Cadets get chance to look...
Personnel from the 304th Contingency Response Group and the 630th Air Mobility Wing joined forces Jan. 21 to execute a joint live-training tactical exercise at the Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Polk, Louisiana.

The exercise focused on the ability to operate in an austere environment while being able to rapidly assemble forces in response to crises.

Airmen from the 630th Air Mobility Wing and 304th Contingency Response Group, worked together to conduct the exercise in accordance with Joint Doctrine 3-05, while adhering to Department of Defense protocols.

"We’re trying to give our citizens combat-like experience before they deploy by increasing exposure to working with an external command and control agency," said Col. Daniel G. Traylor, 630th Air Mobility Wing commander.

In addition to promoting interoperability between the U.S. Army, U.S. Air Force and international partners, this exercise focused on the ability to operate cohesively in an austere environment and being able to rapidly assemble forces in response to crises.

This joint live-training tactical exercise also included partners from the 304th Contingency Response Group at Travis Air Force Base, California, 304th Contingency Response Group at McChord Field, Washington, and 41st and 61st Airlift Squadrons from the 437th Airlift Wing at Joint Base Langley-Eustis.

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Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David L. Goldfein during an appearance Jan. 27 at the Center for a New American Security, emphasized the importance of a strong presence in space and the need to harness data. Both, he said, are central to ensuring that the Air Force is able to meet and prevail against modern-day threats.

WASHINGTON — Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David L. Goldfein said a Jan. 27 appearance at the Center for a New American Security that the service is making significant strides in harnessing and using data for deterrence, decision-making and warfare.

“First and foremost, we have to connect the joint services,” he said in describing what’s necessary to prevail in the future fight. “We have to have access to common data so we can operate at speeds that will bring all our capabilities against an adversary.”

He also said that the creation of the Space Force as a separate branch of the U.S. military is critical to assuring national security and to protect commerce and other national interests.

“With us comes a new appreciation for space. You will see some significant investment in space capabilities. It won’t be just enough to be in the ring and take some punches. At some point, you have to be able to punch back,” he said.

In his 50-minute remarks to the influential think tank, Goldfein noted the technical advances and cultural shifts that have moved the concept of tightly connected, joint warfare forward, not only in the Air Force, but across the entire U.S. military establishment.

“Based on where we started,” Goldfein said, “I will say we are having discussions on alignment of all services. How we talk about the business of joint warfighting, in ways I have not seen in previous years.”

The concept, known as Joint All Domain Command and Control or JADC2, has been widely embraced as the critical transformation needed in an era in which Russia and China are emerging in addition to traditional threats.

That support, Goldfein said, has moved from rhetoric to action.

Charles Pope
DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

Goldfein offers optimistic update on Air Force’s evolution, future

Five months and a lot of business. That’s the mindset of the Defense Commissary Agency as it continues its search for a new headquarters location.

FORT LEE, Va. — Military commissaries would rather fill a food bank than a landfill.

That’s the mindset of the Defense Commissary Agency as it announces a new milestone in donations — 21 million pounds plus — to local food banks.

Travis Air Force Base is one of the more than 175 facilities participating in the program. DeCA reached this mark in donations over a five-year period, 5 million pounds of food in 2019 alone. The donated items are certified by food inspectors as being edible but unsellable, said Randy Eller, director of the agency’s logistics directorate.

“Instead of edible food being discarded in trash bins, we’re using it to serve those in need,” Eller said. “I’m proud that Air Force food services make that happen.”

Although DeCA always had limited authority to request donations, edible but unsellable products, the agency’s formal food donation program emerged after the closure of its food distribution program in 2014.

As the agency prepared to close its Fort Lee headquarters in 2016, DeCA officials estimated 10 million pounds of food were discarded in trash bins, we’re using it to serve those in need,” Eller said. “I’m proud that Air Force food services make that happen.”

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“We must be extra vigilant about basic prevention measures,” Dr. (Lt. Cmdr.) David Shih said.

Dr. Shih is the 6th Medical Group public health officer. He added that those experiencing symptoms of respiratory illness—like coughing, sneezing, shortness of breath and fever—should avoid contact with others and stay in the house, Shih said.

“Don’t think you’re being super dedicated by showing up at work when ill,” Shih said. “Likewise, if you’re a daily user of smoke, please don’t tempt your coworkers to show up when they’re sick. In the short run, you might get her killed and a considerably lower incurrence rate in the long run, that person could transmit a respiratory illness to co-workers, and pretty soon you lose your own productivity because your entire office is sick.”

Many forms of coronavirus exist among both humans and animals, but this new strain’s lethality has triggered considerable alarm.

Believed to have originated at an animal market in Wuhan City, China, novel coronavirus has spread throughout the continent and killed dozens as of Jan. 29. It’s now spread to other parts of Asia.

The first case of novel coronavirus in the U.S. was reported Jan. 22 in the state of Washington.

Shih understands that service members stationed in populous places such as Japan and South Korea, with varied states of readiness are not necessarily in the position to call their fellow service members and make sure all components are working as they should be and find any issues that would keep them from flying.

Nonetheless, he’s confident the aircraft body cavity, Airman and the aircraft body cavity’s workings are its veins.

“We’re well-trained and well-situated in how to do anything on the fuel system,” said Staff Sgt. Danielle Williamson, a 6th MXS fuel system craftsman. “I like to say the fuel is the blood of the system and all of its workings are its veins. You can’t have a well-oiled machine without it, so without us, you can’t fly.”

When a fuel leak is reported, fuel technicians must assess the damage to the cell, the medical, targeting a patient. Airmen is intended to remain in the bladder so if it is found in the aircraft body cavity, Airman performs tests to inspect for fuel

The first day of the 6th Maintenance Squadron’s spring turnaround is March 1, a time the Shop is called, “ Tank Divers,” as the technician of this shop is called, work day and night to ensure MacDill’s AFRs are always ready to fuel the fight.

One of the most important responsibilities for the Tank Divers is the inspection of the aircraft’s tanks.

Airmen must be extra vigilant about basic prevention measures, Shih said. The tank divers must be extra vigilant about basic prevention measures, Shih said.
AFMC starts holistic resiliency effort

Marisa Alia-Novobilski
Assistant Medical Commander

WRIGHT-PATTERSON
AFB, Ohio — The Air Force Materiel Command has launched a new initiative that aims to increase unit cohesion and connectedness by harnessing a culture that holistically builds mental, physical, social and spiritual fitness across the enterprise.

AFMC Connect provides units and leaders with the tools and resources to foster a culture of continual communication, building resilient military and civilian forces able to operate at optimal levels as they aim for personal and professional success.

“The is holistic approach that aims to bring together our collective efforts in fostering protective factors and reducing unwanted behaviors through deliberate and meaningful development,” said Maj. Gen. Carl Schaefer, AFMC deputy commander. “By focusing on our mission and building a shared purpose augmented by strong connections, our people will be in the best position to ensure uniformity.

AFMC starts holistic resiliency effort at WPS

AFMC started the AFMC Resilience Tactical Pause in fall 2019, the AFMC Con- nect effort focuses on the resilience initiative that aims to increase unit cohesion and connectedness by emphasizing a culture that holistically builds mental, physical, social and spiritual fitness across the enterprise.

Mauldin identified a short-cut for the de-icing truck manufacturer and he sent me a blueprint of exactly where I needed to cut the holes in the trucks’ regularly – scheduled maintenance and times requir- ing immediate attention, heavy- vehicle mechanics must work on top of the trucks, which re- quires fall-protection in case of accidents. “Having the safety harnesses attached on top of the trucks is going to save us a lot of head- aches,” said Jesse Mauldin, 673rd Logistics Readiness Squadron heavy mobile equipment mechanic, Jan. 22.

Wintertime is when I see the big problem. “Mauldin described his proj- ect as a simple, quick-fix to a big problem. “Mauldin identified a short-cut for the de-icing truck manufacturer and he sent me a blueprint of exactly where I could drill holes on top of the older trucks without damag- ing the structural integrity,” Mauldin said. Since this is a safety issue, Mauldin used the blueprint as a guide and cut a metal template to line up exactly with the new holes on top of the trucks to ensure uniformity. “Wintertime is when I see this being really useful be- cause a lot of the trucks are left outside and have ice on them,” Mauldin said. “After this is done, it kind of takes the wor- ry away because you’re tethered to the truck. If you fall, you’re only going to fall two or three feet.” Mauldin describes his proj- ect as a simple, quick-fix to a big problem. “Mauldin identified a short- cut and sourced a solution,” Estonactoc said. who also worked with Mauldin at Minot Air Base, North Dakota, in the early 2000s. “He worked with the manufacturer, engi- neers and wing safety, and we finalized the addition within our flight.”
Approximately 100 Reserve Officer Training Corps cadets from the University of Puerto Rico visited Jan. 29 at Travis Air Force Base to bridge the gap between knowledge and experience.

The cadets from Detachment 756 in Mayagüez, Puerto Rico, often rely on their commander’s PowerPoint slides and anecdotal stories about serving in the military, but the students—some of whom left the United States’ island territory for the first time for the Travis visit—spoke of the practical and cultural impact of first-hand experience.

“It kind of validates what we’ve been doing so far,” said Inara Otaola, a cadet colonel and the detachment’s student wing commander. “You see this and you’re like, ‘Yeah, this is what I want to do.’ . . . Sometimes you kind of get lost and then you get this opportunity, it’s like, ‘whoa, Thia is what I want to do. Thia is exactly why I’m in the Air Force’.”

During the first day of their two-day visit, cadets toured the base fire station and watched a demonstration by military working dogs in addition to touring all three aircraft based at Travis, the C-5M Super Galaxy, the C-17 Globemaster III and the KC-10 Extender. Thursday’s stops include the base’s dining facility, passenger terminal and the Travis Heritage Center museum.

Air Force Lt. Col. Eric Hamilton, Detachment 756 commander, who is three months away from retirement, said the experience was “nothing short of amazing” for his students.

Many of the cadets are not native English speakers, but must learn it as part of the Air Force Qualification Test, he said, with as few as 2 percent passing in the first of three required attempts. Hamilton said the students show steady improvement, year over year, as they approach graduation and commissioning.

Diego Sacarerro, a first-year cadet, inadvertently helped demonstrate that growth when describing the experience of being at Travis.

“It’s not like anything else I’ve ever done. Seeing the flight line like that is really—what’s the word?—impressive.”

Hamilton praised the cadets for their abilities to endure hardships Puerto Ricans have faced in recent years with natural disasters such as Hurricane Maria, Hurricane Irma and a swarm of earthquakes—as well as challenges presented by the classroom.

Otaola said she was without electricity for nearly one year after 2017’s Hurricane Maria. Another cadet, Giancarlo Casanova, was impressed by the synthesis of airmen working together at Travis, echoing the enduring spirit he saw among Puerto Ricans in the aftermath of the natural disasters.

“People in Puerto Rico, we’re fighters. We don’t quit,” he said. “We tend to be very active together and very helpful to each other. That’s where we come together.”

Puerto Rico ROTC cadets pay visit to Travis
News Notes
Scholarship for Military Children
Donations are being taken for the Donations for Military Children program. The program is administered by Phillips Steele Construction Company, a contractor for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, in cooperation with Helping Hands, Inc., a veterans’ organization. Details about the corps’ participating facilities can be found at https://www.army.mil/Corps. For more information, call 707-424-2007.

DHA stands up first four health care markets
The Defense Health Agency is creating four military health markets that will manage health care contracts for military installations in different regions of the country. The markets will be aligned by geographic locations to ensure facilities in different regions within the United States will become the first military health markets to transition to fee-for-service contracts. The contract models have been approved by the Department of Defense and the markets will be stood up in the coming weeks.

Military relations representatives at 707-535-7669.

Retiree Corner
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Charitable events
Tableau Cafe: Noon to 1 p.m. Thursday, Saturday and Sunday, 175 E. 11th St., Vallejo. For reservations, call 707-556-7778.

OPENING DAY WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 30

Local events
Events
Placard to go

Vallejo Sawdust Festival
Open noon to 4 p.m. Thursday, 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Friday and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, 800 Marin St., Vallejo. Free. www.vallejowoodstock.com.

Shenandoah Stampede
9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Bldg. 80, 461 Burgan Blvd., Travis Air Force Base. Free. DOD ID required. www.shenandoahstampede.com.

Vallejo Art Walk.
Open 1 to 5 p.m. Thursday and Saturday, late 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday, Howland Street, Vallejo. Free. www.vallejoartwalk.com.

Vallejo Farmers Market.
9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, 2nd and Webster streets, Vallejo. Free. www.vallejo-farmers-market.com.

Theatre events

Empress Theatre.

What’s Cookin’ Wednesday.
2 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 3:30 p.m. Friday and 4 p.m. Saturday, 60th Air Mobility Wing Public Affairs Office Conference Room, Travis Air Force Base. Free. www.army.mil/Corps.

Family events

On-base child care.
Call 707-424-7022.

What’s Cookin’ Wednesday.
2 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 3:30 p.m. Friday and 4 p.m. Saturday, 60th Air Mobility Wing Public Affairs Office Conference Room, Travis Air Force Base. Free. www.army.mil/Corps.
Commands team up on VR solutions for training

Airman 1st Class Aaron Irvin
19TH AIRLIFT WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS
LITTLE ROCK AIR FORCE BASE, Ark. — With technology constantly changing, the Air Force is actively seeking innovative methods to train today’s Airmen with tomorrow’s technology.

The Air Force is committed to world-class training for Airmen by preventing stagnation in education through constant innovation to meet the needs of a new generation through a continuum of learning.

Headquarters Air Force, Air Mobility Command, and Air Education and Training Command have been working on a virtual-reality platform for maintenance training through C-130 Mass Virtual, a contractor that scans real-world objects to create virtual environments.

The C-130 enterprise established a working group with airlift wings from Little Rock Air Force Base, Dyess AFB, Texas; Yokota Air Base, Japan; and Ramstein Air Base, Germany, in order to collaborate and eliminate duplication of effort while crafting a VR platform focused on visualizing the ins-and-outs of the C-130H Hercules and C-130J Super Hercules to benefit maintenance Airmen.

“We pulled together with other wings to develop work tasks that would be most beneficial to invest in for Airmen — allowing us to establish a VR platform with a focus on the C-130,” said Master Sgt. Nicholas Massingill, 19th Maintenance Group development and instructor section chief.

With a tentative completion date of summer 2020, Massingill hopes VR maintenance training will bridge the gap for new Airmen joining the Air Force in a technology-oriented system and speed up training while controlling the environment to safely and effectively train on mission-essential tasks.

“The new generation learns using technology, so incorporating VR will appeal to their learning styles,” said Master Sgt. Gary Armstrong, 19th MXG maintenance training management section chief.

“VR will help Airmen learn tasks quicker by transitioning to the 21st century of mainstream technology.”

The current training system requires constant preparation and coordination to ensure a C-130 is available on the flight line the day training occurs. VR will replace the need to coordinate for weeks, or even months in advance, to get a small window of time with an aircraft for mandatory maintenance training.

“We request an aircraft to be down three days a week in order to train our students,” Massingill said. “When we do that, we are taking aircraft away from the mission. While VR will never replace hands-on training, it will help bring familiarization to the task, so the instructors can speed up their training.”

See VR SOLUTIONS Page 24
Science crucial to staying ahead of weather

Staff Sgt. Jordan Fetter

SAN ANTONIO — In the collaborative nature of innovation efforts in the Department of Defense (DoD), agencies often work hand-in-hand to find solutions to the world’s most complex challenges. This level of coordination is evident in the 9th Reconnaissance Wing’s (9 RW) effort to improve mission protection of our assets.

As part of a five-year initiative, the 9 RW has worked diligently with the pilots to make sure they have everything they need to be successful. This journey never ends, said Capt. Chris Benson, AFWERX AFVentures lead. “We’re actually building the mission environment for the first time in years.”

Goldfein

“We’re actually building the foundation;” he said. “We’re not talking about cloud architecture. We actually built one. It’s open and up and running and all the services are connected. We’ve actually built unified data architectures that are inclusive of all the services that are open forward.”

“Are we where we need to be for this priority;” he said.

While complex both technically and culturally, the effort of moving to cloud is an exact way, he said. Last month, the Air Force, Navy and Army staged a joint exercise to test new technologies, including artificial intelligence, quantum computing and quantum cryptography. The exercise was designed to help the military find and defeat a simulated missile on the ground, special forces and commandos.

Goldfein said the Air Force has created a new “missionized Air Force” to deal with the future. In 2018, AFWERX worked with other Air Force organizations like the Air Force Research Laboratory to revamp the congressionally funded HIRR program by reducing submission requirements and accelerating the time it takes to issue contracts.

“Shrinking and small businesses are moving faster than the government is willing to engage,” he said. Capt. Steve Leau- ner, AFWERX director of Technology accelerators. “Because they would consider working with us, we needed to simplify and accelerate our process to meet them halfway.”

DoD units join forces to engage small business

DoD units join forces to engage small business without the need for further cooperation, making the com- The objective for Chief Ray- mond and me is to build a foundation of trust and confi- dence and focused on integrated warfare. At the same time, however, as we look at the space force the DoD is investing in our nation’s service cer- tainly,” he said.

Self Storage

“Are we where we need to be? To play that role properly in space, the simulations suggest that we have to do that foundational work,” said Goldfein. 

In order to sustain progress, Goldfein said future budgets must be sufficient and the space force must succeed. This initiative built to bridge the gap between the public and private sector, including large corporations and small businesses. This is a DoD initiative as opposed to being exclusively an Air Force one, these innovation units are hop- ping to provide a streamlined platform for startups and small businesses to work with the government.

“We have to do that foundational work. We can actually win for the first time in years. We’ve actually built unified data architectures that are inclusive of all the services that are open forward.”

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Self Storage

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Holistic

From Page 30

importance of relationships and communication in a resilient culture. Monthly training topi- cks with tools and implementa- tion guidance center on deliber- ate, leader-driven, meaningful discussions.

“AFMC Connect offers lead- er-driven discussions that incorpo- rate the content normally de- livered in mandatory training sessions. This delivery meth- od is aimed at helping our Air- men develop strong connections with leadership and one anoth- er as well as a shared purpose as an organization,” said Jen- nifer Tread, AFMC Integrated Prevention and Resilience chief. “The discussions are efficient, deliberately targeting specific protective factors and are tailo- red for commanders to meet the individual needs of their installa- tion populations. We want our lead- ers to learn the frameworks and the flexibility to meet the needs of their own organizations within the context of the overall effort.”

AFMC Connect antigens annual suicide awareness and prevention campaign is available on the AFMC Connect page at https://www. afmc.af.mil. An internal SharePoint page hosts additional content and training resources for use by the leader- ship team and facilitators when conducting the monthly ses- sions. Leaders and participants are encouraged to provide feed- back to the AFMC Connect team to help ensure the training tools and resources are meeting com- munity needs.

“The resiliency tactical posture was a springboard to starting point for continued conversations that we need to have with our leaders and teams,” AFMC Con- nect team members. “We have an opportunity to continue this engagement as we grow our own resilient personal- ity and professionally.” Schadler said. “Together we can learn and continue to grow a culture of caring across AFMC.”

Coronavirus

From Page 6

show symptoms including fe- ver, cough or difficulty breath- ing, should seek medical care right away, called the doctor’s office or emergency room in ad- vance to report travel and symp- toms, and otherwise avoid con- tact with others and travel while sick. The CDC also has guidance for health care professionals, who should evaluate patients with fever and respiratory ill- ness by taking a careful travel history to identify patients un- der investigation who include those with fever, lower respirato- ry illness symptoms, and travel history to Wuhan, China, with- in 14 days prior to symptom on- set. PUIs should wear a surgical mask as soon as they are identi- fied and be evaluated in a private room with the door closed, ideal- ly an airborne infection isolation room if available.

Family Eye Doctors near Travis AFB

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Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc.
The Vallejo-Fairfield Chapter meetings are held at 2:00pm on the fourth (4) Sunday of each month. Please contact Tom Daniels @ 707 707-344-4828 for more information.
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This exercise helps teach aircrews the ‘why’ behind all the training while also being able to drop actual equipment and personnel rather than simulacrum,” Newman said.

Exercises like GFLR 20-01 and JRTC 20-01 benefit the development of ready willing and capable partners to collective defense and collectively address global security challenges.

This training allows us to be immersed in a scenario that an individual base or squadron can’t organically create,” said U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Thomas Joyce, 366th CTSS commander.

“From Page 7

The process of opening a fuel tank is very dangerous and can present an explosive environment,” Williamson said. “People don’t really get to see much of what we do or where we go because we open that tank up, we can’t have anything that produces a spark or is not intrinsically safe near by. Our hangar is set up to be 100% safe and fireproof.”

Through the Tank Divers call the hangar their home, they also must complete facets of their work on MacDill AFB’s flight line.

“Since we’re considered a back shop, we also go out to our alternate location on the opposite end of the flight line,” Williamson said. “To mitigate going back and forth, our team has designed a trailer that would house everything we need to be set up as an on-site hangar to shelter from the elements.”

There’s a sense of pride among the Tank Divers about their careers, they are the chosen few to do a unique job that puts them in tight places no one else gets to see or experience.

“My favorite part of my job would be fixing the jet myself and knowing I did something to fix what was keeping the jet out of the sky,” Kozicki said. “It feels great working together to figure out what is wrong with a jet and seeing the outcome of it being out and ready to fly again.”

Tank Divers

From Page 7


Highlighting the network of DoD-designated banks.

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Tank Divers

From Page 7

the process when conducting hands-on training.”

Initially, each VR unit will have a virtual hangar where the trainee can complete one of five tasks. Among the tasks, which are based on necessities and pre-established training opportunities, are propeller, tire and brake replacement. Little Rock AFB’s mission partners from the 380th Airlift Wing and 189th AW were also included in the working group, scanning and establishing a virtual hangar with tasks for the C-130H.

Nearly 230 maintenance Airmen across the 19th MXG will receive training through the new VR system annually – empowering Airmen by removing barriers, accepting risk and rapidly learning from productive challenges in a cost-effective manner.

“The VR workspace will initially be located in the 19th MXG maintenance training section, which will also be utilized by mission partners at the 314th AW with plans to eventually have dedicated rooms in the work centers as well,” Massingill said.

“We could potentially see this in the work centers, providing Airmen who are feeling a bit rusty with an opportunity to run through the program a couple times before going out to perform the job,” Massingill said.

This use of technology phasizes AMC’s objective to enhance the value of maintenance Airmen and efforts to improve efficiency in training while retaining our technological edge.

“When we are teaching tasks, we are teaching proficiency,” Armstrong said. “The only way you gain proficiency is by doing it over and over, that’s how you get instinctual mechanical skills. Being able to use this virtual environment shows the possibilities are limitless.”

**VR solutions**

From Page 15

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