

“...executing the safe and orderly

PAGES 10-11

RETROGRADE

of all U.S. and coalition forces from Afghanistan





U.S. Air Force photo by Heide Couch

Airmen assigned to the 60th Medical Group participate in a simulated medical emergency event during an exercise at Travis Air Force Base, California, on July 22, 2021. The disaster response exercise prepared David Grant Air Force Medical Center staff to respond to chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear or explosive incidents.

Red Eagle prepares medics at David Grant for disaster response

Chustine Minoda
60TH AIR MOBILITY WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS
TRAVIS AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. — Travis AFB conducted exercise Ready Eagle, a full-scale disaster response to prepare David Grant Medical Center personnel the

capability to respond to a chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosive events July 22. The Ready Eagle training was under the direction of Air Force Medical Service (AFMS) teamed with Booz Allen Hamilton consulting firm

to develop and facilitate this training. This Air Force readiness and training event does not only keep Travis AFB prepared for hostile incidents, but it also accomplishes a congressional mandate.

See EXERCISE Page 20

Senate confirms Kendall to be Air Force Secretary

Charles Pope
SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE
PUBLIC AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON (AFNS)

—Frank Kendall won confirmation from the Senate July 26 to be the 26th Secretary of the Air Force, placing an official with decades-long service in defense issues in the top civilian job at a time when the department is navigating new global challenges and wide-reaching modernization efforts.

The vote reflected both Kendall's well-known record in previous active duty and policy jobs and his philosophy for leading the Department of the Air Force.

With his confirmation, Kendall will be able to more fully articulate his priorities and policy preferences for how best to position the Air and Space Forces to contend with China, Russia and other strategic competitors, as well

See KENDALL Page 16

Air advisers strengthen partnership, advance capabilities in Jamaica

Tech. Sgt. Jacob Haines
571ST MOBILITY SUPPORT
ADVISORY SQUADRON

TRAVIS AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. — The 571st Mobility Support Advisory Squadron successfully conducted a Mobile Training Team engagement with the Jamaican Defense Force Air Wing at Up Park Camp and the Caribbean Military Aviation School, Kingston, Jamaica, June 10-22.

U.S. Air Force air advisers, like those of the 571st MSAS, are ambassadors tasked with fostering relationships and developing the capabilities of U.S. global strategic partners, to include the Caribbean nation of Jamaica.

The JDF-AW is a highly capable professional force of aviators and technicians who take pride in their service and stewardship of Jamaica and the surrounding area. To further strengthen their existing partnership and accelerate JDF capabilities, air advisers had to get creative in their approach and tailor instruction to meet the needs of JDF-AW personnel.

With their team of technically savvy air advisers, the 571st MSAS delivered classroom instruction, hands-on training, devised a multi-service search and rescue



Courtesy photo

Jamaican Defense Force Air Wing aircrewmembers employ water survival and life raft deployment techniques in Kingston Harbour, Jamaica, June 24, 2021. Air advisers with the 571st MSAS spent weeks training JDF-AW forces on topics such as radio etiquette, maintenance, aircraft mishap and water survival.

exercise, and facilitated program development in the areas of aircraft maintenance quality assurance, crew resource management, radio

transmission, water survival and search and rescue. Through the radio transmission course, JDF-AW members honed their skills by

receiving instruction on radio etiquette, standardization of radio maintenance procedures,

See JAMAICA Page 9

USAF approves special leave accrual for 2021

Julia Haggard
U.S. AIR FORCE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Air Force and Space Force members performing active service, and Reserve and Guard Airmen on Title 10 or Title 32 orders, can now accrue up to 120 days of annual leave for fiscal year 2021 instead of the typical 60 days of leave.

Members will automatically be approved for the special leave accrual and can carry over use or lose leave earned Oct. 1, 2020 through Sept. 30, 2021 until Sept. 30, 2024.

This update comes as many Airmen and Guardians have been unable to use their existing leave balances due to travel restrictions and the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Rest and recuperation are vital to morale, unit and personal performance, and overall motivation for Airmen and Guardians. The Department of the Air Force recognizes the importance to provide opportunities for its service members

See LEAVE Page 8

Tailwind

Travis AFB, Calif. | 60th Air Mobility Wing

Air Force

Col. Corey A. Simmons
60th Air Mobility Wing commander

1st Lt. Jasmine Jacobs
Chief of command information

Senior Airman Cameron Otte
Tailwind staff

Daily Republic

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The Tailwind is published by the Daily Republic, Fairfield, California, a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. Air Force.

While most of the editorial content of the Tailwind is prepared by the 60th Air Mobility Wing Public Affairs office for its Web-based product, the content for the Tailwind is edited and prepared for print by the Daily Republic staff.

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Correspondence can be sent to the 60th Air Mobility Wing Public Affairs staff, Tailwind, 400 Brennan Circle, Bldg. 51, Travis AFB, CA 94535-2150 or emailed to 60amwpa@us.af.mil.

Deadline for copy is 4:30 p.m. Friday for the following Friday's issue. Swap ads must be brought to Bldg. 51 by noon Monday for possible print in that Friday's issue. Emailed or faxed Swap Ads are not accepted.

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For information on paid advertising and on base circulation, call 425-4646. Correspondence can be sent to: Daily Republic, 1250 Texas St., Fairfield, CA 94533 or faxed to 425-5924.

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On the cover

Senior Airman Laurence Pierre, 921st Contingency Response Squadron defender, hugs friends after arriving to the Global Reach Deployment Center at Travis Air Force Base, California, June 19, 2021.

U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. David W. Carbajal



U.S. Air Force photo

WARRIOR OF THE WEEK

Name:
SrA Codi Guidry
Unit:
60 AMXS / MXAAC
Duty title:
2A551C / Crew Chief
Hometown:
Kerman, California

Time in service:
4 Years 11 Months
Family:
None
What are your goals?
Becoming a Family and Marriage Therapist specializing in PTSD victims

What are your hobbies?
Riding Horses, Camping, Line Dancing
What is your greatest achievement?
Was ranked 23rd in the World in Spartan Races
Factoids:
Taught Biblical studies in Tanzania

Back to School Brigade gives school supplies to families at Travis AFB



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Christian Conrad

Airman Ciarra Capurro, 660th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron communications/navigation apprentice, right, hands a pack of pens to Leean Delacruz, a military spouse, during the Back-to-School Brigade.



U.S. Air Force photos by Staff Sgt. Christian Conrad

Above and below: Airmen, parents and students line up along a string of tables to look over a selection of free school supplies at the Back-to-School Brigade at Travis Air Force Base, California, July 23, 2021. The Back-to-School Brigade is an annual tradition for the base.



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Christian Conrad



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Christian Conrad

Airmen, parents and students line up along a string of tables to look over a selection of free school supplies during the Back-to-School Brigade at Travis Air Force Base, California, July 23, 2021. The school supplies are given away for free as part of the base's annual tradition of ensuring all returning students have the resources they need ahead of the start of the new school year.



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Christian Conrad

Airmen from Travis Air Force Base, California, speak to each other during the Back-to-School Brigade, a giveaway of free school supplies for local students at Travis AFB, California, July 23, 2021.

Commissaries, industry create more chances for US military families to save

Defense Commissary Agency

TRAVIS AIR FORCE BASE—More opportunities to save are on the horizon for commissary customers thanks to a new initiative created by the Defense Commissary Agency and its industry suppliers.

Known as “Come Home to Savings, Shop Your Local Commissary, this joint DeCA and industry promotion will be coming to commissaries worldwide starting in August,” DeCA Director and CEO Bill Moore said in a statement.

“We are partnering with our network of manufacturers, suppliers and distributors to offer our service members and their families even more savings,” he said.

There are several ways customers can benefit” In-store promotions, the agency’s CLICK.2GO curbside service and DeCA’s website, www.commissaries.com, along with digital coupons, will all lead to these savings.

Some ways customers will access savings opportunities include:

- **Commissary Rewards Card.** Customers without a rewards card can ask any employee at their commissary for one and register it on the portal, www.MyCommissary.com, to set up a customer account. Once registered, they can download digital coupons instantly and enter to win special events and giveaways.

- **In-Store Coupons.** Customers may find a multitude of in-store coupons located on the shelves, as well as when they walk in the door

See **COMMISSARY** Page 12

Pilots leaving active duty have safe landing place in Reserve, Guard

Master Sgt. Chance Babin

AIR FORCE RECRUITING SERVICE

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas—As COVID-19 travel restrictions ease around the world, commercial airlines are looking to hire more pilots. Air Force officials want to remind active-duty pilots leaving the Air Force for the civilian aviation industry that such a move doesn’t have to end their service to their country.

Air Force Recruiting Service’s top recruiter said keeping trained pilots in uniform is one of the Air Force’s top priorities. AFRS is a Total Force recruiting enterprise charged with finding Airmen and civilians to serve full or part time, in or out of uniform.

“COVID tipped the balances for many Airmen deciding whether to stay in the Air Force,” said Maj. Gen. Ed Thomas, AFRS commander. “Now that the country is opening up, Airmen who wanted to hit the pause button on active duty will consider moving out with their separation plans. For those who do, we want to keep them on the team and benefit from their training and talent in the Guard or Reserve. With our nation’s pilot shortage, keeping our world-class aviators flying for our Total Force is critical.”

The Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard allow former active-duty pilots to continue their military service while giving them supplemental income and benefits, should the airline industry experience slow-downs or set-backs in the future.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, many airline pilots were furloughed as the industry came to a screeching halt. Commercial pilots serving in an Air Reserve Component were able to stay employed, work toward a retirement and continue receiving benefits.

“The nature of the airline



Robinson Kuntz/Daily Republic file

KC-10 refueling planes line up on the runway at Travis Air Force Base, Sept. 11, 2013.

industry is cyclical,” said Brig Gen. Derin Durham, Air Force Reserve Command’s director of Air, Space and Information Operations. “I have seen it swing many times, with wars, terrorist attacks, economic downturns and now, pandemics. Many factors can affect the industry. The one constant for many of these airline pilots is the Guard or Reserve. We are able to keep them whole, pay bills and weather the storm until things turn around.”

The Reserve Components are eager to bring in these fully-qualified Airmen.

“Retaining trained Airmen is the primary reason for the ARC’s existence,” Durham said. “The nation has invested

millions of dollars in training these great Americans to protect and defend our way of life. As a Reserve Component member, that training continues to be honed and exercised, ready in order to guarantee that war fighting capability and strategic depth when called upon.”

The general said about 75% of Airmen who switch to the Reserve after their active-duty tour continue serving until they earn a Reserve retirement. Many stay until they reach their mandatory retirement age of 60.

“We strive to make Reserve service something our members love to do,” he said. “They do it for the mission, the people and the satisfaction of

knowing they are still making a contribution to their country.”

For the Reserve and Guard, gaining pilots from active duty not only brings in a wealth of knowledge and experience, it also saves total Air Force dollars on training costs and pilot training seats.

“Due to pilot training capacity limitations, we are unable to train the number of pilots we need to meet readiness requirements,” said Col. Eugene Smith, 367th Recruiting Group commander. “Capturing rated pilots from active duty is critical to fill Air Force Reserve flying unit vacancies. An additional benefit is that the majority of Reserve pilots are also pilots in the civilian world. The

networking opportunities are vast for future growth as they transition into civilian life.”

Retaining pilots is also critical to military readiness and preparedness.

“The Air National Guard is focused on ensuring pilots remain in the Total Force,” said Col. Nashid Salahuddin, ANG Recruiting and Retention Division chief. “If pilots decide to leave active duty to pursue airline positions, the ANG or Air Force Reserve are the perfect way for them to continue serving part time. It’s critically important to the ANG and the Air Force that we retain pilots in the Total Force. From a readiness perspective, if we maintain this talent,

See **RESERVE** Page 18

Civil Air Patrol cadets visit Travis AFB

Senior Airman Jonathon Carnell
60TH AIR MOBILITY WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

TRAVIS AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. — It can be heard from neighboring communities - the whistling and roaring sounds coming from Travis AFB's flight line. A pilot ramps the engine's idle to maximum power and, within a matter of seconds, an aircraft weighing almost 1 million pounds is in the sky.

Seven Civil Air Patrol cadets from Northern California toured Travis AFB July 19-23, and witnessed the powerful thrust of the engines of a C-5M Super Galaxy.

One cadet said it couldn't be compared to anything he had experienced.

"Listening to the air traffic control Airmen communicate back and forth with the pilots

was really cool," said Cadet Raenen Mathen. "The aviation world has always been something I want to get involved with. Being out here today, I know this is my career path."

The tour's main purpose was to educate cadets on career possibilities within the Air Force through science, technology, engineering and mathematics, said Mark Fridell, Senior Squadron 188 instructor, Oakland, California.

The cadets were given demonstrations by units within the 60th Explosive Ordnance Disposal Squadron and 60th Operations Support Squadron.

From aircraft departing the flight line to EOD members educating cadets on their mission, Fridell said every role

See CADETS Page 8



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

Senior Airman Lenora Boot, 60th Operations Support Squadron air traffic controller, discusses flight line operations with Civil Air Patrol cadets during a tour at Travis Air Force Base, California, July 21, 2021. Seven CAP cadets toured Travis AFB to gain a better understanding of Air Force Specialty Code assignments that are integrated with science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

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Austin calls on service members to stop stigma of mental health help

JIM GARAMONE

DOD NEWS

EILSON AIR FORCE BASE, ALASKA — After a briefing from leaders about the spike in suicides among service members in Alaska, Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III said today he's concerned about the number of suicides there and across the force.

"I'm deeply concerned about the suicide rates, not only here but across the force," he said during a press conference at Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska. "One loss by suicide is too many. While we're working hard on this problem, we have a lot more to do."

Addressing the problem must start with reducing the stigma associated with seeking help for mental health issues, he said. "Mental health is health, period," Austin said. The secretary said the Defense Department must approach the suicide issue with the same energy applied to any other health issue. Getting help to those suffering from mental health issues must be done with compassion and professionalism, not stigma, he said.

"So, if you're hurting, there are resources available," Austin said. "And I know that our leaders here are committed to making those resources even more accessible and available."

From Day 1 in his tenure at the helm of the DOD, Austin has said that his first priority is to defend the nation. "But key to achieving it is taking care of our people," he said. "One of my messages to the men and women that I spoke with today is we need to look out for one another, and I promised I would be looking out after them."



Photo by Chad McNeely, DOD

Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin speaks during a press conference at Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska, July 24, 2021. Austin will meet with key leaders reaffirming defense relationships and conducting bilateral meetings with senior officials.



Photo by Jim Garamone, DOD

Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin speaks of the need for allies and partners during a press conference at Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska, July 24, 2021.

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Puzzles

STR8TS

No. 553 Easy Previous solution - Medium

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

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

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

SUDOKU

No. 553 Tough Previous solution - Medium

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

The solutions will be published here in the next issue.

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

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Cadets

From Page 6

Airmen execute is influential to the cadets.

Cadet Mathen, who joined CAP in January of this year, joined because he is fascinated by aviation and aerospace.

"This was my first trip to a base," Mathen said. "I wasn't too sure what to expect, but seeing Airmen do their jobs really inspires me."

The CAP program is a self-paced, 16-step, multi-faceted

program with focuses in aerospace education, leadership training, physical fitness, and moral leadership. Cadets are eligible to join the program between ages 12-21.

"We want young people to know what our organization is and encourage them to get involved," Fridell said. "For cadets to be able to see all of this truly makes a difference."

To find more information about the CAP program visit <https://www.cawgcap.org/>.

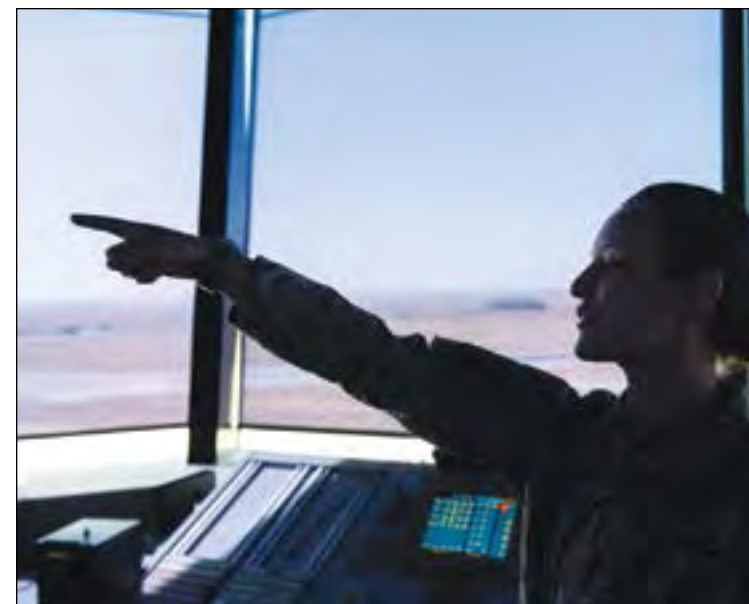


Photo by Senior Airman Jonathon Carnell

Senior Airman Lenora Boot, 60th Operations Support Squadron air traffic controller, points to the flight line during a Civil Air Patrol cadet tour at Travis Air Force Base, California, July 21, 2021.

Leave

From Page 3

to use their earned leave in the year it was earned and provide respite from the work environment," said Acting Secretary of the Air Force John Roth in a memo.

More detailed instructions are forthcoming, but leave accountability is based on a last-in, first-out system, so members are urged to plan and use leave accordingly. In addition, commanders are encouraged to provide service members opportunities to take leave in the year it is earned.

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Photo by Senior Airman Jonathon Carnell

Civil Air Patrol cadets watch a C-5M Super Galaxy depart the flight line at Travis Air Force Base, California, July 21, 2021. Seven CAP cadets toured Travis AFB to gain a better understanding of Air Force Specialty Code assignments that are integrated with science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

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Jamaica

From Page 3

radio safety and maintenance, Airborne Extensible Relay Over-Horizon Network integration, advanced radio troubleshooting and procurement of additional operating manuals.

In the aircraft maintenance QA course, JDF leadership received instruction on QA fundamentals, QA program development and implementation, with the course culminating in a working group that began drafting a standing order to tailor an appropriate QA program that will codify JDF-AW maintenance QA practices.

"The training was very interesting and useful," said Maj. Gladstone Allen, JDF-AW training and standards officer and maintenance QA course attendee. "I really enjoyed it! Our instructor presented the material with expertise and enthusiasm. This course has helped to lay the foundation of a JDF QA program. I wish to extend my thanks for the wisdom, experience and excellent presentation shared during this engagement."

In the crew resource management course, aircrew personnel learned CRM fundamentals, threat error mitigation techniques, checklist development and utilization, mission planning and debrief techniques, and aircrew situational awareness principles. The course concluded with aircraft mishap case studies and development of improved communication techniques with proper checklist utilization to employ a shared mental model during both standard and emergency air operations. Students

quickly learned and began incorporating CRM aspects within their lens of evaluating aircrew operations.

The water survival, search and rescue course focused on developing downed aircrew members' survival and recovery signaling skills applicable to the maritime environment that the JDF operates in. Through this instruction, JDF-AW aviators learned and practiced utilization of personnel recovery kit items, ocean survival techniques, life raft deployment and operation, rescue signaling methods, and hoist operation and maintenance techniques.

At the summit of this course of instruction, the class took to the open water where students had to employ previously learned classroom survival techniques in a search and rescue, personnel recovery exercise that incorporated a Bell 429 GlobalRanger helicopter, three Jamaican Coast Guard vessels, and approximately 30 personnel.

"Personnel survival techniques and recovery operations are tactics that need to be exercised and performed on a recurring basis to ensure they can be executed efficiently in the event of an emergency," said U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Gerame Vaden, 571st MSAS Survival, Evasion, Resistance, and Escape specialist. "During a survival situation, with someone's life on the line, there may not be time or opportunity to recall vaguely remembered procedures. This exercise was designed with that understanding in mind — get the students in the water employing their survival techniques, and have recovery forces go through the rescue

See JAMAICA Page 15



Courtesy photo

U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Joshua Miles, 571st Mobility Support Advisory Squadron air advisor, and Jamaican Defense Force Air Wing personnel, discuss radio antenna maintenance procedures at an airfield control tower in Up Park Camp, Kingston, Jamaica, June 17, 2021. Air advisers with the 571st MSAS spent weeks training JDF-AW forces on topics such as radio etiquette, maintenance, aircraft mishap and water survival.

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CRW Airmen support Resolute Support Mission

Tech. Sgt. Luther Mitchell
621ST CONTINGENCY RESPONSE WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

JOINT BASE MCGUIRE-DIX-LAKEHURST, N.J. — Airmen from the 621st Contingency Response Wing recently returned from supporting retrograde operations in the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility as part of Task Force 74.

The team of Devil Raiders stationed at both Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst and Travis Air Force Base, California, assisted the U.S. Joint Force commander in executing the safe and orderly retrograde of all U.S. and coalition forces from Afghanistan.

The CRW's ability to mobilize within 12 hours in response to the president's directed drawdown and support strategic objectives in a contested environment is precisely why the wing is considered Air Mobility Command's 9-1-1 force.

"The contingency response groups are trained to operate in limited and contested operations," said Master Sgt. Erik Larson, 921st Contingency Response Squadron team chief. "We know how to work with less and not only get the job done but get it done efficiently and effectively."

A combined force of 146 personnel from the 821st CRG, 621st CRG and the 621st Air Mobility Advisory Group deployed to support retrograde operations. Personnel consisted of aerial port, aircraft maintenance, security forces, air traffic control, vehicle maintenance, airfield management, communications, ramp coordinators and air traffic control Airmen.

The task force split into a contingency response element and a contingency response team to assist retrograde efforts in different parts of the country. The CRE provided the majority of assistance utilizing over 400 personnel to include members with the 455th Air Expeditionary Wing as well as the theater-enabling force members from across 15 bases.

"The core 621st CRW CRE was the heartbeat of the Afghanistan drawdown," said Lt. Col. Mark Berthelotte, 321st CRS



Gianna, 9, hugs Tech. Sgt. Steve Rogers, 921st Contingency Response Squadron aerial porter supervisor, at the Global Reach Deployment Center after arriving to Travis Air Force Base, California, June 19, 2021. Members of the 621st Contingency Response Wing assisted retrograde operations in U.S. Central Command's area of responsibility to withdraw personnel and cargo out of the AOR.

commander and CRE commander. "Completing any and all implied and explicit tasks was our mentality, no matter how far out of our norm it might be, because frankly, we were it. To our joint partners, we were the face of 'The Air Force,' so we completed any blue issues or requirements."

The 621st CRW's ability to execute operations when requirements lack clarity, self-sufficiency and mobility expertise were vital in meeting the Joint Force Air Component commander objectives.

"All members of our team demonstrated flexibility and tenacity in the face of a daunting mission on an aggressive timeline," said Col. Daniel Mollis, 621st AMAG deputy commander and TF74 commander. "Whatever it took, we got the job done."

Theater command and control

experts with the 621st Air Mobility Operations Squadron rapidly responded to Air and Space Operation Center surge requirements at U.S. Air Forces Central.

"Once a contingency operation begins, and if requirements exceed manpower, the 621st AMOS provides Air Mobility Division augmentation support when tasked," said Maj. Jonathan Loyd, 621st AMOS combat systems flight commander. "The 609th Air Mobility Division signaled that they needed additional personnel to help with the operations, so the 621st AMOS, along with some members from the contingency response squadrons, rapidly responded."

Air Mobility Liaison Officers and Expeditionary Air and Ground Liaison Element Airmen from the 621st Mobility Support Operations Squadron instructed,

advised and deployed with joint partners playing a vital role in the rapid expedition of personnel and equipment.

"With the short time allotted to us, almost everything we did was time-sensitive," said Staff Sgt. Dennis Daniel, 621st MSOS EAGLE member. "I believe that we were critical to the mission to mitigate easily-missed issues that would cause the process to take longer than it needs to."

The 621st CRW's mission sets were essential to air operations success supporting the retrograde operations and handing back base control to the host nation officials.

The contingency response team managed aircraft and cargo at an expedited pace, allowing higher headquarters the flexibility to move up the base closure

date to meet the president's timeline.

"The CRT was able to push over thousands of tons of cargo out from the base," Larson said. "The success of the CRT shows not only how viable a CRT can be, but also showcases that the contingency response group does more than just base and port openings."

The 621st CRW's ability to deliver agile, light and lean forces to the right place at the right time is what makes it a trusted option for senior leaders in achieving Department of Defense mobility objectives.

"Congrats to the Devil Raiders on the safe and effective planning and execution of a historic mission!" said Gen. Jacqueline Van Ovost, AMC commander. "I could not be more proud of our AMC and CR Airmen!"

Right: Airmen with the 821st Contingency Response Group gather aboard an aircraft upon their return from supporting retrograde operations in the Central Command area of responsibility at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey, June 19, 2021.

Bottom left: U.S. Air Force Col. Travis L. Edwards, 621st Contingency Response Wing commander, speaks to redeployers at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey, July 3, 2021. Devil Raiders supported retrograde operations in the Central Command area of responsibility as part of Task Force 74.

Bottom right: Col. Travis L. Edwards, 621st Contingency Response Wing commander, greets Airmen with the 821st Contingency Response Group upon their return from supporting retrograde operations in the Central Command Area of Responsibility, at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey, June 19, 2021. The 821st CRG was part of Task Force 74 that assisted Resolute Support Mission Airmen with the safe and orderly withdrawal.



(U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Sarah Brice)



U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Luther Mitchell



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Sarah Brice

Commissary

From Page 4

and find military-affiliated free magazines that include commissary/military-only coupons.

■ **Commissary Store Brands.** Commissaries have their own private label brands that are comparable to national brands with even deeper savings. Look for DeCA's own store brands, Freedom's Choice and HomeBase, as well as other private label brands such as Full Circle organics, Tippy Toes baby products, Wide Awake ready-to-drink coffee products, Pure Harmony pet food, TopCare health and beauty and Flock's Finest wild bird food.

■ **Your Health and Wellness Programs.** The Dietitian Approved Thumb (DAT) makes it easy for shoppers to find high-performance, nutrient-dense foods. Look for the DAT label on the shelves. Dietitian-approved fueling stations offer nutritious on-the-go meals and snacks. Posters in the center store highlight dietitian-approved quick and easy-to-make meals.

■ **YES! Program.** The YES! Program offers everyday savings on many of the items that customers buy frequently.

The items are marked by bright orange and blue YES! labels.

■ **Deal of the Week.** On select Thursdays in commissaries located in the U.S., customers will find seasonal products with sales prices. These deals last three to four days while quantities last. Look for "Deal of the Week" signage and the sales flyer for discount pricing.

■ **Saving the Best for Last!** Throughout the entire month of August, authorized patrons worldwide will have the opportunity to enter to win a \$500 shopping spree (www.militarycontests.com). The winners will be awarded their prize in commissary gift cards at the beginning of September. Stateside commissaries will host a "Come Home to Savings Excitement Day" on Aug. 14, offering product sampling and instant giveaways such as commissary gift cards and coupons while supplies last.

"Come home to the savings you deserve is the message we're communicating to our customers," Moore said in the statement. "We are here to help them find the very best deals in the installation – that's what this campaign is all about."

Exchange shopping sprees available through Red Bull Sweepstakes

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TRAVIS AIR FORCE BASE — The Army & Air Force Exchange Service is rewarding six military shoppers with shopping sprees in the Red Bull sweepstakes.

From Aug. 1 through Aug. 31, Travis Air Force Base and other authorized Exchange shoppers 18 and older can enter at ShopMyExchange.com/sweepstakes. One grand-prize winner will receive a \$5,000 Exchange gift card, and five first-place winners will each receive \$1,000 Exchange gift cards.

"Whether you want to splurge on some dream purchases or stock up on

back-to-school essentials, an Exchange shopping spree can make that happen," Travis Air Force Base Exchange General Manager Phonda Bishop said in a prepared statement. "Our military shoppers are heroes and very deserving of these wonderful prizes."

For rules and to enter, shoppers can visit the sweepstakes website. No purchase is necessary to enter or win.

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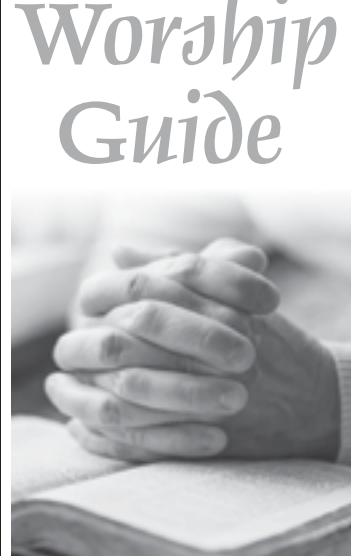
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Photo by SrA Michael Wang

Senior Airman Ashley Walsh helps to keep the 349th Air Mobility Wing ready to fly

Senior Airman Michael Wang
349TH AIR MOBILITY WING

TRAVIS AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. — Senior Airman Ashley Walsh of the 349th Maintenance Group performs routine final checks on the KC-10 aircraft. Walsh,

who joined the reserves in 2019, ensures the aircraft is ready, and available, to provide mission essential duties around the globe. “Being a part of a team that actually makes a difference is what I enjoyed most about working in maintenance”

Walsh said she loves working hands on and finds it rewarding seeing the aircraft in the air. A native of Alaska, Walsh joined the reserves to help her through school and is currently working on her bachelor’s degree in Construction Management.

Jamaica

From Page 9

operation process.”

Units like the 571st MSAS illustrate the U.S. commitment to regional partners in ways that bolster partner nation capacity, enhance trust and transparency, improve interoperability, and create cooperative solutions upon shared objectives.

“After two years, our unit was able to reunite with the JDF for a face-to-face training engagement,” said Capt. Ashlyn Asipauskas, 571st MSAS MTT mission commander. “The strength of our existing partnership was immediately evident upon our arrival. The Jamaicans were very welcoming and eager for training to begin. Even during a global pandemic, my team was able to accomplish great things through their creativity and expertise, and ensure the JDF is further set-up for success with advancing their air, land and sea interoperability. The 571st MSAS looks forward to future engagements with the

JDF to continue to strengthen our partnership and effect change within the Caribbean and greater U.S. Southern Command region.”

As the world begins transitioning and recovering from the COVID-19 global pandemic, the 571st MSAS stands ready to assess, train, advise, assist, equip, and accompany partner nations within the new global paradigm. Shoulder-to-shoulder instruction and assistance is where the 571st MSAS thrives and makes a difference for international partners. Face-to-face training events like this MTT are back and here to stay as the JDF and U.S. value their relationship while simultaneously taking health precautions to mitigate COVID-19 risks.

Sgt. Ricardo Brown, JDF-AW aircrewman, made the following statement echoing a sentiment expressed by numerous JDF personnel during the training event.

“We are happy that you’re back and excited for your recommendations,” Ricardo said. “It helps things move here and gets things done.”

Senate confirms Jones for USAF Under Secretary

Secretary of the Air Force
Public Affairs

WASHINGTON — The Senate on July 22 unanimously confirmed Gina Ortiz Jones to be Under Secretary of the Air Force, clearing the way for the former Air Force intelligence officer to become the department’s second highest-ranking civilian leader.

President Joe Biden selected Jones for the post in April.

In explaining the basis for choosing

Jones, the White House highlighted that she was commissioned through the Air Force ROTC program while a student at Boston University and “has spent her career working to protect U.S. economic and national security.”

During her Air Force career, Jones served as an intelligence officer and deployed to Iraq with the 18th Air Support Operations Group, supporting close air support operations. Additionally, at a time when President Biden and Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin have made

diversity and inclusion high priorities across the entire military, Jones brings insight to the effort as a member of the LGBTQ community who served under “don’t ask, don’t tell.”

After separating from active duty, Jones remained closely connected to efforts to ensure the nation’s security, advising on military operations in Central and South America with the 470th Military Intelligence Brigade and U.S. Army South. She joined the Defense

Intelligence Agency as an inaugural member of U.S. Africa Command in Stuttgart, Germany, and served in the Libya Crisis Intelligence Cell.

With her confirmation accomplished, Jones will step into a position currently filled by Anthony Reardon, administrative assistant to the Secretary of the Air Force who has been performing the duties of the under secretary of the Air Force since Feb. 2.

Kendall

From Page 2

as continue to modernize the force and adapt to budget pressures.

The broad strokes, however, are already known.

“If confirmed, my priorities would be straightforward and mirror precisely those articulated by Secretary of Defense (Lloyd) Austin as they apply to the Department of the Air Force – taking care of our people, mission performance and building teams. Our military is people first and foremost,” Kendall told the Senate Armed Services Committee during his confirmation hearing May 25.

“With regard to mission performance, I believe the range and severity of the threats that we face and will face, the rapid pace of technological innovation, and the need to rapidly harness that technology in new operational concepts

demand a sense of urgency and a like focus on getting our choices right,” he said during that hearing.

Kendall also committed during his confirmation hearing that he would ensure the U.S. Space Force’s continued growth and evolution.

The two-year-old Space Force, Kendall said in May, is “a critical contributor to our national security. If confirmed, I’ll be honored to have a role in making it a success.”

While the Senate’s action marks the first time Kendall will work directly within the Department of the Air Force, he is hardly unfamiliar with the mission, the Department of the Defense and national security.

He previously served in a number of senior positions for the Department of Defense, including as the Pentagon’s No. 3 official for four years during the Obama administration.

Kendall assumes the seat occupied by John Roth, who

has served as Acting Air Force Secretary since Jan. 20.

A graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York, Kendall served 10 years on active duty in the Army, a tenure that also included a stint teaching engineering at West Point. Kendall spent time in the Pentagon as director of

the tactical warfare program before moving to become assistant deputy undersecretary for Strategic Defense Systems. Kendall also worked in the private sector in defense-related jobs, most notably as Raytheon’s vice president of engineering during the mid-1990s.

In addition to graduating

from West Point, Kendall earned a master’s degree in aerospace engineering from The California Institute of Technology. He earned his law degree from Georgetown University Law Center as well as an MBA from C.W. Post Campus of Long Island University.

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Reserve

From Page 5

maintain this talent, regardless of which component they're in, they're accessible for our wartime mission."

"Although we've made progress, we need to aggressively bring in new talent and retain existing talent," he said. "If there's an increase in the number of active-duty pilots separating to accept full-time positions with the airlines, it presents an opportunity for them to join the Air National Guard as part-time members."

"The Guard has designated recruiters to work with rated officers coming off active duty."

"ANG In-Service Recruiting has created a team of four ISRs who specifically field inquiries for rated officers," Salahuddin said. "They will send special messaging to rated members separating six to 12 months out, and then pass them to this specific team of ISRs to highlight the benefits of maintaining affiliation and walk them through the process from beginning to accession into the ANG."

"For the Reserve, pilot manning is currently around 95%, said Douglas Miller, AFRC Operations Resource Division chief.

"We work with the Air Force Personnel Center and get a monthly list of aircrew, officer and enlisted who are separating active duty," Miller said. "I have a pilot IMA (individual mobilization augmentee) who personally makes contact with each individual to discuss Reserve opportunities."

He said recent policy changes have made it more difficult to attract pilots leaving active duty.

"The increase in the Undergraduate Pilot Training service commitment from six-to-eight years to eight-to-10 years has reduced the time active-duty separations spend in AFRC, and created a two-year period when very few pilots were able to separate and affiliate," Miller said. "In addition, the 2011 Budget Control Act

significantly reduced active-duty pilot production from 2013 through 2017."

Miller said starting in 2023, pilots will have a 10-year active-duty service commitment, which will result in reduced affiliations with AFRC.

"This is requiring us to increase UPT graduates and give them experience, which comes with a significant cost to AFRC," Miller said.

The pandemic has created some unique challenges for the Air Force in the area of recruiting and retention. A large number of Airmen who planned to retire or leave the military decided to stay in during these uncertain times.

"While we have not been able to recruit many from the active component, those members we have are choosing to stay for the benefits the Reserve component can offer," Durham said. "We depend on Airmen separating from the active component to fill our ranks. Every retention action the active duty implements to keep pilots longer, requires the Guard and Reserve to hire new, untrained people and that comes with a very expensive training bill. We are not designed to support that training construct."

Smith pointed out several advantages for those considering continuing their service in the Reserve.

"Joining the Reserve is a great way to network, continue with the camaraderie you love, get numerous great benefits and continue serving your country," he said. "Why do people serve in the Reserve? To continue to fulfill their oath to support and defend the Constitution, a sense of purpose, and to share commitment, mutual loyalty and group trust."

Salahuddin believes giving Airmen flexibility will strengthen the Total Force moving forward.

"The pilot shortage is not just an active duty or ANG issue, it's a Total Force issue," he said. "Going forward, we need to continue to focus on presenting pilots, and Airmen in all career fields, with multiple ways to serve, whether full time on active duty or part time in the Guard or Reserve."

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Photo by Staff Sgt. Ryan Green



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MASTER SGT. COTY

RETIREES

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Photo by Staff Sgt. Ryan Green

Members of the 55th Aerial Port Squadron hold a retirement ceremony for retired Master Sgt. Ubbo Coty at Travis Air Force Base, California, July 24, 2021. Coty, center back, has served with the Air Force Reserve at Travis Air Force Base for 33 years.

Exercise

From Page 2

“Presidential Policy Directive 8 established a National Response Framework of which the medical contingency response (MCRP) plan is a part,” said Maj. Rachel M. Russo, MD, MS, 60th Medical Group surgery disaster team chief. “Travis AFB remains the federal coordinating center for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region 9 making DGMC an important hub in the event of a regional or national disaster.”

All squadrons assigned to the 60th Medical Group participated in this exercise and that isn’t often the case.

“All of our services don’t usually get to participate like this in this exercise and it’s time we practice to work and integrate as we would for a mass casualty event to work out any limiting

factors in training rather than a real-world event.,” said Staff Sgt. Cheryl Moore,

60th Medical Group noncommissioned officer in charge of plans and programs.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 60th MDG haven’t had an exercise such as Ready Eagle for more than a year. Because of the pandemic, medics had to adapt and change how they plan and respond to hostile events or disasters.

“This training tests our capabilities and plans to ensure they are not only robust to support a wide range of contingencies, but they are realistic and would hold up with new challenges and constraints we could/would encounter,” said Master Sgt. Jubert Tenorio, 60th MDG patient administration team chief. “Through rigorous planning and continuous training, this becomes our second nature. As a medic, once we get called, we only have one mission: to save lives!”



U.S. Air Force photos by Heide Couch

Airmen assigned to the 60th Medical Group participate in a simulated event during an exercise at Travis Air Force Base, California, on July 22, 2021. The disaster response exercise prepared David Grant Medical Center staff to respond to chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, or explosive incidents.

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