually enlist in the Reserve."

"Back around November of 2019, he told me he had to take a break because he was transferring airline positions with United," Rodriguez said. "I told him

that was a great civilian opportunity and to not pass it up. He appreciated the honesty and said he would definitely stay in touch and continue the process someday. To be honest, I wasn't sure if I would ever hear from him again."

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit and the commercial aviation industry suffered a major slowdown, Basu Roy's position at United was put on hold and he thought it would be the perfect time to begin his military career.

"I saw that the aviation industry would take at least another year to recover completely," he said. "I decided to complete my process for enlistment and training with the Air Force Reserve."

With his sight set on still becoming an astronaut one day, he has already been accepted for a doctoral degree in unmanned aerial systems once he completes his master's degree.

"I chose unmanned systems because I believe that is the future as everything will go pilotless with artificial intelligence," he said. "Having my Ph.D. in unmanned systems, I will be future ready."

As he continues to build his resume Basu Roy set his sights on his ultimate dream.

"This year, for the first time, I applied for NASA's astronaut program as a civilian," he said. "I know nobody gets selected as an astronaut on the first attempt, so I will keep on trying until I fulfill this life goal from my childhood. I will be an Air Force Reserve pilot and then, soon enough, a NASA astronaut. That day will be my dream come true."

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1) U.S. Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Stephen Scofield, 60th Maintenance Squadron superintendent, uses a virtual reality headset to gain insight into the 60th Operations Support Squadron's operations during Leadership Rounds Nov. 20 at Travis Air Force Base, California. The 60th OSS weather flight uses the Cosmos series VR headset to prepare for weather patterns they may need to forecast. The Leadership Rounds program provides 60th Air Mobility Wing leadership an opportunity to interact with Airmen and receive a detailed view of each mission performed at Travis AFB. 2) U.S. Air Force Col. Corey Simmons, left, 60th AMW commander, and Scofield participate in an exercise inside the control tower during Leadership Rounds Nov. 20 at Travis. 3) Simmons uses virtual reality technology to gain insight into 60th OSS operations during Leadership Rounds Nov. 20 at Travis.

# Travis leadership takes closer look at ... OPERATIONS

U.S. Air Force photos by Senior Airman Cameron Otte



## Doctor

From Page 9

of Aerospace Medicine at the 168th Medical Group, Eielson AFB in central Alaska. When he accepted the position as State Air Surgeon of Alaska for Joint Forces Headquarters, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, he thought it would be his last.

Choosing to practice medicine and have direct contact with patients allowed Thomas to stay in Alaska and finish his career as commander of the 168th Medical Group until his retirement this past April. In his civilian career, Thomas maintains a private practice as an anesthesiologist in Fairbanks, Alaska.

Air Force Col. Richard Adams, 168th Wing commander, said, "It has been a pleasure to serve alongside Colonel Thomas in the 168th Wing. Doc Thomas' distinguished career of almost half a century has had many chapters, and the Guardians of the Last Frontier are grateful to have been a part of that epic journey."

Thomas said his most memorable moments during his 48 years in uniform were "events where I was involved with a group, and we were accomplishing an objective or a goal or mission of training or deployment." From a physician's perspective, he said, "I'm most gratified from my participation in humanitarian missions."

A highlight of his humanitarian service was in Timor-Leste, a Southeast Asia island nation between Indonesia and Australia, where he provided medical care to underprivileged islanders.

Throughout his long career, he accumulated more than 1,715 flight hours, 150 of which were combat hours over Iraq. He also has the distinction of having served under nine different presidents.



U.S. Air Force Col. Craig R. Thomas, 168th Medical Group commander assigned to the 168th Wing, Alaska Air National Guard, poses April 8 at Eielson Air Force Base, Fairbanks, Alaska.

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