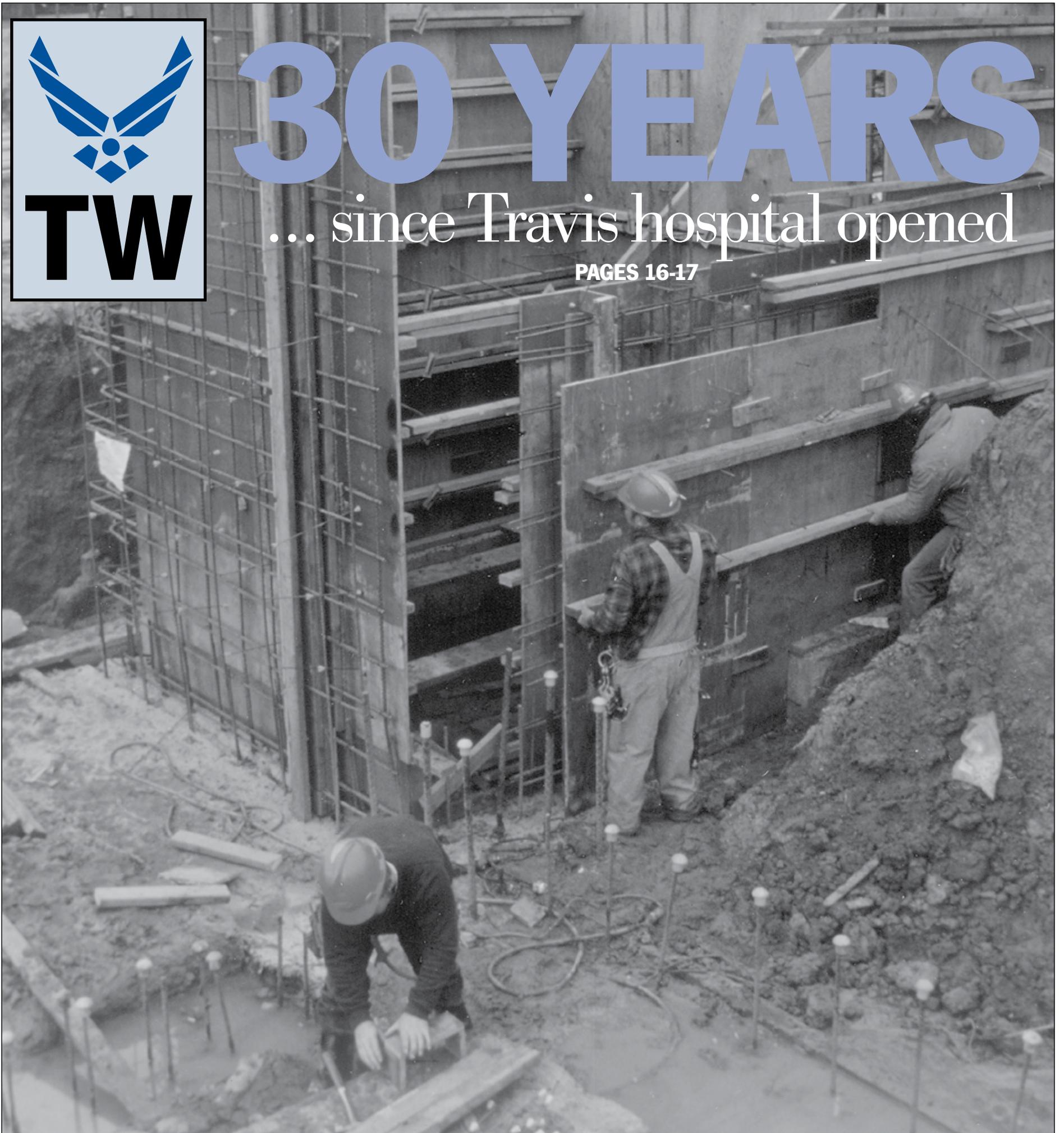




30 YEARS

... since Travis hospital opened

PAGES 16-17



Service gives South Korean path to success

Commentary by Airman 1st Class Wooyoung Jang
60TH COMPTROLLER SQUADRON

I was born in Seoul, Republic of Korea, and I lived there until I graduated from college. I also served in the South Korean army as an assistant operations officer for two years to fulfill my duty to my people. I was responsible for disseminating command-level information to subordinate units. In South Korea, males 18 and older must serve in the military. This is mostly due to

South and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea being technically at war since 1950, despite recently signing a new peace agreement. My time serving in the South Korean army was challenging. We were paid \$300 a month and were only able to leave base during our two weeks of vacation each year. When I finished college, I came to the United States to find a job and, hopefully, a better life. Fortunately, I found a company that sponsored a work visa for me and I worked as a market analyst. After work, I studied every day and

Enlisted Commentary

eventually acquired a certification with the Internal Revenue Service. This enabled me to work as an accountant and I later got a green card. Despite some successes, I struggled to make ends meet and wanted a better life. I decided to join the U.S. Air Force and I was overjoyed to learn how the U.S. military accepts all people. The U.S. armed forces has standardized regulations that all must

follow, but they acknowledge and respect each individual's strengths and weaknesses. Recognizing this helps service members achieve their maximum potential. In basic training, I found people from different countries, a variety of backgrounds and different ethnicities. We were all accepted to serve something greater than ourselves. Upon graduation from basic training, I became a U.S. citizen and later graduated from the financial management and comptroller apprentice course at Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi, with academic excellence

honors. Today, I work as a travel pay technician at Travis Air Force Base, California, and I love my job. It allows me to repay the U.S. for everything that has been given to me. I have had a challenging life, and I've worked hard to become a U.S. citizen and an Airman. Since joining the Air Force, I've often heard people say thank you for serving. These kind words encourage me to succeed not just in my mission, but my life. As a member of the world's greatest Air Force, I am serving to defend my country and answer the nation's call by being faithful in my role.

Learning to 'hold the line' in football, Air Force

Commentary by Airman 1st Class Zhe Wang
60TH COMPTROLLER SQUADRON

I grew up in China as an only child. Six years ago, I moved to the United States because my mother wanted me to get the best education. I promised myself that while I pursued my education, I would make a difference worthy of crossing the Pacific Ocean. During orientation at my new high school, the football coach asked me if I wanted to play football. I thought, "Sure, why not try something new?" I also decided to play football to learn about American culture. I played guard on offense and defense and I trained all summer with my teammates to prepare for our school's

Enlisted Commentary

first varsity season. As the school's first foreign player, I was pleasantly surprised when I was introduced at the pep rally. My teammates cheered for me and I felt so welcomed. However, this joy wouldn't last long. During our first game, I twisted my meniscus while trying to make a tackle. I couldn't move my left leg and I thought, "This could be the last time I ever play football." A week later, my coach told me the team needed me back. He said all my teammates were praying for me and they needed me to help "hold the line." During our first game, our team scored two touchdowns and on those plays, I

blocked the defensive players and prevented them from making a tackle. As I thought about what my coach said, I began to realize the bond I shared with my teammates. We were a team working together to achieve a common goal. I looked upon each of my teammates as brothers and committed myself to doing all I could to protect them. Three weeks after my injury, the doctor cleared me to play with a metal knee brace and my teammates welcomed me back with hugs and applause. After losing three games in a row, we had to win our next game and faced a team much bigger than us. I was determined to "hold the line" and help our team to victory. We won the game 49-6 and made the playoffs. The bond between my teammates

and I helped me feel accepted by the American people. I am the first generation in my family to live in the United States and I am the first American citizen from my family. The first generation of Americans fought to build this country more than 240 years ago despite their differences. The bond they forged will never be broken. Football taught me the importance of a lineman "holding the line" and what it means to serve others. I am willing to do so much more and serve many more people. I chose to join the U.S. Air Force to foster the bond between my nation and the American people, but I was also attracted by one sentence in the Airman's creed: "I am faithful to a proud

See WANG Page 26

Airman leaves Dominican Republic to pursue dream

Tech. Sgt. Liliana Moreno
621ST CONTINGENCY RESPONSE WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Growing up in Consuelo, a small town in the Dominican Republic, an Airman from the 571st Mobility Support Advisory Squadron was torn between staying behind to help support his seven siblings or pursuing the American dream. "I came from a modest family," said Tech. Sgt. Rafael Escoto Roa, 571st MSAS air transportation specialist air advisor. "My father made just enough money to support the family." When Escoto was only 16, his life drastically changed when his house burned down due to an electrical fire and his dad was laid off from his job at the same time. "That was a rough time," he said. "After my dad lost his job, he decided to migrate to the United States in search of better job opportunities." During his father's absence, Escoto became the only male figure in the house with seven sisters and his stepmother. After graduating high school, his dream was to go to college to pursue an education in computer science, but he knew that also meant he would have to leave his family behind. "My mom knew how much this meant to me, so she gave me her blessing and sent me to the U.S. to pursue my dream," Escoto said. He packed his bags and started his journey into an unknown territory. Escoto first moved to Miami, Florida, but quickly realized he could not afford the schools there. He then moved to New York with hopes of getting some help to pay for schools through grants or scholarships. Yet again, he could not find the



U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Liliana Moreno

Tech. Sgt. Rafael Escoto Roa, 571st Mobility Support Advisory Squadron air transportation specialist air advisor, holds a picture of himself as a child, as he tells the story of his life in the Dominican Republic and how he moved to the United States in pursuit of the American dream.

schools or the help he was looking for. While searching for schools, he became interested in the military. After some research, Escoto became fascinated with the U.S. Air Force mission and decided to join the service in 1999. Two years later, the entire country was shaken after the Sept. 11, 2001,

terrorist attacks. "At that time, I was stationed at Hurlburt Field, Florida, and I was told I couldn't deploy because I needed to be a citizen," he said. "We had a lot of missions going out and I always had to stay behind because of my immigration status." Escoto felt it was his duty to deploy

with his fellow Airmen and he desperately wanted to serve the country that had helped his family for so many years. "I was trying to find out a way that I could become a citizen; I wanted to deploy," he said. "I found out about the expedited citizenship program, so once I

See DREAM Page 24

Tailwind

Travis AFB, Calif.
60th Air Mobility Wing

Air Force
Col. Jeff Nelson
60th Air Mobility Wing commander

2nd Lt. Rachel Brinegar
Officer in charge of command information

Airman 1st Class
Jonathon D. A. Carnell
Command information staff writer

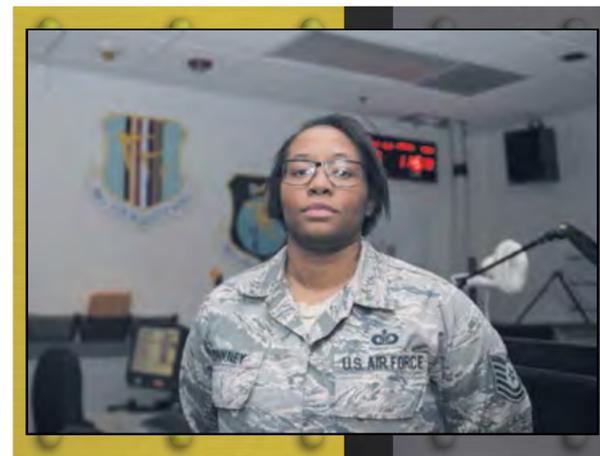
Airman 1st Class
Christian Conrad
Command information staff writer

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U.S. Air Force photo/Lan Kim

WARRIOR OF THE WEEK

Name: Tech. Sgt. Ronnequa Pinkney.	Hometown: Bennettsville, South Carolina.	degree in information technology by 2020.
Unit: 60th Air Mobility Wing command post.	Time in service: Eight years.	What are your hobbies? Working out, gaming, "Fortnite."
Duty title: NCO in charge of command and control training.	Family: None.	What are your greatest achievements? NCO of the year for wing staff agencies. Made staff sergeant and technical sergeant the first time.
What are your goals? To earn Bachelor of Science		

Smoke testing to start Nov. 6

60th Air Mobility Wing Public Affairs

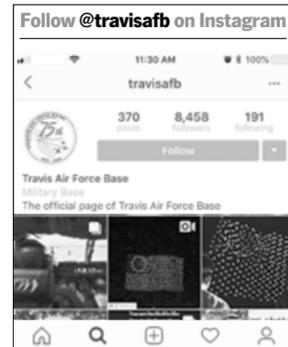
The 60th Civil Engineer Squadron at Travis Air Force Base, California, is using non-toxic smoke to find cracks and other openings in connections where rainwater might enter the base's sanitary sewer system, beginning Nov. 6.

Testing will continue daily to mid-November – based on weather – from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., said Kevin Westad, 60th CES project officer.

Although the smoke is non-toxic, it may cause minor respiratory irritation in some people, he said.

"If you see smoke in your building, open windows for ventilation and then inform the crew doing the test in your area," said Westad. "If you have a bathroom or plumbing fixture that is not used or is seldom used, fill the U-joint under the sink with water. Running the water in the drains for several minutes will prevent smoke from entering the building."

Contractors will not need access to buildings as well as security forces and the base fire department have been notified of the dates and locations to be tested, said Westad.



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Jonathon D. A. Carnell

Steven Carrillo, 60th SFS defender and Raven apprentice, spars with a Raven in a sparring suit Sept. 26 at Travis Air Force Base, Calif. Raven apprentices train prior to attending the Phoenix Raven curriculum at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J.

Quoth the Raven: 'Hoo-rah'

Airman 1st Class Jonathon D. A. Carnell

60TH AIR MOBILITY WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The United States Air Force has an elite security unit that's filled with individuals trained for a specific job: protecting aircraft and crews from enemy assaults while on the ground in austere and dangerous areas.

This group of elites is not to be reckoned with and has the honorable title of Phoenix Ravens.

As cool as the title sounds, receiving it is earned through one intense training plan.

At Travis Air Force Base, California, the 60th Security Forces Squadron Raven

pre-apprentice program is filled with extensive training hours where Airmen are pushed to new limits to see if they have what it takes to become a Phoenix Raven.

Ravens take it upon themselves to acclimate aspiring Ravens for the curriculum for the program at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey.

"There is a 25-percent fail rate (of Raven applicants at McGuire)," said Senior Airman Josue Jimenez, 60th SFS Raven and instructor of the pre-apprentice Raven training program. "This is a specialized duty where we need to be mission-ready year-round."

"To become a Raven, you need heart and willpower to

push you through the training."

The pre-apprentice program is strict and trainees should fully understand the severity of it so they are prepared for McGuire, said Jimenez.

The two-week, 12-hour-a-day course at McGuire covers cross-cultural awareness, legal considerations, embassy operations, explosive ordnance awareness and more. While Raven apprentices are learning these techniques, they also are exposed to more than 70 use-of-force scenarios.

"I think the training is really intense," said Senior Airman Rodreques Wright, 60th SFS defender and Raven apprentice at McGuire.

"It is definitely tough at times, but it is preparing me for the times when I may be tired or weak and just have to push through to get the mission done."

Maintaining optimal health for this job is a necessity and requires extensive and vigorous hours of training, said Jimenez.

"Ravens have historically exceeded the standards," said Wright. "That is definitely something I want to be a part of. At no point in my life did I ever expect myself to be able to do 500 four-count side straddle hops (a cardiovascular full-body exercise) without stopping until I actually did it."

Not everyone is selected

See RAVEN Page 26

Aid Society provides \$6M in relief for hurricane

Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

WASHINGTON — The Air Force Aid Society has provided more than \$6 million in hurricane disaster and relief assistance to airmen and their families across the Florida Gulf region following the aftermath of Hurricane Michael.

Nearly 5,000 active-duty, retirees, guard and reservists who were stationed in or near the hardest hit areas within the Florida panhandle who applied for emergency assistance received one-time stabilizing assistance grants through the AFAS Hurricane Relief Program. Grant amounts totaled \$750 for single airmen and \$1,500 for airmen with families.

"Our response to hurricanes has improved over the years," said retired Air Force Lt. Gen. John D. Hopper, Jr, AFAS CEO. "Annually, we try to work with military bases that are potentially in the path of these violent storms prior to hurricane season."

"Practice is critical, but it is difficult to imagine the devastation of taking a direct hit from a near-category five storm. When Hurricane Michael hit and severely damaged Tyndall Air Force Base and the surrounding communities where our airmen live, we activated quickly and scaled up our assistance efforts."

Through partnerships with the Air Force's Personnel Center Airman and Family Operations Division, the airman and family readiness centers across 85 Air Force installations, along with other military relief societies and the American Red Cross, AFAS was able to render essential assistance to displaced Tyndall AFB Airmen and their families.

Enlistees overcome obstacles to commission

Airman 1st Class Christian Conrad 60TH AIR MOBILITY WING

If the U.S. Air Force was a house, the enlisted and officer corps could be seen as the two pillars that keep it standing.

Through the respective work of each group of Airmen, the Air Force is able to maintain its effectiveness, yet while both groups are vital to the house's overall integrity, many enlisted look to the officer pillar as a way of transcending the work they're capable of doing in their current roles.

"I wanted to be a leader," said 2nd Lt. Rachel Brinegar, 60th Air Mobility Wing public affairs officer. "I was a noncommissioned officer and loved being there for my troops as well as watching them go on to accomplish amazing things during their time in the military. I wanted to continue to do that in an officer capacity."

For Brinegar, her transition meant more than rank – it represented an opportunity to not only challenge herself professionally, but provide for her Airmen in a way that went beyond the mentorship and supervisory capacity that she was afforded as a



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Christian Conrad

2nd Lt. Rachel Brinegar, 60th Air Mobility Wing public affairs officer, poses Oct. 25 in front of a C-141 Starlifter, "Golden Bear," a Travis Air Force Base, Calif., landmark.

technical sergeant.

"Finding that balance between the roles of front-line supervisor and one concerned more with oversight," she said. "The benefit of making the leap from the enlisted side is being able to recall what I

wanted from my officers as an NCO in charge and cultivate a mindset and culture that gives my enlisted the respect and confidence I would want were I still in their boots."

Having the authority to alter policy that affects Airmen in lasting and impactful ways isn't the only reason enlisted are

taking their shot at becoming officers. There are many who've accrued skills and education throughout their enlisted careers and have grown into a position where their status as an enlistee would put limits on how and to what extent they'd be able to exercise their expertise.

See OBSTACLES Page 25

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U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Jodi Martinez

Secretary of the Air Force Heather Wilson gives the first major address of the Airlift/Tanker Association Symposium Oct. 25 in Grapevine, Texas. Wilson spoke about the Air Force's status in restoring readiness in the force and outlined plans to grow squadrons, develop leaders and cost-effectively modernize to succeed in the current age of great power competition.

Symposium welcomes mobility professionals

Tech. Sgt. Jodi Martinez
AIR MOBILITY COMMAND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

GRAPEVINE, Texas — The 50th Airlift/Tanker Association Symposium and technology convention kicked off Oct. 25 near Dallas, Texas, where Air Mobility Command aims to develop Total Force mobility professionals across the world.

A/TA is the Mobility Air Force's premier professional development training event with about 900 Airmen in attendance this year.

Holding true to this year's them, "heritage, heroes and horizons," Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Paul J. Selva opened the symposium with an address reflecting on Mobility Air Force's predecessors and recognizing current Mobility Airmen who continue the mobility legacy.

"Look around the room," said Selva. "You are all extraordinary. The work you do every day

helps us define this nation. There isn't a single place that you won't go. There isn't any place you can't take us that allows us to do our mission. Everything that defines mobility is defined by you."

Gen. Maryanne Miller, Air Mobility Command commander, highlighted the need to continually evolve to keep up with a changing world.

"Our forces must be prepared and ready to operate in any environment," said Miller. "Agility is key, partnerships are vital, and innovation and investment in our people are absolutely essential."

Professional training forums, such as A/TA, represent an investment in Airmen and offer opportunities for senior leaders to shape understanding of issues and ensure enhanced understanding of expectations and roles associated with the mobility force – taking a look at the past to present day.

Secretary of the Air Force
See SYMPOSIUM Page 25

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Trunk or Treat delivers sweets to Travis children for Halloween



U.S. Air Force photo/Heide Couch

1) A volunteer hands out treats Oct. 26 at Travis Air Force Base, Calif. The Airman and Family Readiness Center hosted the eighth annual Trunk or Treat festivities, located at the facility's parking lot. To provide a safe place for military families to enjoy the holiday, adults decorate the back of their cars for Halloween, load up candy and gather in a parking lot for kids to "trick or treat" from car to car. Participants arrived in the thousands, dressed in Halloween costumes and holding bags or plastic pumpkins for treats. The adults got to socialize and be creative while seeing all the costumes. 2) A girl dressed as a cat pauses before moving on to the next vehicle at the Trunk or Treat event.

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Costumes bring joy to youth center children



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Jonathon D. A. Carnell

Shuana Fobar, Travis Youth Center assistant, poses for a photo Oct. 24 at Travis Air Force Base, Calif. Fobar gets in the Halloween spirit by dressing in different costumes for the kids to enjoy.

'Tent City' provides relief after Michael

Tech. Sgt. Rachelle Blake
325TH FIGHTER WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

TYNDALL AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. — One-thousand service members from around the U.S. are set to call Tyndall Air Force Base, Florida's "Tent City" their temporary home while supporting base recovery efforts.

In the time since Hurricane Michael made landfall along the base's coastline, a blend of civil engineering Airmen have worked around the clock and successfully brought basic necessities to the installation, which was heavily damaged in the storm.

Master Sgt. Angela Duran, 49th Civil Engineering Squadron team lead, arrived on Tyndall AFB Oct. 13, just a few days after the storm hit. She and her team of 27 from Holloman AFB, New Mexico, landed in a C-17 Globemaster III filled with equipment.

"When we came in, we had to build our tents first to house us," she said. "We didn't really have anything. We brought everything with us so we were able to start tent city."

See TENT CITY Page 22

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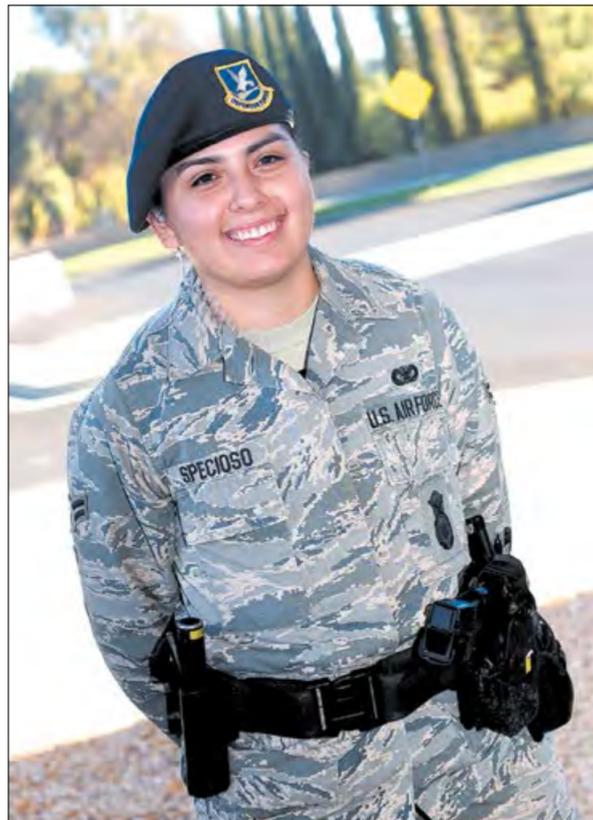
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U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Jonathon D. A. Carnell

Airman 1st Class Nora Specioso, 60th Security Forces Squadron entry controller, poses near an entry gate Oct. 24 at Travis Air Force Base, Calif. Specioso has worked as an entry controller at Travis for over a year. She is known for her friendly demeanor at the gate.

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A peek at Travis training missions



Capt. Tory Nicholson, 21st Airlift Squadron C-17 Globemaster III pilot, goes over the upcoming training mission with the other crew members Oct. 17 in a C-17 at Travis Air Force Base, Calif. Travis Airmen conduct training to stay current and be prepared for future mobility operations.

U.S. Air Force photo/Master Sgt. Joey Swafford

First reserve ISR wing activates at Wright-Pat

Maj. John T. Stamm

655TH INTELLIGENCE, SURVEILLANCE AND RECONNAISSANCE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio — Born out of necessity in 2012, the 655th Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Group embraced its destiny to restructure as a wing during a ceremony Oct. 20 at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio. The 655th is the Air Force Reserve Command's first ISR wing.

Growing national security needs for intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities in the years after the 9/11 attacks prompted the Air Force Reserve Command to increase its ISR capacity.

The Air Force Reserve didn't have any intelligence squadrons and so began the process of fielding capabilities to fill in the gaps and serve the ever-growing need for ISR products and expertise.

During the next several years, the AFRC created several units to provide full-spectrum ISR capabilities to the Air Force and Department of Defense.

"Knowledge is power and American warfighters deserve to know what is transpiring on the battlefield," said Col. Douglas A. Drakeley, Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command director of ISR and the first commander of the 655 ISRG. "We need to build that knowledge and situational awareness for our combatant commanders in the joint force. We fight as a joint team, so our capabilities become part of that joint team. We provide them the information to be effective."

To increase ISR capabilities, the Air Force Reserve created intelligence squadrons associated with active-duty units. The first of these, the 50th Intelligence Squadron, at Beale Air Force Base, California, was activated in 2008, followed by the 718 Intelligence Squadron at Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Virginia.

As the number of squadrons grew, there was a need to transition to the administrative and operational control of the squadrons to an ISR group carrying out the duties of a wing until a wing-level structure was created and activated in

See **ISR WING** Page 22

AFCEC unveils 2018 Design Awards winners

Air Force Installation and Mission Support Center Public Affairs

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-LACKLAND, Texas — The Air Force Civil Engineer Center has announced the winners of the 2018 Air Force Design Awards, recognizing eight innovative projects for excellence in design and efficiency.

"These award-winning projects exemplify the Air Force's commitment to partnering with industry to deliver quality, mission ready facilities," said Col. Scott Matthews, AFCEC Facility Engineering director. "These designers optimized and balanced functionality, cost-efficiency, sustainability and aesthetics."

Two award levels were given this year: the Honor Award, which is the highest achievement, followed by the Merit Award.

This year's recipients are:

2018 Honor Awards

- Facility Design: KC-46A three-bay general maintenance hangar, McConnell Air Force Base, Kansas.

- Facility Renovations and Additions: Foreign materiel exploitation laboratory,

Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio.

- Facility Design: medical and dental clinic, Cannon AFB, New Mexico.

2018 Merit Awards

- Facility Design: B-52 Squadron operations/aircraft maintenance unit facility, Minot AFB, North Dakota.

- Facility Design: Craig R. McKinley Hall, Tennessee Air National Guard, McGhee-Tyson Air National Guard Base, Tennessee.

- Facility Renovations and Additions: F-22 jet engine shop renovation, Hawaii Air National Guard, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii.

- Facility Renovations and Additions: Historic building 49 renovation, Offutt AFB, Nebraska.

- Facility Design: Variable height tower, Eglin AFB, Florida.

A three-person juror team analyzed the design entries, compared them against the predetermined judging criteria and selected for awards those projects that excelled in all aspects of the criteria, said David Duncan, AFCEC Senior Architect and Air Force Design Awards program manager.



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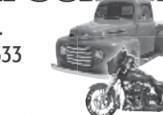


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U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Kelly Walker

Airmen from the 823rd Red Horse Squadron, Hurlburt Field, Fla., lay insulation on a hangar roof Oct. 22 at Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla.

823rd RHS delivers help after Hurricane Michael

Airman 1st Class Kelly Walker
1ST COMBAT CAMERA SQUADRON

TYNDALL AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. — A trip from Hurlburt Field, Florida, to Tyndall Air Force Base, Florida, typically takes two hours.

In the wake of Hurricane Michael, it was a four-hour journey for 16 Airmen from the 823rd Red Horse Squadron. Hindered by destruction and debris, they backtracked through blocked roads with little to no communications or GPS capabilities.

This set the tone for the challenges they encountered upon reaching the storm-torn Tyndall AFB.

"There was no running water, there were no sewer systems," said Maj. Peter Sabatowski, 823rd RHS on-site officer in charge. "There was a bucket in the bathroom with a plastic bag in it."

The Airmen from the 823rd RHS had officially joined a skeleton crew of first responders including the 820th Base Defense Group from Moody AFB, Georgia, 23rd Civil Engineering Squadron Prime BEEF, from Moody AFB, and a 93-person ride-out team from Tyndall AFB.

"The first night was quiet," said Sabatowski. "We were trying to get our feet under

ourselves and figure out what was going on."

In the weeks since the storm, the squadron has found its footing and helped to clear debris, assess damage, save facilities, construct a booming tent city and even provided the first hot meals to nearly 400 Airmen working to restore the base. But the list doesn't stop there.

"Red Horse is unique," said Sabatowski. "We're the ones that are executing the cradle-to-grave construction, from design to handing the facility over."

While more Airmen, Soldiers and Sailors trickle in to tackle the work that lies ahead, the 823d RHS has helped lay the groundwork for a base that can function and improve every day.

"This is more recovery than construction," said Sabatowski.

Once a battered base of severely damaged buildings, with no power, water or communications, Tyndall is now a functioning bare-base facility and is well on its way to normal operations.

"They're proud of what they've done out here, and it has definitely been a team effort," said Sabatowski. "It is not just a single entity that's working on one thing, it has been a collective effort to get where we're at right now."

Travis looks back at DGMC's beginning as hospital celebrates 30th anniversary

Funding shortage nearly complicated creation of base's hospital

Merrie Schilter-Lowe

60TH AIR MOBILITY WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

David Grant USAF Medical Center is celebrating its 30th year in Building 777 at Travis Air Force Base, California. But, DGMC may not have been built but for the tenacity of Rep. Vic Fazio, D-West Sacramento, and former Air Force Surgeon General, Lt. Gen. Max Bralliar.

While the congressman – a member of the House Appropriations Committee – tackled the funding issue, Bralliar argued readiness amid criticism that the facility was overly large.

Air Force leadership explained that the new DGMC would be twice as large as the current hospital in Building 381 – now home to the 60th Mission Support Group – and provide care to more than 70,000 active-duty members, retirees and their families. DGMC would employ about 1,200 people when it opened Dec. 15, 1988.

Today, DGMC provides medical care for nearly 400,000 eligible Department of Defense and Veterans Health Administration patients in Northern California with a staff of more than 2,000.

DGMC is not just the Air Force Medical Services' largest hospital, it is also a teaching facility for residents as well as a formal training school for a number of programs, including dental, pharmacy, clinical laboratory and surgical services.

The Air Force broke ground on the \$202 million facility Aug. 22, 1984, with Fazio and Bralliar as guest speakers. The congressman had spearheaded the hospital funding in Congress since 1979. However, in August 1986, Congress decided that the facility was "ill-advised, unnecessary and detrimental," according to a local newspaper, the Daily Republic, in Fairfield, California.

The article reported that the congressman had vowed to "fight like hell" to restore the final allocation of \$87.5 million needed to complete construction of DGMC by late 1988. He was already on record saying: "This community needs David Grant. The patient load is only expected to grow in the future and this hospital will fill a huge void."

The Air Force Times reported April 22, 1985, that Bralliar had

appeared before the House Armed Service Subcommittee on Military Installations and Facilities, arguing that DGMC would have a major role in casualty receiving and treatment during contingency operations in the Pacific Theater, which would require the hospital to expand inpatient bed capacity to 557.

Bralliar also noted that DGMC would provide health care support to Travis and the surrounding military communities as well as support the Air Force Medical Services' second-largest teaching program for physicians, dentist and other health care personnel. He asked Congress not to scale back on the building.

With more than 500 contractors working, construction on DGMC was 90 percent complete and ahead of schedule by 1987. Congress had appropriated more than \$113 million for construction over a three-year period – \$5 million in fiscal 1984 for the preliminary construction phase, \$30 million in FY 1985 and \$78.4 million in FY 1986.

Although the House and Senate had authorized the \$87.5 million to complete DGMC, the Senate Appropriations Committee recommended that the full Senate reduce funding by \$60 million.

Sandy Stewart, Fazio's legislative assistant, said in a Daily Republic news article that cutting the construction budget would force the Air Force to default on the primary contract, costing the government \$30 million in termination fees.

According to the newspaper, the previous David Grant USAF Medical Center was 37 years old, poorly designed and too small. Additionally, structural problems and outdated mechanical equipment made renovating the facility almost as costly as building a new one.

Bralliar had testified that the new DGMC would provide a 298-bed inpatient facility, a 75-bed aeromedical staging facility, a 52-chair dental clinic, outpatient treatment clinics and ancillary support functions, a clinical investigation facility, a hyperbaric oxygen therapy chamber, linear accelerator and a nuclear magnetic resonance facility.

The 808,475-square-foot hospital was scheduled to open in 1988 and

hospital staff had hoped to see patients in early 1989. But budget cuts threatened to sideline the construction project.

Fortunately, by February 1986, the FY 1987 bill sent to President Ronald Reagan included the final installment for the new medical center.

By May 1988, about 350 contractors were focusing on the inside of the building.

The new DGMC was completed in October 1988, one month ahead of schedule an approximately \$8 million under budget. According to Travis historical records, the entire project spanned seven years, met every milestone and received substantial recognition for design excellence and management expertise.

DGMC was designed as a four-level facility that would house the main medical center, dental clinic and energy plant. The outpatient clinics were designed around five courtyards, which provides natural lighting as well as a respite for patients and staff.

Built to withstand a major earthquake, DGMC can operate on its own internal utilities for nearly one week.

In 1985, the hospital gate, road and security forces checkpoint were built on Parker Road so a new traffic light was installed. Hangar Avenue was rerouted to include a perimeter road around the construction site and Hickam Avenue was extended from the main base to the hospital site.

In January 1987, DGMC expanded pharmacy services to include a satellite refill facility at the base exchange mini mall. DGMC was formally dedicated in May 1989, which was the same year the \$12 million hyperbaric chamber opened.

At age 30, DGMC is still structurally sound and built to withstand a major earthquake. For the past decade, DGMC has undergone three phases of improvements and modifications totaling more than \$140 million. This includes upgrades in the oral surgery clinic, women's health clinic, heart lung vascular clinic and the intensive care unit.

Additionally DGMC added two operating rooms, increasing the hospital's surgical capabilities. All of the upgrades were completed while the hospital still provided Trusted Care to patients.



U.S. Air Force file photo



U.S. Air Force file photo



U.S. Air Force file photo



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U.S. Air Force photo/Heide Couch

1) A contractor quality control inspector performs a nondestructive ultrasonic test of welds on the roof level March 28, 1986, during construction of David Grant USAF Medical Center at Travis Air Force Base, Calif. 2) Workers reinforce concrete work and waterproofing for the energy tunnel floor July 2, 1986, during DGMC construction. 3) Ironworkers top out the structure Sept. 9, 1986. The beam is located in the northwest corner of the hospital. 4) Tile detail on sidewalk in front of south entrance sits June 21, 1988. 5) Patrons eat in the dining facility in April 1989 at DGMC. 6) DGMC celebrated its 30th anniversary recently with cake and testimonials from past and present patients.

Hospital moved equipment, patients in '88

Merrie Schilter-Lowe

60TH AIR MOBILITY WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

When contractors turned over the keys to the David Grant USAF Medical Center at Travis Air Force Base, California Oct. 21, 1988, the medical center officially became Air Force property. However, it would take another 60 days to make it ready to receive patients.

The new DGMC consolidated 19 buildings scattered around the base – some as far as a mile from the main facility – into one modern complex housing more than 3,500 rooms, according to an article in the base newspaper, Tailwind.

The transition from construction to occupancy required the support of 120 staff members as well as 600 Air Force reservists to set up the furniture and medical equipment totaling \$15.5 million. The move itself was estimated to cost around \$600,000.

Such a major move does not happen without a lot of planning.

"Planning is absolutely critical," said Lt. Col. John Holes in a base newspaper article. Holes was one of the officers in charge of the move.

"Because of the number of people David Grant serves, the transition has to be smooth," he said. "The plan is not to let our level of care drop while the transfer is being made."

DGMC's "most creative and talented people" had been working out moving details since 1985 and had a plan for nearly everything imaginable that could go wrong, said Holes.

"We have developed many contingency plans and used a computer to ensure calculations were right," said Holes.

Moving day went so smooth that Military Airlift Command awarded DGMC its 1988 Innovation Award for its meticulous planning and flawless execution. The Department of Defense awarded DGMC for establishing a new standard of excellence for design and construction.

According to Holes, the move would require 340 to 400 trucks to transfer the equipment stored in the base's warehouse. Another 100 trucks would haul everything from "scalpels and beds to clocks and a linear accelerator," used for radiation therapy, said Holes.

Time and motion studies were

conducted to ensure no bottlenecks formed as contractors transferred the new equipment and training staff to operate it took nearly four weeks.

Historical documents reported that the new state-of-the-art medical center was a far cry from the original Fairfield-Suisun Base Hospital that first opened in 1943. Originally estimated at \$206.2 million, the new DGMC was the Air Force's first major medical facility built from the ground up.

"Most other Air Force facilities have added to their existing facility," said Maj. Jodie Sell, DGMC's director of training and systems coordinator said in a base newspaper article. "We completely replaced the old center with this this new, more modern facility."

Moving furniture and equipment was one thing. Moving 130 patients to another facility in 60 days, was much more delicate, said Sell.

"Critical patients were brought over first, each in a private ambulance," he said. "Next was pediatrics on the fourth floor. From there, the staff worked their way down to the first floor. To minimize patient and staff inconveniences, our goal was to accomplish the move in a record eight weeks."

While active-duty members moved into the new DGMC, hundreds of Air Force reservists serving their annual tour backfilled their positions in Building 381, which patients and the community referred to as "The Hospital on the Hill."

Retired military members and civilian volunteers performed basic but necessary tasks ranging from operating elevators to checking entry authorization, allowing active-duty members to handle the physically demanding tasks like moving more than 204 exam tables and cabinets, 7,000 chairs and 657 desks.

Just as planned, patient movement began early Dec. 15, 1988, said Sell.

"The patients ate breakfast at the old building and had lunch at the new one," he said.

Because there were no major problems, the move stayed on schedule for the entire two months.

"We could not have wished for a better Christmas present," said Sell.

Swap Ads

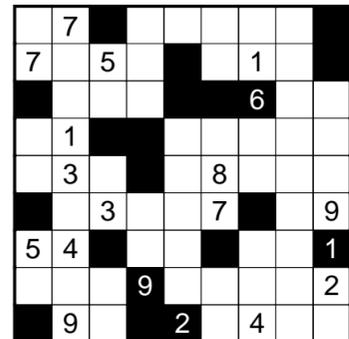
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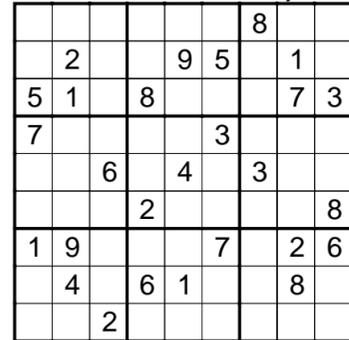


How to beat STR8TS – Like Sudoku, no single number can repeat in any row or column. But... rows and columns are divided by black squares into **compartments**. These need to be filled in with numbers that complete a 'straight'. A **straight** is a set of numbers with no gaps but can be in any order, 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. 410 Very Hard



Previous solution - Tough



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

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

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

The solutions will be published here in the next issue.

Retiree Corner

Chapman honored with aircraft dedication

HURLBURT FIELD, Fla. — The name John Chapman is already well known in the Air Force community, and will now fly across the globe on the side of an iconic aircraft.

The Air Force dedicated a Boeing C-32 Master Sgt. John Chapman,

during a ceremony at Hurlburt Field, Florida, Oct. 26. Chapman was a special tactics combat controller who was posthumously presented the Medal of Honor in August.

“Our nation continues to be the land of the free because of brave men like John Chapman,” Secretary of the Air Force Heather Wilson said.

—**Air Force News Service**

60th FSS

Freebies and fun

Free Family Child Care Provider training.

Want free training and licensing to a new career in child care? Sign up for the next free Family Child Care course, scheduled Nov. 13-16.

Events and upcoming

Thanksgiving Meals-To-Go. Want a full home-cooked, picture-perfect holiday meal without the cooking hassle? DB400 will prepare Thanksgiving Meals-To-Go. The holiday feast includes roast turkey with pan gravy, sourdough and herb-stung, red-skin mashed potatoes, oven-roasted Brussels sprouts and carrots, mixed green salad, pumpkin pie, whip cream and dinner rolls with sweet butter. Feeds eight to 10 for \$79 or a smaller order for four to six adults for \$42. Reserve meals by Nov. 16. Call 424-2745. During Thanksgiving Day, pick up meals between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

◆◆◆ For more information on FSS, visit <http://www.travisfss.com>.

Chapel programs

Recurring events

Catholic

Twin Peaks Chapel

- Roman Catholic Mass: 9 a.m. and noon Sunday.
- Children's Church: 10:15 a.m. Sunday.
- Sacrament of Reconciliation/Confession: 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Wednesday or upon appointment.
- Infant Baptism Prep Class: Two classes. Registration required. 6 to 7 p.m., quarterly.
- Youth Choir: 1 p.m. Sunday.
- Children's Choir: 2 p.m. Sunday.
- Adult Choir: 4 p.m. Sunday.
- Women's Bible Study: 10 a.m. (at First Street Chapel).
- Catholic Women of the Chapel: 6 p.m. first Monday of every month, Annex.
- Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults: 6 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Annex.
- RE Classes: 10:15 to 11:30 a.m. Sunday, RE Wing.

First Street Chapel

- Mom's Group: 9 to 11:30 a.m. Thursday and Friday.

DGMC Chapel

- Roman Catholic Mass: Noon to 12:35 p.m. Monday through Thursday, except for federal holidays.
- The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints**
- Sacrament Services: 9 and 11 a.m. Sunday at Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Fairfield Stake Center, 2700 Camrose Ave., Fairfield.

DGMC Chapel

- Latter-day Saints Service: 4 to 4:30 p.m. Sunday at DGMC Medical Center Chapel.
- For all other inquiries, call LDS Military relations representatives at 707-535-6979.

Protestant

First Street Chapel

- Protestant Community Service: 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Sunday.
- Gospel Worship Service: 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Sunday.
- Children's Ministry is provided for 6-month-olds through fifth grade.
- Protestant Men of the Chapel: 8 to 9 a.m., first Saturday of every month.

Twin Peaks Chapel

- Protestant Women of the Chapel: 9:30 to 11 a.m. Tuesday.

DGMC Chapel

- Protestant Traditional Service: 10 to 11 a.m. Sunday.

Airmen's Ministry Center

- The Peak is open from 6 to 9 p.m. Monday through Friday at Bldg. 1348. Home-cooked meal at 6 p.m. Tuesdays followed at 7 p.m. by Bible study.



For more information about chapel programs, call Twin Peaks Chapel at 707-424-3217.

Recurring

Air Force Office of Special Investigations.

To report a crime, get a foreign travel brief or request information on joining AFOSI, report to Bldg. 380B, second floor. Send correspondence to AFOSI Detachment 303, 510 Airlift CR, Travis AFB, 94535. For more information, call 707-424-3115 or DSN: 837-3115.

Air Force Recruiting Office. Now open at the Solano Town Center mall. Learn more about what the Air Force has to offer, such as up to 100-percent tuition assistance, 30 days paid vacation per year, free medical and dental care, tax-free housing and food allowance and much more. Contact Tech. Sgt. George Yardley at 707-889-3088 or stop by the office located at 1350 Travis Blvd., Suite P2, Fairfield, in the Solano mall.

Air Force Sergeants Association

“Walter E. Scott” Chapter 1320. General membership meetings are at 2 p.m. the second Friday of every month at Wingman's in the Delta Brezze Club. For more information, contact Senior Master Sgt. Angell Nichols or Tech. Sgt. Rebecca Linden de Romero.

Airmen's Attic. The Airmen's Attic is open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday and 4 to 6 p.m. Wednesday. 560 Hickam Ave. For more information, call 707-424-8740 or visit the Facebook page “The Attic at Travis AFB.”

Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Group. Meetings take place from 1 to 2:30 p.m. the third Thursday of the month in the diabetic education classroom on the first floor in Internal Medicine at David Grant USAF Medical Center. For more information, call 707-423-7227.

Base emergency numbers. Mobile phone users must dial 707-424-4911 if they have an emergency on base. Those using government or home phones can call 911. For more information, call the Travis Air Force Base Fire Prevention Office at 707-424-3683.

Base illicit discharge number. To report sewage/water leaks or illegal dumping, call

707-424-2575. For hazardous chemical/material spills, call the base emergency numbers.

Civilian Health Promotion Services. Will perform free wellness screenings from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. every Monday for all DoD federal civilians. Screenings include cholesterol, glucose, blood pressure and body composition analysis. For more information, visit www.AFMCwellness.com or contact CHPS at 707-424-CHPS or CHPSTravis@foh.hhs.gov.

Crisis text line. Free, confidential, 24/7 counseling for teens and young adults. Text 741-741 anywhere in the United States and a live, trained crisis counselor responds quickly.

Employee-Vehicle Certification and Reporting System. Civilian and military personnel must maintain emissions information with the Web-based ECARS system. For more information, call Xuyen Lieu at 707-424-5103.

Exceptional Family Member Program Sensory Play Group. This group meets from 2 to 4 p.m. the second and fourth Wednesdays at the Balfour Beatty Community Center. For more information, call 707-424-4342 or visit the Facebook page “EFMP Travis AFB.”

Family Advocacy Parent/Child play groups. Toddlers to the Max play group for children ages 1 to 3 meets from 9:30 to 11 a.m. Wednesdays at the First Street Chapel Annex. The Rattles to Raspberries play group for infants 8 weeks to 1 year meets 9:30 to 11 a.m. Thursdays at the First Street Chapel Annex. For more information, call 707-423-5168.

Family and Friends Combat Stress Peer Support Group. Meets from noon to 1 p.m. the first Tuesday of every month at the Balfour Beatty Community Center and from 1 to 2 p.m. the third Thursday of each month at The Peak. For more information, contact Amber Quirate and Jessica Soto at 501-231-7756 or email travspcombatpdsd@gmail.com.

Government no-fee passports. All submissions of applications for government no-fee passports must now include: 1) A photocopy of Military Identification Card front and back; 2) Passport photo taken in the past six months; 3) Supporting document(s), proof of U.S. citizenship certified copy with state or county seal, if it involved a name change submit a court order or marriage certificate. Passport application cannot be handwritten and printed back to back and must be completed online with 2D barcode at website <https://ppform.state.gov> and/or <https://travel.state.gov>. For more information, call 707-424-5324.

Hometown News Releases. To submit a Hometown News Release, visit <https://jhns.release.dma.mil/public> and fill out the information.

Mare Island Museum. Open 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays. 1100 Railroad Ave. in Vallejo. For more information, call 707-557-4646.

M-50 Gas Mask Fit Testing. Takes place from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. every Wednesday at Bldg. 791. All deployers are fit as necessary. For more information, call 707-424-2689.

Mitchell Memorial Library. Open 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and closed Sunday.

Montezuma Shrine Club. Meets every third Thursday of the month at the Masonic Center, 412 Travis Blvd., Fairfield. For more information, call Mike Michaels at 707-427-2573 or Cal Gitsham at 707-425-0060.

MPF self-renewal program. Did you know that dependents can now renew their ID cards online? To participate in this program, visit <http://bit.ly/2mR1gl2>. This program is limited only for renewing dependents' IDs. For all other services, visit MPF during duty hours or call 707-424-8483.

On-base child care. The Air Force requires on-base residents to be licensed by the 60th Mission Support Group if they provide more than 10 hours of care per week in their homes. For more information, call 707-424-8104 or 707-424-4596 or stop by Bldg. 380B.

Photocopying of military identification. The prohibition of photocopying of U.S. government identification Common Access Card announced by the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense, dated Oct. 27, 2011, does not apply to medical establishments, applying for government-issued, no-fee passport and other U.S. government agencies in the performance of official government business. This requirement does not apply to minors ages 16 or younger. However, it applies to sponsors. For more information, call 707-424-5324.

Professional Loadmaster Association. The Professional Loadmaster Association meets at 7 p.m. the first Tuesday of each month at the Delta Brezze Club. For more information, call Mark Raymond at 707-416-5331.

Retiree Activities Office. Openings for volunteers. Customers are retired American service members and their family members. It is the RAO's responsibility to maintain open communication and to ensure retirees receive the service and the respect they deserve. If you would like to apply for a volunteer slot and have three hours or more to give, call 707-424-3905.

Solano/Napa Habitat for Humanity. This organization welcomes volunteers and supporters from all backgrounds. There are recurring events Tuesday through Saturday. For more information, email Staff Sgt. Mathew Clayton at mathew.clayton@us.af.mil.

Travis Community Thrift Shop. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday. Ongoing need for volunteers to organize, sort and price donations. For more information, contact the Thrift Shop at 707-437-2370.

Travis Composite Squadron 22 Civil Air Patrol. Open to youth from 12 to 18, as well as adults ages 18 or older who train and

News Notes

Death notice. 2nd Lt. Kenneth John Elejorde is authorized to make disposition of the personal property of Senior Airman Jesse Thomas Saunders, deceased, 60th Logistics Readiness Squadron, as stated in AFI 34-511. Any person having claims for or against the deceased person please contact Elejorde by phone at 707-424-2150 or email kenneth_john.elejorde.1@us.af.mil

Community College of the Air Force graduation ceremony. 2 p.m. Nov. 8 at the Base Theater. For more information, contact Master Sgt. Stanley Siasoi at 424-4556.

serve as the volunteer component of the total force. UTA is 6:30 to 9 p.m. Monday, Bldg. 241-B-2. Open to all students with a 2.0 or higher grade-point average. For more information, contact CAP 1st Lt. Jo Nash at 707-424-3996 or recruiting@squadron22-cap.us, visit during a UTA or check out <http://squadron22-cap.us>.

Travis Heritage Center. The facility is looking to add to its historical collection. It is missing the past 15 years of conflict in which Travis was involved. Do you have something special to donate for generations to appreciate? The center also seeks volunteers. The gift shop is open 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. For more information, call Rick Shea at 707-424-5598 or email richard.shea@us.af.mil.

Travis Legal Office. Power of attorney and notaries are walk-ins 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday. Legal assistance for active duty members and dependents are walk-ins from 2 to 3 p.m. Tuesday. For all wills and retiree legal assistance, call 707-424-3251 to make an appointment.

Tuskegee Airman Lee A. Archer Chapter. Meets at 3 p.m. the third Saturday of the month at the Airman and Family Readiness Center.

Voluntary Leave Transfer Program. The following Travis employees are approved as leave recipients through the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program:

- Kelley D. Brown, Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey.
- Erin Dunningway, 60th Operations Support Squadron.
- Valerie Moore, 60th Aerial Port



Here are the showtimes for this weekend's movies at the Base Theater:

Today

- 6:30 p.m. “The Nutcracker and the Four Realms” (PG, first run)

Saturday

- 6:30 p.m. “The Nutcracker and the Four Realms” (PG, first run)

Sunday

- 2 p.m. “The Nutcracker and the Four Realms” (PG, first run)

Squadron.

- Jessica Pope, 349th Air Mobility Wing.
- James Van Nostrand.

The VLP 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.

What's Cookin' Wednesday. Free lunch at the Travis AFB USO Bldg. 1348. Served from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. every Wednesday. For active duty, Guard, reservist and their families.

Local events

Events

Authors Luncheon. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Nov. 4, The Clubhouse at Rancho Solano, 3250 Rancho Solano Parkway, Fairfield. www.solanolibraryfoundation.org.

Dia De Los Muertos. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Nov. 3, 100-200 block of Georgia Street in Vallejo. Free. www.solanoaidscollition.org.

Harbor Arts Center. 720 Main St., Suisun City. www.suisunharbortheater.org.

“Sounds of Suspense.” Radio broadcast, noon fourth Friday of each month, Vacaville Public Library-Town Square, 1 Town Square Place. Free. www.solanolibrary.com.

Theatre Deville. Thunder From Down Under, 8 p.m. Nov. 7; 308 Main St., Vacaville. www.theatredeville.com.

Vallejo Art Walk. 5 to 10 p.m. second Friday of each month, downtown Vallejo. Free admission. www.vallejoartwalk.com.

Vallejo Farmers Market. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays, year-round, Georgia and Marin streets. www.pcfma.com.

Vintage Market. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. every third Saturday, St. Paul's United Methodist Church, 101 West St., Vacaville. 925-978-6989.

Art exhibits

ArtPhit. Open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday, 726 Texas St., Fairfield. 439-3573.

Arts Benicia. “In the Fields: Botanical Love,” Nov. 10 through Dec. 21; open noon to 5 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday during exhibitions, 991 Taylor St., Suite 114, Benicia. Free. 747-0130, www.artsbenicia.org.

Benicia Plein Air Gallery. Sharon Hind Smith is November's featured artist; open 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday through Sunday, 307 First St., Benicia. 495-2940, www.beniciaplein-air.com.

El Comalito Collective. “Encounters” through Dec. 1; open 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, 302 Georgia St., Vallejo. www.elcomalitocollective.com.

Fairfield-Suisun Visual Arts Association Gallery. “The Mind at Play: Think About it?” through Nov. 4; 55th annual Juried Art Show, Nov. 14 through Jan. 6; open 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday, Solano Town Center, 1350 Travis Blvd., Suite D8, Fairfield. 688-8889, www.fvaa-arts.org.

Gallery 621. “Perfect Square,” through Dec. 30; receptions are 3 to 6 p.m. Nov. 10 and

THE FLIP SIDE

Dec. 8; open noon to 3 p.m. Thursday, noon to 6 p.m. Friday through Sunday, 309 First St., Benicia. 297-6960, www.gallery621.com.

Georgia Galleria. Open 3 to 8 p.m. weekdays, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturdays, 419 Georgia St., Suite 15, Vallejo. www.facebook.com/womenandminorityartistart.

Jen Tough Gallery. “Zoe Cohen: Elegy for a Captain,” through Nov. 28; open 1 to 6 p.m. Friday, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday, 942 Tyler St., Benicia. www.jentoughgallery.com.

Lawler House Art Gallery. “Variations of Abstract,” through Jan. 27; open noon to 4 p.m. Friday through Sunday, 718 Main St., Suisun City. www.lawlerhousegallery.org.

The Little Art Shop. Open 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, 129 First St., Suites D & E, Benicia. 771-6667, www.thelittleartshop.com.

Mankas Artisans. Open noon to 3 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, inside Powell's Antiques, 1371 Oliver Road, Fairfield.

Marilyn Citron O'Rourke Gallery. “Ruth Staton: Approaching Literature Through Art,” through Nov. 24; open 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday, noon to 6 p.m. Friday through Sunday, 150 E. L St., Benicia. www.benicialibrary.org.

Vacaville Art League Gallery. “Melody, Rhythm, Art,” Nov. 3; reception 6 to 8 p.m. Saturday; through Dec. 1; open noon to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, 718 E. Monte Vista Ave. Free. 448-8712, www.vacavilleartgallery.com.

Music and dance Chamber Music at Rancho Flaubert. Brian Thorsett, tenor, and Eric Choate, piano, 3

p.m. Nov. 11; 7059 Bucktown Lane, Vacaville. www.sites.google.com/view/cmarf/home.

City Sports Bar and Grill. Music begins at 9 p.m.: Static Surrender, Nov. 2; Two20Band, Nov. 3; Johnny Favorite, Nov. 9; Aqua Nett, Nov. 10; 155 Browns Valley Parkway, Vacaville. 455-7827, www.starsrecreation.com.

Congregation B'nai Israel. Chanukah Sing-A-Long Haimish Music Band, 2 to 4 p.m. Dec. 8; 1256 Nebraska St., Vallejo. www.bnaisrael.com.

Downtown Theatre. B Sharp Academy's 17th Annual Awards Show, 3 p.m. Dec. 2; 1035 Texas St., Fairfield. www.downtowntheatre.com.

Empress Theatre. “The Creature” 3 p.m. Nov. 2; “Rocky Horror Picture Show,” 7 p.m. Nov. 7; Jo Aaway & Angelica, 8 p.m. Nov. 2; Lydia Pense & Cold Blood, 8 p.m. Nov. 3; 330 Virginia St., Vallejo. 552-2400, www.empresstheatre.org.

First Street Cafe. Kale Anderson, 7 p.m. Nov. 2; Open mic, 7 p.m. Nov. 3; Bryan Girard, 2 p.m. Nov. 4; 440 First St., Benicia. 745-1400, www.firststreetcafe.com.

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 • 10:00 AM WEDNESDAY SENIOR PRAYER
 • 7:00 PM WEDNESDAY NIGHT Adult Bible Study
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 www.Tagff.org
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 Morning Worship Service: 11:00 a.m.
 Children's Church: 11:30 a.m.
Tuesday
 Prayer Meeting: 6:30-7:00 p.m.
 Bible Study: 7:00-8:00 p.m.
Web Site: www.stpaulfairfield.com
Email: stpaulbcfairfield@comcast.net
Church Phone: 707-422-2003

BAPTIST

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Southern Baptist Convention
 401 W. Monte Vista Ave., Vacaville
 707-448-5430
 www.tbvacaville.com
 Greg Davidson, Senior Pastor

Sunday:
 Worship Service & Bible Study.....9:00 am
 Worship Service & Bible Study.....10:30 am
 Evening Worship & Prayer.....6:00 pm
Wednesday:
 Dinner (Sept-May).....4-4:45 pm
 AWANA (Sept-May).....6:00 pm
 Youth.....6:00 pm
 Choir.....6:30 am
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 707-425-1849
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 Worship.....11:00 am
 CORE Bible Studies 12:30 & 5:00 pm
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WEDNESDAY
 Adult Studies.....2:00 pm
 AWANA for Kids6:15 pm
 Adult & Youth Studies.....6:30 pm

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Sunday Morning Bible Study 9 AM
Sunday Morning Worship10 AM
Sunday Evening Worship6 PM
Wed. Evening Bible Study7 PM
Homeless ministry at Mission Solano
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Pastor Dann Etnner
Bethany Lutheran Preschool
 451-6678
mypreschool@gobethany.com
www.gobethany.com
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www.vacavillechurchofchristalamodrive.com

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Wednesday Evening
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 Sunday: 9am & 11am

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 Sunday School for Children during the Worship Service
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 Adult and Bell Choirs
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 United Methodist Women
 Sunday Morning Bible Studies at 9:00 A.M.

ISR wing

From Page 12

September 2013.

The group originally stood up as a detachment with 38 personnel working inside facilities provided by the 445th Airlift Wing.

Assigned to the 10th Air Force headquartered at Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Fort Worth, Texas, the group activated simultaneously with five subordinate squadrons. These squadrons included the 64th and 71st Intelligence Squadrons at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, the 63rd and 42nd IS at Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Virginia, and the 38th IS at Beale AFB. Additionally, the 50th IS and the 718th IS were assigned to the 655th.

The group was intended to

achieve wing status in 2014. However, due to the 2013 government shutdown, that status was delayed. The group persisted, operating as a “wing equivalent” for the next five years, with every one of the squadrons achieving initial operating capability within one year and full operating capability within two years of stand up, while championing the necessity of organizing under the wing structure.

Drakeley believes the new wing structure will drastically improve the 655th's ability to provide the ISR surge capacity the active duty requires when operations tempos extend beyond their current capabilities.

“When we started, we were struggling because it was a new capability that the (Air Force) Reserve hadn't experienced yet,” said Drakeley. “But we continued to advocate for (wing

status) because it's important. It's the way the active duty is structured. It would have been challenging to integrate with our current active-duty partners if we didn't have a similar structure and capability.”

Wings have a distinct mission with a specific scope, and are made up of one or more groups and usually commanded by a colonel. Groups are made up of several squadrons, which are considered to be the basic unit in the United States Air Force.

The 655th ISRW encompasses two groups, the 655th ISRG at Wright-Patterson and the 755th ISRG at JBLE, as well as 14 squadrons over seven operating locations engaged in 10 distinct mission sets. The original 38 members now includes more than 1,200 full time and traditional reserve military and civilian personnel.

Tent City

From Page 9

The team has since grown to 41 and what started as a 60-tent project has now expanded to 80.

“We put up the first 60 in three and a half days,” said Master Sgt. Jeremie Wilson, 49th CES team lead. “The new 20 will be done in two days.”

Tents aren't their only task. They have also put in latrines, showering facilities and air conditioning units for the tents – bringing comfort to the city's inhabitants.

“It is so rewarding to see people actually be able to go in and use the showers and have a climate-controlled environment to sleep in after their hard day of work,” Wilson said. “They are able to come home, a deployed home and have some kind of normality.”

Being able to help is especially important to Wilson, who is

from New Orleans.

“When Katrina hit, I was deploying and a lot of people did a lot of great things for my community and family,” he said. “It feels good to be paying it back since I have been on the other side.”

For the other members of the team who may not have such strong emotional ties, the work is still rewarding, Wilson said.

“It can be trying work and repetitive,” said Wilson. “They are constantly counting parts and operationally checking equipment, but they are getting the opportunity to actually see the equipment working and being used for a purpose. Everyone is taking a lot of pride in that.”

Duran echoed his sentiment.

“They enjoy it,” she said. “They get to say, ‘This is what we do and what we do it for and we are helping these people out.’ They are getting fulfillment and satisfaction. For some, it is their first time putting training to work.”



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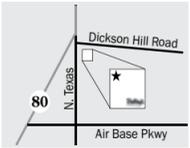
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Dream

From Page 3

met the necessary prerequisites, I submitted my citizenship application."

Escoto said he waited with anticipation for the moment he could deploy with his team.

"After becoming a U.S. citizen, I felt like I was finally part of the team," he said. "I was no longer the Airman that had to be left behind. I was right there with my team, going out the door and taking care of the mission."

While serving in the military, he also completed his master's degree in cybersecurity and several IT certifications.

After almost 20 years of service, Escoto said he feels humble and lucky to be retiring in one of the greatest units in the U.S. Air Force.

"To say that the 571st MSAS has been a highlight in my career is an understatement," he said. "Being able to have an impact on the Latin community has been a dream of mine for some time."

The 571st MSAS mission is to strengthen partner nations capabilities through providing assessments, training, advising and assisting partner nations in developing their own airpower capabilities. The unit includes Spanish-speaking Airmen and is aligned with the U.S. Southern Command area of responsibility.

Master Sgt. Jose Cruz, 571st MSAS senior air advisor, understands the importance of diversity in the unit and believes the U.S. Air Force benefits from having Airmen from different parts of the world.

"Currently, we have seven air advisors in the 571st MSAS who joined the U.S. Air Force in a resident status and years later obtained their citizenship while serving," said Cruz. "These individuals are now serving as air advisors in the USSOUTHCOM AOR with an advanced level of the Spanish language and cultural understanding of the region. This level of cultural awareness is nearly unachievable without their history."

One of Escoto's most memorable trips with the MSAS was

during a mobile training mission to advise the Dominican Republic air force.

"My job as an air advisor is to help the U.S. Air Force to continue to build and foster relationships with the Latin community," he said. "It was very rewarding to see first hand how with each follow-on engagement we're helping them improve their airpower capabilities."

Senior Master Sgt. Christopher Minnifield, 571st MSAS superintendent, spoke highly of Escoto and said that he has always been a valued member of the squadron.

"As a team sergeant, Escoto led all of our air advisors during the Dominican Republic training mission," said Minnifield. "He worked hand in hand with the partner nation's leadership, to include their chiefs of staffs, coordinating all the logistics, personnel and training courses."

Aside from working with the Dominican Republic air force, Escoto was able to arrange an opportunity for him and his

teammates to volunteer at one of the youth baseball leagues that he used to be a part of while growing up in Consuelo.

"I always wanted to go back to my town and do something for the community," he said. "When I saw those kids, I immediately saw a mirror image of myself at that age. Back then, I'd have never guessed in a million years that I'd be where I am today."

"It was important for me that they could see me wearing this uniform. That day, those kids saw someone that was in the same place they are now. ... I wanted to show them that in life we can all be part of something bigger than ourselves."

As Escoto nears the end of his career, he said a specific quote from John Maxwell resonates in his mind: "No one cares how much you know until they know how much you care."

"The Air Force will forever be part of my family," he said. "Let's care for those younger Airmen that may need someone to show them we care."

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Symposium

From Page 5

Heather Wilson recognized past logistical feats such as the Berlin Airlift, whose 70-year-old legacy remains one of the greatest airlift successes of the nation's history.

She also commended mobility forces who swiftly responded to Hurricane Michael, enabling Tyndall Air Force Base, Florida, to rebuild and restore quickly and safely. Mobility capabilities, Wilson said, stretch across the globe, where Mobility Airmen have the ability to build airstrips that may not have been there a day before or extend the strength and power of the nation at any time.

"So, where do we go from here?" said Wilson. "First and foremost, air refueling is a no-fail mission for a global power."

Tankers are key to power projection in an era that is defined by the great power competition, said Wilson. The delivery of the Air Force's newest tanker, the KC-46 Pegasus, which is expected to be delivered to McConnell Air Force Base, Kansas, this year, is one part in that mission. In an effort to deliver the mobility force the nation needs to meet future threats, Wilson discussed the need to grow the force.

"The Air Force we need in the 2025 timeframe will need more tanker squadrons," said Wilson. "In fact, our analysis says we'll need 14 more tanker squadrons."

Additionally, the Air Force plans to have 386 operational squadrons across the force by 2030, 74 more than the force has today.

Wilson said the Air Force is dedicated to revitalizing the force, which includes addressing the 4,000-maintainer deficit that plagued the Air Force years ago. By the end of the year, Wilson said that shortage will be eliminated.

In an effort to retain and grow maintainers, Miller indicated the maintainers are a key area of focus.

"I plan to reach out directly to my maintainers," said Miller. "We have the number of maintainers required, but the skill-set is slightly out of balance due to them just coming on board in our Air Force. We must grow, develop and retain these young Airmen and talented maintainers."

Obstacles

From Page 5

Capt. Erick Jackson is the 60th Medical Operations Squadron physical therapy element chief and director of clinical education. During his time in the Air National Guard, Jackson would attain both a bachelor's and doctorate degree despite a hectic schedule and myriad personal hardships, including a hesitance to stay within his original course of study.

"I worked as a personal trainer at several gyms while attending school full time and spending what little remaining time working my way up the ranks in the ANG," he said. "I graduated with a bachelor's in education and training and development in 1997 and while I attempted to work in that career field, I realized that wearing a shirt and tie everyday was not for me."

Jackson continued to improve himself, reaching the rank of master sergeant by age 28 and graduating with a doctorate in physical therapy soon after. Even while his professional life proceeded at almost breakneck speeds, his personal life would sustain a world-changing perspective change in the form of a close brush with death.

"In 2006, I experienced an



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Christian Conrad

2nd Lt. Rachel Brinegar, 60th Air Mobility Wing public affairs officer, stands for a photo Oct. 25 at Travis Air Force Base, Calif.

almost-fatal motorcycle accident that laid me out in an intensive care unit for a week," said Jackson. "To this day, I still suffer from a nonunion clavicle fracture from the accident. It was at this point I realized I needed to live my life and do whatever it is I wanted to do because tomorrow was not promised."

It was with this recommitted motivation that Jackson tirelessly refined his officer training school package, intent on utilizing his extensive physical therapy knowledge to its utmost potential.

Eventually, after years of struggle and work, hardships and setbacks, Jackson received a call at the Veterans Affairs hospital he was working at informing him that he had landed a Commission Officer Training

date. Jackson said the news moved him to tears.

"I literally teared up from joy," he said. "People were looking at me, but I didn't care. My co-workers knew something great had just happened because I was smiling and crying at the same time."

Brinegar, likewise, felt as though the news came in a dream.

"When I finally commissioned, it felt like it wasn't real," said Brinegar, who received her commission through the senior leader enlisted commissioning program. "It felt like such a long journey from when I was selected in March 2016 to when I graduated officer training school in August 2018 that when it finally happened, it was somewhat surreal."

Despite the success Brinegar and Jackson had on the enlisted side, as well as their respect for the enlisted side both as an institution and as a crucial force within the Air Force, they both look forward to the good they're committed to doing within their current taskings.

Throughout her transition between the two sides of the house, Brinegar has held firm to the idea that led her to want to commission in the first place: the belief that there is always more to learn; to know and do better.

"I learned early on that Airmen of all ranks have something to bring to the table, and leaders at every level need to be open to what they have to say," she said. "As someone who has retrained as a staff sergeant and now retraining as a lieutenant, my Airmen are far more knowledgeable than I am in the career field, and I can learn an immense amount from them."

"You have to lead by example," said Jackson. "There are no perfect leaders. We all stumble and face our own sets of challenges. In my case, I've found that if it weren't for all the challenges and failures that I learned valuable lessons from, I wouldn't have come as far or be the leader I am today."

For more information on the commissioning process, call the Travis education office at 707-424-3444.

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Wang

From Page 2

heritage, a tradition of honor and a legacy of valor." That line reminds me of the history of my family. My great-grandfathers' generation fought against Japanese aggression on the Great Wall, where Chinese people fought numerous invasions for thousands of years. The poorly equipped Chinese army only had swords, but it "held the line" when faced with the advancing Japanese army.

I can imagine what motivated the Chinese soldiers during those moments. I'm sure they thought about the people behind them, the future of China

and the freedom that could be taken by the enemy. Gen. George S. Patton Jr. said, "The soldier is the army. No army is better than its soldiers. The soldier is also a citizen. In fact, the highest obligation and privilege of citizenship is that of bearing arms for one's country."

My job in the Air Force is a military pay technician. I am here to serve the men and women who are fighting on the front lines of our mission and I will "hold the line" so they don't have to worry about their income or families while serving our great country. I am also here to show my respect to everyone who "held the line" and fought for freedom before us. I am here to serve my country, the people I love and to honor my heritage.

Raven

From Page 4

to become a Raven, but the individuals who graduate the program take a lot of pride when they receive their Raven number, said Jimenez.

"I didn't find out about the Phoenix Raven program until I got stationed at Travis and ever since then, I have always wanted to be one," said Wright. "I know the training will be tough at McGuire, but I've also found throughout the Raven pre-apprentice course that my body is capable of doing things that I had no clue of. I was nervous starting the process, but I am ready to go there and come back with my tab and number."

The special duty is a two-year commitment. Within those couple of years, Ravens never know when they will be called upon.

"Going on a temporary duty

is unexpected, but always an experience for the books," said Jimenez. "The Raven brotherhood here is strong. We have 27 Ravens all focusing on the same thing: combative readiness, fitness readiness and mission readiness."

For Wright, becoming a Raven will be career-changing.

"Becoming a Phoenix Raven to me means doing something different with my career," said Wright. "Becoming a Raven is helping me with my personal and professional goals."

Whether the danger is from terrorist groups or hostile insurgents, Phoenix Ravens may be the only thing standing between these threats and a massive cargo aircraft with an American flag on its tail.

"I'm learning no matter where I am in the world, I represent the Air Force," said Wright. "I'm excited for this program and where it can take me."

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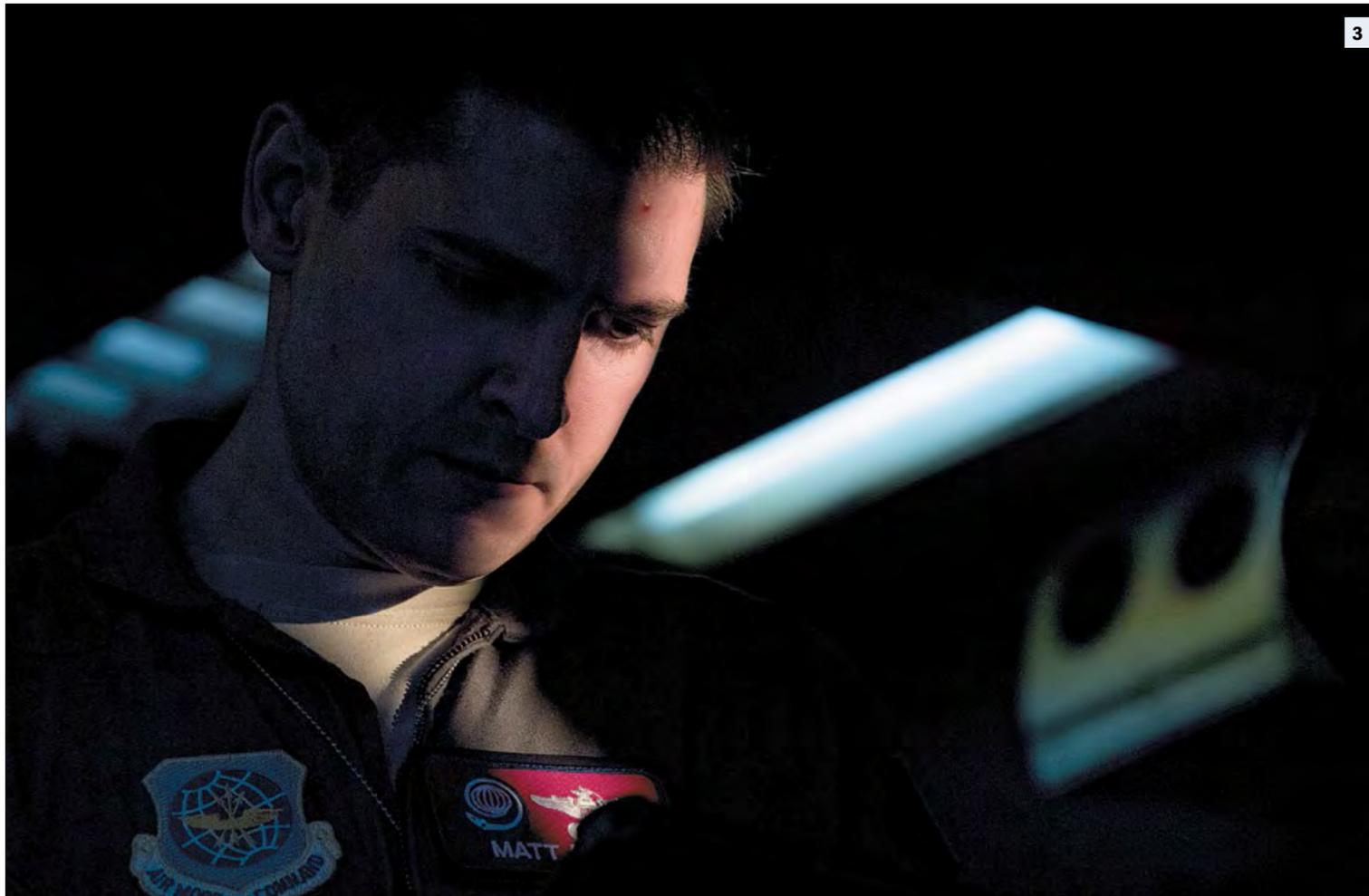
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1) Senior Airman Grant Gunn, 9th Air Refueling Squadron KC-10 Extender flight engineer, performs a preflight check on a KC-10 from the 60th Air Mobility Wing before a training sortie Oct. 24 at Travis Air Force Base, Calif. Travis Airmen conduct training events to stay current and be prepared for future mobility operations. 2) A KC-10 from the 6th Air Refueling Squadron prepares to receive fuel from another KC-10 with the 9th ARS during an Oct. 24 training sortie over California. 3) Maj. Matt Ables, 9th ARS KC-10 pilot, conducts preflight checks on a KC-10 from the 60th AMW before a training sortie Oct. 24 at Travis.

Nighttime refueling brings mission into ...

THE LIGHT

U.S. Air Force photos by Master Sgt. Joey Swafford



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