

TAILWIND

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PAGES 10-11



Travis Airman dies en route to DGMC

60th Air Mobility Wing Public Affairs

TRAVIS AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. — An Airman assigned to the 860th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, Travis AFB, California, died en route to David Grant USAF Medical Center from his on-base residence April 16, 2021.

The deceased Airman has been identified as Tech. Sgt. Aaron Cardin, 42, of Shelton, Wash.

Cardin entered the Air Force May 9, 2013, and arrived at Travis AFB Dec. 3, 2020. He served as the lead technician for the electro-environmental shop for the C-17 Globemaster III.

First responders were called to his on-base residence for emergency services. He died during transport to the hospital.

“Any loss of a teammate is devastating, but this has been a profoundly hard season for the wing,” said Col. Corey A.

See AIRMAN Page 14

Travis C-17 lands at Patrick SFB



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

A C-17 Globemaster III from Travis Air Force Base, California, arrives April 15 at Patrick Space Force Base, Florida. The C-17 is capable of supporting tactical airlift, airdrop and aeromedical evacuation missions. It can transport nearly 171,000 pounds of cargo.

DGMC team from Davis wins ‘SimWars’ contest

Senior Airman Cameron Otte
60TH AIR MOBILITY WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

TRAVIS AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. – The University of California, Davis, residency team assigned to David Grant USAF Medical Center, competed in the Government Service Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians Simulation Wars and emerged victorious April 9 at Travis Air Force Base.

The “SimWars” is an event in which teams from the Air Force, Army and Navy compete in three rounds of five real-life, austere simulated situations. Each team is rated on how well they respond to the emergencies.

This year’s SimWar was performed virtually over Zoom to promote physical distancing due to current COVID-19 restrictions.

“When the Sim War first began, we were all pretty nervous because we weren’t sure what to expect from each event and how well the other teams would perform,” said Capt. Jasmine Neeno, Detachment 088 U.C. Davis Medical Center emergency medicine post graduate, year three. “As we finished each event, our team seemed to get more and more confident as we approached the last round.”

The U.C. Davis residency team consisted of four emergency medical residents, two emergency nurses and one respiratory therapist.

“This competition was made up of a series of mock patient encounters,” said Capt. Kevin Durgun, 60th Medical Group emergency medicine post graduate, year three chief resident. “Our team had to care for five patients over three different encounters.”

These challenges were all set to test how well each team would perform under pressure.



Courtesy photo

Members of the U.S. Air Force UC Davis Health residency team perform lifesaving procedures on a Laerdal Sim Man 3G Mannequin during the Government Service Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians SimWars April 8 at Travis Air Force Base, California. SimWars is an event where teams from the Air Force, Army and Navy compete in three rounds with five different real-life, austere situations and are rated on how well they respond to the emergencies. This year the event was virtual.

“The first simulated accident was a mock motor vehicle collision and acute traumatic brain injury work up,” said Durgun. “Our second mock encounter was a two-patient event; one was a mock severe pediatric asthma exacerbation and the other was an adult patient with respiratory distress. Our team had to divide and conquer to help both patients in a reasonable amount of time.”

“The final scenario was a mock

See SIMWARS Page 14

Tailwind

Travis AFB, Calif. | 60th Air Mobility Wing

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On the cover

Senior Airman Marisol Ascenio, 60th Logistics Readiness Squadron central storage journeyman, looks for an asset to pull April 13 at Travis Air Force Base, California.

U.S. Air Force photo/1st Lt. Emily Easterling

WARRIOR OF THE WEEK

Name:

Airman 1st Class Evangelina “HV” Herrera Vazquez.

Unit:

6th Air Refueling Squadron.

Duty title:

Squadron aviation Resource management.

Hometown:

Sacramento, California.

Time in service:

One year.

Family:

Single.

What are your goals?

Obtain Airman Below the Zone, permanently change station overseas to explore other countries, graduate with a Community College of the Air Force degree.

What are your hobbies?

I like to dance salsa, watch movies, travel, and read scholastic scientific articles.

What is your greatest achievement?

Accomplishing Basic Military Training during COVID-19 operations and completing the end-of-course test toward my five-level training.

U.S. Air Force photo



U.S. Army photo/Warren W. Wright Jr.

Rhonda Dusharm, a physical therapist assistant and Antwerp, N.Y. native, practices applying the spinal rotation technique to a fellow healthcare professional during a course on the McKenzie Method on Fort Drum, N.Y., Sept. 29, 2020. The McKenzie Method is a scientifically proven physical therapy process that allows clinicians to identify the best treatment solution for back, neck and extremity problems.

TRICARE tries new projects

Military Health System Communications

FALLS CHURCH, Va. — TRICARE has more than a half-dozen pilots and demonstration projects underway that offer new and innovative medical services, treatments, and approaches, and that have the potential to become part of its permanent health care coverage.

“Many of these pilots are value-based initiatives that seek to reward better health outcomes, enhance beneficiary care experiences, and reduce health care costs over time,” said TRICARE Health Plan Deputy Director Curt Prichard. “These include projects for autism care, sexual trauma, and low back pain. These pilots and demonstrations are also looking to improve care through nurse navigators, a referral and appointing center and accountable care organization to make medical

care easier for TRICARE beneficiaries.”

Air Force Lt. Col. Donald “Del” Lofton, chief, TRICARE Optimization said: “The use of these pilots and demonstrations allows TRICARE to develop and test innovative approaches and services with the broader TRICARE beneficiary population as well as specific services to targeted groups. The goal is always to provide the most effective, high-quality, value-based health care while seeking to improve the overall health care experience for both beneficiaries and those who provide them care.”

Here’s a look at eight initiatives underway:

Comprehensive Autism Care Demonstration

The Department of Defense’s Comprehensive Autism Care demonstration provides reimbursement

from TRICARE for applied behavior analysis, aka ABA, services for beneficiaries diagnosed with autism-spectrum disorder.

Its major goals are to analyze, evaluate, and compare the quality, convenience, efficiency, and cost-effectiveness of ABA services that have not been shown to be proven medical care and are not covered by TRICARE. The pilot, which covers a wide range of TRICARE beneficiaries, began in July 2014 and is scheduled to conclude at the end of 2023.

Sexual Trauma Intensive Outpatient Program Pilot

The Intensive Outpatient Program pilot for sexual trauma aims to treat psychological behavioral health effects of that trauma in active-duty service members through

See TRICARE Page 13

Commentary

Office for retirees seeks volunteers

Travis Retiree Activities Office

TRAVIS AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. — Do you have a desire to help others, stay connected with your military roots and be actively engaged with the military community? If so, the Travis Air Force Base Retiree Activities Office is actively seeking people like you to staff its volunteer desks.

The Travis RAO is normally open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday, excluding weekends, federal holidays and Air Mobility Command family days.

We have two three hour shifts available: 9 a.m. to noon and noon to 3 p.m.

We are retirees’ information central and a referral service for military retiree and annuitant pay issues, casualty reporting, Survivor Benefit Plan, TRICARE, Veterans Benefits, Base activities, and a host of other issues that impact the quality of life in retirement.

If you are computer literate, have good research skills and work well with other people, we need you. The COVID-19 Pandemic, medical appointments, volunteer vacations, Non-COVID medical conditions, and other factors affecting our staffing are driving this plea for volunteers to serve in our office. We provide training. A willingness to learn, a smile and a friendly disposition are the most important characteristics we look for in our volunteer staff.

Additionally, if you are a field-grade officer, or senior noncommissioned officer, we are looking for candidates in good health that can serve in the Retiree Activities Office director’s position. If you are interested, please send us a resume and cover letter outlining the skills and talents you would bring to the position and information regarding volunteer work, community councils, or other volunteer nonprofit work you’ve done in the past.

You may email retired Chief Master Sgt. Jerry A. Edmonds, director, at rao-travis@yahoo.com, jedmonds905@yahoo.com or call 707-424-3904/3905 to express your interest.

American presence to persist

C. Todd Lopez

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE NEWS

WASHINGTON, D.C. — By Sept. 11, 2021, all U.S. forces must be out of Afghanistan.

But that doesn’t mean the U.S. will be at the mercy of groups like ISIS, al-Qaida or the Taliban if they want to create problems and threaten U.S. interests, the commander of the U.S. Central Command said.

While the 3,500 troops currently in Afghanistan will leave that country by the end of the summer, some will remain in the region, Marine Corps Gen. Kenneth McKenzie Jr. said during a hearing April 20 before the House Armed Services Committee.

“I think some of the forces are going to remain in Central Command, because we are going to look at offshore, over-the-horizon options,” he said.

Right now, McKenzie said, he’s figuring out how the U.S. will be able to conduct counterterrorism activities in the area without being in Afghanistan.

“I’m actually conducting detailed planning, by the direction of the secretary, to look at those options right now. I will report back to him by the end of the month with some alternatives,” he said.

Broadly, McKenzie said, if a crisis arises in Afghanistan and the U.S. needs to go back in, three things will need to happen that the U.S. can still do – though with more difficulty than it can do right now.

“You need to find the target, you need to fix the target and you need to be able to finish the target,” he said. “So those three things all firstly require heavy intelligence support. And if you’re out of the country and you don’t have the ecosystem that we have there now, it will be harder to do that. It is not impossible to do that. It will just be harder to do it.”

For intelligence assets in the See PRESENCE Page 13

Earth Day year-round issue for DeCA

Jessica Rouse

DEFENSE COMMISSARY AGENCY
PUBLIC AFFAIRS SPECIALIST

FORT LEE, Va. — Earth Day, April 22, may be celebrated once a year, but the Defense Commissary Agency’s efforts to employ sustainable work practices and recycle and divert waste from landfills is a year-round job.

“Our environmental management system is in our DNA,” said Kenneth Walker, DeCA’s chief, planning and programming division. “We continuously work to protect the environment. Whether recycling or donating edible but unsellable food to participating food banks, DeCA is fulfilling its role as a conscientious member of the military and global communities.”

DeCA’s EMS is the framework the agency uses to achieve its environmental goals. One element of the system is the agency’s food donation program, managed by its logistics directorate.

Since 2013, the agency has donated over 21 million pounds of food to food banks around the U.S. As of April 5, 174 commissaries donate to 198 food banks and pantries. In 2020 alone, DeCA donated 4.1 million pounds of food during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, when food banks were stretched even further due to widespread financial hardship. Donating food also helps to reduce methane emissions from landfills, reducing DeCA’s carbon footprint.

The agency is also a yearly participant in the Department of Defense’s Feds Feed Families campaign. The campaign encourages employees from all federal departments and agencies to give in-kind contributions – food, services, and time – to food banks and pantries. For the second year in a row, DOD has designated DeCA to be the lead for the annual campaign in partnership with the USDA.



Defense Commissary Agency photo

A Defense Commissary Agency employee at the commissary at Fort Lewis, Washington, collects recycled cardboard.

Over the past 11 years, commissary customers and employees have paced DOD donations. To date DeCA has collected about 9.8 million pounds. In 2020 alone, DeCA patrons and employees led DOD contributions by collecting nearly 2.3 million pounds of food and personal hygiene items.

And it doesn’t stop there. Since 2005, commissaries have recycled or diverted an estimated 1.8 billion pounds of solid waste from ending up in landfills all across the world, generating an estimated \$56.1 million in surcharge revenue, the fund that helps

maintain, renovate and build new commissaries.

In fiscal year 2020, the agency recycled over 102 million pounds of recyclable commodities – 78 million in CONUS and 24 million OCONUS, respectively. DeCA recycles cardboard, plastic, wood pallets, metal, cooking grease, bones and fats, office paper, toner cartridges and organic compost. For perspective, recycling one ton of cardboard saves between 15-17 trees; for fiscal 2020, DeCA saved more than

See EARTH DAY Page 15

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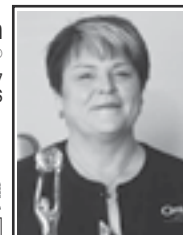
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Career opportunities available at Travis BX

Nguyen Ai Vy Tran
ARMY & AIR FORCE EXCHANGE
SERVICE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

TRAVIS AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. — The Exchange is where heroes work, and the Travis Exchange is looking to expand its ranks at the main store, Express, Food Court, Popeye's and Burger King restaurant.

"The BX offers training, competitive pay and great benefits, as well as a rewarding atmosphere," said Travis Exchange General Manager Phonda Bishop. "The Exchange is family serving family, and we are looking forward to growing that family with those who have a passion for serving Soldiers and the Travis AFB community."

Benefits for regular full-time and part-time Exchange associates include paid vacation and sick leave. Additionally, the

Exchange's associate transfer program helps military spouses retain employment during PCS's, allowing them to keep their benefits and build toward retirement.

The team's deep passion for serving sets the Exchange apart. Associates share a special bond with service members — 85% have a military connection. They have served in the Armed Forces or are the parent, spouse or extended family member of someone who is wearing or has worn the country's uniform.

At the Exchange, 45% of the U.S. workforce is made up of veterans, military spouses or dependents.

Anyone interested in a career with the Exchange can visit ApplyMyExchange.com or contact the Travis Exchange Human Resources office at 707-437-4633, ext. 634 to find out more.

DGMC
DAVID GRANT MEDICAL CENTER

COVID-19 VACCINATION SCHEDULING TOOL

To schedule your 1st or 2nd COVID-19 Vaccination at DGMC, visit the DHA Appointing Portal (DAP):

<https://informatics-stage.health.mil/COVAX/>

OR

Scan the QR Code with your smartphone's camera to direct you to the DHA Appointing Portal to schedule your COVID-19 Vaccination.



Play-Doh contest challenges kids

Nguyen Ai Vy Tran
ARMY & AIR FORCE EXCHANGE
SERVICE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

TRAVIS AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. — The Army & Air Force Exchange Service is inviting Travis Air Force Base kids to enter the Play-Doh Sculpt contest for hands-on fun as part of the Department of Defense retailer's celebration of the Month of the Military Child.

From April 23-29, military kids 17 and younger can sculpt a Play-Doh masterpiece, take a photo of their creation and submit their entry at ShopMyExchange.com/sweepstakes for a chance to win a prize. One grand-prize winner will receive a \$50 Exchange gift card, while three runners-up will each

receive a Play-Doh Flip 'n Pancakes playset.

"Military kids serve, too," said Phonda Bishop, Travis BX general manager. "This Play-Doh contest, along with other Month of the Military Child activities and events, is the Exchange's way of saluting our youngest heroes and thanking them for their service."

Military families can visit ShopMyExchange.com/momc for contest details and Month of the Military Child activities, including sweepstakes, coloring pages and more. Month of the Military Child contests are open to kids 17 years and younger, but a parent or authorized shopper 18 years or older must submit the completed creation at ShopMyExchange.com/sweepstakes.

Training unit at Scott takes over

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

SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, Ill. — The U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Operations School inactivated its detachments 1 and 2, and in their wake stood up the 435th Training Squadron at Scott Air Force Base, April 14.

At 2:35 p.m., or 1435 in military time, the activation ceremony of the 435th TRS commenced and Lt. Col. Jonathan Anderson took command of the newly formed squadron.

Earlier in the day, at the inactivation ceremony of the detachments, Kenneth Arteaga, USAF EOS director, spoke on the significance of the day's events.

"Often times an inactivation ceremony is a sad day, it is like an end of an era, we get all together and we remember all the good times and bad times, the camaraderie, the stories,

the missions that we all did, and it just becomes part of Air Force history," said Arteaga.

However, he emphasized that while the detachments, at Hurlburt Field and Scott AFB respectively, may have been inactivated, the mission was not going away, the Airmen are not going away and where they operate was not going to change; the only change is reorganization.

"Part of that reorganization is combining Detachment 1 and Detachment 2 into the 435th Training Squadron; but in order to do that, we must inactivate Detachment 1 and Detachment 2," said Arteaga.

Speaking on the work that the detachments have accomplished, Arteaga noted that even though they were geographically separated from the USAF EOS, they were well aware of the work the detachments have done and Maj. Gen.

See TRAINING Page 13

Defense adds COVID-19 guidelines for deployers

Nicholas Pilch
60TH AIR MOBILITY WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

TRAVIS AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. — The Disaster Emergency Medical Operations Support Team tested more than 250 Airmen for COVID-19 prior to their departure to a deployed location April 15, 2021, here.

The Department of Defense added new guidelines for deploying service members during the pandemic, and the DoD is making every effort to keep COVID-19 out of deployable locations. Following a two-week restriction of movement, Airmen deploying are required to get tested for COVID-19 before leaving Travis AFB.

"In an effort to mitigate risk and the spread of COVID-19, the Department of Defense recently made it mandatory for deploying personnel to provide proof of a negative COVID-19 test result within 1-3 days prior to departure," said 1st Lt. Kenneth Elejorde, 60th Air Mobility Wing installation deployment officer.



U.S. Air Force photo/Nicholas Pilch

The Disaster Emergency Medical Operations Support Team tests Airmen for COVID-19 prior to their deployment April 15 at Travis Air Force Base, California. The Department of Defense recently added COVID-19 guidance for deploying service members based on the host nation of the deployment location.

"This additional layer of precaution is vital to ensure personnel are free of infection before travel."

When COVID-19 arrived in 2020, Team Travis set up an incident management team to help handle difficulties that the pandemic would bring in the future.

"We're here to improve processes and manage how this disease is impacting not just the Air Force, but the

world," said Col. Dan Murray, 60th Medical Group public health emergency officer. "Our mission is to save lives, prevent suffering and provide for the continuance of operations."

To improve the existing process and ensure compliance with the DoD guidelines, public health stood up a rapid testing and screening site.

See GUIDELINES Page 14

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Dispositions of personal effects

1st. Lt. Ryan Robb is authorized to make disposition of the personal property of Staff Sgt. Zachary Pyle, deceased, 22nd Airlift Squadron, as stated in Air Force Instruction 34-501, Mortuary Affairs Program. Any person having claims for or against the deceased person, please contact Robb by phone at 707-424-2248 or email ryan.robb.1@us.af.mil.

1st Lt. Michael D. Linder is authorized to make disposition of the personal property of Senior Airman Aiden F. Wagoner, deceased, 821st Contingency Response Support Squadron, as stated in AFI 34-501. Any person having claims for or against the deceased person, please contact Linder by phone at 707-424-9028 or email michael.linder.10@us.af.mil.

Capt. Samantha Garrido is authorized to make disposition of the personal property of Tech. Sgt. Aaron Cardin, deceased, 860th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, as stated in AFI 34-501. Any person having claims for or against the deceased person, please contact Garrido by phone at 707-816-3462 or email samantha.garrido.2@us.af.mil.

Puzzles

STR8TS

No. 537

Easy

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

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. 537

Tough


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

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.



Visit Travis' **FACEBOOK** page for up-to-date information.
facebook.com/TravisAirForceBase

Airmen complete FTAC



U.S. Air Force photo/Nicholas Pilch

Congratulations to the latest Airmen to complete the First Term Airman Center course.
Alphabetically: Airman 1st Class James Baertschiger, 21st Airlift Squadron; Airman 1st Class Antonio Buhrfiend, 860th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron; Airman Tiana Lyn Carpo, 60th Healthcare Operations Squadron ; Airman Spencer Crump, 60th Aerial Port Squadron; Airman 1st Class Brianna Dorsey, 60th Operational Medical Readiness Squadron; Airman 1st Class Gregory Gabert, 60th Medical Support Squadron; Airman Luis Herrera Rosario, 860th AMXS; Airman Brant Holyoak, 60th Aerial Port Squadron; Airman Basic David Johnson, 860th AMXS; Airman 1st Class Kolby Karim, 921st Contingency Response Squadron; Airman 1st Class Kyle Koch, 60th Operation Support Squadron; Airman 1st Class Estrella Lucero, 60th Surgical Operations Squadron; Airman 1st Class Jaredth Mallari, 60th OSS; Airman 1st Class Kobey Oglesby, 60th AMXS; Airman 1st Class Ian Olney, 21st Airlift Squadron; Airman 1st Class Alexis Oumsou, 860th AMXS; Airman 1st Class Jamal Richardson, 60th Medical Diagnostics and Therapeutics Squadron; Airman Forrest Roberston, 60th AMXS; and Airman 1st Class Jose' Sanchez, 60th Maintenance Squadron.

Reaper mods targeted to provide capability for near-peer threats

Air Force Life Cycle Management Center

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio — The Air Force Life Cycle Management Center's MQ-9 Program Office is moving forward with several fleet enhancement capabilities aimed at increasing the MQ-9 Reaper's effectiveness against near-peer adversary threats.

The MQ-9 is an unmanned aircraft with intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance, and strike capability, traditionally used for Counter-Violent Extremist Organization combat operations. That mission is now shifting.

The MQ-9 is demonstrating it is still a relevant platform as it supports new missions in United States European Command and is now set to receive a suite of upgrades to allow the platform to offer a host of new capabilities for combatant commanders and warfighters around the world.

The Air Force will award the first delivery order of planned MQ-9 Multi-Domain Operation aircraft – which will include several new upgrades from previous production builds – to General Atomics Aeronautical Systems in April 2021. The Air Force is also retrofitting a portion of the already fielded MQ-9 fleet to the same M2DO configuration, allowing the Air Force to leverage current fleet numbers to meet future warfighter requirements through the service life of the aircraft.

“Working with Air Command and other stakeholders, the MQ-9 enterprise will add new capabilities to the platform to help ensure the MQ-9 is able to support these missions in the threat environment we envision,” said Lt. Col. Nick Jordan, MQ-9 production and retrofit materiel leader. “The user has directed us to add technology into the platform which signals that the MQ-9 can offer more capability than just C-VEO operations over the next 10 to 15 years. It can remain relevant with these added and upgraded technologies.”

The MQ-9 Program Office is already completing initial fleet retrofits that will mitigate potential jamming to the

See MODS Page 20

Flag raised for first time at World War I Memorial



U.S. Army photo

C. Todd Lopez
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE NEWS

The nation's capital has national memorials commemorating the sacrifices of service men and women who died in World War II, Korea and Vietnam. Until this year, there hasn't been a national memorial commemorating World War I.

Today, during a “first colors” ceremony, the U.S. flag was raised for the first time over the newly-constructed National World War I Memorial in Washington, D.C.

Nearly 4.7 million Americans served in uniform during WWI, with more than 2 million of those deploying overseas.



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‘You can’t fly without supply,’ boasts 60th LRS materiel management



1) U.S. Air Force Airman 1st Class Elaine Arceneaux, 60th Logistics Readiness Squadron materiel management aircraft parts store technician, pulls an asset April 13 at Travis Air Force Base, California. The 60th LRS Materiel Management Flight is responsible for managing inventory. The flight administers and operates complex supply systems to ensure financial accountability for all of the utilized supplies. These Airmen ensure every asset — from small screws to multimillion-dollar machinery — is accounted for and where it needs to be whenever Airmen need them.

Nicholas Pilch

60TH AIR MOBILITY WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

TRAVIS AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. – The title says it all – “you can’t fly without supply.”

The mission at Travis AFB is the largest in the Air Mobility Command and the units’ responsibilities are spread out. Some Airmen fly while others repair, but if you need a part, you *TrUSt* the 60th Logistics Readiness Squadron Materiel Management Flight to get that part and get that aircraft back in the sky.

“Our mission as the Materiel Management Flight is to provide 24/7 logistic support to the installation’s mission,” said Staff Sgt. Jorge Contreras Quineche, 60th LRS aircraft parts store supervisor.

Materiel Management Flight is comprised of 147 Airmen; LRS has 300 Airmen.

“Materiel Management Flight accounts and safeguards 32,000 assets valued at \$2.2 million,” said 2nd Lt. Alexandria Valdez, 60th LRS customer support officer in charge. “We also manage five thousand weapons and 241 thousand mobility assets, valued at \$80 million.”

Materiel management provides asset storing, maintaining, issuing and reclaiming (or repairing), capabilities in support of the C-17 Globemaster III and C-5 Galaxy fleet, as well as the wing at large.

“Our aircraft part store maintains readily deployable aircraft mission support kits for humanitarian and wartime contingencies,” said Contreras Quineche. “Our central storage section houses our aircraft parts, making them available to issue at a moment’s notice, while our individual protective equipment section equips the warfighters with body armor, weapons and mission oriented protective posture gear when tasked to deployment.”

When the Air Force is called for humanitarian aid or a movement of troops, materiel management has everything organized and ready to go at a moment’s notice.

“Our customer support section provides accurate data and high priority orders tracking in support of our weapons systems and tracking equipment accountability for every unit,” said Contreras Quineche. “Our flight service center manages the repair cycle return process for aircraft parts.”

When you have a broken part on your car, you take your whole car to get fixed, but for aircraft parts, it’s much more of a process.

“I help maintain a database for assets that are broken and getting repaired,” Senior Airman Jendra Maker, 60th LRS flight service center journeyman. “Either send it to a shop on base to get repaired, send it out to get repaired, or if it’s unrepairable, the item manager will give further guidance on where the part will go.”

The flight service center also maintains a close relationship to Boeing, so close that their offices are connected. Having this relationship allows for a faster turnaround for C-17 assets, and eventually the KC-46 Pegasus. When the KC-46 arrives, Team Travis won’t only be adding another fleet of aircraft, but the materiel management flight will be adding more parts to their storage warehouses.

The KC-46 is projected to arrive at Travis AFB in August 2023.



U.S. Air Force photo/Nicholas Pilch



U.S. Air Force photo/Nicholas Pilch



U.S. Air Force photo/Nicholas Pilch

2) Senior Airman Kodjo Bane, 60th Logistics Readiness Squadron materiel management flight service center craftsman, checks an asset to be repaired April 14 at Travis Air Force Base, California. The 60th LRS materiel management flight is responsible for managing inventory. 3) Airmen 1st Class Lainey Harmon, left, and Elaine Arceneaux, 60th LRS materiel management aircraft parts store technicians, check parts in storage racks April 13 at Travis AFB. 4) Senior Airman Marisol Ascenio, 60th LRS central storage journeyman, pulls an asset April 13 at Travis AFB.

Swamp Dash enhances interoperability

Tech. Sgt. Zachary Kee
19TH AIRLIFT WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

LITTLE ROCK AIR FORCE BASE, Ark. — Airmen from the 19th Airlift Wing executed a large formation launch and training event, designated “Swamp Dash”, with 913 Airlift Group mission partners April 15, which included 13 C-130J Super Hercules from Little Rock Air Force Base and two C-130Js from the 317th Airlift Wing at Dyess AFB, Texas.

The training objectives included joining up with Dyess at Chennault International Airport, Louisiana and providing pre-deployment training to the U.S. Army’s 46th Engineer Battalion and 519th Military Police Battalion.

“We were able to leverage our joint relationships and source real cargo from the Army,” said Capt. Kyle Hormann, 34th Combat Training Squadron air mobility liaison officer. “We also assisted the Army units with load plans training and instructed

them on how to complete the appropriate paperwork to get their cargo moved safely.”

After joining with Dyess at Chennault, the C-130Js uploaded Army personnel and rolling stock, providing loadmasters experience with oversized cargo, before departing in two-ship formations to Fort Polk, Louisiana.

“Integrating with the Army allowed us to maximize the realism of training for all parties involved by pairing an actual user with an actual aircraft,” said Capt. Alexander Humphrey, 19th Operations Support Squadron and Swamp Dash mission commander. “Working with our sister unit at Dyess AFB demonstrated our capabilities across the C-130 community while allowing us to share our best practices, advancing the Herk enterprise.”

The exercise also provided Mobility Airmen the opportunity to execute real-world formation threat reactions – with all crews completing one



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Mariam K. Springs

U.S. Air Force 1st Lt. Jason Katsar, 61st Airlift Squadron pilot, prepares to fly a C-130J Super Hercules during the 2021 Swamp Dash exercise April 15 at Little Rock Air Force Base, Arkansas.

full-threat engagement.

Humphrey said that Swamp Dash was a success because of the integration with multiple mission partners.

“In the C-130J community we measure our success by how well we can meet the user’s requirements,” Humphrey said.

“Working with our Air Force and joint partners reminds us of this, and makes everyone’s training more realistic and effective.”

Showcasing Multi-Capable Airmen

A pivotal moment in this training exercise came when the 19th Maintenance Group validated their MCA training, launching four C-130J aircraft with a 100% MCA crew.

An MCA crew is comprised of Airmen performing tasks outside of their primary Air Force Specialty Code duties.

“In addition to our MCA launching four aircraft, they also handled three separate launch discrepancies,” said

Col. David Hood, 19th Maintenance Group commander. “We are really proud of how our team tackled the additional training and put it to good use.”

The ability to use a 100% MCA crew validates an evolving concept that prepares the Wing to further the concept during the 19th AW’s upcoming ROCKI 21-02 exercise.

ROCKI 21-02 will encompass a Phase 1-3 full spectrum readiness exercise to validate experimentation work on the C-130 lead wing concept and further enhance agile combat employment integration. Unique to ROCKI 21-02, the exercise will include a contingency of MCA trained to deploy and operate in a highly contested environment.

“Our MCA training is not only paying off for our upcoming exercises; the training will also continue to pay dividends at home station as well,” Hood added.

Incentive Flyers

Another unique aspect to this training event was the 19th AW planners creating an opportunity for Airmen around the wing, who aren’t in flying units, to complete an incentive flight and be listed as mission essential personnel (MEP).

Col. Andrew Roddan, 19th Operations Group commander, said the Airmen were nominated to fly in the Swamp Dash as top performers from across the wing.

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U.S. Army photo/Maj. Jonathan Camire

Advisers from the 2nd Security Force Assistance Brigade conduct an advisory mission in Afghanistan in May 2019.

Presence

From Page 5

region, he said, U.S. diplomats are working now to find new places to base them, he said.

“There are ways to get to the find and the fix part,” he said. “The fix part is very important though, because if we’re going to strike something, we’re going to strike it in concert with the law of armed conflict and the American way of war.”

It’s the striking of a target – if need be – that’s going to be an even bigger challenge than it is now, McKenzie told lawmakers.

“It’s difficult to do that at range – but it’s not impossible to do that at range,” he said.

The general said long-range precision fires, manned raids and manned aircraft are all possibilities for strike options, if need be. All are on the table, and all are doable – though with increased risks and costs.

“There are problems with all three of those options, but there’s also opportunities with all three of those options,” he

said. “I don’t want to make light of it. I don’t want to put on rose-colored glasses and say it’s going to be easy to do. Though I can tell you that the U.S. military can do just about anything and we’re examining this problem with all of our resources right now to find a way to do it in the most intelligent, risk-free manner that we can.”

When forces do leave Afghanistan, McKenzie said, there’s the risk that there could be attacks at that time. He said he’s confident, however, that while such a re-deployment is complex, U.S. forces will be safe.

With the Afghanistan withdrawal, he said, equipment will need to leave the country, installations will need to be turned over and people will need to leave.

McKenzie said discussions with Army Gen. Austin Miller, commander of the Resolute Support mission and U.S. Forces-Afghanistan, have left him assured that redeployment can be done safely.

“I’m confident that we will have the forces necessary to protect our forces should the Taliban decide to begin attacking us on (May 1) or any other date,” he said.

Training

From Page 7

Mark Camerer, U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center commander, is also well aware of the impact that the units have had, not only for Air Mobility Command, but also for the Air Force as a whole and the Department of Defense.

Lt. Col. Zachary Unger, 435th TRS director of operations, who relinquished command of Det. 1, USAF EOS, said, “This is an exciting time! It is not an end

but it is a new beginning; it is not an end of an era but the start of a new legacy especially as it concerns command and control.”

“I am very much looking forward to the future, but it is hard to look towards the future without reflecting on the past,” Unger said as he reflected on the detachment’s history. “We teach 11 classes and with more than 800 students a year, since 1998 that equates to more than 20,000 people. We have had a lot of different students from Air Mobility Command, Air Force Special Operations Command, and Air Combat Command.”

TRICARE

From Page 4

partnership with public, private, and nonprofit organizations in seven locations in the United States.

The pilot is focused on treating active-duty members suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder and other psychological conditions associated with sexual trauma, and determining the feasibility and advisability of using such programs by measuring outcomes and sharing lessons learned. The pilot began last September and is slated to conclude Aug. 31.

TRICARE Select Navigator Pilot

The TRICARE Select Navigator pilot is designed to assess whether providing eligible beneficiaries with one-on-one assistance from nurses identified as health care “navigators” improves health outcomes and the patient experience for those with complex medical conditions.

Those eligible for the pilot must be enrolled in TRICARE Select and have two or more medical conditions requiring coordination of specialties or at least \$100,000 in claims per year.

This assistance could lead to reduced use of unnecessary emergency room or urgent care visits due to a beneficiary’s lack of understanding of their options. The pilot also will determine the feasibility of incorporating nurse navigators in available support contracts. The pilot is expected to conclude March 31, 2023.

Low Back Pain and Physical Therapy Demonstration

Another demonstration project deals with physical therapy (PT) for lower back pain (LBP). The purpose is to evaluate whether waiving cost-sharing for up to three PT visits increases TRICARE beneficiary use of PT, decreases low-value care, and/or decreases the overall cost of care for treating patients with LBP. The demonstration, available in 10 states, runs through Dec. 31, 2023.

Referral and Appointing Center Pilot

The Referral and Appointing Center pilot will create a RAC at one pilot site that will receive all TRICARE Prime referrals written by military medical treatment facility providers in the area. It will determine whether the specialty care will be provided at a direct care facility or will be referred to the TRICARE

network. The goal is to determine if using RACs simplifies and improves the process of receiving referrals for specialty care and making appointments for members enrolled in TRICARE Prime.

Accountable Care Organization Demonstration

The Accountable Care Organization demonstration offers beneficiaries eligible for TRICARE Prime and TRICARE Select in the Atlanta metro area the chance to enroll in Kaiser Permanente, a TRICARE Prime option. The demonstration is testing the hypothesis that an integrated delivery model will result in higher levels of efficiency, care effectiveness, and beneficiary satisfaction. The demonstration continues through Dec. 31, 2022.

Buckley Prime Service Area Pilot

Another value-based care-driven pilot is in the Buckley Air Force Base, Colorado, Prime service area. Under this population-based capitation pilot, the regional contractor for this region, HealthNet Federal, will provide dedicated, concierge-type service and support to network-enrolled TRICARE Prime beneficiaries in the Denver area. The regional contractor also will target improved quality of care, better experience, and increased satisfaction for both the beneficiaries and providers in the pilot. The goal of the pilot is to determine the effectiveness of a value-based payment model approach versus the current predominantly discounted fee-for-service payment model.

Non-Food and Drug Administration-approved laboratory-developed tests

The final demonstration project is the Defense Health Agency’s evaluation of non-Food and Drug Administration-approved laboratory-developed tests (LDTs).

According to regulation, DHA may not cost-share LDTs that are not approved by the FDA under its “substantial equivalence” rules. The goal is to improve the quality of health care services for rare diseases by evaluating the feasibility for DOD review of non-FDA approved LDTs to see if they meet TRICARE requirements for safety and efficacy to become a covered benefit under the demonstration.

The demonstration also extends coverage for cystic fibrosis preconception and prenatal carrier screening when provided in accordance with guidelines.

SimWars

From Page 3

downrange event, in which we had reports of multiple casualties with limited resources,” explained Durgan. “One patient had a traumatic amputation and shock while the other patient had a gunshot wound to the chest. We had to split into groups for these as well to ensure we were able to save both patients in time.”

The purpose behind SimWars isn’t to see who will win the competition, but to ensure that the medical teams are ready for real-world situations whenever they may arise.

“I’m thankful for my team who worked so hard for this contest, it’s an honor to work alongside them,” said Neeno. “This victory showed that the Air Force takes training very seriously and that our team is a force to be reckoned with.”



Courtesy photo

The U.S. Air Force UC Davis Health residency team poses together after winning this year’s SimWars competition April 8 at Travis Air Force Base. SimWars is an event where teams from the Air Force, Army and Navy compete in three rounds with five different real-life, austere situations and are rated on how well they respond to the emergencies. This year the event was virtual.

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Guidelines

From Page 7

Airmen could now be tested at their home station, instead of being tested en route to their deployment location.

“Currently, Air Mobility Command has two COVID-19 testing elements which process tests for deployers, en route,” said Maj. Chelsea Arnold, 60th MDG clinical social worker and DEMOST flight commander. “To make the process easier for deployers, we’re testing them here instead to ensure they are medically ready and cleared, COVID-19-negative, and able to continue with their deployment mission.”

Elejorde explained that this was a first for Team Travis. “This was the first time we tested an entire cohort of deploying personnel since the DoD’s recent change in the guidance,” Elejorde said. “Our

public health team tested more than 250 personnel and had results ready within 24 hours.”

Depending on which host nation service members are deploying to, they are required to meet different guidelines before arriving in country as instructed by the DoD. For example, if an Airman is deploying to Afghanistan and is vaccinated, no ROM is required, but a negative viral test result within 72 hours of departure to Afghanistan is required. If an Airman is not vaccinated, a seven-day ROM is required in addition to the negative test result.

Arnold emphasized the amount of effort required by DGMG to make this successful.

“This was no small feat,” Arnold said. “We brought together 30 Airmen from different career fields from David Grant USAF Medical Center, and they all worked efficiently and effectively to ensure these deployers were ready to safely deploy.”

Airman

From Page 2

Simmons, 60th Air Mobility Wing commander. “We are keeping Aaron’s family and friends in our prayers, and wrapping our arms around the entire team through this grief.”

Wing chaplains, mental health

professionals and counselors are available to assist those in need. Information on Travis AFB support services can be found at www.travis.af.mil.

The cause of death has not been determined at this time. For queries, please contact 60th Air Mobility Wing Public Affairs at 707-424-2010 or 60amwpa@us.af.mil.

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Earth Day

From Page 5

3,000 trees. DeCA also uses an equipment liquidation service to sell out-of-use items, which has diverted 1.5 million pounds of used equipment from landfills. The sale of these items has generated over \$3.9 million for the surcharge account. Even the agency's buildings have been built or upgraded to ensure the carbon footprint of stores are reduced. Most commissaries have glass doors on refrigeration units, take advantage of natural light, use solar power units and LED lighting, and continue to convert or upgrade their HVAC units and other technologies to help conserve even more energy.

New low- to no-maintenance flooring installed in the stores helps to reduce the chemicals and equipment needed to strip and polish floors which reduces the overall cost to run stores. The program has helped reduce the agency's annual energy usage every year since its inception in 2005.

DeCA's EMS efforts also extend to commissary customers by providing shoppers with sustainable options when they shop. They can purchase quality reusable shopping bags, energy efficient light-emitting

diode (LED) lightbulbs, high-efficiency (HE) dish and laundry detergents and reduced-packaging products like paper towels and bathroom tissue without cardboard tube inserts.

Organic products are available ranging from meats, produce, dairy products, baby food, and dog and cat foods. Bio-based products, green cleaners, and energy- and water-efficient equipment can also be found in the product lineup.

"Customers looking for great deals on green items for their homes need to look no further than their commissary shelves," said Bonita Moffett, DeCA's director of sales. "We have soaps and cleaners you can trust to clean your home, protect the environment and save you money. Be on the lookout for coupons – digital and paper – to help you save even more."

The agency's EMS allows it to balance the delicate task of protecting the environment and meeting DeCA's business goals, Walker said.

"We are always trying to find new and more innovative ways to reduce, recycle and conserve energy," said Walker. "Improving the EMS and employing new practices ensures that we are always working to be the best steward of natural resources that we can be."



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Sunday Morning Worship
10:30 AM

Sunday Evening Worship
6:00 PM

Wed. Evening Bible Study
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1) Airman 1st Class Mikaela Scott, 60th Security Forces Squadron installation entry controller, stands next to a security patrol truck April 12 at Travis Air Force Base, California. Scott is donned with the Aspetto Mach V Female Body Armor System vest, a newly issued body armor in the Air Force that is more form-fitting for female Defenders.

U.S. Air Force photo/Lan Kim

Defenders test new female ... BODY ARMOR

U.S. Air Force photos by Lan Kim

2) U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Melody Boutin, 821st Contingency Response Squadron force protection flight chief, stands next to a Polaris MRZR tactical vehicle April 14 at Travis Air Force Base, California. Boutin is donned with the Aspetto Mach V Female Body Armor System vest, a newly issued body armor in the Air Force that is more form-fitting for female Defenders. 3) Airman 1st Class Emily Hardbarger, 60th Security Forces Squadron installation entry controller, stands next to a security patrol truck April 13 at Travis Air Force Base, California.



2



3



U.S. Air Force photo

The MQ-9 Reaper is an armed, multi-mission, medium-altitude, long-endurance remotely piloted aircraft. It is now set to receive a suite of upgrades to allow the platform to offer a host of new capabilities for combatant commanders and warfighters around the world.

Mods

From Page 8

platform. This is the first retrofit of many, as MQ-9 M2DO configured aircraft will receive additional closely-held capabilities that will enable command and control mission assurance and resiliency while the aircraft is airborne.

Additionally, the MQ-9 team will increase the electronic power for the platform. This increase, coupled with concurrent development efforts to create an open architecture design for the platform, will allow the Air Force to rapidly integrate new capabilities in response to emerging threats identified by combatant commanders.

Additional M2DO enhancements also include upgrades to the electro-optical/infra-red sensor and will expand the types of weapons the platform will be able to carry.

The Air Force projects with these smart investments the MQ-9 will remain operationally viable for worldwide operations through the end of the platform's projected service life of 2035. In conjunction, the Air Force will continue to evaluate options to find a more viable solution in the future.



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