

Crews from Travis battle nearby ...



WILDFIRES

PAGES 10-11

Travis aircraft depart in midst of blaze

Lan Kim
60TH AIR MOBILITY WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

As the LNU Lightning Complex Fire encroached on communities near Travis Air Force Base Aug. 19, units across the 60th and 349th Air Mobility Wings here, rallied to evacuate the base's fleet of C-17 Globemaster III, C-5M Super Galaxy and KC-10 Extender aircraft to safeguard them against the impending danger of the fire.

U.S. Air Force Col. Corey Simmons, 60th AMW commander, issued the evacuation order shortly after 6 p.m., Aug. 19, and in a matter of hours, Travis' Airmen launched the base's fleet of aircraft to appointed-safe locations.

"We were basically asking people to move a mountain," said Chief Master Sgt. Erick Fierro, 60th Operations Group superintendent. "The reply simply was, 'Ok, where would you like us to put it?'"

Fierro understood the monumental task at hand and had concerns leading up to the evacuation decision.

"What we were challenging our crews and our maintainers and our support functions to do was a feat where, let's be honest, we could have failed miserably," Fierro said. "What could have been our worst moment in history ended up being a very defining moment for Travis AFB."

The base temporarily moved its C-5Ms to Kelly Field at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas; its KC-10s to Fairchild AFB, Washington; and its C-17s to Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington. Travis Airmen evacuated nearly 30 aircraft from the base.

The success of the aircraft evacuation was possible because of the



A C-17 Globemaster III assigned to the 21st Airlift Squadron taxis on a runway Aug. 23 at Travis Air Force Base, California. The C-17 and its aircrew returned to Travis AFB after evacuating Aug. 19 to Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington, in response to the LNU Lightning Complex Fire that threatened the base.

U.S. Air Force photo/Lan Kim

Travis firefighters help battle blaze near Vacaville, **PAGES 10-11**

Photos of Travis planes at Fairchild Air Force Base, **PAGE 19**

collective determination of everyone involved, Fierro said. He felt like the Airmen were saying, "Put me in, coach."

"I'm not just talking operations group," said Fierro.

He expressed how important it was for support staff, maintainers and petroleum, oil and lubricants Airmen to come together to achieve such a tall order in a short period of time.

Additionally, base leaders continuously monitored state and local updates and emergency notifications on the

LNU Lightning Complex Fire.

"Our leadership notified us early that morning that we might have to evacuate due to the fires," said Senior Airman Bryan McFeron, 860th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron C-17 crew chief. "That morning, we went out and pre-flighted all the aircraft to ensure that they were

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Tailwind

Travis AFB, Calif. | 60th Air Mobility Wing

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On the cover

U.S. Air Force Airman 1st Class Ryan Girouex, 60th Civil Engineer Squadron firefighter, center, extinguishes a fire on a shed on Soaring Eagle Trail Aug. 20 in Vacaville, California.

U.S. Air Force photo/Nicholas Pilch

Travis helps fight COVID across California

Cpl. Samantha Hall
DEFENSE DEPARTMENT SUPPORT TO FEMA COVID-19

HANFORD, Calif. – At the request of the Federal Emergency Management Agency and in support of U.S. Northern Command, through U.S. Army North, approximately 160 Airmen assigned to the 60th Medical Group, Travis Air Force Base, California, fulfilled a need for additional health care workers at eight hospitals across California.

"We are committed to assisting those in need as part of the ongoing whole-of-America response to COVID-19," said Lt. Gen. Laura J. Richardson, commanding general, U.S. Army North (Fifth Army) and the Joint Force Land Component Command. "At the same time, we remain flexible and capable of providing other defense support to civil authorities as necessary."

U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Jarrid Wilson is one such Airman and cardiopulmonary lab technician who is working at Adventist Health Hanford to augment civilian medical providers in need of support. He works on both COVID-19 positive and negative patients.

According to Wilson, the use of PPE is absolutely critical to ensuring civilian and military medical providers are able to treat patients.

"While we are working on the front lines at Adventist Hanford and across the board at these other medical facilities, PPE is our frontline for protection from this virus," said Wilson. "It keeps us safe while we're working with these patients."

The equipment that is used to protect the workers include N95 masks, gowns, gloves, face shields, and a set of headgear called a positive airway pressure respirator, or PAPR mask, that completely encases the wearer's head for maximum protection. Wilson states that, no matter how uncomfortable this equipment can be, a strong focus on protecting those who protect us is the only way forward.

"It may be uncomfortable



U.S. Army photo/Lt. Col. Charles Calio

U.S. Air Force Capt. Hiroko Akuzawa, an emergency room physician, provides medical care to a patient Aug. 18 at Harbor-University of California Los Angeles Medical Center, Torrance, California. Akuzawa completed her residency at Harbor-UCLA, and has returned to the hospital as a member of a medical support team deployed from the 60th Medical Group, Travis Air Force Base, California, which integrated with hospital staff to provide additional medical support. U.S. Northern Command, through U.S. Army North, remains committed to providing flexible Department of Defense support to the Federal Emergency Management Agency in support of the whole-of-America COVID-19 response.

It's important for us to do our part to protect ourselves as well as the individuals around us.

— Staff Sgt. Jarrid Wilson

for a lot of us, but at the same time, we're in this together," said Wilson. "It's important for us to do our part to protect ourselves as well as the individuals around us."

"America's military stands prepared and ready to respond in America's time of need, against all foes, whether COVID-19 or foreign

threats," said Maj. Gen. Michael Stone, commanding general, Task Force Center-West, a task force formed from the Michigan National Guard's 46th Military Police Command which is U.S. Army North's subordinate headquarters providing command and control of Army, Air Force and Navy medical personnel deployed to California and Texas as part of Department of Defense COVID-19 relief efforts.

Following Center for Disease Control guidelines, like Wilson and his team does, helps prevent the transmission of COVID-19. It is a key component to maintaining readiness and the success of military medical personnel who have traveled across the nation to provide relief.



U.S. Army photo/Lt. Col. Charles Calio

U.S. Air Force Maj. David Weller, pointing, leads a group of medical providers from COVID Theater Hospital-1 on a hike Aug. 21 through Joshua Tree National Park, California. Weller, a social worker, was sent to ensure the mental health of the Air Force medical providers deployed from Travis Air Force Base, California, is being cared for.

Yoga course aims to de-stress during COVID



U.S. Army photo/Master Sgt. Helen Miller

U.S. Air Force Capt. Bridget Caulkins, left, and U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Deloran Lomax, both members of COVID Theater Hospital-1, Travis Air Force Base, California, participate Aug. 19 in a yoga class provided by a U.S. Air Force behavioral health team supporting COVID Theater Hospital-1. The behavioral health team provides classes to help members of COVID Theater Hospital-1 manage stress and relax. U.S. Northern Command, through U.S. Army North, remains committed to providing flexible Department of Defense support to the Federal Emergency Management Agency in support of the whole-of-America COVID-19 response.

AMC welcomes Van Ovost as leader

Tech. Sgt. R.J. Biermann
AIR MOBILITY COMMAND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, Ill. – Air Mobility Command welcomed its new commander during a ceremony at Scott Air Force Base, Illinois, on Aug. 20.

Gen. Jacqueline D. Van Ovost succeeded Gen. Maryanne Miller during the ceremony, officiated by Chief of Staff of the Air Force Gen. Charles Q. Brown Jr.

Brown thanked Miller for her outstanding leadership during her two years in command.

“What a fast-paced two years it’s been,” Brown said. “Soon after taking command, Maryanne recognized the work ahead and shifted focus at the speed of

relevance based on the National Defense Strategy.”

From March 2012 to September 2013, Van Ovost served as vice commander of the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center at Travis Air Force Base.

In the early months of 2020, Miller led AMC through a new, unique period in the world’s history, against an unseen foe.

“By leveraging innovation and a whole lot of resolve, Air Mobility Command answered the nation’s (COVID-19) call, generating and flying our most critical missions while also safeguarding our Airmen and families,” Brown said. “Air Mobility Command delivered millions of COVID-19 test swabs around



U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Miranda Simpson

U.S. Air Force Gen. Jacqueline D. Van Ovost assumes command of Air Mobility Command Aug. 20 at Scott Air Force Base, Illinois.

the world.”

Brown detailed other innovations the command was responsible for conceiving to support COVID-19 response operations, such as the Negatively Pressurized Conex. He also praised the

command for endlessly executing rapid global mobility, which he’s confident will continue into Van Ovost’s command.

Hours before the change of command ceremony, Van Ovost was promoted to general, making her the fifth female general to ever serve in the Air Force and the Defense Department’s sole female four star leader.

“There is no one more qualified and ready to take the reins of Air Mobility Command than Jackie,” said Brown. “We take great comfort in knowing you and your Airmen are ready to execute global reach, faster, farther

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Grocer can help save on supplies

Kevin L. Robinson

DEFENSE COMMISSARY AGENCY
PUBLIC AFFAIRS SPECIALIST

FORT LEE, Va. — During September, National Preparedness Month highlights the significance of being ready for emergencies.

This is a message the Defense Commissary Agency takes to heart as it helps its customers save on many of the items they should include in their survival kits.

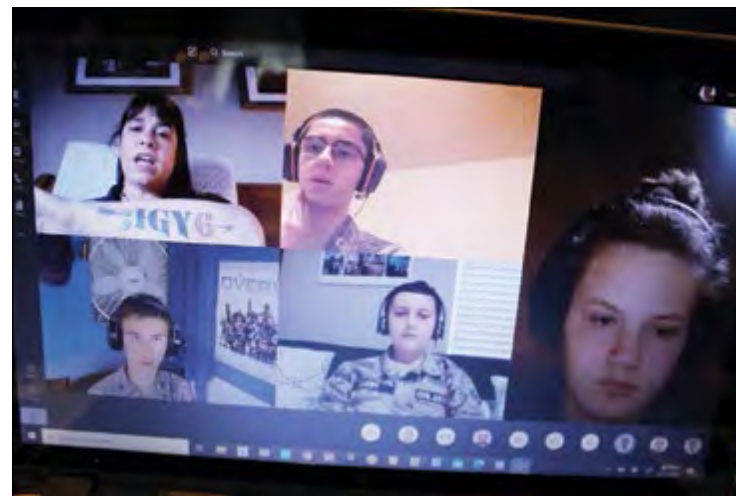
“When an emergency occurs – bad weather, manmade event or pandemic – you’re either prepared or you’re not,” said Tracie Russ, DeCA’s director of sales. “We want our customers to know their commissary benefit is here for them so they can be prepared now.”

The theme for this year’s National Preparedness Month is “Disasters don’t wait. Make your plan today.” The month is separated into four activities: Sept. 1-5 – make a plan; Sept. 6-12 – build a kit; Sept. 13-19 – prepare for disasters; and Sept. 20-26 – teach youth about preparedness.

From April through Oct. 31, DeCA’s severe weather promotional package helps customers prepare their survival kits with discounts on the following items: beef jerky and other assorted meat snacks, soup and chili mixes, canned goods, powdered milk, cereals, batteries, air-tight bags, weather-ready flashlights, tape (all-weather, heavy-duty shipping and duct), first aid kits, lighters, matches, lanterns, candles, hand sanitizer and anti-bacterial wipes. Specific items may vary from store to store.

Whether it’s Mother Nature or a manmade crisis, emergency preparedness officials encourage prior planning with a

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Courtesy photo

Capt. Michelle Bailey with Travis' Civil Air Patrol Composite Squadron 22 shows off her tattoo to, clockwise, CAP Chief Master Sgt. Samuel Reynolds, CAP Cadet Chelsea Neldner, CAP Cadet Benjamin Guidry, and CAP Tech. Sgt. Dakota Keiter during a recent video conference call. The unit is meeting online due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

CAP seeks cadets to join its ranks

Maj. Josephine Nash

CIVIL AIR PATROL TRAVIS COMPOSITE
SQUADRON 22 PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER

Travis Composite Squadron 22 of the Civil Air Patrol is recruiting prospective cadets who are interested in leadership, aviation and more.

CAP is the civilian part of the total force for the United States Air Force.

A new group of cadets will start their visits and application process Sept. 14 online. Great Start training begins Oct. 5, with first promotion anticipated at the end of October.

Great Start is a comprehensive introduction to CAP for new cadets. It transforms a cohort of ordinary youth into cadet airmen in five weeks, while giving cadet noncommissioned officers

and officers opportunities to apply their leadership skills.

For more than 70 years, CAP has helped young people learn in a structured environment. Cadets from 12 to 18 participate in leadership training, aerospace education, science, technology, engineering, math and character development along with physical fitness.

The organization has no military requirements. However, 8% of all Air Force Academy cadets are former CAP members. Other success stories of the squadron include West Point, the Naval Academy and becoming private pilots.

The three main missions of the Civil Air Patrol are aerospace education, cadet programs and emergency services.

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Leaders see ‘flying car’ demo

AFWERX Public Affairs

AUSTIN, Texas — Secretary of the Air Force Barbara Barrett, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Charles Q. Brown, Jr., and Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force JoAnne S. Bass came together to witness the advances in electric vertical takeoff and landing flight Aug. 20 at Camp Mabry.

Exactly 112 years after the Wright Brothers delivered their first military aircraft, top Air Force leaders gathered with their Texas National Guard hosts and AFWERX personnel to watch the first Agility Prime ORB flight demonstration.

The demonstration was presented by Lift Aircraft, a Texas-based Small Business Innovation Research contract recipient, as one of the first companies of its size to join the Agility Prime “Air Race to Certification.”

Agility Prime is a program with a vision of world impact,” Barrett said during the program’s launch in April 2020.

“The thought of an electric vertical take-off and landing vehicle – a flying car – might seem straight out of a Hollywood movie, but by partnering today with stakeholders across



Air National Guard photo/Staff. Sgt. Sean Kornegay

Matt Chasen, Lift Aircraft chief executive officer, pilots the electric vertical takeoff and landing Hexa vehicle Aug. 20 over Camp Mabry, Texas. During the visit, U.S. Air Force Col. Nathan Diller, AFWERX director, spoke about Agility Prime, a nontraditional program seeking to accelerate the commercial market for advanced air mobility vehicles.

industries and agencies, we can set up the United States for this aerospace phenomenon,” Barrett said.

In the heat of the afternoon, Matthew Chasen, Lift chief executive officer, piloted the Hexa over the Camp Mabry parade ground, just a few miles from downtown Austin.

“We now have over 15 of the leading aircraft

manufacturers in the world applying to partner with Agility Prime, with many of them already on contract,” said Col. Nathan Diller, AFWERX director and Agility Prime lead. “This flight today marks the first of many demonstrations and near term flight tests designed to reduce the technical risk and prepare for Agility Prime fielding in 2023.”

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CDC updates symptoms list for COVID-19

Military Health System Communications Office

With the year more than half over, many people remain concerned about catching the respiratory virus COVID-19. The number of confirmed cases worldwide has increased from about 3 million at the end of April to more than 20 million as of Aug. 12. In the United States alone, the total number of cases during this time period grew from 981,000 to approximately 5.1 million, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The good news: Most people who become infected with COVID-19 will recover, according to the CDC, and without needing special medical treatment. So there's no need to panic if you get sick. What's important is knowing what to do next to help ensure a full recovery and avoid infecting someone else.

The main symptoms of COVID-19 include fever at or above 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit, cough, and shortness of



U.S. Army photo/Sgt. Sebastian Nemec

U.S. Army Maj. Feliciano Salgado puts on personal protection equipment before meeting with a Soldier with symptoms similar to COVID-19, at the National Training Center in Fort Irwin, California.

breath. The CDC says these symptoms can occur anywhere from two days to two weeks after becoming infected. Other symptoms may include muscle or body aches, fatigue, headache, chills, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, and new loss of taste or smell.

Emergency warning signs that require immediate

medical attention include trouble breathing, chest pain or pressure, and bluish lips or face. The CDC advises anyone experiencing these symptoms to call 911. If possible, put on a face covering before medical help arrives.

Some people may become seriously ill from COVID-19 and have difficulty breathing. The virus may be especially

dangerous for people who have chronic or long-term health conditions that affect the immune system. Those conditions include heart or lung disease, diabetes, treatment for cancer, and HIV/AIDS.

For cases that are not emergencies, experts advise people to stay home. Don't go to a military medical treatment facility or urgent care clinic because that may expose others to the virus. Instead, contact the MHS Nurse Advice Line. Registered nurses will screen for COVID-19 exposure or infection. They also will offer advice for self-care and, if appropriate, coordinate virtual appointments with health care providers.

Health care providers can offer advice for when sick people can stop isolating. The most recent CDC guidance notes that isolation and other precautions generally can be discontinued 10 days after symptom onset, 24 hours of no fever without the use of fever-reducing medications, and improvement of other symptoms.

"Virtual care has proven to be a valuable tool for health care providers and patients during the coronavirus pandemic," said U.S. Public Health Service Lt. Bobby Taylor, program manager for the MHS Nurse Advice Line.

"This resource allows you to practice social distancing

and still get the answers to your health questions and concerns," he said.

The CDC offers advice for managing COVID-19 symptoms at home. It includes resting, staying hydrated, and monitoring symptoms to make sure they don't get worse. Sick people also should isolate themselves from others, including family members. That may require staying in separate rooms of the house and using a separate bathroom, if possible.

Health care providers can offer advice for when sick people can stop isolating. The most recent CDC guidance notes that isolation and other precautions generally can be discontinued 10 days after symptom onset, 24 hours of no fever without the use of fever-reducing medications, and improvement of other symptoms.

TRICARE beneficiaries can sign up for email updates and get the latest information on COVID-19, including emergency and urgent care options and pharmacy home deliveries.

Defense official discusses future of telework

Jim Garamone

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE NEWS

Conditions-based reopenings have worked well for the Defense Department to date, and the undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness anticipates the same stringent requirements will remain in place.

Matthew Donovan, whose Pentagon office is the epicenter of DoD's anti-COVID-19 fight, said he is pleased with the way service members and their families have responded to the pandemic. He put the experience in context during a socially distanced interview in his Pentagon office.

The Defense Health Agency worked

closely with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention beginning in December, when the first reports of the novel coronavirus surfaced in China. In January, Donovan – then the acting undersecretary – talked with Defense Secretary Dr. Mark T. Esper about the virus and the steps DoD had to take.

It was quick.

"My confirmation hearing was March 10, and we were still shaking hands," Donovan said. "On March 23, I was confirmed, and when I got back over here, the whole world had changed."

Esper was clear from the start about his priorities in a pandemic: protect service members and their families, ensure the mission continues, support civilian

agencies as they lead the fight against the pandemic.

DoD acted quickly. Italy and South Korea were two of the first places where the virus appeared after China. Esper put in place a stop-movement order that was to last 60 days and then be reevaluated. In April, the virus had spread to the United States and other countries. Many areas locked down, businesses closed and activities cancelled.

But DoD had to continue. Service members still had missions to conduct. The United States had forces in Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria, Djibouti and many other nations. They had to continue to operate, and DoD personnel worked to ensure they safely could continue their vital missions.

DoD medical personnel and National Guardsmen assisted the areas hardest hit, with Navy hospital ships deploying to New York and Los Angeles and hospital units moving to New Orleans, Dallas, Seattle and other areas.

In May, the White House issued its "Opening Up America Again" guidelines, and DoD went to a conditions-based approach for movement. Areas had to meet certain conditions before the stop-movement order could be eased. That is the situation the department is in today.

"We put out the travel guidance that listed exemptions for moves and ... waiver abilities for the Services for people that absolutely had to move," Donovan said.

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Courtesy photo

U.S. Air Force Maj. Kenneth Thomas, a navigator with the 94th Airlift Wing, Dobbins Air Reserve Base, Georgia, and his daughter, Dominica Thomas, fly together in 2017. Thomas is the wing's diversity and inclusion project manager and is working on several projects to encourage minorities and young women to consider a career in the Air Force or Air Force Reserve.

Dobbins navigator helps with diversity

Master Sgt. Chance Babin

AIR FORCE RECRUITING SERVICE
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

DOBBINS AIR RESERVE BASE, Ga. — Maj. Kenneth Thomas, a C-130 Hercules navigator assigned to the 94th Airlift Wing at Dobbins Air Reserve Base, and the wing's diversity and inclusion project manager, is working on several fronts to

encourage minorities and young women to consider a career in the Air Force or Air Force Reserve.

Growing up with his grandmother in the Bronx, a borough of New York City, Thomas didn't know much about the Air Force, much less being a rated aviator.

He knew his mother was in the Air Force and his uncle was

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Phoenix Raven Course continues despite virus

Maj. George Tobias
U.S. AIR FORCE EXPEDITIONARY CENTER
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

JOINT BASE MCGUIRE-DIX-LAKEHURST, N.J. — U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center instructors executed the first Phoenix Raven Qualification Course of the year from July 27 to Aug. 19.

Due to the constraints of COVID-19, Phoenix-Raven instructors from the 421st Combat Training Squadron had to completely redesign the PRQC in order to maintain the health and safety of the students and instructors, while also meeting all the training requirements to produce fully qualified Air Force security forces Airmen.

Typically the course is very hands-on, said Staff Sgt. Melida Diaz, 421st CTS Phoenix Raven Qualification Course instructor. “We had to think outside the box and figure out how we can train the students; including combatives and (Armament Systems and Procedures) baton training where they can still receive the training that they need with no contact with the instructors.”

The solution was to divide the course into two parts. The first part required 14 days of restriction of movement, or ROM, of the students in Joint Base



Phoenix Raven Qualification Course instructors with the 421st Combat Training Squadron demonstrate weapon defensive principles to students in the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center's Redman Room Aug. 14 at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey.

McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst lodging. During this two-week period, the students were monitored for any symptoms or signs relating to COVID-19.

While the students were restricted to their rooms in

lodging, they also had 14 days of virtual training with instructors being available, so they were able to complete most of the academic classes prior to the second part of the training, said Staff Sgt. Alonzo Piper, 421st CTS PRQC instructor.

The PRQC academics covered multiple subjects, such as warrior mindset and comprehensive Airman fitness, arming and use of force, cross-cultural communication, individual protective measures, anti-terrorism, surveying airfields, aircraft familiarization, embassy operations and legal considerations.

Upon completion of the ROM, the students transferred to the

421st CTS student dorms and started 10 days of physical training where they learned verbal judo, various Air Force combatives, weapons defensive principles and the use of the ASP baton.

“We teach Air Force combatives at a comprehensive level,” Piper said. “Air Force combatives are self-defense techniques from the ground or standing positions. The standing position is where we teach different strikes, takedowns and different grip techniques to control an individual; and then we go into a ground portion to show how to defend yourself on the ground with the different fighting positions that

you can end up in, different submissions or chokes that you can use if you need to use them to defend yourself.

“We teach weapon takeaways and weapon defensive principles as well, it allows us the ability to defend ourselves if we are threatened with weapons when we don’t have a weapon to defend ourselves.”

Implemented in February 1997 and launched at the then Air Mobility Warfare Center, at Fort Dix, the Phoenix Raven Program ensures protection for Air Mobility Command aircraft operating out of airfields where security is unknown or inadequate. Teams of specially trained and equipped security forces personnel, known as Ravens, deploy aboard AMC aircraft.

“The Ravens are specialized security that go with different aircraft to austere environments. These airfields don’t have adequate security and we are there as the insurance policy to get the mission done. The jet, personnel, cargo and everything with it; we’re there to secure it, and at the end of the day, that’s what it’s all about,” said Staff Sgt. Tanner Hall, 421st CTS PRQC instructor.

Explaining what distinguishes a Raven, Hall noted the ability to use verbal judo and the ASP baton “are kind of the bread and butter of what makes a Raven, because a lot of these environments we don’t necessarily have the capability of taking weapons off the jet, and being able to verbally de-escalate a situation is the key to most of these interactions. However, we have our ASP baton that we drill to perfection as a secondary means of gaining compliance where we might not be able to by other means.”

The term “Phoenix Raven” is a combination of the word “phoenix,” a standard AMC program prefix and the word “raven,” an intelligent bird with keen eyesight.

To become a Raven, students must “pass the evaluations that we have here at the course such as the baton training as well as use of force,” Diaz said. “The students also have different types of tests such as the end-of-course exam and a written test for the baton.”

Airmen complete FTAC



U.S. Air Force photo

Congratulations to the latest Airmen to complete the First Term Airman Center course. Alphabetically: Airman 1st Class John Ivan Aggio, 60th Force Support Squadron; Airman 1st Class Cullen Anderson, 60th Maintenance Squadron; Airman 1st Class Lou Averill, 60th Aerial Port Squadron; Airman 1st Class Frank Barrino, 660th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron; Airman 1st Class Logan Barton, 660th AMXS; Airman 1st Class Jessica Black, 60th APS; Airman Carson Bowhay, 60th MXS; Airman 1st Class Hannah Bruno, 60th Inpatient Squadron; Airman 1st Class Neria Chadwick, 60th APS; Airman 1st Class Jacob Chapman, 60th Civil Engineer Squadron; Airman 1st Class Cianni Rose Chatman, 60th APS; Airman 1st Class Mason Choice, 60th CES; Airman 1st Class Justin Corley, 60th Medical Diagnostics and Therapeutics Squadron; Airman Joshua Creamer, 60th IPTS; Airman 1st Class Carl Dela Cruz, 660th AMXS; Airman Zachary Everhardt, 60th APS; Airman 1st Class Ryan Flanagan, 660th AMXS; Airman Adam Flores, 660th AMXS; Airman 1st Class James Garcia, 60th APS; Airman 1st Class Aron Garito, 60th AMXS; Airman 1st Class Justin Grago, 60th OSS; Airman 1st Class Zachary Hayes, 660th AMXS; Airman 1st Class Skyler Hege, 60th OSS; Airman 1st Class Janae Hernandez, 60 Communications Squadron; Airman 1st Class Joshua Klein, 60th Medical Support Squadron; Airman Basic Johnny Lambert, 660th AMXS; Airman Anna Le, 60th Air Mobility Wing Chaplain Office ; Airman 1st Class Nicholas Le, 60th IPTS; Airman 1st Class Devin LeMaster, 60th Logistics Readiness Squadron; Airman 1st Class Sherellita Lockhart, 60th Medical Operations Squadron; Airman 1st Class Jacob Lopez, 60th AMXS; Airman 1st Class Mckenzie Lynn, 9th Air Refueling Squadron; Airman 1st Class Aydin Macy, 660th AMXS; Airman John Mananquil, 60th MDOS; Airman 1st Class Alejandro Mata, 60th IPTS; Airman Christopher Munoz, 60th LRS; Airman 1st Class Juan Parra Peralta, 60th APS; Airman Wade Pernier, 60th MDTs; Airman Basic Lawren Phillips, 660th AMXS; Airman 1st Class Spencer Pittman, 60th MDOS; Airman 1st Class Harrison Quinton, 60th APS; Airman 1st Class Robert Vega Ramos, 60th CES; Airman 1st Class William Rife, 60th CS; Airman 1st Class Kenneth Riggins, 660th AMXS; Airman Basic Alexander Schweizer, 60th LRS; Airman 1st Class Alexander Smith, 60th FSS; Airman 1st Class Hayden Smith, 60th Operations Support Squadron; Airman 1st Class Christopher Stelzer, 60th MXS; Airman Brent Taylor, 60th CES; Airman 1st Class Andy Valladares, 60th OSS; Airman 1st Class Chelsey Watson, 60th AMXS; Airman 1st Class Trajan Watson, 60th OSS; and Airman Steven Yera, 60th MDOS.

Virtual training center leverages enhanced warfighter capabilities

Senior Airman Miranda A. Loera
57TH WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

NELLIS AIR FORCE BASE, Nev. — The Air Force relies on forward-thinking Airmen who are constantly thinking of ways to innovate, refine or improve processes and technology in a way that can modernize the service and its tactics.

Nellis AFB Airmen have heard and answered that call. With the snip of a ribbon on Aug. 17, the Virtual Test and Training Center here officially moved one step closer to housing the future of joint-aerial combat training.

The VTTC is a training center that will enable pilots to simultaneously train together in live and virtual environments. The experience is intended to make for more realistic and effective training while mitigating the constraints of a physical range.

“It’s a significant step forward to enable testing tactics development and advanced training for the Air Force, joint and coalition partners,” said Peter Zupas, U.S. Air Force Warfare Center operational training and test infrastructure analyst.

The first missions to be

conducted at the VTTC are scheduled to begin around spring or summer of 2021.

“In the next year or so we will officially have it up and running,” said Col. Dean Caldwell, the USAFWC VTTC director. “The VTTC will then be turned into a squadron and be placed under the Nevada Test and Training Range.”

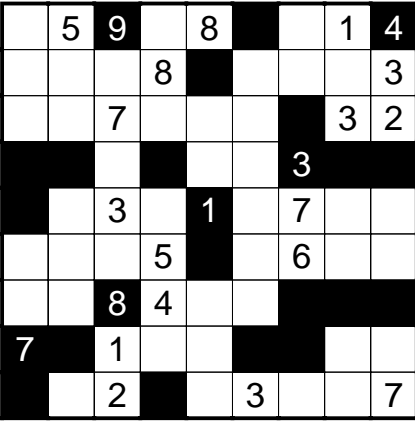
Caldwell said the capabilities within the VTTC will span beyond platform-specific counterterrorism and live-fire exercises, incorporating multi-domain and near-peer threats across air, space and cyber domains.

Puzzles

STR8TS

No. 505

Easy



Previous solution - Medium



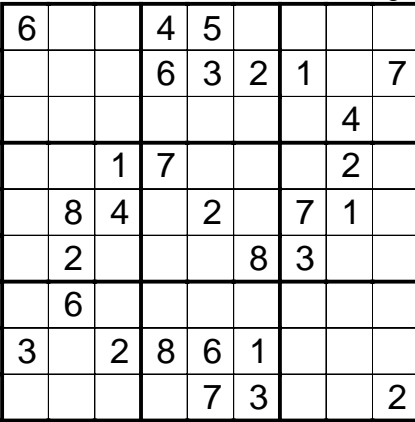
How to beat **Str8ts** — Like Sudoku, no single number can repeat in any row or column. But... rows and columns are divided by black squares into **compartments**. These need to be filled in with numbers that complete a ‘straight’. A **straight** is a set of numbers with no gaps but can be in any order, 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

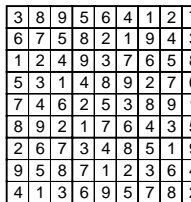
SUDOKU

No. 505

Tough



Previous solution - Medium



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

For many strategies, hints and tips, visit www.sudokuwiki.org

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

Voluntary Leave Transfer Program

The following Travis employees are approved as leave recipients through the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program: Rebecca Austria, 60th Maintenance Group; John Butler, Special Tactics Training Squadron; Jaqualynn Cabanlit, Travis AFB Commissary; Neftaly Clark, 1st Special Operations Force Support Squadron; David Duncan, 319th Reconnaissance Wing, Grand Forks AFB; Rabiye Hamilton, Travis AFB Commissary; Patrick Hodge United States Transportation Command, Scott AFB; Mark Holmes, 10th Contracting Squadron; Dina Patterson-Steward, 60th Aerial Port Squadron; Jason Perkins, Grand Forks AFB; Gina Silva, Air Force Academy headquarters; Jean Sommer, Travis AFB Commissary; Maria Thammasen, 60th Force Support Squadron; and Dennis Weaver, Air Force Manpower Agency.

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

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Travis firefighters help community battle Solano wildfires



1) Paul Dahlen, 60th Civil Engineer Squadron fire inspector and a Vacaville Fire Protection District volunteer firefighter, guides Dave Silva, 60th CES firetruck engineer, through a driveway off Steiger Hill Road Aug. 20 in Vacaville, California. The 60th CES firefighters aided local fire departments in fighting the LNU Lightning Complex Fire, a cluster of fires that forced tens of thousands of people to evacuate their homes, including members of Travis Air Force Base, California.

Story and photos by Nicholas Pilch
60TH AIR MOBILITY WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Airmen from the 60th Civil Engineer Squadron responded Aug. 19 to the LNU Lightning Complex Fire to support the Vacaville Fire Protection District’s firefighting effort.

The fire started in Napa, California, as the result of a lightning storm and quickly spread through the area to Vacaville and Fairfield – both of which border Travis AFB. Tens of thousands were forced to evacuate their homes in Napa and Solano counties through the duration of the day as well as a mandatory evacuation at Travis Air Force Base.

In the early hours of Aug. 19, Travis AFB initially dispatched a four-man crew to the Cherry Glenn area to safeguard homes. Over the course of next 48 hours, the base dispatched 28 firefighters with Beale AFB contributing an additional eight firefighters, four from a specialty wildfire unit. The 36 firefighters were dispatched to 10 locations.

“A lot of the fire was not directly near the road,” said Kevin Bouillon, 60th CES battalion chief. “The crews had to connect hoses together that reached as long as a thousand feet because the fire needed to be extinguished.”

The 60th CES dispatched five trucks in total, one normally being a specialty truck used to put out fires on aircraft.

“Containing the fire is difficult because winds shifted later in the day,” said Staff Sgt. James Muncy, 60th CES crew chief. “Trees were falling, and various fires were reigniting.”

Muncy also said the fire needed as much containment as possible, so more crews dispatched from Travis AFB.

Ricardo Campos, 60th CES captain, and his crew were initially dispatched near Interstate 80; however, they were re-routed to prevent the destruction of a neighborhood near Sales Lane in Fairfield.

“If the fire broke through, there it would’ve been possible for that fire to take out acres of land passing through those residences and would destroy possibly hundreds of acres of residential homes past it,” said Campos.

As of Aug. 21, firefighters from across the county are actively trying to contain the fire in Napa and Solano counties.

“A fire this size, there is no way you can contain it in a day,” said Bouillon. “The ongoing relationship with the local stations allows us to assist in working a fire like this.”

Travis’ installation commander, Col. Corey A. Simmons, ordered mandatory evacuations for nonmission essential personnel and their families Aug. 19. The order was lifted Aug. 21 and the base returned to normal operations Aug. 24.

“It’s been a challenging week for Team Travis and the surrounding communities,” Simmons said. “Thanks to all our emergency responders and community partners for helping keep our Airmen and their families safe. I am so proud of Team Travis members for the way they rapidly responded to the base evacuation order to protect their well being. The safety of Team Travis Airmen and families remains our No. 1 focus right now – especially since some families are still displaced and some have lost their homes or have damaged property.”



2) U.S. Air Force Airman 1st Class Ryan Giroux, left, and Airman 1st Class Brandon Orea, both 60th Civil Engineer Squadron firefighters, walk back to a firetruck after extinguishing a fire on a shed on Soaring Eagle Trail Aug. 20 in Vacaville, California. The 60th CES firefighters aided local fire departments in fighting the LNU Lightning Complex Fire, a cluster of fires that forced tens of thousands of people to evacuate their homes. 3) U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. James Muncy, 60th CES crew chief, puts out burning embers near a residence on Gibson Canyon Road Aug. 20 in Vacaville. 4) Orea listens to a briefing after extinguishing a fire on a shed Aug. 20 on Soaring Eagle Trail in Vacaville. The 60th CES loaned 28 personnel members and five trucks to aid in the fight against the LNU Lightning Complex Fire.

Diversity

From Page 7

in the U.S. Navy, but it wasn't until he attended an air show with his mother, who worked on the F-15 Eagle, that he began to take an interest in being part of the Air Force.

"My mother would take me to the air shows," he said. "I was amazed by the airplanes and the (U.S. Air Force Air Demonstration Squadron) Thunderbirds. After that, my interest was drawn to movies and video games that were related to airplanes."

Thomas eventually enlisted in the Air Force, following his mother and father, who both served.

"I was an electronic warfare technician on the F-16," he said. "While I was in tech school as an Airman at Keesler Air Force Base (Mississippi), my dad was going through Officer Training School at Maxwell (AFB, Alabama)."

His dad was also enlisted before making the move to attend

Officer Training School.

"My commander allowed me to miss a day of training to attend my father's commissioning ceremony," Thomas said. "That's when I gave him his first salute. My father told me 'these new lieutenants are no smarter than you. You are fully capable of becoming an officer, too.' That was the first time I really believed I could actually become an Air Force officer. I was in Air Force (Reserve Officer Training Corps) three years later."

Thomas was quick to raise his hand when the 94th AW was looking for someone to run the diversity and inclusion program a couple of years ago.

"I understand the importance of representation in leadership positions and the (science, technology, engineering and math) career fields," he said. "As an enlisted Airman, I felt there was a diverse workforce, but I didn't see much representation in the officer corps, especially in rated careers. Once I commissioned, I recognized my perception as an Airman was real."

Thomas volunteered to be an instructor combat system officer course at Pensacola Naval Air Station, Florida, knowing he could be a role model for upcoming Air Force officers.

"I felt it was an opportunity to have a huge influence on the Air Force's youngest aviators in training," he said. "When I went through navigator training, I had good instructors who pushed me to succeed, and I wanted to be that for them."

Thomas also took part in the Air Force's first ACE Flight Program, now known as the Aim High Flight Academy, an initiative aimed at combating the growing pilot shortage affecting the Air Force. The ACE program was a joint effort between the Air Force and Delaware State University to provide students initial flight training in civilian aircraft and a structured environment that provides exposure and education on military aviation careers.

Thomas is also the president of Legacy Flight Academy, a nonprofit organization that conducts character-based youth aviation programs that draw upon the legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen.

All LFA events are free to attendees. LFA's comprehensive, three-tiered building block approach works in tandem with partner organizations to help minorities and other underserved and underrepresented youth achieve success as aerospace, science, technology, engineering and math professionals, particularly emphasizing military career opportunities.

In July, more than 30 students from across six states simultaneously experienced the joys of flight during LFA's virtual Legacy Flight Across America.

"During this LFA experience, students learned about the first class of aviation cadets who



Courtesy photo

U.S. Air Force Maj. Kenneth Thomas, a navigator with the 94th Airlift Wing, Dobbins Air Reserve Base, Georgia, and his daughter, Dominica Thomas, a Civil Air Patrol cadet, pose in 2017 at the Air Force Memorial in Washington, D.C.

entered preflight training at the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama on July 19, 1941," Thomas said. "The event, which was broadcast live via social media included on-site interviews and live interactions with students."

To promote rated opportunities in the Air Force to diverse populations, Air Force Recruiting Service stood up Detachment 1 in October 2018. Det. 1 develops innovative programs supporting active duty, Guard and Reserve recruiting efforts and is the tactical execution arm of the chief of staff of the Air Force's rated diversity improvement initiative. The mission of Det. 1 is to inform, influence and inspire tomorrow's leaders through innovative outreach opportunities.

Thomas works with Det. 1 on many of its outreach programs.

"I think it's about time," Thomas said. "The disparity of minorities in rated careers and the higher ranks is appalling. I feel as though the Air Force is making its actions match its words. The Air Force has said

over and over how important efforts like this are and Det. 1 is a step in the right direction."

Although Thomas was not exposed to aviation when he was young, he has been able to show his daughter from a young age what it's like to be an aviator.

"When I started flying in the Air Force, my daughter was 8 years old," he said. "I wanted her to be introduced to flying at a much younger age than I was. At first she just thought it was something cool. As time went on, I exposed her to youth aviation camps and programs. I always shared my stories of flying but never pushed her too hard. I just kept her around airplanes."

At a Legacy Flight Academy event, Thomas's daughter heard about the Civil Air Patrol. A week later, she told him she wanted to join CAP.

"She went to the first meeting and really enjoyed it," he said. "She said she felt a little uneasy because she was the only minority. When she told me this, I told her I wouldn't force her to stay, but she would be missing a great opportunity if she let that stop her."

She stuck with CAP and earned promotions at every opportunity.

"CAP nominated her for the ACE program, which she attended and completed her solo flight," Thomas said. "When she moved to her new squadron in Marietta, she became the Civil Air Patrol commander because of her leadership and hard work."

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CAP

From Page 5

Aerospace education includes aviation, as well as promoting aerospace-related hands on STEM education, and future careers.

To date, more than 50 cadets have earned their private pilot's license. The cadet program concentrates on developing dynamic Americans and aerospace leaders.

Leadership, physical fitness, aerospace education and character development are used to help young people learn lifelong skills.

CAP performs emergency services missions both in the air and on the ground. Its members fly more than 1,500 search and rescues missions per year.

Annually, 90% of all search and rescue missions in the US are done by Civil Air Patrol;

over 134 lives have been saved in 2020 alone.

There are 26,000 cadets nationwide in over 1,400 squadrons.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the squadron is meeting online on Monday evenings.

On a recent video conference call, Capt. Michelle Bailey spoke about suicide prevention, showing cadets a tattoo as a form of solidarity between people dealing with mental illness or the death of someone from suicide.

After her lecture, she gave the cadets time to ask any questions they might have and concluded her class.

Each week, cadets touch on different subjects. Cadets as well as senior members lead classes and have time to share their expertise.

For more information, contact squadron commander Lt. Col. Perry Polk at perry.polk@cawgcap.org or visit https://sq22.cawgcap.org/.

Supplies

From Page 4

disaster supply kit that includes the following items:

- COVID-19 protection – reusable or disposable face coverings, disposable gloves, hand sanitizers, disinfecting wipes, hand soap.

- Water – at least one gallon daily, per person (three-day supply for evacuation, two-week supply for home).

- Nonperishable foods – canned meats, fruits, vegetables, dried fruits, nuts, raisins, cereal, crackers, cookies, energy bars, granola, peanut butter, and foods for infants and the elderly (three-day supply for evacuation, two-week supply for home).

- Paper goods – writing paper, paper plates, paper towels

and toilet paper.

- Writing utensils – pens, pencils (manual pencil sharpeners), markers.

- Cooking items – pots, pans, baking sheets, cooking utensils, charcoal, a grill and a manual can opener.

- First-aid kit – including bandages, medicines and prescription medications.

- Cleaning materials – bleach, sanitizing spray, and hand and laundry soap.

- Toiletries – personal hygiene items and moist wipes.

- Pet care items – food, water, muzzle, leash, carrier, medications, medical records, and identification and immunization tags.

- Lighting accessories – flashlights, batteries, candles and matches.

- Battery-powered or hand-crank radio (NOAA Weather Radio, if possible).

- Duct tape, scissors.

- Multipurpose tool.

- Copies of personal documents (medication list and pertinent medical information, proof of address, deed/lease to home, passports, birth certificates and insurance policies).

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- Extra cash.

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- Maps of the area.

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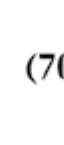
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Depart

From Page 2

ready to go. Later that evening,
we had to evacuate all the air-
craft at a moment's notice."

The flight line was buzzing
with commotion when the or-
der came down, McFeron said.

"Tensions were high that
night. It was like organized
chaos out on the flight line,"
the crew chief said. "The main
thing was everyone was safe.
No one got hurt, and the air-
craft got out of here safely."

Airman 1st Class Joshua En-
gidaw, 60th Logistics Read-
iness Squadron fuels distri-
bution operator, noticed that
commotion toward the end of
his shift.

When the evacuation order
came down, Engidaw said he
knew he would have to extend
his shift and aid with the evacu-
ation efforts by remaining on
the flight line to fuel aircraft.

"Our Airmen came together

and really pushed the grind
and got out there and did what
was supposed to be done," En-
gidaw said. "It was like clock-
work, like a moving machine
that was working perfectly to-
gether."

Engidaw and McFeron, like
other Airmen on the flight line
that evening, worked late into
the night to carry out the mis-
sion.

"We were monitoring the
tower and ground frequencies
(on the radio) up to the last sec-
ond, 'til those jets got off the
ground," said Fierro, who not-
ed that the evacuating aircraft
were gone by about 1 a.m. "In
my 20-something years in the
Air Force ... I don't know that
I've ever seen something like
that," Fierro said.

After the fire receded and
base leadership felt it was safe
for personnel and aircraft to re-
turn, Simmons lifted the evacu-
ation order Aug. 21.

The fleet returned to Travis
AFB between Aug. 22-23.



U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Solomon Cook

**U.S. Air Force Gen. Jacqueline D. Van Ovost, commander of Air Mobility
Command, returns her first salute to U.S. Air Force Lt. Gen. Brian
Robinson, AMC deputy commander, during the AMC change of command
ceremony Aug. 20 at Scott Air Force Base, Illinois. AMC provides rapid
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Van Ovost

From Page 4

and better than ever before."

Addressing AMC for the first
time as commander, Van Ovost
thanked Airmen physically and
virtually present for their stead-
fast efforts to achieve mission
success.

"You are the reason Air Mo-
bility Command continues to
provide our combatant com-
manders unrivaled rapid glob-
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petitive, curious and innovative
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1

U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Dustin Mullen

During wildfires, Travis aircraft find ... SHELTER



2

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



3

U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Dustin Mullen

1) KC-10 Extenders from Travis Air Force Base, California, sit on the flightline at Fairchild Air Force Base, Washington, Aug. 20, 2020. The KC-10s and Airmen from Travis evacuated due to the LNU Lightning Complex Fire near the base. 2) U.S. Air Force KC-10 Extenders from Travis Air Force Base, California, sit on the flightline at Fairchild Air Force Base, Washington, Aug. 20, 2020. The KC-10s and Airmen from Travis evacuated due to the LNU Lightning Complex Fire near Travis Air Force Base. 3) A KC-10 Extender from Travis Air Force Base, California, moves on the flightline at Fairchild Air Force Base, Washington, Aug. 20, 2020. Several KC-10s and Airmen from Travis evacuated due to the LNU Lightning Complex Fire near the base.

Telework

From Page 7

“All through this process, DoD personnel had to follow the latest CDC guidance, and local commanders had to gauge the situation on bases and in the surrounding communities,” he said.

“As we look forward, we have 231 installations that we’re tracking around the world, and 99 of them had their travel restrictions lifted,” the undersecretary said. “We continually review this. It’s been complicated a little bit lately because of the rolling outbreaks the White House COVID Task Force told us might occur. That has caused some of our installations to go from green back to red because of conditions in the local communities.”

DoD is working with other government agencies and private firms to develop a safe and effective COVID-19 vaccine.

Some vaccines are already in large-scale testing, and it is possible that some could be ready by the end of the year. DoD is partnered with the Department of Health and Human Services to produce the approved vaccines to scale. DoD officials are also working with health officials to determine how to vaccinate service members and their families.

“There is, of course, a plan for vaccine distribution for everyone,” Donovan said. “Nothing has been finalized, but if you look back at the priority framework that we developed for testing, ...that provides a pretty good framework for who we would want to get the vaccinations to as well.”

Vaccination is a national decision, he said, and DoD personnel would get the priority assigned to them by national leaders.

One aspect of the pandemic that has been eye-opening to DoD leaders is how effective



U.S. Army photo/Cpl. Rachel Thicklin

U.S. Army Pfc. Christopher Elsberry, assigned to the 36th Medical Company Area Support Battalion, sanitizes a chair inside the mobile COVID-19 testing unit May 19 at the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center in New York.

telework has been. “There have been several pushes across the decades to increase the use of telework, but it never exceeded 5% of the federal workforce,” Donovan said. “There has been a lot of skepticism about teleworking on the part

of supervisors: How do I ensure that [my workers] are actually doing their work?”

Then the pandemic struck. “We had the impetus to drive to about 95 percent [teleworking] in Personnel and Readiness,” Donovan said. “We’re still

at around the high 70s for teleworking. And guess what? The work got done. And that was even with a tripling of the workload because of COVID.”

Donovan noted that productivity in some areas actually increased thanks to teleworking. He said he tips his hat to the Defense Information Systems Agency and DoD’s chief information officer for building the network for teleworking.

The success has officials thinking of the way forward, as telework could cut the demand for office space and ease crowding in DoD buildings, he said.

Finally, Donovan said, he is concerned with readiness. He said the services have done an excellent job keeping the “throughput” for recruits during the pandemic. A short pause allowed the services to develop procedures to continue training safely, and it’s back on track. “We think there will be minimal effect on service end strength,” he said.

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