

2 TAILWIND **TRAVIS JULY 31, 2020 JULY 31, 2020 T**RAVIS TAILWIND 3

### **Travis medical staff chips in throughout Northern California**







1) U.S. Air Force 1st Lt. Brigid Serafin, a nurse supporting COVID Theater Hospital-1, right, watches as a registered nurse from Adventist Health Hanford dons her personal protective equipment before entering a patient's room July 27 in Hanford, California. Serafin is a member of a medical support team deployed from the 60th Medical Group at Travis Air Force Base, California, which integrated with hospital staff to provide additional medical support. 2) U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Matthew Buan, a nurse assigned to the 60th MDG, uses a computer while deployed with Task Force 46, the Joint Force Land Component Command, U.S. Army North July 22 at Dameron Hospital in Stockton, California. 3) U.S. Air Force nurses 1st Lt. Lindsey Richardson and Capt. Ashley Ritchey with the 60th MDG assist Staff Sgt. Ryan Sheldon of the California Army National Guard with the proper wear of medical personal protective gear July 22 at Dameron Hospital.



### Air Force

Col. Corey A. Simmons Senior Airman 60th Air Mobility Wing Christian Conrad

Capt. Erica Feehan Chief of command information

Airman 1st Class Cameron Otte Nicholas Pilch Tailwind staff

### **Daily Republic**

Tailwind editor Copy editor

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### **Table of contents**

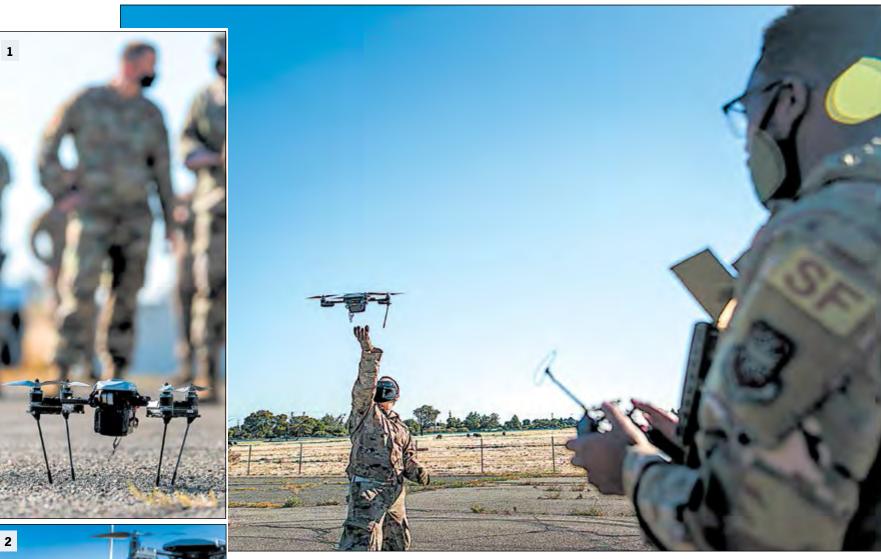
Puzzles Cover story 10-11 Worship services 13-15 Classifieds 16-17 Parting Shots

### On the cover

**U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Victor Bouhot, 60th Security Forces** Squadron combat arms training and maintenance instructor, scores a target during an M-4 Rifle/Carbine Air Force qualification class May 27 at Travis Air Force Base, California.

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

### **CRW takes Small Unmanned Aircraft System for test flight**



I) A Small Unmanned Aircraft System waits to be launched during a demonstration July 17 at Travis Air Force Base, California. The 621st Contingency Response Wing command team was on hand to observe the first on-base demonstration of the system. 2) U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Arthur Reese, 921st Contingency Response Squadron force protection journeyman, left, discusses the components of the Small Unmanned Aircraft System with U.S. Air Force Col. Doug Jackson, 621st CRW commander, before a demonstration July 17 at Travis. The sUAS is a recent addition to the 621st CRW's capabilities and is projected to be used as a force protection aid to observe potential threats during daytime and nighttime hours. 3) U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Miguel DeGuzman, 921st CRS force protection journeyman, left, reaches up to catch an sUAS while Reese pilots it during a demonstration July 17 at Travis. DeGuzman and Reese are two of only a few 621st CRW Airmen ho are certified to pilot the system



### Name: Senior Airman Christopher

Gonzalez.

60th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.

### **Duty title:** C-5 journeyman.

### Hometown:

East Los Angeles, California.

### Time in service: Two years.

Family: Mr. & Mrs. Gonzalez.

### What are your goals?

Go to school for a bachelor's

degree in criminal justice.

### What are your hobbies?

Long boarding, spending time with family.

### What is your greatest achievement?

Losing 60 pounds to join the

4 TAILWIND DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE **JULY 31, 2020 JULY 31, 2020** AIR FORCE TAILWIND 5

### **Esper** issues rules on flags

### **Department of Defense**

MAXWELL AFB, Ala. — Secretary of Defense, Mark T. Esper, released guidance outlining new regulations for displaying flags on all Department of Defense installations.

The flags displayed must align with the military imperatives of good order and discipline.

Flags that contain divisive symbols and adversely affect good order and discipline are unauthorized.

The American flag is authorized, and encouraged, to honor and display freely.

In addition to the American flag. Service members and civilian employees are authorized to display other flags that promote unity and esprit de corps, such as:

- Flags of U.S. States and territories and the District of Columbia:
- Military service flags;
- Flag or general officer
- Presidentially appointed, Senate-confirmed civilian
- Senior Executive Service and Military Department-specific SES flags;
- The POW/MIA flag;
- Flags of other countries. for which the United States is an ally or partner, or for official protocol purposes;
- Flags of organizations in which the United States is a member, e.g., NATO;
- Ceremonial. command. unit, or branch flags or guidons.

This guidance applies to public displays of flags by Service members and civilian emplovees in all DoD work places, common access areas, and public areas, including, but not

See FLAGS Page 18



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

After heavy rains, a KC-46A Pegasus sits on the flightline July 9 at McConnell Air Force Base, Kansas. The 22nd Air Refueling Wing is home to KC-46 and KC-135 Stratotanker aircraft, two of three tankers used to support aerial refueling operations in the Air Force.

### KC-46 weapons course takes shape

**Air Mobility Command Public Affairs** 

SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, Ill. — Air Mobility Command officials announced July 24 the command has initiated the process to establish a KC-46 Pegasus Weapons Instructor Course, marking a significant development in operationalizing the KC-46 and developing tactics for its em- advantage required for comployment in combat.

AMC has partnered with the U.S. Air Force Weapons School and Air Combat Command to modify the current rector of Operations, Strate-KC-135 Weapons Instructor Course syllabus to include the KC-46. KC-46 WIC undergraduates will integrate with their KC-135 counterparts at the 509th Weapons Squadron at Fairchild Air we leverage the expertise Force Base, Washington.

from the first combined KC-46/KC-135 class, the KC-46 course will begin its transition to a KC-46 main operating base to establish a permanent Weapons Squadron.

gic Deterrence and Nuclear

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tablishing a KC-46 Weapons

Instructor Course ensures

"The KC-46 represents Force senior leaders with tactical expertise on intea new era of air refueling. Once performing all operagrated force packaging and tional missions, its enhanced how their particular platcapability will provide the form best works with all oth-Joint force an asymmetric ers. The KC-46A has defensive and communication peting, deterring and winning in today's complex sefeatures making it more curity environment," said Maj. Gen. Joel Jackson, Di-

and innovation of our best training in weapons and

survivable in a contested environment providing enhanced support to our partner combatant commands. The U.S. Air Force Weapons School, based out of Nel-"Charting the course for es- lis Air Force Base, Nevada, teaches graduate-level in-

structor courses that provide

the world's most advanced

liver Rapid Global Mobility

Upon graduation, Weap-

ons Officers return to the

field to prepare their units

for combat and provide Air

for the Joint warfighter."

Within three to five years and brightest Airmen to detactics employment through air, space and cyberspace domains. Students receive more than 400 hours of graduate-level academics and participate in demanding combat training missions.

"The Mobility Air Forc-

es rely on Weapons Officers to develop the tactics, techniques, and procedures needed to optimize aircrew and aircraft combat effectiveness within contested, degraded and operationallylimited environments," said Col. Rhett Boldenow, AMC Deputy Director of Operations. "Weapons School graduates are leaders and experts in the tactical employment, planning and execution of integrated air and space power. Only the top tier of operators are selected to attend the Air Force Weapons School."



Lewis-McChord, Washington, during an air refueling training sortie July 27 near Salt Lake City, Utah. The 7th AS is testing a new training program for aircrews that is designed to help protect training resources and more clearly correlate training with mission readiness.

### 62nd AW tests new way to train

**Senior Airman Tryphena Mayhugh** 

62ND AIRLIFT WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS JOINT BASE LEWIS-MC-CORD, Wash. — The 62nd Air-

lift Wing is conducting a trial

Globemaster III aircrews and

keep them up to date on qual-31, here. Maj. Nick Burke, 62nd Operations Support Squadron director of wing training, partnered with the Air Force Institute of Technology (AFIT) to design a new training plan and is executing a small group try-

Squadron. Research done by AFIT into C-17 training showed air crews have been struggling to balance training schedules with operational and administrative commitments.

out (SGTO) with the 7th Airlift

"This is about preserving the sanctity of training," Burke said. "I am trying to design a program of training methodology that one, helps protect the training resources we are given and use them more

efficiently, and two, clearly cor- to the research and structure C-17 mission readiness."

Burke shaped his training reform based off a research paper written by Lt. Col. Sean McConville, Secretary of the al here. I was trying to capitalrun for a new way to train C-17 Air Force acquisitions analyst, who wrote the paper while at AFIT. In his study, McConville ifications from July 1 to Dec. stated under the most ideal circumstances, together McChord Field and Joint Base Charleston, South Carolina, had 87 pilots short of what they needed to organize, train and equip, run administration and execute the instructional period to fly the mission.

readiness."

"There was a lot of parallels

relate training completed to that McConville proposed in his research paper," Burke said. "I reached out to him to get more background and details to help develop it into a triize on the research he did and help Air Mobility Command in their endeavor to correlate

> Training sorties generally take two days: one for planning and another to fly. In the current method, aircrew members are often pulled from

> > See TRAIN Page 18

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### **Puzzles**





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### SUDOKU No. 501 Tough Previous solution - Medium 9 4 1 6 5 7 8 2 3 3 7 6 2 4 8 9 1 5 8 5 To complete Sudoku, fill the board that each row, column and 3x3 box



contains every number uniquely



Star Jech

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6 TAILWIND AIR FORCE **JULY 31, 2020** 

### **Hurricane Hunters fly first Pacific storm**

Lt. Col. Marnee A.C. Losurdo

403RD WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

KONA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT. Hawaii — The Air Force Reserve Hurricane Hunter aircrews flew five weather reconnaissance missions into Hurricane Douglas, the season's first hurricane in the Pacific Ocean, July 24-27, collecting data to assist Central Pacific Hurricane Center forecasters

The 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron, assigned to the 403rd Wing, Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi, departed their home base, July 22. began flying missions into Hurricane Douglas from Ka- WRS mission commander for laeloa Airport, July 24, and then moved operations to Kona International Airport, Hawaii, July 26, to get out of the path ronments as they lack radar

last mission, July 27.

Category 4 storm July 24 and began weakening throughout that day, is expected to continue to do so as it approaches the Hawaiian Islands and is projected to impact the islands until late Monday, according to the CPHC in Honolulu. When the Hurricane Hunters flew the storm July 26, it was Cat-

The information the 53rd WRS collects assists forecasters, because while satellites do provide a lot of information, they don't provide everything, said Maj. Grant Wagner, 53rd the weather deployment.

"The Pacific and Atlantic Oceans are data-sparse envi-

of the storm, and finished their and weather balloons in the area," Wagner said. "We are Douglas, which peaked as a able to get into the storm, find the center, and get that ground-truth data that assists with movement and intensity forecasts. The data we collect can improve a forecast by any-

> During a tropical storm or hurricane, a 53rd WRS aircrew, consisting of two pilots, an aerial reconnaissance weather officer, navigator and loadmaster, usually flies through the eye of a storm at about 10,000 feet four to six times, although on July 26, the crew flew through five times, said Maj. Tobi Baker, 53rd WRS ARWO, who directed the crew to the true center of the storm. During each

where from 15-25%.'



A 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron aircrew flies July 24 into Hurricane Douglas to collect weather data to assist the Central Pacific See STORM Page 15 Hurricane Center with their forecasts.



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**JULY 31, 2020** AIR FORCE

### **Updated survey will** enable commissaries

### **Keith Desbois**

DEFENSE COMMISSARY AGENCY PUBLIC AFFAIRS SPECIALIST

FORT LEE, Va. — Commissary shoppers can now ask for and get a direct response to their questions or comments when they fill out their Defense Commissary Agency purchas-

The feature is the latest enhancement to the ForeSee survey platform that was rolled out agency-wide a year ago as a way to let customers more easily and frequently share feed-

"Going forward, we will not only be able to listen to what our customers are saying about

their shopping experience, but we will now also be able to respond directly to them when requested," said Karl Crosson, a statistician with the agency's business analytics team.

Over the last 12 months, DeCA has received over 13,000 survey responses from commissary patrons, which have provided valuable insights, one of them being that customers would like a direct response to their survey inputs.

"We're committed to delivering a premiere customer experience in every store, back on their shopping experi- and the ForeSee survey platform continues to be a powerful tool to help us do that,"

**See SURVEY Page 12** 

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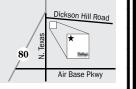
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### BX gives shoppers shot at prizes

### **Lorraine Harris-Ortega**

ARMY & AIR FORCE EXCHANGE SERVICE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Social media is a great way for military communities to stav connected during the COV- a Courtyard Creations sev-ID-19 pandemic.

That's why the Army & Air Force Exchange Service is inviting military shoppers at Travis Air Force Base and installations worldwide to sound off on Facebook every Free Friday for the chance to win some seri-

Authorized Exchange shopdrawing by simply replying to

Friday post at facebook.com/ ShopMvExchange. Past winners have received prizes such as a new GrillSmith Executive Series 5-burner gas grill, en-piece patio dining set, a Husqvarna riding lawnmower, an IZOD bedding and bath set, and a Serta Perfect Sleeper Oueen mattress.

"Warfighters and military families are under a tremendous amount of stress right now, so we hope this year's lineup of Free Friday drawings gives minds off the uncertainty," said

the question posed on the Free Phonda Bishop, Exchange general manager. "Exchange shoppers have won \$83.611 in Free Friday prizes since we started this program, so it has definitely paid off for our lucky winners."

Replies must be posted on the same day of the Free Friday post to be entered into the drawing. Drawings are held on the Monday after each Free Friday giveaway. Entries made by 11:59 p.m. Central on the day of the posting will be entered into the drawing.

Veterans can find out more on the Exchange's community pers can enter each Free Friday them the chance to take their Hub page at https://bit.ly/Vet-

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### Reserve, Guard train for aeromedical evacuation ops

Jessica L. Kendziorek 403RD WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE, Miss. — From broken bones and burns to head trauma, loss of limbs and more. aeromedical evacuation teams see more than their fair share of battle injuries.

Reservists from the 36th Evacuation Aeromedical Squadron and Mississippi Air National Guardsmen from the 183rd Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron collaborated for a three-day training event to work as one team, focused on patient care and handling, during a simulated air evacuation of injured service members.

"By working with the 36th AES we were able to put together training for two different airframes," said Tech Sgt. Jarrett Lyle, 183rd AES aeromedical technician. "We were able to train on each other's routine airframes"

In this case the 36th AES were able to train aboard the C-17 Globemaster III, while the members of the 183rd AES got the opportunity to train on the C-130J Super Hercules.

All aeromedical evacuation crews are required to be qualified on universal airframes, such as the C-130J Hercules,



The two aeromedical evacu-

ation units set up an aeromedi-

cal evacuation operations team,

which is the ground crew or

mission support crew for the ac-

U.S. Airmen of the Air Force Reserve 36th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron and Mississippi Air National Guardsmen from the 183rd Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron transport a medical mannequin into a C-130J Super Hercules as part of their three-day training event July 21 at Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi.

C17 and KC-135 Stratotank- get hands-on training with coner, but they don't always get the figuring them, the more prechance to practice on how to configure different aircraft other than the ones at their respecsial.

"The more we get familiar with the universal airframes, complished.

pared we are for getting out the door on a deployment," Lyle

Configuring aircraft was not the only training that was actual evacuation mission. "I worked as the aeromedical evacuation operations officer (AEOO) for the first two days of the training," said 1st Lt. Daniel Clesi, 36th AES officer in charge of mission management. "My job is to work with the 'bulldog,' or AEOO, for an Aeromedical Staging Squadron, or the

originating facility." The training missions were set up as start-to-finish missions; receiving patient information, setting up an aeromedical evacuation crew and then getting the patient to their final destination, which for this event was the same location.

"We take the information from the U.S. Transportation Command Regulating and Command & Control Evacuation System (TRAC2ES), and create a list of patients that will be picked up from their originating location and transported to the receiving medical facility," said 1st Lt. Jamison Wilson, 183rd AES medical services corps officer.

vides the team with the name of the patient, condition, equipment needs, dietary restrictions, medications, destination facility and any other important information that is required for the aeromedical evacuation crew to be aware of for each pa-

The TRAC2ES system pro-

"This also notifies us about critical patients, who are typically the highest severity," Wilson said. "We then alert a critical care air transport team, which would be needed to maintain that patient's stability."

During this training event, two missions departed and landed back at the Mississippi's Air National Guard Combat Readiness Training Center, using the C-17 Globemaster III and one of the missions did the same at Keesler Air Force Base on the C-130J Super Hercules.

With the integrated training, some of the newer members were able to experience air evacuation from both perspectives, as a crew member and as

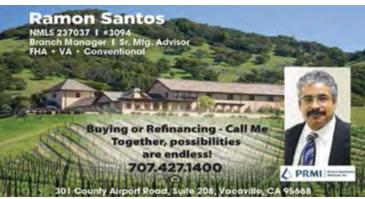
Capt. Jonathan Marek, 36th AES flight nurse, said that having the new aeromedical evacuation members acting as simulated patients gives them the understanding of what the patients experience when it comes to being strapped onto a litter and having to trust those carrying you to keep you safe.

Training for aeromedical evacuation crew positions is required to be consistent and standard across the AE community, and having standardized kits makes training together simpler. Plus, this way everyone is ready to spin up and fly the mission regardless of their unit.

"These scenarios, with crews made up of other units, are pretty realistic as to what would happen in a real-world situation." Marek said. "You are not going to fly with the same people you fly with from your unit when you go downrange. The crews are going to be mixed; different units and a mix of Guard, Active and Reserve."

"The overall experience was a good one." Clesi said. "Everyone gelled pretty quickly and we had three missions and three mission completes."











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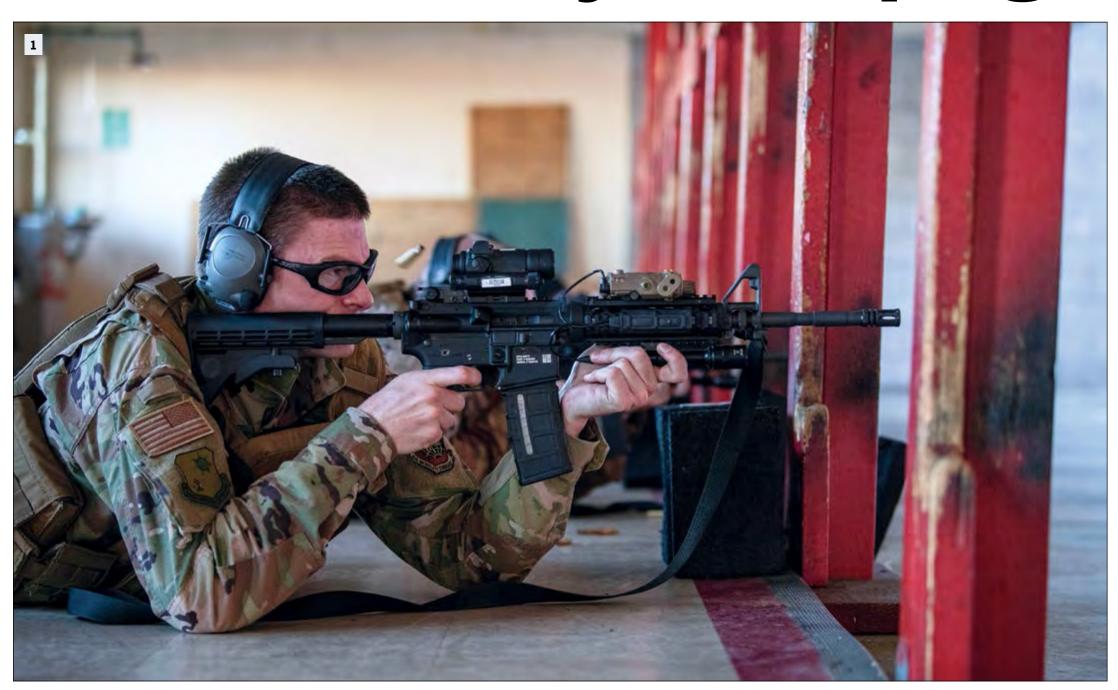
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10 TAILWIND **JULY 31, 2020** TAILWIND 11

# Travis team key to keeping weapons training sharp



1) U.S. Air Force Capt. Gregory Speirs, 621st **Contingency Response Wing judge advocate, fires** the M-4 Rifle May 27 during an M-4 Rifle/Carbine Air Force qualification course at Travis Air Force Base, California, 2) U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Frank Joseph, 60th Security Forces Squadron combat arms training and maintenance instructor, teaches Airmen how to inspect an M-4 during a class May 27 at Travis. 3) Speirs reloads his M-4 May 27 at Travis. 4) U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Frank Monsegue, 921st Contingency Response Squadron maintenance flight chief, inspects an M-4 during a weapons training class May 27 at Travis.







Story and photos by **Tech. Sgt. James Hodgman** 60TH AIR MOBILITY WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Editor's note: This is the last of a three-part series on security forces.  $\diamond$ 

His heart races as he glares through the sight of his rifle preparing to engage the enemy 300 meters away.

He takes a deep breath and pauses for a moment.

"Fire!" shouts the instructor. He slowly squeezes the trigger.

A loud bang can be heard miles away as he blasts a small hole through the target.

Seven Airmen from the 621st Contingency Response Wing and 821st Contingency Response Group participated in an M-4 Rifle/Carbine Air Force Oualification Course May 27 at the Travis AFB combat arms training and maintenance range. The Airmen are required to complete the training every six months to maintain readi-

Capt. Gregory Speirs, 621st CRW legal adviser, was one of the Airmen in the class

"As a judge advocate, I did not have many opportunities to fire the M-4 before joining the CRW, as my focus was primarily on prosecuting courts-martial, advising active duty and retired individuals on estate planning, advising commanders on contracts and running a tax law center," Speirs said.

The wing's mission is to rapidly deploy to open airfields and establish. expand, sustain and coordinate air mobility operations.

Being a part of the CRW means Speirs could be called upon to support a variety of missions around the world on short notice, he said.

"We could go anywhere in a cou- 1,400 Airmen. ple hours to build an airbase in a potentially austere environment – it is of extreme importance to be as much said. "This means the attorney doesn't solely work contracts, fiscal, ethical or rules of engagement issues – it means the attorney is also involved in digging trenches, erecting structures and being capable of defending an airbase. The CRW-specific M-4 certification provides us vital skills for future situation where you'll need to use your



5) U.S. Air Force Capt. Gregory Speirs, 621st Contingency Response Wing judge advocate, loads 5.56 mm frangible rounds into a magazine May 27 at Travis Air Force Base. California.

ing firearms training for 621st CRW Airmen, as well as Airmen assigned to the 60th Air Mobility Wing and 349th AMW at Travis AFB rests with the 60th Security Forces Squadron

"We train Airmen on 10 different weapon systems," said Staff Sgt. Samuel Richards, 60th SFS noncommissioned officer in charge of CATM. "We provide training in support of annual qualifications, deployments and for Airmen required to qualify on a weapon prior to leaving on their next deployments enhances my weapassignment."

instructors who provide weapons stress the importance of how to safely training for Team Travis.

He said the team trains more than 3.000 Airmen each year, and so far in 2020, they have trained more than

That training consists of a classroom portion where Airmen learn had. about weapons safety, how to assemof a complete Airman as possible," he ble and reassemble a weapon, as well as techniques they need to qualify, followed by live firing where Airmen engage targets up to 300 meters away.

"I teach a skill I hope nobody ever has to use," said Staff Sgt. Frank Joseph, 60th SFS CATM instructor. "You never know when you will be in a weapon, and if you're using a firearm, Airmen were engaging their targets, something to be proud of."

The responsibility for provid- you're in a situation where your life or someone else's life is on the line. I need to survive that situation."

> Staff Sgt. Brandon McKoy, 821st Contingency Response Squadron C-17 Globemaster III loadmaster, has deployed to support contingency operations five times. He said he appreciates the training the 60th SFS CATM team provides.

"Their weapons courses help me eliminate complacency." he said. "Taking the weapons classes before ons knowledge as the instructors go Richards manages a team of nine in depth on M-4 nomenclature and operate the rifle."

> Joseph became a CATM instructor in August 2013 and arrived at Travis spect every weapon prior to deploy-AFB in April 2020. He said the highlight of the job is helping Airmen find ly." the confidence they never knew they

"I used to be a CATM instructor at basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas, and I'll always remember one Airman."

Basic military training recruits are required to complete an M-4 familiarization course as part of their training.

Joseph said he noticed one Airman who appeared to be nervous.

"Shortly after the command of 'Fire,' she screamed," Joseph said. "She was really scared. I got her to calm down, coached her for a little bit and stressed the fundamentals to her. After that, she relaxed and was a phenomenal shot. She completed the course as a marksman."

Airmen who qualify as experts with an M-9 pistol or M-4 rifle are eligible to be called "marksmen" and authorized to wear the small arms expert marksmanship ribbon.

"Taking shooters who have little to no confidence with a weapon and helping them build confidence is pretty awesome," Joseph said.

While the coronavirus pandemic has impacted some operations at Travis AFB, essential missions like CATM have continued.

"Due to COVID-19, we have reduced our class size from as many as 28 shooters to no more than 10, so we help Airmen build the confidence they can meet physical distancing requirements and comply with the installation commander's guidance," Richards said

> The CATM team has also implemented split shifts and doubled the number of classes to ensure all Airmen are trained prior to deployment, he added.

> Along with ensuring Airmen are certified on a variety of weapons, the 60th SFS CATM team is also responsible for maintaining all Air Forceowned firearms at the base.

> "We inspect and maintain nearly 5,000 weapons every year," said Richards. "We monitor 14 weapons accounts across the base, and we inment to ensure it is working proper-

> Richards said he's proud of the CATM team.

> "The effort our instructors put in every day is incredible," he said.

"Someone is always working on something to ensure each class is good to go. One instructor is prepping to teach the class, another is prepping ammunition, while another is checking the class roster and verifying attendance. They work so well together During one class, while 57 other to make the mission happen and that's

12 TAILWIND **JULY 31, 2020** 

### Survey

From Page 7

said retired Rear Adm. Robert J. Bianchi, DoD special as-

on customer feedback, while also responding directly to the survey. customer."

chaser survey using the link, https://mydeca.me/receipt, the submit button at the bottom sistant for commissary opera- which is printed at the bot- of the survey page, a contact tions. "Now, through ForeSee, tom of their receipt. They have page will display for survey

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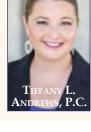
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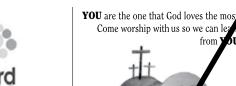
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### Storm

From Page 6

pass through the eye, crews release a dropsonde, a meteorological instrument that collects temperature, wind speed, wind direction, humidity, and barometric pressure data as it descends to the ocean surface.

The aircraft also collects surface wind speed and flightlevel data. This information is transmitted continuously throughout the flight to the NHC and CPHC to assist them with their forecasts and storm warnings.

"The data that's provided by the Hurricane Hunters is very valuable," said Eric Lau, Pacific Region National Weather Service meteorologist. "That ground-truth data really helps forecasters here; having the most up-to-date information on the storm helps us to provide the best forecast possible."

In the initial stages of a storm, 53rd WRS crews will typically fly about every 12 land, they will start to fly every six hours. Baker said.

Baker and his hurricane hunting counterparts are part of a unit that is the only Department of Defense organization still flying into tropical storms and hurricanes, a mission that began in 1944.

area ranges from the 55 longitude line in the Atlantic Ocean to the International Dateline in the Pacific Ocean. While other C-130 units receive taskings from the geographic combatant commander they support or the Air Force Reserve Command for training missions, the 53rd WRS receives their taskings from the National Hurricane Center, a Department of Commerce agency.

Through an interagency agreement, tropical weather reconnaissance is governed by the National Hurricane Operations Plan, which requires the squadron to support 24 hours-a-day continuous operations with the ability to fly up to three storms simultaneously and with a response time of 16 hours. To accomplish this, the squadron has 10 full time and 10 part-time Reserve aircrews hours, and as it approaches available to fly 10 WC-130J Super Hercules to meet weatherreconnaissance taskings.

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### 18 TAILWIND

**Train** From Page 5

> operationally or for administrative duties. This means they may go into the training flight with very little idea of what is expected from them.

Training sorties themselves are also filled with a variety of unrelated training and qualification tasks. According to McConville, they are like if a high school, in one period, taught 10 minutes of algebra, five minutes of chemistry, 10 minutes of literature, 10 minutes for study hall and 10 minutes for gym. His study also showed that on some these hours. flights, pilots were having to sit in the cargo compartment because there were so many on one sortie.

"Our training sorties in the past have lacked coherence and focus," he said. "What we are trying to do is group that has shown our training is more efficient when we do it this way."

The current training model also makes it difficult to correlate completed training tasks and mission readiness.

Burke's plan attempts to mitigate both the correlation issue and unfocused training sorties by grouping the training into skill set-based sortie profiles. Instead of having one flight that consists of instrument flight, low-level flight and approach work, each one of those would be broken up into its own training sortie. This makes the training more effective and efficient, saving the aircrews about 15 percent in flight

The profiles will also make it easier to see what skill sets a pilot has accomplished and therefore what missions they can fly. Instead of completing one aspect here and there required for a particular mission, all the requiresimilar skillsets together to help those ments will be completed on the same training sorties to be more effective. sortie profile. Then, when a pilot is We have used mathematical modeling needed to fly an operational mission

requiring certain skill sets, one would a lot of support from the aircrew memonly have to see who had completed the profile or profiles that correlate to that mission.

them with advanced skills sets," Mc-Conville said. "This is about taking a things." building block approach and protecting training so we can put the necessary blocks in place for crews to be successful in the environment heralded by the national defense strategy."

The final change Burke's plan is implementing is when training sorties are due to be complete. Currently, all the training is required to be completed at the end of each semi-annual period and it is up to individual pilots to complete all their training in the time frame. Burke has formatted the new plan, so it forms a continuously rolling currency. Each profile will be due at a certain time during the period so aircrews can focus on completing that training before moving on to the next.

bers themselves," Burke said. "We have had a few growing pains just getting used to the methodology. I think "This isn't about overwhelming once we establish a nice routine over the next couple of weeks, I expect good

**JULY 31, 2020** 

Capt. Shelby Foster, 7th AS pilot, participated in an air refueling training sortie under Burke's new training plan.

"I thought the training went great," Foster said. "This was my first flight under the new training. I'm really curious to see how it works with the other training profiles. I am very optimistic; I like how it gives us a good objective to focus the majority of our time on during the sortie."

Starting in October, Joint Base Charleston, South Carolina, will also conduct an SGTO will the new training plan. The hope is to take lessons learned from the McChord and Charleston trials and begin another trial period in January, and eventually change the way "The new training plan has received C-17 training is conducted across AMC.





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## TAILWIND Classified

July 31, 2020 PARTING SHOTS TAILWIND 19 20 TAILWIND July 31, 2020



1) Members of the 30th **Aerial Port Squadron at Niagara Falls Air Reserve** Station, New York, and the 22nd Airlift Squadron at Travis, Air Force Base, California, prepare to load a fire truck inside a C-5 Galaxy aircraft July 25 at Niagara Falls ARS. The donated fire truck from Canada and two ambulances will end their long journey in Nicaragua. 2) Members of the 30th APS and 22nd AS prepare to load a fire truck inside a C-5 July 25 at Niagara Falls ARS.

U.S. Air Force photos by Peter Borys

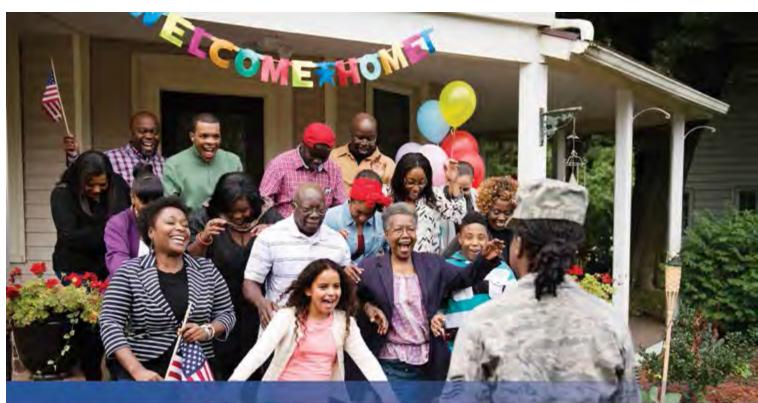


# 22nd Airlift Squadron helps make special ...





3) Members of the 30th Aerial Port Squadron from Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station, New York, and the 22nd Airlift Squadron at Travis Air Force Base, California, move equipment inside a C-5 Galaxy aircraft July 25 to make way for a fire truck at Niagara Falls ARS. 4) Members of the 30th APS and 22nd AS move equipment inside a C-5 July 25 to make way for a fire truck at Niagara Falls ARS.



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