



AE response to COVID-19 utilizes ...

ISOLATION

PAGES 10-11

Travis nurse honored for emergency work

Airman 1st Class Cameron Otte
60TH AIR MOBILITY WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

It's the beginning of her 12-hour shift. She springs into action, throws on scrubs, slips on rubber gloves, ties up flat-soled shoes and puts on a face mask.

Now, U.S. Air Force 1st Lt. Mariah Pruett, a clinical nurse assigned to the 60th Medical Operations Squadron at Travis Air Force Base, is ready to provide her patients with the care they need, something she has done for several years.

“My nursing career started when I attended Valdosta University, in Valdosta, Georgia,” said Pruett, who later joined the Air Force in February 2018. “While I was there, I participated in a traumatology summer program and worked as an intern abroad. I joined the Air Force because I wanted to contribute to the progression of global medicine, and help more people than I could before.”

Pruett is an exemplary nurse, who recently earned the 2020 Distinguished Trauma Certified Registered Nurse award from the Board of Certification for Emergency Nursing, which recognizes only one, top trauma nurse a year, said Maj. Michael Galante, emergency services director, 60th MDOS.

However, she is just one example of the excellent nurses and medical technicians who



U.S. Air Force 1st Lt. Mariah Pruett, 60th Medical Operations Squadron clinical nurse, sanitizes a stretcher May 5 at Travis Air Force Base, California. May 6-12 was National Nurse Week, a week that celebrates medical professionals, such as Pruett, who are on the front lines of patient-centered care every day.

work at David Grant USAF Medical Center.

May 6-12 was National Nurse and Medical Technician Week, a week that celebrates nurses such as Pruett as well as medical technicians, honoring them for the lifesaving work

they perform every day.

“Our nurses and medical technicians work together on nearly every patient interaction,” Galante said. “Technicians function as ‘nurse extenders’ in many cases, performing bedside treatments

and functions that free the nurses up to practice at the top of their license.

“Medicine is very much a team sport. Therefore, nurses and medical technicians maintain a fluid workflow between each other. They work in a way

that both compliments and extends nursing care and function beyond what either could do alone.”

That why there is a nationally observed week dedicated to honoring such medical professionals.

“This week highlights and honors the many different areas of health care that nursing impacts” Galante said. “Unfortunately, because of COVID-19, there has been a change in plans for this year’s observance.”

Many events that had been months in planning were placed on hold at the last minute, Galante said.

“Due to physical distancing, bringing the staff together to celebrate required some innovative thinking,” he said. “Our unit is providing meals and gratitude gifts for our hard-working staff.”

Despite the challenges COVID-19 brings, Pruett, who according to her DTCRN award citation, designed a mentorship program that increased the trauma certified registered nurse certification rate in the 60th Medical Group by 200%, maintains a positive outlook and is focused on becoming an even better nurse.

“Being a nurse in the world’s greatest Air Force is a blessing with endless opportunities,” she said. “Any goal is attainable with hard work and determination.

349th Air Mobility Wing commander retires



U.S. Air Force Col. Scott McLaughlin, 349th Air Mobility Wing commander, gives a thumbs up during his final flight. McLaughlin retired May 9 after nearly 34 years of service between the active duty and Reserve forces. McLaughlin served two stints at Travis. He was commander of the 349th Operations Group from April 2013 to September 2014 before returning in June 2019 for his final assignment as wing commander. U.S. Air Force Col. Lee E. Merkle will succeed him as wing commander.

Hacking battle to become virtual

Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

WASHINGTON — The Department of the Air Force and Defense Digital Service planned satellite hacking challenge, the Space Security Challenge 2020: Hack-A-Sat, is pivoting to an entirely virtual event. This decision comes after DEF CON 28 formally cancelled in-person events in 2020 due to coronavirus precautions.

The two-phase hacking challenge includes an online qualification event held from May 22-24 and a final virtual event scheduled for Aug. 7-9. During the final, participants will be challenged to reverse-engineer representative ground-based and on-orbit satellite system components to overcome planted “flags” or software code.

Future updates and frequently asked questions on Hack-A-Sat events and additional virtual experiences will be posted to hackasat.com or to AFResearchLab.com.

Mental health month prioritizes resiliency, wellness

Shannon Hall

AIR FORCE WOUNDED WARRIOR PROGRAM

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas — May is Mental Health Awareness month and this year it comes during a time of uncertainty and physical distancing that can be hard on everyone. Mental health plays a huge role as a priority for the Air Force Wounded Warrior Program, or AFW2, which sprung the creation of the Wellness and Resiliency Program.

The WAR team's goal is to help ensure there is a resilient community being built and maintained throughout all areas of a wounded warrior's life to include their physical, spiritual, mental and social

fitness. During COVID-19, the team assists warriors, caregivers and staff cope with the mental stresses a pandemic can cause.

“The wellness program was created last year due to the increase of Air Force suicides,” said Armando Franco, wellness team lead and resiliency interim. “Resiliency has always been a part of the AFW2 mission, and this program offers a multitude of activities and skills to help enable Airmen to make sound choices.”

During this time it may be hard, almost impossible, for people to get out of, not only their homes, but their own heads and create a positive energy within themselves. Some activities that the WAR team teaches on live social media

are journaling, different forms of art, improv, resiliency skills and live music. All activities apply resilience skills in day-to-day living in order to promote healthy wellness.

“Keeping a healthy mental state during this time is more important than before because many people have never had to focus on it as much as they do now,” said Candace Escobedo, WAR program manager. “The activities and skills taught through our program will help people maintain a well-balanced healthy lifestyle to continue beyond this pandemic.”

There are many resources available to help people through difficult times like these to include websites, social media groups, phone apps and many 24/7

hotlines. If you find yourself just needing a short breather, put some music on and dance, tackle a quick workout, do a puzzle or just step out in your yard and get some fresh air. Most importantly, make sure to stay socially connected to family and friends, even if it is a simple text. Always check on one another.

AFW2 is hosting daily virtual socials live on Facebook to help everyone get through their stay at home. Visit the program's Facebook page to hear stories of resiliency and engage in wellness activities hosted by Air Force wounded warriors.

For more information, visit www.woundedwarrior.af.mil to refer an Airman to the program.

Tailwind

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

T-38s honor health care workers, first responders

Tech. Sgt. James Hodgman
60TH AIR MOBILITY WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Four T-38A Talons from the 9th Reconnaissance Wing at Beale AFB, California, saluted nurses, doctors and first responders, including those here, with an Operation American Resolve flyover on May 9.

The flyover, which flew over 21 hospitals and clinics from Grass Valley, California, to Fairfield, California, was part of the Department of the Air Force's efforts to lift morale of health care workers and first responders in U.S. cities that have been impacted by COVID-19.

"Northern California health care workers, first responders and other essential personnel on the front lines of the fight against COVID-19, thank you for your service and sacrifice," said Col. Andy Clark, 9th Reconnaissance Wing commander at Beale AFB.

The Talons took off from Beale AFB at around noon and completed flyovers of Sierra Nevada Memorial Hospital in Grass Valley, Sutter Urgent Care in Yuba City and Adventice Health Memorial Hospital in Marysville, followed by several hospitals in the Sacramento region.

At approximately 12:40 p.m., the T-38s streamed through the sky over David Grant USAF Medical Center at Travis AFB. The hospital, which is the largest Air Force medical facility, set up two COVID-19 testing sites in March. Travis AFB has also supported the fight against the new coronavirus by deploying medics to New York and creating face shields for doctors and nurses.

"We have several hospitals in the area that have been affected in one way or another by the coronavirus pandemic," said Capt. Parker Dodds, 1st Reconnaissance Squadron T-38A Talon instructor pilot and leader of the flyover formation. "We want to show our support for our community during these uncertain times, especially for health care workers."

"We want them to know they have our resounding support and this flyover is a visible display of that," he said.



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Cameron Otte

1) U.S. Air Force T-38A Talons assigned to the 9th Reconnaissance Wing from Beale Air Force Base, California, fly over David Grant USAF Medical Center during an Operation American Resolve flyover May 9 at Travis Air Force Base, California. The flyover was conducted to salute healthcare workers and first responders in Northern California cities impacted by COVID-19. 2) U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Christopher Allard, 60th Inpatient Operations Squadron shift supervisor, blocks the sun to watch the Operation American Resolve flyover May 9 at Travis.

The T-38s were flown by pilots from the 1st RS, 99th Reconnaissance Squadron and 9th Operations Support Squadron.

Dodds said the pilots were proud to show their appreciation for first responders, especially those at Travis AFB.

"Travis has been supporting the fight against COVID-19 starting with American citizens who were evacuated from China, followed by the Diamond Princess cruise



U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. James Hodgman

ship passengers," he said. "The base has been on the forefront in the battle against COVID-19, so the flyover is a small way to say, 'thank you.'"

Staff Sgt. Christopher Allard, an inpatient shift supervisor with the 60th Inpatient Operations Squadron at Travis AFB, watched the T-38s soar over DGMC as he stood outside the emergency room.

"The flyover was nice," said Allard, who coordinates patient

care at DGMC and manages a team of a half-dozen medical technicians. "It's nice to know, as health care workers, people are thinking about us. What we are doing is making a difference."



U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Alexi Bosarge

U.S. Air Force Maj. Tony Gorry, 344th Air Refueling Squadron and chief of group training, has his helmet fitted by U.S. Air Force Airman 1st Class Trezvon Miers, 22nd Operations Support Squadron aircrew flight equipment journeyman, April 21 at McConnell Air Force Base, Kansas. The crew prepared to execute the Air Force's first night vision operational training mission on the KC-46A Pegasus.

KC-46 tries first NVG flights

Senior Airman Alexi Bosarge
22ND AIR REFUELING WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

MCCONNELL AIR FORCE BASE, Kan. – A 344th Air Refueling Squadron aircrew from McConnell Air Force Base was the first KC-46 Pegasus crew to conduct operational test flights using night vision goggles.

The crew of five pilots and a single boom operator performed the first of two NVG training flights beginning April 21, over Joint Base Charleston and North Auxiliary Field, South Carolina. The training opportunity evaluated the aircrew's ability to perform tactical takeoffs and landing using NVGs.

Travis is scheduled to receive 24 KC-46s.

The test flights enable crews to gain valuable experience using NVGs with the new airframe as well as earn a certification to instruct future Pegasus pilots.

"NVG operations allow the KC-46 fleet to operate out of airfields that would otherwise be limited to day-use only or that have lighting outages or deficiencies that would not



U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Alexi Bosarge

U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. George Baylon, 22nd Operations Support Squadron aircrew flight equipment craftsman, cleans a pair of night-vision goggles April 22 at McConnell Air Force Base, Kansas. Night-vision goggles provide aircrew the capability to take off and land on covertly lit runways.

guarantee uninterrupted operations," said Maj. Jacob Belka, 22nd Operations Group KC-46 evaluator pilot.

The crew began the initial operational test and evaluation of NVG flights to examine how the new airframe and pilots perform. The success of these flights are necessary for the KC-46 to become fully operational. The findings during

these flights will be used to develop tactics, techniques and procedures for future Pegasus pilots.

"The biggest challenge to flying on NVGs is the lack of color cues and poor binocular vision," said Col. Mark Baran, 22nd Air Refueling Wing vice commander. "This makes it a

See KC-46 Page 18

Puzzles

STR8TS
No. 489
Easy

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

Previous solution - Medium

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

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

SUDOKU
No. 489
Tough

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

Previous solution - Medium

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

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

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

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

Voluntary Leave Transfer Program

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

- Rebecca Austria, 60th Maintenance Group.
- John Butler, Special Tactics Training Squadron.
- Jaqualynn Cabanlit, Travis AFB Commissary
- Neftaly Clark, 1st Special Operations Force Support Squadron.
- David Duncan, 319th Reconnaissance Wing, Grand Forks AFB
- Rabiye Hamilton, Travis AFB Commissary.
- Patrick Hodge United States Transportation Command, Scott AFB.
- Mark Holmes, 10th Contracting Squadron.
- Dina Patterson-Steward, 60th Aerial Port Squadron.
- Jason Perkins, Grand Forks AFB.
- Gina Silva, Air Force Academy headquarters.
- Jean Sommer, Travis AFB Commissary
- Maria Thammasen, 60th Force Support Squadron
- Dennis Weaver, Air Force Manpower Agency.

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

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Airmen prepare patient process



U.S. Air Force photo/Heide Couch

U.S. Air Force COVID West Aeromedical Evacuation Task Force members carry a medical mannequin onto a C-17 Globemaster III during a training exercise May 7 at Travis Air Force Base, California. The training focused on receiving and caring for potential COVID-19 patients using Transport Isolation System capsules. Travis AFB has a C-17 loaded with a TIS capsule on alert status to ensure the aircraft is ready to launch at a moment's notice. The TIS unit allows the transport of individuals with highly contagious diseases without infecting other passengers or aircrew on the aircraft.

Shoppers could win Super Bowl tickets

Lorraine Harris-Ortega
 ARMY & AIR FORCE EXCHANGE
 SERVICE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Army & Air Force Exchange Service and Procter & Gamble are giving shoppers at Travis Army and Air Force Exchange and Exchanges worldwide the chance to experience all the gridiron action of Super Bowl LV in person.

From May 15 through June 4, authorized Exchange shoppers can enter the Greatest of All Tides sweepstakes at www.shopmyexchange.com/sweepstakes. One grand-prize winner will receive two tickets to Super Bowl LV, held Feb. 21, 2021, in Tampa, Florida, along with two tickets to an exclusive, invite-only pregame tailgate party – a combined \$7,000 value.

One second-place winner will receive two Super Bowl LV game tickets, a \$4,000 value. A \$1,500 Exchange gift card,

which can be put toward the purchase of a new washer and dryer, will be awarded to one third-place winner.

“The lights, the crowd, the action – there’s nothing quite like attending the biggest game of the year,” said General Manager, Phonda Bishop, Travis Exchange general manager.

Travel and accommodations are not included with prizes. Authorized shoppers age 18 or older are eligible to enter. Honorably discharged Veterans who have verified their eligibility to shop the Exchange online can enter the sweepstakes, too. Veterans can find out more on the Exchange’s community Hub page at <https://bit.ly/Vet-s4Life>.

Winners will be selected on or about June 12.

Since 1895, the Army & Air Force Exchange Service (Exchange) has gone where Soldiers, Airmen and their

families go to improve the quality of their lives by providing valued goods and services at exclusive military pricing. The Exchange is the 62nd-largest retailer in the United States. Its earnings provided \$2.3 billion in dividends to support military morale, welfare and recreation programs over the last 10 years.

The Exchange is a non-appropriated fund entity of the Department of Defense and is directed by a Board of Directors. The Exchange is a 50th Anniversary Vietnam War Commemorative Partner, planning and conducting events and activities that recognize the service, valor and sacrifice of Vietnam Veterans and their families in conjunction with the United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration.

To find out more about the Exchange history and mission, visit <http://www.shopmyexchange.com>.

First-ever virtual Air Force Women’s Fly-In held

14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

COLUMBUS AIR FORCE BASE, Miss. — Columbus Air Force Base hosted the first-ever Air Force Virtual Women’s Fly-In during a Facebook Live event, May 11.

With a nod to female aviation pioneers as the backdrop, the event was open to all Airmen regardless of gender or career field, and helped Airmen create networks to learn more about experiences, leadership and life.

“The vision of the original event was to connect aviatrixes

and build a supportive network to grow our diverse and inclusive force, as well as connect our operators with their long blue line and origin in the Women Airforce Service Pilots of World War II,” said Col. Samantha Weeks, 14th Flying Training Wing commander and lead organizer of the event.

“Today, with the realities of coronavirus, a physical fly-in isn’t possible, but a virtual venue to connect provides an even greater opportunity and outreach across the Air Force.”

The event featured 10 guest and keynote speakers who talked and discussed a variety of

topics ranging from senior leadership perspective, rated diversity initiatives, unconscious bias, and leading with an infinite mindset.

Secretary of the Air Force Barbara Barrett talked about the advances in the Air and Space Forces while also highlighting some historic milestones of American women in aviation history.

“Women have been leading and continue to lead the Department of the United States Air Force,” Barrett said.

“There is no better time to be part of the air and space forces,” she said. “We’re

thrilled that you are a part of it.”

Harriett Quimby was one of those women in aviation history who have made a big impact. In 1911, she was awarded a U.S. pilot’s certificate by the Aero Club of America, becoming the first woman to gain a pilot’s license in the United States. Born May 11, 1875,

Quimby lived only to the age of 37, but she influenced the role of women in aviation. She died in a plane crash, July 1, 1912, at the third annual Boston Aviation Meet.

Among the keynote speakers was retired Gen. Lori Robinson, former commander of

See FLY-IN Page 18

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Travis bolsters aeromedical evacuation capabilities amid COVID-19



Senior Airman Christian Conrad and Master Sgt. Amanda Currier
60TH AIR MOBILITY WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

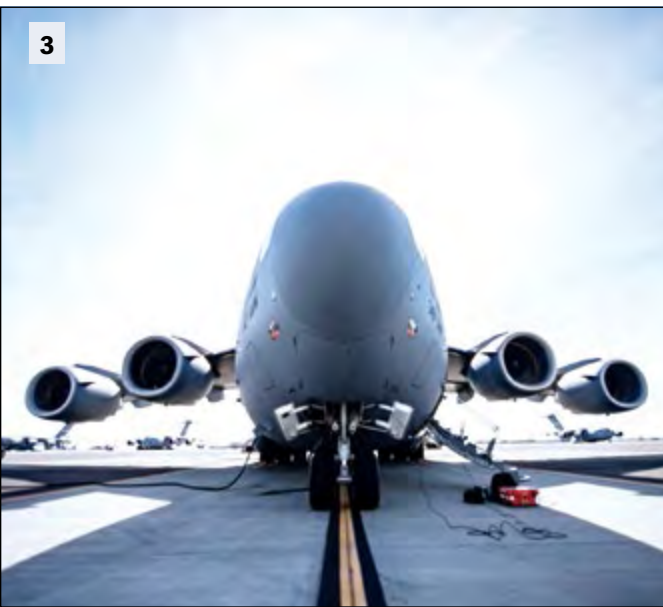
Travis Air Force Base is one of three staging areas for the U.S. Air Force's specialized aeromedical evacuation missions relating to the ongoing COVID-19 global pandemic. Air Mobility Command, headquartered at Scott Air Force Base, Illinois, selected Travis AFB, Joint Base Charleston, South Carolina, and Ramstein Air Base, Germany, as staging grounds for its AE missions involving Transportation Isolation System use. The TIS is an infectious disease containment unit, each designed to transport two to four infected patients aboard an aircraft. The Department of Defense developed TIS units during the Ebola outbreak of 2014 to enable in-flight medical care for patients while mitigating the risk of exposure to aircrew, medical attendants and the aircraft. However, the system wasn't officially used by the DoD for the first time until the new coronavirus pandemic, when AMC transported three COVID-19 positive, U.S. government contractors from Afghanistan to Ramstein on April 10, so they could receive care at a U.S. military hospital in Germany. "With TIS being fairly new and relatively untested, a lot

of importance is going to be in building foundational knowledge, especially in how squadrons and protocols work together," said Capt. Dan Cotton, a C-17 Globemaster III pilot with the 21st Airlift Squadron here. That know-how for cohesion is key because it takes an entire package of assets to support a TIS mission. A standard TIS Force Package consists of one C-17, two TIS modules loaded in the aircraft, a front end aircrew and medical support team in the back which includes aeromedical evacuation, critical care transport team, an infectious disease team (with a doctor and a technician) and TIS operators. These packages are often comprised of a combination of Airmen and aircraft from various units. Currently, only the C-130H Hercules, the C-130J Super Hercules and the C-17 aircraft are able to carry the TIS capsules, making Travis AFB, with its fleet of 13 C-17s and location on the West Coast, a crucial player in the Air Force's efforts to repatriate servicemembers and civilians who have been forced to remain in foreign countries as a result of the COVID-19 virus. "Having the TIS here makes me think of all the people stuck overseas away from their families," Cotton said. "Being able to help them when they're needing it most is what we do. That's

why we're here. It makes climbing into the C-17 and helping out with the AE mission feel really impactful." As global COVID-19 cases surpass three million, the implementation of TIS, especially in respect to maintaining both the health of the Air Force's personnel and its current mobility capabilities, has proven to be successful in preventing the spread of the virus, said Capt. Freddy Roman-Otero, 43rd Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron Detachment 1 flight nurse at Travis AFB. "We're always ready," he said. "(TIS) has really expanded our capabilities to the point where we're able to continue the AE mission without any major interruptions by COVID-19. Despite the technology being made for Ebola, we've adapted it to suit today's needs." From the 21st AS and 43rd AES here at Travis AFB to the Ramstein AB and Joint Base Charleston counterparts, cooperation is vital to mission success across the multitude of organizations supporting TIS operations. "The 21st AS is happy to help in any way we can, and it just so happens that we're one of the only ones who can. So we can expect to be working a lot more with the 43rd AES in the future," Cotton said.



U.S. Air Force photos/Senior Airman Christian Conrad
1) Transport Isolation System capsules are positioned on respective cargo K loaders in a hangar April 28 at Travis Air Force Base, California. TIS capsules, which were initially engineered in response to the Ebola virus in 2014, allow the transport of individuals with highly contagious diseases without infecting any other passengers or aircrew on the aircraft. 2) U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Maranda Trujillo, 21st Airlift Squadron instructor loadmaster, boards a C-17 Globemaster III April 27 at Travis. 3) A C-17 is parked on the flight line April 27 at Travis. 4) U.S. Air Force Capt. Freddy Roman-Otero, 43rd Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron flight nurse, checks his equipment as part of a pre-flight procedure April 27 at Travis, California. Roman-Otero is one of two 43rd AES representatives called to perform training on the Transport Isolation System capsule. 5) U.S. Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Jennifer Moses, 775th Expeditionary Aeromedical Evacuation Flight, COVID West AE Task Force member, examines two Transport Isolation System capsules April 28 at Travis. 6) U.S. Air Force Capt. Steven Woods, 43rd AES Detachment 1 flight nurse, participates in a pre-flight meeting with other 43rd AES members April 27 aboard a C-17 at Travis.



Parts

From Page 9

spinner backing plate from a U.S. Air Force Academy T-51 Mustang trainer aircraft cracked, there wasn't a replacement available since the part was obsolete. As with many supply challenges, production-level drawings did not exist. Thus, any future part produced for the Mustang required Federal Aviation Administration, coordination and approval prior to flight authorization.

The office worked with the USAFA T-51 Chief Engineer and the Advanced Technology and Training Center of Middle Georgia to reverse engineer, produce a 3D model of the original part and create FAA-approved manufacturing

drawings. Dacalio then coordinated with the MT shop in Luke Air Force Base, Arizona, to locally manufacture 15 new spinner backing plates within six-and-a-half weeks. The spinner backing plate was eventually installed on the T-51.

The MTO team also supports mission-critical parts within the Air Force armaments sustainment, support equipment and vehicle divisions, as well as tooling, fixtures and non-critical weapon system components and parts.

"A number of F-16 (Fighting Falcon) M61 (Vulcan) cannons had experienced cracked front access housing," Dacalio said. "The estimate to replace the parts was well over a year. We worked with an MT shop at Mountain Home (AFB), and they were able to locally manufacture the part using a

Computer Numerical Control and send back the parts within 60 days."

"Our sole purpose in the (MTO) is to increase awareness and performance of the aircraft (MT) or (MT) career field," said Master Sgt. Joshua Bemis, MTO superintendent. "We support the unique capability, unmatched by any other field or intermediate-maintenance-level base entity that metals tech can provide. We are steering the future of manufacturing methods in maintenance through the implementation of technologies, such as additive manufacturing (3D printing), while not losing focus on the benefits and requirements for legacy machinery, such as mills and lathes."

For more information, please contact the MTO team at AFLCMC.EZPT-MTO.MetalsOffice@us.af.mil

Tyndall

From Page 9

forward with the multibillion-dollar rebuild of the 'Installation of the Future,'" said Col. Travis Leighton, Tyndall PMO director. "This includes completing the demolition required to clear sites in time for the construction of new facilities."

Through the Environmental Impact Analysis Process, which evaluates the potential impacts of proposed projects, NEPA ensures decision makers consider environmental and other significant factors before proceeding with federally funded projects.

"Finalizing the EA quickly was critical to return Tyndall to a fully operational base and recover mission capabilities impacted by Hurricane Michael," said Cindy Pettit, a NEPA program manager with AFIMSC's Air Force Civil Engineer Center. "It took about seven months, which is a major accomplishment for the complexity of the project."

One of the Tyndall Airmen responsible for streamlining NEPA compliance and facilitating the rapid reconstruction of the installation is Edwin Wallace, 325th Civil Engineer Squadron NEPA Program Manager.

"The process was extensive with different review phases, consultation with state and federal agencies and Air Force-level reviewers," Wallace said. "But it's so important to the base because it allows us to maximize beneficial uses of the environment without degradation, or risk to health or safety. It can also serve to preserve important historic, cultural and natural aspects of the base."

Now, Tyndall AFB can obligate funds to start the 28



U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Javier Alvarez

A construction crew demolishes the steeple at Chapel 2 at Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla. Feb. 15, 2019. The chapel was severely damaged by Hurricane Michael, a Category 4 storm that made landfall on Oct. 10, 2018.

rebuild projects evaluated under the EA, which includes construction of new facilities and infrastructure, renovations, consolidation, demolition of 1.93 million square feet and management of natural resources.

The Air Force will continue with the second NEPA action requirement in the rebuild process – the Environmental Impact Statement for the new mission bed-down of the F-35A Lightning II and MQ-9 Reaper wings. The EIS, which entails public scoping meetings, public-hearing opportunities and Environmental Protection Agency review, remains on schedule for a January 2021 Record of Decision.

"Our local community and Team Tyndall supporters will welcome this good news," said Col. Brian Laidlaw, 325th FW commander. "We will continue moving ahead so we will be ready to welcome the first F-35s beginning in September 2023. This timeline ensures Tyndall will train and project unrivaled combat airpower from the panhandle for years to come."

Visit <https://www.afimsc.af.mil/TyndallPMO> for more information on the Tyndall AFB rebuild progress.



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From Page 8

sequence, you can know what to target for treatment, medications, vaccines, etc.," De Castro said.

To date, scientists around the world have shared over 10,000 viral genome sequences of the novel coronavirus. As the virus continues to change and spread, sequencing more SARS-CoV-2 genomes becomes vital because the cumulative data helps researchers view the rate of change over time and track the ongoing outbreak.

Similar to pattern recognition, when comparing the genome's letters against each other, researchers were able to draw conclusions on the most likely origins of the virus to that found in bats. They also recognized specific sequences within the virus that have remained constant, and largely free of mutations, which is vital in figuring out how to attack the virus, De Castro said.

Parts of the genome in each organism serve such critical functions that those features seldom ever undergo significant change, De Castro said.

"If you target parts of the virus that don't change as much, you have a much better chance of coming up with an effective treatment or vaccine. And so that's where knowing the specific proteins, the sequence of the proteins and what they do and how they have changed, is important," he added.

Previous research from other coronaviruses has given researchers an advantage in the race to find a vaccine for COVID-19.

"Studying closely related coronaviruses that have caused epidemics in humans before, like Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) in 2003 and Middle East respiratory syndrome or MERS in 2012, will aid pharmaceutical companies in more quickly developing effective vaccines," De Castro said. "The key will be in deciphering the differences between the novel coronavirus and closely related viruses, as it appears that small changes to its genomic sequence have made it more lethal and contagious."

For the latest information about COVID-19 from the DoD, visit the MHS coronavirus webpage.

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U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Marc A. Garcia

U.S. Air Force Maj. Jacob Belka, 22nd Operations Group evaluation pilot, approaches a runway for a touch-and-go flight maneuver April 30 at North Auxiliary Airfield, South Carolina. Belka performed a total of 17 touch and go's in the KC-46A Pegasus using night vision goggles.

KC-46

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little more difficult for the pilots to judge things like height and distance using their vision.”
Despite the limitations and challenges of the NVGs, they provide a unique mission capability that allows crews to operate during low-light emission environments. The North Auxiliary Field was specifically designated for NVG training and tactical approach and landings.
Members of McConnell’s 924th ARS KC-46 reserve unit participated in the evening’s events conducting aerial refueling training enroute to North Auxiliary Airfield.
“I am so humbled to be a part of the first NVG group,” said Belka. “I am passionate about making this program a success and helping those that follow to be successful. When we are progressing, we help the rest of our Air Force, joint and coalition members to progress.”

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Fly-In

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U.S. Northern Command and North American Aerospace Defense Command. Robinson used a majority of her time to address questions from the audience, which included topics from her biggest leadership challenge, choosing mentors, conscious and unconscious bias challenges, combating perceptions while staying true to oneself, and how the Air Force can move forward with protecting people.
Providing an answer to a viewer’s question, Robinson said when people start incorporating gender into how issues or topics are brought forward and dealt with, it can essentially be detrimental to moving forward.
“When we start worrying about that, then we worry about things that add to our problem and not add to a solution,” Robinson said.
Robinson said that during her time in service, as she became an air battle manager in the 1990s, there were no other female mentors in the Combat Air Forces to look toward. However, she said she was very fortunate that her male mentors were very supportive in propelling her forward.
“What they cared about, wasn’t that I was a woman, what they cared about was that I cared about doing my job, and being the best at all of that,” she said.
She said she feels that Airmen today should be taking that same approach, and when they’re seeking a mentor, they should really be looking at someone they want to resemble.
“It’s not are you a man or are you a woman, in my

U.S. Air Force photo/Rita Felton

U.S. Air Force Col. Samantha Weeks, 14th Flying Training Wing commander, prepares May 11 to go live for the Air Force Women's Virtual Fly-In.

opinion,” she said. “Who has the traits that you relish and who has the traits that you want to be like; so that as you grow older you can share those traits to make those who work for and with you better than you.”
Conversely, Simon Sinek, British-born American author and motivational speaker who has done work with the RAND Corporation said, “there is tremendous value in serving.” He went on to discuss the meaning behind having “an infinite mindset.”
“It’s all about constant improvement, that’s what it is,” Sinek said. “The infinite mindset is about the journey.”
Part of this journey is learning how to constantly improve not only as an individual but as a team too; and one of the most foundational aspects of a team is trust.
“You can’t build trust quickly,” Sinek said. “But what you can do is be open and honest and a part of honesty is providing regular and constructive feedback.
“Everybody wants feedback. We want to know how we’re doing,” he said. “But we don’t always receive it the same way.”
Sinek said he has known some leaders with hard personalities but their people adore them because they put the interest of their people first.
He also shared that, “Toxic leadership isn’t always about screaming and yelling; that’s not what toxicity necessarily means. Toxicity is someone who puts themselves before their team to make decisions to advance themselves. They would rather sacrifice their people before themselves, and they don’t take the time and attention to learn how the team needs to be spoken to, or how they function best.”
Sinek ended by saying, “make your ‘yeses’ have an impact and take care of each other.”
With rated diversity being a top priority for Air Force senior leaders, the fly-in was a way for creating a place to discuss, connect and cultivate relationships, as well as to share struggles, successes, and resources is critical to building the force.
The event also honored the Women Airforce Service Pilots, or WASP, who as federal civil service employees played a pivotal role during World War II. Despite various members of the armed forces being involved in the creation of the program, the WASP and its members had no military standing. The WASP arrangement with the U.S. Army Air Forces ended on Dec. 20, 1944.
Anybody who missed the live Facebook broadcast can watch it on the Columbus AFB Facebook page.

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1) Sierra Simmons, 60th Security Forces Squadron spouse, stands with her family as she holds a letter from her deployed husband, U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Justin Simmons, 60th SFS defender, May 10, at Travis Air Force Base, California. Simmons was one of four wives to receive a letter, pizza and flowers from her husband's unit in celebration of Mother's Day.

2) Jannet Rodriguez, 60th SFS key spouse, holds a letter from deployed U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Edward Gonzalez, 60th SFS defender, for his wife, Sheryl, May 10 at Travis.

3) Alegna Wells, 60th SFS spouse, right, gives an "air-hug" to Rodriguez May 10 at Travis.



60th SFS takes day to recognize its ... MOTHERS

U.S. Air Force photos by Senior Airman Christian Conrad



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