

Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado

SPACE OBSERVER

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Airman's resiliency saves family from across the world

By Audrey Jensen

21st Space Wing Public Affairs



(U.S. Air Force photo by Audrey Jensen)

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — Responsibilities for Staff Sgt. Gopal Pudasaini, 21st Space Wing Family Health medical technician, are not limited to those in the Air Force.

Day-to-day he treats patients in the Family Health clinic at Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado, but when he goes home, his day doesn't slow down. While studying for his classes with the end goal of becoming an Air Force doctor, Pudasaini also takes care of his three sisters and their kids from about 8,000 miles away.

He has been the head of his family since he was 14 years old when his father passed away in Nepal, where Pudasaini was raised and his family currently resides.

While he has always been there for his sisters, in 2015, when a 7.8-magnitude earthquake struck Nepal, Pudasaini said he was unsure if he still had a family.

"All communications were down. Nobody knew what was going on," said Pudasaini. "All of a sudden I get a call from my first sergeant who says 'Hey, did

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — While working at the Family Health clinic at Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado, Staff Sgt. Gopal Pudasaini, 21st Space Wing Medical Group Family Health medical technician, treats patients throughout the day. When he goes home, Pudasaini studies for school with the end goal of becoming an Air Force doctor as he continues to take care of his three sisters and their children in Nepal.

See **Resiliency** page 10

Why diversity?

By Lt. Gen. Jay Silveria,
Superintendent

U.S. Air Force Academy

U.S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo. — A few months ago, I stood in front of more than 4,000 Air Force Academy cadets and delivered a simple message in response to a racist incident that occurred at our preparatory school: if you can't treat someone with dignity and respect — get out.

Ultimately, it turned out that one of the individuals thought to be a victim had actually perpetrated the incident. True to my message, that individual is no longer at the preparatory school because their actions, regardless of race or intentions, were counter to the culture of dignity and respect we demand at the United States Air Force Academy.

The short speech went viral and put our academy at the center of an ongoing national dialogue on race. I was honored to receive letters of support from Airmen and military members, congressmen and congresswomen, senior U.S. and allied officers, and individuals around the world. These letters may have been addressed to me, but they universally spoke of their respect and admiration for

our academy, our cadets, and the men and women who work here.

That incident led me to some sober reflection, where I pondered an important question as both a military commander and the leader of an academic institution: why is diversity so important?

My commitment to diversity as an ideal of our service is born from a humble belief that as people, not just Airmen, we should treat each other with dignity and respect. We must embrace the full spectrum of our humanity, perspectives and experiences.

We come to the Air Force from across the country and around the globe, each of us with varied backgrounds and experiences, which are vital to how we exchange ideas, challenge assumptions and broaden our horizons. Diversity is one of the truest reflections of our nation's ideals, and part of the fabric of our military. It is crucial, not because it is in vogue, but because it makes us better, stronger and more effective as a fighting force.

As Airmen we have a single mission: fight and win the nation's wars, be it in the sky or in space and even cyberspace. Our best measure of success is the effectiveness we deliver on the battlefield, or the war we prevent



(U.S. Air Force graphic/Master Sgt. Jasmine Reiff)

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif. — Lt. Gen. Jay Silveria, superintendent of the U.S. Air Force Academy, speaks at the Anti-Defamation League's "Never is Now" summit Nov. 13, 2017, in San Francisco, California. The ADL praised the Academy for its stance against racism and bigotry.

because of our collective skill. We have to be singularly dedicated to that mission and how we achieve it, which means that when we consider the attributes of an individual member of our team, it must be through an objective lens of professionalism, where the only thing that matters is how he or she contributes to our strength and effectiveness.

Diversity makes Air Force more effective

In the face of rising threats we need each

and every member of our team at his or her best. Keeping talented people out of the fight because we do not value diversity makes the Air Force less effective. Similarly, when members of our team demean, harass, haze, or assault one another it degrades our capabilities.

I spent the last year in command of the air war against ISIS at United States Central Command, which oversees military efforts in the Middle East, North Africa and Central

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21ST SPACE WING COMMANDER'S CORNER



Being ready in a crisis

Early on the morning of 9/11, I woke with a start. It was not because I instinctively knew something bad was going to happen – it was because my crew partner was screaming my name and asking me to get out of bed. As a First Lieutenant missileer stationed at F.E. Warren AFB, Wyoming, I was responsible for launch operations of the Minuteman III Intercontinental Ballistic Missile – the most powerful weapon in our nation's nuclear deterrent arsenal.

I had gone on what I thought would be a routine alert the previous day, with a crewmember I had never gone on alert with and who was not even in my squadron. I generally worked the night shift and so had been asleep for about an hour when my crew partner woke me up after the first plane hit the North Tower of the World Trade Center. As we watched CNN in confusion, we saw the South Tower hit by the second plane about 15 minutes later. Alarms began to go off in the capsule and Emergency Action Messages appeared in our queue. We both looked at each other, opened our decode documents, and started processing messages.

In a crisis, especially in a military crisis, training kicks in immediately. We were fully prepared that day to do whatever was needed. Neither one of us had time to fully process what was happening in the rest of the country – we just knew what we had to do in that time period and our constant, recurring training for every situation we could encounter in that missile capsule ensured we had the skills to do so. As two crewmembers who never worked together before and who formally met for the first time the morning of our alert, we easily slid into our roles of commander and



By Lt. Col.
Mia Walsh

18th Space
Control Squadron

deputy because missile training is so standardized, so highly regimented, that anyone could go on alert with any other trained member and succeed.

We both remained steady and focused that day. The military teaches personnel to be flexible and to stay calm in any situation. We had no idea what was happening that morning and even when intelligence reports starting trickling in, there was still a lot of confusion. In one of my favorite movies, *The American President*, one of the President's staffers says, "I think the important thing is not to make it look like we're panicking." And the President replies, "See, and I think the important thing is actually not to be panicking." Panicking adds nothing to the situation and will alter your ability to make good decisions. My crew partner and I completed each task as needed, processed each message as it came in, and did the best job we could do under the circumstances. Relief crews came out later that day and we traded off in 12 hour shifts for the next four days. It was only when I

returned home that I could fully process and understand the magnitude of everything that had happened.

No one can be ready for every situation that might occur – neither my crew partner nor I nor anyone else in the missile field that day thought that something like this could happen. However, we can be ready to face any crisis through proper planning for different circumstances, repetitive training to meet any possible event, and a calm and level-headed demeanor.

Seventeen years later, as the commander of the 18th Space Control Squadron, I am proud of the way the squadron meets challenges every day. Utilizing the Space Surveillance Network, a collection of global ground and space-based radars and optical sensors, we provide spaceflight safety to NASA for all manned space flight, including the ISS, as well as to the Department of Defense, launch agencies, satellite operators, and interagency and Allied partners. We are responsible for launch collision avoidance, launch support, on-orbit conjunction assessment and collision avoidance, end-of-life disposal, de-orbit support, and re-entry assessment. Crewmembers utilize extensive training in space situational awareness along with detailed planning with the Joint Space Operations Center to be ready for any crisis, from conjunctions between two satellites to processing multiple launches, sometimes three a day, in order to maintain the accuracy of the space catalog. Their skills ensure the long-term sustainability, stability, safety and security of the space environment.



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Guardians of knowledge

By Robb Lingley

21st Space Wing Public Affairs

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — Librarians are more than people with a creaky cart full of books. A substantial education is required in their field, which itself is full of variety. From academics to archives, being a librarian at Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado, entails much more than book placement and checkout procedures.

Rebecca Perkins, 21st Force Support Squadron Library supervisory librarian, who organizes books for the library, is an informed resource for library customers, and acts as an organizer to utilize the library as a public venue. She started working as a reference librarian in March, 2016, and was promoted to supervisory librarian in October of the same year.

“I love putting things in logical order to make things easier for people to find,” said Perkins. “I code our materials so that people can walk up to a computer and type in an author’s last name to bring up everything that the Peterson AFB Library has under that last name.”

Being a professional librarian requires a master’s degree with four years of full-time professional experience. Perkins went to San Jose State University, California, and received her Master of Library and Information Science degree.

“By the time I finally got my degree I already had almost 10 years of librarian experience,” said Perkins.

Librarian’s responsibilities include ordering books for the shelves, replacing older publications, making sure books are in their right section, and being knowledge managers for organizations. They also teach new tech-



(U.S. Air Force photo by Robb Lingley)

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — Rebecca Perkins, 21st Force Support Squadron Library supervisory librarian, works to replace outdated books at the base library on Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado, Feb. 14, 2018. Each book must be properly catalogued to provide easy access for customers.

nologies, arrange programming and perform customer service all day long.

The Peterson AFB Library averages 225 patrons per day and offers numerous learning programs to Airmen and their families.

“We offer a variety of learning programs here, to include BrainHQ,” Perkins said. “If you go to the Air Force Portal and scroll all the way to the right there’s a tab that says libraries and resources. In that tab you’ll get a plethora of online resources.”

BrainHQ is an interactive brain training program built by Posit Science. It helps to exercise your memory, attention, brain speed, people skills, intelligence and navigation. BrainHQ provides the exercise your brain needs to be at its sharpest and is offered at the Peterson AFB library.

To check out products from the library you can sign up for an account with your military or dependent identification card to receive an account number.

“After you get an account you can check-out up to 25 books at a time, other than study guides, and you get to keep them for a month,” said Perkins. “You can also check out up to five DVDs for a week with the exception being TV series DVDs because they have multiple discs and are very expensive. We limit those to one per account but you can still have four other DVDs.”

All materials at the library are government purchased, making it government property. If they aren’t returned an email is sent to the customer. If still not returned after two weeks a second email is sent out. Finally a third email is sent to the individual’s first sergeant.

“All of our books and DVDs are usually returned but we still lose a few things here and there,” Perkins said. “That’s why we’re on the out processing checklist for Airmen so we can collect anything that’s been checked out.”

If a book is damaged or lost by the customer the patron is given the bar code number so the product can be replaced. If the book was paperback the library staff would expect a paperback. If it was a hardcover it would want a hardcover in return.

The library has Story Time at 10 a.m. every Wednesday. It’s geared for ages 0-5 because most other kids are in school. Older children, who may be home schooled, are also welcome to come.

“It helps the children and care givers socialize with one another to help kids prepare for school,” said Perkins. “We try to pattern our Story Time programs to be conducive to learning.”

Whether a customer wants to check out a printed publication, download the latest best-selling novel for their e-reader, grab a DVD, or find a quiet place to study, the library on Peterson AFB is the place to be.

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BASE BRIEFS

BLACK HISTORY MONTH OBSERVANCE

Please join the 21st Space Wing Thursday, Feb. 22 at The Club, 11:30 a.m. There will be a ceremony to recognize Black History Month and a food tasting to follow. For more information contact Capt. Levonda Robinson at 719-556-0492.

STORYTELLERS IS BACK

Every Airman has a story. The difference is made when we share our stories. Please join the Storytellers event happening March 9 at The Club from 8 to 11 a.m. You will hear from five different Airmen sharing a personal story of resiliency.

SOFTBALL TRYOUTS

The men's varsity softball team is holding tryouts Feb. 26 – March 2 from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. at softball field number four. All personnel and spouses stationed at PAFB and CMAFS are welcome to try out. For more information call Craig Thompson at 719-659-3455 or craigincali2@yahoo.com or Tech. Sgt. Garrett Payne at 719-556-1780 or garrett.payne@us.af.mil.

SAND CREEK MASSACRE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

SCMNHs invites Airmen and families of Peterson AFB to visit the park. The park is open from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., Monday - Friday through March; seven days a week beginning April 1. Entrance is free. As a show of respect for our men and women in uniform, we would be happy to arrange a free tour to your staff & families. For more information, please contact Shawn at 719-729-3003 x 0.

STUDIO PHOTOGRAPHY APPOINTMENTS

Get online! Book your studio photo appointment at <http://www.peterson.af.mil> and click on the studio photo button located at the bottom of the page. You can book regular bio and full length photos online any time of day. For Army DA photos and 0-6 and above, you will still need to call the appointment line at 719-556-4153 to be scheduled. See more on our homepage.

BRIEFLY LEGAL

A car dealer may not charge a higher price for the sole reason that you are buying a vehicle on credit rather than cash. This is illegal! Contact a JAG before making that deal! 719-556-4871.

COOKING CLASS

Health Promotion Healthy cooking class featuring vegan sweet potato curry Friday, Feb. 23 at 11:30 a.m. in the Health Promotion classroom. Registration is required. Call Melody at 719-556-6663 to sign up.

SOCIETY OF MILITARY WIDOWS

The Society of Military Widows is open to all Military Widows of any branch of military service, regardless of the spouses rank. The Pikes Peak Chapter 15 of the Society of Military Widows meets on the last Wednesday of the month at 10:30 a.m. at The Club. Please call 719-597-0492 or 719-591-9523 for more information.

BONE MARROW REGISTRY

You are someone's one-in-a-million. A well-matched bone marrow or stem cell donor can save someone's life. Qualified adults can join the registry of potential bone marrow and stem cell donors in about 7 minutes by completing a consent form and some cheek swabs. For more information about bone marrow or becoming a donor, visit salutetolife.org. DoD ID-holders can enroll locally by contacting Master Sgt. Janet Peterson at janet.peterson.3@us.af.mil, or 719-474-2402.

BENEFITS OF BEING A BALANCED BOSS

Supervisors are busy managing their staffs and managing up, which leaves little time for ensuring their own equilibrium. The class offered Feb. 23rd from 1 – 2 p.m. in Bldg. 350 makes a case for moving toward a better balance; strategies and helpful resources will be discussed. Please note: this presentation is for supervisors only. R.S.V.P. by calling Resilience Operations at 719-556-6768 or emailing 21sw.caib.ids@us.af.mil.

MARRIAGE WORKSHOP FOR MILITARY COUPLES

Invest in your relationship by attending a healthy marriage workshop and discover the essentials for creating a thriving marriage. Topics include: creative date nights, effective communication, conflict resolution and personality profiles. The class is offered March 1, from 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. at Bldg. 350 room 1203 and is FREE for active duty, reserve and retired. Lunch is included! Register here: <http://www.myrelationshipcenter.org/workshops/healthy-marriage-workshop-march-1> or call 720-488-8888.



(719) 634-5905

235 South Nevada Avenue,
Colorado Springs, CO 80903-1246.

EDITOR & COO

Amy Sweet
Amy.Sweet@csbj.com

EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Advertising Director
Jeff Moore
Jeff.Moore@csbj.com

Account Executives
Tammy Fogall
Tammy.Fogall@csbj.com

Monty Hatch
Monty.Hatch@csbj.com

Vanessa Nagel
Vanessa.Nagel@csbj.com

ART DEPARTMENT

Art Director
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COLORADO PUBLISHING HOUSE

Chairman of the Board
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Audrey Jensen

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For information in the event of a Peterson Air Force Base emergency, contact the Straight Talk line at (719) 556-9154.

SPACE OBSERVER

SCHRIEVER SENTINEL

Mountaineer

21st Dental Squadron teaches children the importance of dental hygiene



(U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Alexis Christian)

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — Senior Airman Davis Walker, 21st Dental Squadron dental lab technician, teaches children at the R. P. Lee Youth Center on Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado, Feb. 16, 2018. During the event, the children learned how to properly clean their teeth, and the importance of good dental health.

By Airman 1st Class
Alexis Christian
21st Space Wing Public Affairs

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — History lives in more than just books, it lives in objects and people as well. Walking past an historic display can invoke strong emotions.

It was a piece of history located on Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado, that helped steer Jeffery Nash, Edward J. Peterson Air and Space Museum assistant director, toward his career in museum curating. After years of working on Peterson AFB as active duty and as a civilian, one project reminded him of his passions and pushed him to this new step in life.

When the museum decided to restore the Republic P-47 Thunderbolt in August 2000, Nash saw this as his chance to volunteer with something that he was passionate about.

“The P-47 has been a personal favorite of mine,” said Nash. “I grew up going to aviation museums and reading all these books. I had a tremendous interest in World War II era planes.”

The P-47 was one of the premier aircraft of World War II, fighting in almost every theater. The survivability of the fighter gave it a reputation of ruggedness, according to the National Museum of the Air Force.

When Nash went up to the then assistant director of the museum and asked if they needed any volunteers for the project, he was accepted on the spot, no experience required.

“I had very minimal skills, but I was willing to do anything I could to help,” said Nash. “I saw this as a great opportunity to get some experience and really put my hands on history.”

For Nash, plane restorations were not an easy thing to accomplish – It can get quite messy.

“My first major job in the restoration was cleaning the engine,” said Nash. “That was a dirty job. It was pretty intact, not functional, but still impressive. I was pressure washing, scraping and putting in a lot of elbow grease to remove 30 years of debris from this engine.”

Cleaning the engine alone took almost two weeks. The restoration itself took a little less than five years, and more than 5,000 combined volunteer hours, said Nash.

“I gave up a lot of off duty hours helping to restore the aircraft to what it looks like today,” said Nash.

It’s a very in-depth job, said Nash, adding that volunteers replaced tubes and panels, pressure washed and did a lot of corrosion control on the aircraft trying to get it where it is now. To him it was worth it.

“It’s a highlight of the museum really,” said Nash. “Visitors love it, almost every group wants a photo in front of it.”

Working on this restoration wasn’t just a hobby for Nash, through the years he worked on the plane it became much more than that.



(U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Alexis Christian)

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — Jeffery Nash, Edward J. Peterson Air and Space Museum assistant director, takes care of about 4,000 artifacts at the museum on Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado. The museum sees on average 200,000 visitors each year.

In the summer of 2000 the 21st Space Wing authorized a full time position for the assistant director.

“I was working in the command post at the time as a civilian doing the same job I did in the Air Force before I retired,” said Nash. “I decided it was time for a change, so I applied for the position.”

Nash, who has a bachelor’s degree in history that he got just for fun, said he was beyond happy when he received the position.

“To be the assistant director was a dream job to me,” said Nash. “I saw this as something that I could do for a long time.”

Now Nash gets to be a part of history every day.

“I have a lot more than a P-47 to take care of now,” said Nash. “I’ve got 18 aircraft, five missiles and over 4,000 artifacts that range in size from four-engine aircraft outside to a compass the size of a thumbnail.”

All of these added responsibilities don’t bother Nash, he said. Each day is another day surrounded by his passion, as he continues to preserve history and share its stories with visitors in the museum.

Volunteer opportunities can be found around the base, but the museum is still in need of more Docents to provide tours for the 200,000 visitors that visit the museum annually, said Nash.

Museum hours of operations and contact information can be found at Petemuseum.org.



(Courtesy photo)

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — Jeffery Nash, Edward J. Peterson Air and Space Museum assistant director, sands the outside of the Republic P-47 Thunderbolt Oct. 3, 2004, on Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado. The restoration of the plane took a little under five years and more than 5,000 combined volunteer hours.

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MINISTRIES

Reserve aerial porters help Denton program deliver again

By Staff Sgt. Frank Casciotta

302nd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — For the second year in a row, Air Force reservists with the 39th Aerial Port Squadron have partnered with the 21st Logistics Readiness Squadron to help deliver winter weather clothes to Afghanistan via the Denton Program.

Similar to last year, there was more than 13,000 pounds of donated winter weather clothes to be prepared and transported from here via the Denton Program.

The Denton Program permits Defense Department transportation on a space-available basis for approved, privately donated humanitarian assistance cargo destined for countries on an approved listing provided by the Department of Defense.

Staff Sgt. Meagan Hasty, a 39th APS air transportation technician, coordinated the cargo delivery here where she and her 39th APS team and 21st LRS Airmen could prepare it for shipment on a C-17 Globemaster III aircraft from March Air Reserve Base, California.

“Working with the 21st (LRS) on this has been great,” said Hasty. “When we worked this mission last year, they told us not to worry about needing help next time something like this pops up. They just said ‘consider it done.’ We couldn’t have done this without their support. Situations like this show the importance of Total Force Integration.”

In all, six pallets of winter clothing to include coats for children, were loaded onto the C-17, which will make its way to the mountainous regions of Afghanistan and distributed to those in need by Cyrus International Inc. in the coming months.

“There are a lot of different pieces of the puzzle to coordinate,” said Hasty. “Knowing who this cargo is going to makes getting it trucked to us, building up the pallets, and getting timely airlift support to move the cargo overseas all worthwhile.”



(U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Frank Casciotta)

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — A 39th Aerial Port Squadron 25K aircraft loader prepares to transfer three pallets of winter weather clothing onto a C-17 Globemaster III aircraft on the Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado flightline, Feb. 5, 2018. Coordinated with the Denton Program, the winter clothes are being transported via a C-17 Globemaster III aircraft from March Air Reserve Base, California, to mountainous villages in Afghanistan.



(U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Frank Casciotta)

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — Staff Sgt. Jennifer Shippy, 21st Logistics Readiness Squadron, secures a cargo net around boxes of donated winter weather gear inside the 39th Aerial Port Squadron's loading bay at Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado, Jan. 29, 2018. Approximately, 13,000 pounds of winter clothes are being transported via a C-17 Globemaster III aircraft from March AFB, California, to mountainous villages in Afghanistan through the Denton Program.



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Diversity

From page 1

Asia. Make no mistake, the modern battlefield is more complex and moves faster than ever. We don't have time for distractions or for small-minded people.

Against ISIS, we are waging a war using the most sophisticated and interconnected combat power in history. But our real advantage is the intellect, innovation, creativity and courage of our troops. If any among us thinks these qualities are defined by race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation or identity or any other factor of the human condition, then the United States Air Force Academy and our military is not the place for them.

The link between diversity and victory does not exist in the abstract. It is real and has been proven throughout history. From 1941 to 1946, in the small, segregated town of Tuskegee, Alabama, black Americans trained to become fighter pilots. They would form the 332nd Fighter Group and serve in the Europe, where they overcame the racism inherent in the WWII Army Air Corps to amass an impressive record.

Over their 15,000 sorties, the Tuskegee Airmen's professionalism, valor and airmanship earned the respect of the B-17 crews they escorted. More importantly, the bomber formations they guarded suffered fewer losses than those escorted by other units, which meant more of their bombers made it to their targets in Germany and back home again. They made the 15th Air Force more lethal, and their contributions were pivotal in the outcome of World War II.

While the Tuskegee Airmen would influence the battle in Europe, the Native American Code Talkers would help the Allies prevail in the Pacific. Approximately 500 Native Americans would enlist in the United States Marine Corps during World War II and use their native languages to encrypt vital communications during combat.

Since the code was just an application of their native language it did not require special equipment and it improved the speed and accuracy of communication on the battlefield. Furthermore, this unique code, which utilized the diversity of America, was never cracked and allowed innumerable critical communications to take place among

the Allies, free from the fear of information falling into the Axis powers' hands.

The Allies eventually broke the code of the German Enigma machines, intercepting and exploiting vital information — a secure communications disparity that would prove crucial to Allied victory in the war. Leveraging our unique talents born from our diversity can offer advantages that even the greatest technologies cannot overcome.

How women made a difference

Women would also play a key role during and after the war. More than 1,000 Women Airforce Service Pilots, known as WASPs, were stationed at 122 air bases across the United States. Though limited by the sexism of the time, and barred from front-line roles, they still flew more than 60 million miles in almost every type of aircraft flown by the US Army Air Forces. By testing and delivering aircraft, these women flew thousands of aircraft to the front lines, where they would be flown by their male counterparts in combat. WASPs fought for decades for recognition despite their courageous service; 38 WASPs lost their lives during the war.

After World War II, the military's stark lack of diversity would hinder the nation's efforts during the Cold War. The Soviet Union had leapt ahead in space exploration with the surprise launch of Sputnik and cemented their dominance when Yuri Gagarin became the first human in space. Perhaps it wasn't a coincidence that the American space program supplanted the Soviets after female and African-American mathematicians and engineers were integrated into the workforce.

In an era in which gay Americans in all walks of life frequently remained in the closet, Tech. Sgt. Leonard Matlovich became the face of the still nascent gay rights movement when he appeared on the cover of TIME magazine in 1975, in his uniform, under the banner "I Am a Homosexual."

His activism and courage in the face of social injustice was laudable, but his actions on the battlefields of Vietnam earned him the Bronze Star and Purple Heart. Matlovich made our military better for his talents and for his courage both on the battlefield abroad and in our community at home.

In every aspect of our humanity, there have been Airmen contributing their unique talents to the nation's

defense. John Levitow, a Jewish airman, was a loadmaster on an AC-47 "Spooky" gunship. Although Levitow's religion did not restrict him from service in the same ways as Matlovich's sexuality, the Tuskegee Airmen's race, or the WASPs' gender, his story highlights that heroes may be of any faith, including those of no faith.

On February 24, 1969, Levitow's gunship was supporting an Army unit when his airplane was hit by mortar fire. The shrapnel damaged the plane and injured the crew, including Levitow. It also caused the airplane's gunner to drop a lit flare inside the aircraft, where its fuse burned next to 19,000 rounds of ammunition.

Despite his injuries, Levitow dragged the burning fuse to an open door and dropped it out of the plane seconds before it ignited. He saved the aircraft and crew, and was awarded the Medal of Honor. That gunship and the soldiers it was supporting survived that day because of the diversity Levitow brought to the fight.

An infinitely more complex world

I grew up in a military family and have worn our nation's uniform for 36 years. I have traveled the world, served in leadership roles from California to England, and commanded some of our nation's finest men and women in places like Iraq and Afghanistan. As the Air Force Academy's superintendent, the bottom line is simple: I need to prepare these young men and women to defend our freedoms and defend our nation, even if it means making the ultimate sacrifice.

Over the course of my career, waging war and preserving peace has grown infinitely more complex. Today, the leaders we prepare must be able to understand ideas, languages and customs that span continents and cultures as they never have before. Furthermore, they must be able to harness the unique talents of the airmen they will lead.

Embracing, celebrating and striving for diversity isn't just the right thing to do, nor is it just a sensitive and politically correct, knee-jerk response. It is the application of our collective intelligence — our uniqueness coming together to fulfill our duty to provide the nation with the most effective and lethal fighting force we have the capacity to employ on the battlefield. To put it in the terms of a military leader: Diversity is a force multiplier. We must do this together — all ranks and ages, races and religions, sexual orientations and identities — all of us.



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Senior Airman Haley Wolochowicz inspects a weapon for loading during a Weapons Load Crew Competition at Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany, Feb. 9, 2018. The competition featured two teams competing to be the wing's best load crew and the winners will be announced at their annual Maintenance Professional of the Year banquet. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Staci Kasische)



A U.S. Air Force F-35A Lightning II assigned to the 34th Fighter Wing is deployed to Misawa Air Base, Japan. The F-35A is deployed under the U.S. Pacific Command's AOR. The F-35A is a testament to the U.S. commitment to stability and security in the region.



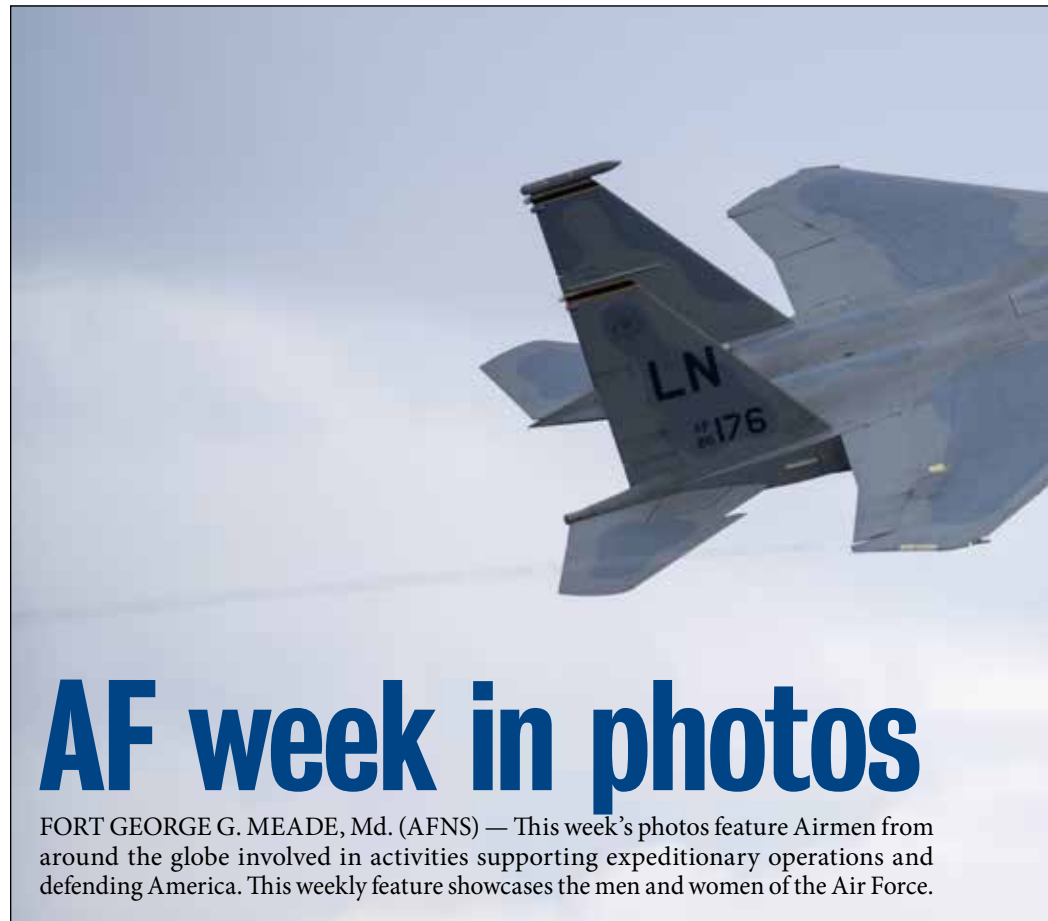
(U.S. Air Force courtesy photo)

An 83rd Expeditionary Rescue Squadron Airman observes a U.S. Army CH-47 Chinook at an undisclosed location in Afghanistan. The 83rd ERQS is the Air Force Central Command's first dedicated joint personnel recovery team, utilizing Air Force Guardian Angel teams and Army CH-47 Chinook crews.



(U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Andrew D. Sarver)

An F-22 Raptor assigned to the 27th Fighter Squadron at Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Va., receives fuel during Red Flag 18-1 over the Nevada Test and Training Range, Feb. 7, 2018. Red Flag helps pilots train for real-time war scenarios and tests their readiness for future conflicts.



AF week in photos

FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, Md. (AFNS) — This week's photos feature Airmen from around the globe involved in activities supporting expeditionary operations and defending America. This weekly feature showcases the men and women of the Air Force.

An F-15C Strike Eagle, 48th Fighter Wing, takes off from RAF Lakenheath, England, Feb. 6, 2018. The 48th FW is the moment's notice.



(U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen)

Capt. Thomas Beltz, C-17 Globemaster III pilot with the 514th Air Mobility Wing, closes in to refuel with a KC-10 Extender over the Atlantic Ocean, Feb. 10, 2018. The 514th AMW is an Air Force Reserve Command unit located at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst.

Airman
ical, b



(U.S. Air Force photo by Yasuo Osakabe)

...ter Squadron, Hill Air Force Base, Utah, sits on the flightline at Yokota Air Base, Japan, Feb. 9, 2018, in support of the vice president's visit to ... and's Theater Security Package program, which has been in operation since 2004. This long-planned deployment demonstrates the continuing



(U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Andrew D. Sarver)

Senior Airman Dan Daley, a boom operator assigned to Fairchild Air Force Base, Wash., walks on the flightline during Red Flag 18-1, Feb. 7, 2018, at Nellis AFB, Nev. Red Flag gives Airmen an opportunity to experience realistic combat scenarios that prepares them for real-world conflicts.



(U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Malcolm Mayfield)

...only F-15C wing in U.S. Air Forces in Europe, allowing them to provide unique air combat capabilities at a



(U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Joey Swafford)

Airman 1st Class Myshanique Jones, Travis Air Force Base Honor Guard, holds the Air Force flag during the 75th anniversary kickoff celebration at Travis AFB, Calif., Feb. 8, 2018. Travis AFB is celebrating 75 years as a major strategic logistics hub for the Pacific and integral part of global power projection for the total force.



(U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Janiqua P. Robinson)

An Airman from the 824th Base Defense Squadron, fires a Mark 19 40mm grenade machine gun, Jan. 26, 2018, at Camp Blanding Joint Training Center, Fla. The Airmen traveled to Blanding to participate in Weapons Week where they qualified on heavy weapons ranging from the M249 light machine gun to the M18 Claymore mine.



(U.S. Air Force photo by Samuel King Jr.)

...an Amanda Danforth, 96th Security Forces Squadron, watches the horizon during an alarm phase of a chem-biological, radiological, nuclear and explosive training exercise at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., Feb. 1, 2018.

Resiliency

From page 1

you know Nepal got hit with a 9.4 Richter-scale earthquake? Do you know if your family is OK?"

"I tried to call but all I heard was a dial tone. The next day was the same thing. I tried to reach out to many people. I was trying to get a hold of my family, trying to locate them."

After a week of uncertainty, Pudasaini received news his family survived the natural disaster, but also learned their home had been destroyed. One of his sisters was living under tarp and bamboo.

"I found out they were OK, but everything was gone," he said. "They didn't have food water, sewer, anything. They were in a field somewhere, living under the stars, it was not a good situation. I had a three-bedroom house, and I couldn't do anything."

Attempting to relocate his family to the U.S. after the earthquake was unsuccessful, so Pudasaini raised and sent funds to pay for a concrete house for his sister and her kids to live in.

Ten months after the earthquake, the foundation and structure of the concrete house was built, and his sister and her kids moved in right away thanks to the funds Pudasaini sent to his family every month.

"[Taking care of my sisters] is instilled in me," Pudasaini said. "When my father died, because it's a male dominated society, I became the father of the household even though my sister was three, four years older than me. I became the one that had to take care of my sisters. They're still my responsibility, at least until they're back on their feet. I don't have second thoughts about it, you just do it, it's your family. If I don't, who will? That's what motivates me to keep doing it."

Pudasaini was successful in bringing his family to safety due in part to his co-workers at the 377th Medical Group at Kirtland Air Force Base, New Mexico, who started a GoFundMe page and raised \$3,500.

With only a few thousand more dollars left to pay for the new concrete house in Nepal, Pudasaini said his resiliency is what motivates him when it's tough to find balance between his life here and in Nepal.

"Fighting takes resiliency," Pudasaini said. "That's what ties into the Air Force mission, is that I'm willing to fight, I'm not one to give up."

"When I came into the Air Force, I was not an inexperienced person who didn't know what he was doing. What I brought to the Air Force was my resiliency, openness to learn and willingness to adapt."



(Courtesy photo)

KATHMANDU, Nepal — When he was 14 years old, Staff Sgt. Gopal Pudasaini, 21st Space Wing Medical Group Family Health medical technician, became the father-figure in his home and ever since he has taken care of his sisters and their children, who live in Nepal. Since a 7.8-magnitude earthquake struck in 2015 and destroyed his sister's home, he has sent money every month to build a concrete home for one of his sisters.



(U.S. Air Force photo by Audrey Jensen)

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — At Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado, Staff Sgt. Gopal Pudasaini, 21st Medical Group Family Health medical technician, sorts through supplies in the one of the exam rooms at the Family Health clinic Feb. 13, 2018. Pudasaini was stationed at Peterson AFB in December 2017 after previously working in flight medicine.



(Courtesy photo)

KATHMANDU, Nepal — In 2016, Staff Sgt. Gopal Pudasaini, 21st Space Wing Medical Group Family Health medical technician, paid to build a home for one of his sisters in Kathmandu, Nepal. After a 7.8-magnitude earthquake struck in 2015, one of his sisters had to live under a tarp wrapped in bamboo, but she moved into this concrete house in Kathmandu, Nepal as soon as the foundation and structure was complete.



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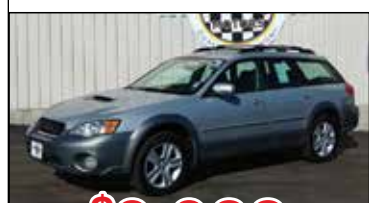
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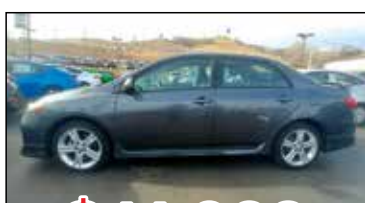
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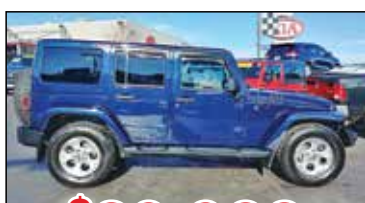
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BACK IS FORTH

ACROSS

- 1 Makes like a lion
- 6 Prefix meaning "large"
- 11 "___ goes there?"
- 14 Verbally disagree
- 15 Glass medicine container (var.)
- 16 1957 org. in screeched
- 17 Mower's pathway?
- 19 Museum contents
- 20 Those people's
- 21 Mini sofa
- 23 Small amounts
- 26 Not of the clergy
- 28 "Good field, ___"
- 29 Good ol' place
- 30 Bro or sis
- 32 Fifty's five
- 33 List extender, briefly
- 34 Harder to penetrate
- 38 Friendly and charming
- 40 Some Cuban dances (var.)
- 43 Make up
- 45 Entirely
- 46 San Antonio pro
- 48 Row crosser (Abbr.)
- 49 Lovey-dovey-speak
- 50 ___ Major (constellation)
- 52 Be literate
- 55 Alter to one's advantage
- 56 Breathing problems
- 58 Spring up
- 60 Bread variety
- 61 Visa fencing operation?
- 66 Slip up
- 67 Cowboy event
- 68 Fleishy orange parts
- 69 Prefix with "arming"
- 70 Accessorize
- 71 Former German currency, informally

DOWN

- 1 WWII British fliers
- 2 Bobby of hockey
- 3 Make ___ of it
- 4 Littlest of litters
- 5 Brother of Abel
- 6 "West Side Story" song
- 7 Casanova wannabe
- 8 Motherboard insert
- 9 Jogs
- 10 Like times of yore
- 11 W-O-N-S?
- 12 "... among this document"
- 13 Groups of eight
- 18 Hair application
- 22 Native American pole
- 23 Sword fight
- 24 Place known for wine
- 25 Last-place race finishers?
- 27 High, wispy clouds
- 31 Elaborate inlaid work (var.)
- 34 Early learning letters
- 35 Voting group
- 36 Mr. in Mexico
- 37 Be litigious
- 39 Home on a cliff
- 41 ___ vera
- 42 Like a turtle
- 44 Easier to understand
- 46 Frightened
- 47 Ancient writing papers
- 51 Pelvis bones
- 53 Colorless gas
- 54 Expire
- 55 Hospital injection fluid
- 57 Wearing shoes
- 59 Certain California law grp.
- 62 "... without further ___"
- 63 Attachment to "gran"
- 64 Non-profit aier
- 65 "'Tis a pity" sound

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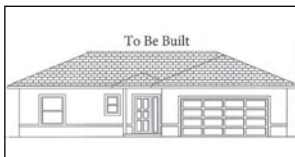
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Modular on 40 acres. Extremely nice 1624 sq. ft. 1998 modular with 3 bedroom & 2 bath. 40 totally fenced & cross-fenced acres. Tack room, loft, & 30x30 metal garage. Barn with room for 4 stalls, multiple sheds, chicken coop, calf or goat with 8 stalls. 4 hydrates. Motion lights. Landscaped & sprinklered lawn in front & rear. Wind breaks on the South & North sides. Pikes Peak & front range views. No covenants. 30 mi southeast of Marksheffel & Hwy 24.

7854 Pinfeather Drive - Fountain Mesa - \$364,900



Under construction 2-story, 4 bedroom, 3 bath, 3-car garage, & walkout unfinished basement. 3239 sq. ft. with 2163 finished. Gas log fireplace. 9' mail level ceilings. Slab granite throughout. Stainless steel appliances. LTV flooring & upgraded carpeting. 5-piece master bath. Front yard landscaping. Mountain views. No closing costs if using preferred lender. Close to Fort Carson or Pete Field. Built by New Haven Homes. Call Stephanie 719-210-0480 or Bobbi 719-499-9451 for more info. MLS# 1406887

MORE GREAT LISTINGS

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <p>14655 Irwin Drive
Park Ridge • \$39,000
Land</p> <p>14385 Park Canyon Road
Park Ridge • \$41,000
Land</p> <p>1650 Aldrin Place
Park Ridge • \$41,000
Land</p> <p>1680 Aldrin Place
Park Ridge • \$41,000
Land</p> <p>1710 Aldrin Place
Park Ridge • \$41,000
Land</p> <p>14705 Irwin Drive
Park Ridge • \$51,000
Land</p> <p>Sunrise Peak Drive
Crystal Park • \$55,000
Land</p> <p>1655 Aldrin Place
Park Ridge • \$59,000
Land</p> <p>1715 Aldrin Place
Park Ridge • \$59,000
Land</p> <p>1740 Aldrin Place
Park Ridge • \$65,000
Land</p> <p>5195 Crystal Park Road
Crystal Park • \$70,000
Land</p> <p>6055 Big Horn Road
Crystal Park • \$70,000
Land</p> <p>331 Panther Court
Woodland Park • \$74,900
Land</p> <p>1352 Sun Valley Lane
Crystal Park • \$78,000
Land</p> <p>6860 Eagle Mountain Road
Crystal Park • \$78,000
Land</p> <p>0000 Waterfall Loop
Crystal Park • \$83,900
Land</p> <p>5655 Founders Place
Crystal Park • \$85,000
Land</p> <p>565 Sunrise Peak Drive
Crystal Park • \$85,000
Land/Under Contract</p> | <p>545 Sunrise Peak Drive
Crystal Park • \$85,000
Land</p> <p>Forest Road
Manitou Springs • \$95,000
Land</p> <p>1521 Monterey Road
Spring Creek Traditional • \$99,900
Land/Under Contract</p> <p>1661 Monterey Road
Spring Creek Traditional • \$99,900
Land/Under Contract</p> <p>1647 Monterey Road
Spring Creek Traditional • \$99,900
Land/Under Contract</p> <p>Steep Road
Crystal Park • \$105,000
Land</p> <p>4571 Gray Fox Heights
Chateau at Antelope Ridge • \$129,900</p> <p>4640 Pika Point
Chateau at Antelope Ridge • \$134,900</p> <p>454 Palmer Trail
Crystal Park • \$145,000
Land</p> <p>422 Highlands Drive
Canon City • \$149,900
Land</p> <p>18310 Good Life View
Eastern Plains • \$150,000
Land</p> <p>18070 Good Life View
Eastern Plains • \$151,500
Land</p> <p>18791 Good Life View
Eastern Plains • \$153,000
Land</p> <p>19031 Good Life View
Eastern Plains • \$153,000
Land</p> <p>18071 Good Life View
Eastern Plains • \$156,000
Land</p> <p>19030 Good Life View
Eastern Plains • \$156,000
Land</p> <p>18311 Good Life View
Eastern Plains • \$156,000
Land/Under Contract</p> <p>19270 Good Life View
Eastern Plains • \$156,000
Land/Under Contract</p> <p>19271 Good Life View
Eastern Plains • \$156,000
Land/Under Contract</p> | <p>19751 Good Life View
Eastern Plains • \$156,000
Land/Under Contract</p> <p>18386 Prairie Coach View
Eastern Plains • \$157,500
Land</p> <p>18605 Prairie Coach View
Eastern Plains • \$159,000
Land</p> <p>17946 Prairie Coach View
Eastern Plains • \$159,000
Land/Under Contract</p> <p>18385 Prairie Coach View
Eastern Plains • \$163,000
Land</p> <p>2210 W. Pikes Peak Avenue
Old Colorado City • \$229,900
Under Contract</p> <p>1430 Comanchero Drive
Cimarron Hills • \$234,900
Under Contract</p> <p>1825 N. Keymar Drive
Pueblo West • \$240,000
New Construction</p> <p>7804 Pinfeather Drive
Mesa Ridge • \$372,500
New Construction/Under Contract</p> <p>11145 Indian Echo Terrace
Falcon Highlands • \$381,000
Under Contract</p> <p>7864 Pinfeather Drive
Mesa Ridge • \$387,000
New Construction/Under Contract</p> <p>13911 Bandanero Drive
4 Way Ranch • \$419,900
New Construction/Under Contract</p> <p>13716 Gilbert Drive
4 Way Ranch • \$542,550
New Construction</p> <p>6073 Cerjan Circle
Wolf Ranch • \$602,675
New Construction/Under Contract</p> <p>19510 Good Life View
Eastern Plains • \$781,150</p> <p>531 Lucky Lady Drive
Woodland Park • \$995,000</p> <p>230 Crystal Park Road
Crystal Park • \$995,000
Under Contract</p> |
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F	R	O	N	T	G	R	O	U	N	D	A	R	T	
			T	H	E	I	R	S	E	T	T	E		
D	A	B	S	L	A	I	C	N	O	H	I	T		
U	S	A			S	I	B	T	E	N	S			
E	T	C	A	B	S	T	R	U	S	E	R			
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