

August 21, 2020

Fires force mandatory evacuations

60th Air Mobility Wing Public Affairs

In response to the LNU Lightning Complex Fire near Fairfield and Vacaville, California, the Travis Air Force Base installation commander ordered evacuations Aug. 19 for nonmission essential personnel in accordance with the Solano County fire department's mandatory evacuations.

All non-mission essential personnel county/ca/solano/.

and their families residing in Travis AFB housing, to include dormitory and lodging residents, were directed to evacuate immediately following the order. The installation also evacuated or secured all aircraft.

Mission essential personnel should contact their chain of command for duty status.

The latest evacuation orders can be found here: https://local.nixle.com/

lifted, additional information will be released through the comptroller squadron regarding reimbursement of lodging and per diem expenses for mandatory evacuees. The 60th Air Mobility Wing commander will not lift the evacuation order before Aug. 21.

There is currently no lodging available on Travis AFB and members are directed to stay with family or friends, page as information become available.

Once the evacuation order has been proceed to evacuation centers, or secure commercial lodging outside of the evacuation area.

> The base is actively standing up the **Emergency Family Assistance Center** to assist with relocation due to evacuation. Contact information will be provided when available.

> 60th Air Mobility Wing Public affairs will update the base's Facebook

with other areas of the hospital. for blood transfusions, espe-



time this summer.

lective course.

ervone remained healthy.

through them.



MHS Genesis helps base hospital deliver blood

Military Health System Communications Office

A typical blood transfusion can be completed in one to four hours, but the first 15 minutes are crucial. In that first quarter-hour, vital signs and blood documentation are recorded and any risks in the transfusion spotted.

A medical center relying on a manual documentation system can experience complications within that short window. For the 60th Medical Group staff from David Grant USAF Medical Center, stationed at Travis Air Force Base in California, the roll out of the Military Health System's electronic health record MHS Genesis saved both time the DGMC's blood bank and cliniand manpower to complete blood transfusions for their patients.

U.S. Air Force Capt. Seng Patton, chief of Transfusion Services and Microbiology at DGMC, said that before MHS Genesis,

Tailwind

Travis AFB, Calif. | 60th Air Mobility Wing



U.S. Airman 1st Class Jakub Lopez, a blood bank technician at David Grant USAF Medical Center at Travis Air Force Base, California, scans a unit of blood into MHS Genesis inventory. MHS Genesis serves as an electronic health record and electronic blood management system.

cal areas used four different electronic health systems that did not communicate with each other. These systems required tech-

each system.

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function of MHS Genesis helps

DGMC identify patients that need

blood products with a simple

scan instead of involving anoth-

er person to verify patient identi-

ty. Then the system matches any

blood specimens drawn from the

Patton said that the new sys-

patient to their electronic record.

tem allowed the seamless deliv-

ery of life-saving blood products

from the blood bank to the facili-

ty's inpatient wards and surgical

suites. The comprehensive sys-

tem reduced record-keeping re-

dundancies in the blood bank and

increased compliance with docu-

ment regulations. DGMC was al-

ready able to meet the national

standard of 15 minutes to provide

emergency blood products to the

patient care team, but MHS Gen-

esis reduced that time to under 10

"Timeliness is so important

Correspondence can be sent to the 60th Air Mobili-

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Those on base wishing to receive home delivery of the

For information on paid advertising and on base circula-

The positive patient identification cially emergency transfusions," Patton said, "The blood bank technicians fully embrace and appreciate that they do not have to document the same things into different electronic systems, saving precious time that can be devoted to critical tasks."

Patton appreciates that MHS Genesis allows interdisciplinary teams to come together to improve care for patients. This connection extends outside of just DGMC to other commands that also use MHS Genesis.

"The most beneficial aspect of the system is that we are all connected," Patton said. "Every location that has MHS Genesis will have access to the patient's entire record from the start of MHS Genesis.... No matter where a patient goes, as long as they have MHS Genesis, we will be able to see that information throughout."

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On the cover

Wreckage from the LNU **Lightning Complex Fire burns** Aug. 19 in rural Vacaville. California.

Daily Republic photo/Robinson Kuntz



Daily Republic Nick DeCicco | Todd R. Hansen Tailwind editor Copy editor

system, allowing its blood bank

nicians to enter data by hand into to communicate electronically

The Blood Bridge in MHS

Genesis automated the transfu-

sion process at DGMC into one

minutes

Air advisers teach in Ecuador for first time

Capt. Kaitlin A. Morones and Tech. Sgt. James S. Garcia Arvelo 571ST MOBILITY SUPPORT ADVISORY SQUADRON

Since the unit's inception over seven years ago, the 571st Mobility Support Advisory Squadron from Travis Air Force Base has completed military advisory training in Ecuador for the first

With its maintenance and logistics expert instructors and air advisers, Tech. Sgt. Jacob Haines, Tech. Sgt. Luis Ochoa, Tech. Sgt. James Garcia Arvelo, and Capt. Kaitlin Morones, the 571st MSAS successfully executed their firstever Mobile Training Team at Cotopaxi Air Force Base in Latacunga, Ecuador. Upon arrival of the seven-person team, the commander of the FAE's 11th Transportation Wing, Lt. Col. Jorge Alcázar Sevilla, greeted all with a formal inauguration highlighting the significance of the event and expressing his gratitude for the realization of this se-

At the onset of the month-long course that began in July, pandemic-related safety precautions were implemented, requiring air advisors and FAE students to wear masks, perform daily temperature checks, sanitize the classroom and exercise social distancing to ensure ev-

The instructors were quick to collaborate on a unique and innovative opportunity to combine the logistics and learned. This capstone enabled the class to demonstrate all it had learned in the past three weeks by displaying real-world processes and how to work

One of the logistics course students



U.S. Air Force photo/Master Sgt. Freddy Muño

U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Luis Ochoa, 571st Mobility Support Advisory Squadron vehicle management lead air adviser, shares his vehicle maintenance expertise July 16 with a member of the Fuerza Aérea Ecuatoriana by discussing the complex structure to support air forces at any level at Cotopaxi Air Force Base in Latacunga, Ecuador.

maintenance classes for a joint exercise of the FAE's 112th Logistics Group in to test all the practices and procedures Cotopaxi, Lt. Col. Nel Vaca Flores, was gaining and building a fruitful relation- look forward to continuing our training especially impressed by all the events throughout the course.

> "It has been interesting learning how the USAF operates and we have been and the aircraft maintainers," he said.

mission. We are looking forward to re- isn't the last time we work together. I ship between the USAF and the FAE.

"I am impressed with the USAF's professionalism and being able to come to Ecuador during this pandemic. ... portunity to visit a nearby elemenable to learn from both the logisticians The professionalism of this team has shown us how (they) operate and has who also happens to be the commander "I hope this doesn't stop with only this given us a model to emulate. I hope this

together and furthering a lasting relationship."

Additionally, the team took the optary school. Ochoa coordinated the

See ECUADOR Page 12

Name:

Senior Airman Joshua C. De Jesus Gerard.

Unit: 60th Aeromedical Evacuation Sauadron.

Duty title: Security assistant. Hometown: St. Cloud. Florida.

Time in service: Three years.

Family: None.

What are your goals? Get my bachelors, and become an school.

officer in the Air Force. specifically a nurse.

What are your hobbies? Gaming, reading, scuba diving and hiking.

What is your greatest achievement? I was valedictorian of my high



Naval Health Clinic Lemoore photo

U.S. Navy Capt, (Dr.) Christopher Tepera, right, past executive officer at Naval Health Clinic Lemoore in California, now serves as commanding officer, Navy Medicine Readiness Training Command Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Tepera has become a big fan of MHS Genesis.

Navy captain powers MHS Genesis

Military Health System **Communications Office**

Navy Capt. (Dr.) Christopher Tepera says he's a big cheerleader for MHS Genesis, the Department of Defense's new electronic health record.

He served as a urologist and director of surgical services at Naval Hospital Bremerton, Washington, when the new electronic health record was launched at initial operational capability sites in the Pacific Northwest.

"I was a provider learning to use the program as well as part of the command board motivating others who were adopting the program," Tepera said. "I consider myself very computer literate, and I like technology. So for me, it was an easy transition to MHS Genesis."

After Tepera became executive officer at Naval Health Clinic Lemoore

sis followed as part of Wave Travis, the next EHR deployment, named for and including David Grant USAF Medical Center at Travis Air Force Base, California.

"Infrastructure improvements based on feedback (from the IOC sites) made adoption much smoother cility. for everyone at Lemoore," said Tepera, now commanding officer, Navy Medicine Readiness Training Command Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

"Also, we learned from the IOC sites what type of training worked, and what didn't. That feedback made the Wave Travis training significantly better. It was tailored to our needs."

The Military Health System is in the midst of transformation to build a more integrated and effective system of readiness and health. MHS Genesis is a cornerstone of this effort.

The new record system for future deployments.

in California, MHS Gene- provides enhanced, secure technology to manage beneficiaries' health information. It also integrates inpatient and outpatient solutions that will connect medical and dental information across the continuum of care, from point of injury to the military medical treatment fa-

> This includes garrison, operational and en route care, increasing efficiencies for beneficiaries and health care professionals.

> When fully deployed, MHS Genesis will provide a single health record for service members, veterans, and their families.

> Beyond the user experience, the system also helps the MHS organizationally to better tailor resources to operational requirements.

> After going live at the IOC sites in the Pacific Northwest in early 2017, lessons learned were implemented

Tepera said the IOC sites didn't have a stable platform initially and that led to some problems.

"But many of the challenges came from it being a new way of doing things," he said. "Just like when you get a new car or a new TV, you have to learn how to work it. And sometimes if you get so ingrained in your old way of doing things, it's a little challenging to transition to the new way of doing things. "

With MHS Genesis, "There were all new pathways on how to do your job on a daily basis," Tepera said. "But that's so we can standardize things across the MHS. Eventually, we'll be plug and play with all the MTFs.'

In September 2019, MHS Genesis went live at military medical treatment facilities in California at Travis Air Force Base, Naval Air Station Lemoore, the U.S. Army

See CAPTAIN Page 12

Leaders focus on safety, health

Keith Wright AIR FORCE SAFETY CENTER

KIRTLAND AIR FORCE BASE, N.M. — As the summer months wind down, leadership at all levels advocate for the continued health and safety of our Airmen and Space Professionals on and off duty.

The Air and Space Forces top five leaders continued the conversation with a recently released memorandum encouraging vigilance in combating the threats of coronavirus and injury from preventable mishaps.

"Our priority remains the continued health and safety of your families and you," the memorandum stated. "This summer may be different in some ways, but with outdoor activities and travel resuming, along with permanent change of station moves and continued high operations tempo, we remain vulnerable to an increased risk of accidental injuries and exposure to coronavirus over the next few months."

The memo also emphasized that the practice of good hygiene, social distancing and other personal measures recommended by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention would help mitigate the health risks.

"This summer brought significant challenges which affect the health and welfare of us all on many levels, from on-duty operations to our off-duty activities." said Maj. Gen. John T. Rauch Jr., Air Force chief of safety and commander of the Air Force Safety Center. "To that end, we cannot compromise the mission or safety as 'C' (the coronavirus) lingers, operations change and life adjusts to our current situation."

"I encourage our Airmen See SAFETY Page 18



Capt. Kenya Pettway COMMAND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

in the military.

to clerical and medical duties.

U.S. Air Force photo/Sarayuth Pinthons Artifacts from the Women in the Air Force gallery are displayed in the U.S. Air Force Airman Heritage Training Complex, Aug. 10 at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas. The Airman Heritage Museum collects, researches, preserves, interprets and presents the USAF Enlisted Corps history, heritage and traditions to develop Airmen today and for tomorrow.

Museum displays women in Air Force's rich history

AIR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

JOINT BASE SAN ANTO-NIO-RANDOLPH, Texas — Shortly after the official formadistinct force, then-President Harry S. Truman signed the Women's Armed Services Integration Act in 1948 that established the Women in the Air

In spite of this unprecedented legislation, women were not exempt from gender disparity in the military. There were only 300 officer and 4,000 enlisted slots open to women -2% of the force – and the women who were able to serve were limited Located in a single exhib-

it area of the Airman Heritage Museum at Joint Base Force blue. San Antonio-Lackland is a

remember these unique plights WAFs, which were adaptathe first women who were af-

forded the opportunity to serve. "As a heritage museum, it falls upon us to tell that storv. no matter how painful tion of the U.S. Air Force as a the memory," said William Manchester, Airman Heritage Training Complex director. "We focus on the success of these women, while also ensuring our visitors know the diffi-Force program, allowing wom- cult struggles of various eras, en to become service members and how our Air Force has worked to overcome them.

The WAF gallery consists of mannequins adorned in various WAF uniforms from the 1940s to the 1980s, including the Wool Winter Service Dress and Green-and-White seresucker fatigues carried over from the Women's Army Corp personnel, and '50s-era uniforms that showcase the transition from Army green to Air

Other uniforms displayed WAF gallery that invites us to are those first worn by the

– and inevitable triumphs – of tions of men's uniforms with standard neckties. As the need grew for more practical wear for women, the Air Force developed uniforms that mirrored clothing worn by commercial flight attendants, highlighting the impact WAFs had on shaping our modern Air Force, according to Manchester.

The gallery also includes a patch, stripes and insignia pin regalia of the WAF Band, subsequently known as the 543rd Air Force Band, an all-women band that formed in 1951 at JB-SA-Lackland.

Among additional artifacts on display is the pen used by then-President Lyndon B. Johnson in 1967 to sign legislation eliminating the 2% limit on female officers – a symbol of emerging equality.

"The display showcases another milestone in our diverse Air Force heritage,' said Senior Master Sgt. Sonjia

See HISTORY Page 15

8,246 make tech sergeant

Toni Whaley

AIR FORCE'S PERSONNEL CENTER PUBLIC AFFAIRS

TONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas Aug. 24. - Air Force officials have selected 8.246 staff sergeants for promotion to technical sergeant out of 28,358 eligible for Flight via the AFPC secure apa selection rate of 29.08% in the plications page. 20E6 promotion cycle.

The technical sergeant the AFPC public website.

promotion list will be available on the Air Force's Personnel Center website's Enlisted Promotions page, the Air Force JOINT BASE SAN AN- Portal and myPers at 6 a.m.

> Airmen will also be able to access their score notices on the virtual Military Personnel

For more information, visit

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Emission inspection system saves money, air quality

Jennifer Schneider AIR FORCE CIVIL ENGINEER CENTER

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-LACKLAND, Texas — More than 60 Air Force installations are reaping sav-

The Golf Club

an online vehicle air emission inspec- the software out to 62 installations. tion and compliance system that is esti-

than \$11.8 million annually. The Air Force Civil Engineer Cen-

"ECARS helps the Air Force commated to be saving the Air Force more ply with mandatory Clean Air Act reguirements in areas that do not meet air quality standards for ozone and carbon ter launched the Employee-vehicle Cer- monoxide," said Frank Castaneda, AFings and the benefits of improved air tification and Reporting System, or CEC air quality subject matter expert quality, thanks to the continued use of ECARS, in 2013, and has since rolled and ECARS program lead. "In these

locations, federal facilities must provide proof that privately-owned vehicles, operated by federal employees, comply with local inspection and maintenance requirements."

ECARS tracks employee compliance

See EMISSIONS Page 15



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U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Beaux Hebert

An F-35 Lightning II flies over Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska, during Red Flag-Alaska 20-3 Aug. 13. The F-35 is the most advanced fighter in the U.S. Air Force's inventory and Eielson AFB is the first Air Force base in the Pacific theater to receive the aircraft.

Red Flag-Alaska comes to close

Senior Airman Beaux Hebert and Airman 1st Class Aaron Guerrisky

354TH FIGHTER WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

EIELSON AIR FORCE BASE, Alaska — Red Flag-Alaska 20-3, a Pacific Air Forcessponsored exercise, concluded Aug. 14.

Flying participants completed roughly 560 sorties and racked up approximately 1,500 flying hours which contributed to the pilots gaining the confidence needed to execute combat operations.

We had a lot of challenges, the biggest one being COVID(-19). that," said Lt. Col. Gregory Hunger, the 353rd Combat Training Squadron commander. "We were able to reduce the footprint of COVID(-19) without sacrificing the training and the highticipants will walk away with."

to just shelter in place until the water receded.

along the watershed areas.

MM

nprice@c21mm.con

Each Office is independently Owned and Operate

but we were able to overcome Base Elmendorf-Richardson. end combat capability that par- ton, and the Alaska Air Nation-

RF-A begins eight months prior the two-week exercise.

to an exercise, but planning was compacted into a much shorter time period for this iteration. "For this exercise, it was six

weeks prior when we were given the 'go ahead' and what the units were going to be doing," Hunger said. "The team at the 353rd CTS and the whole 354th Fighter Wing pitched in to make it happen."

This iteration of RF-A may have been smaller in comparison to previous years: however. fifth-generation participants ensured there was no shortage of airpower. The lineup consisted "The exercise went amazing. of F-35A Lightning IIs from Eielson and Hill AFB, Utah, along with F-22 Raptors from Joint

B-1B Lancers assigned to the 37th Bomb Squadron out of Ellsworth AFB, South Dakota, KC-135 Stratotankers assigned to the 97th Air Refueling Squadron out of Fairchild AFB, Washingal Guard's 168th ARS support-Typically, planning for a ed combat scenarios throughout

AIR FORCE

Scott personnel responds to flash floods

Senior Airman Miranda Simpson 375TH AIR MOBILITY WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE. Ill. — Members of Scott Air Force Base rallied together to respond to the Aug. 12 flash floods that closed on- and offbase roads, the C-21 hangar and on- and off-base housing areas. The storm, which settled over the base for about two hours, produced approximately 5.5 inches of rain, causing power outages for several work centers, and snarling traffic for hours, which also caused many

Some of the 13.000 workthe 2013 flash flooding that also wreaked havoc around the base – enough to close the runway for a short time so employees could evacuate the base through the flightline. This led to a partnership between the base and local communities to address stormwater management that affected everyone, which paved the way for grants to improve drainage and clear debris along Silver Creek, on the base and

"My first thought was thank goodness we made all those improvements to our drainage system over the last few years, or this would have been a lot worse," said John Ahern, 375th Mission Support Group deputy and Emergency Operations Center lead for the response effort. "But, even with all those improvements, it's tough to fight a stalled weather pattern you. When there's nowhere for to do the best we can to miti-

it afterward."

The first notifications about the severity of the issue came about 11 a.m. when officials advised people on base to avoid the express, gas station, golf course road and base housing, effectively restricting travel due to safety concerns. Base leadership activated the emergency operations center and unit control centers to lead and coordinate the response to the flood waters.

As water began to fill streets and overflow drainage ditches and retention ponds, Maj. Allen Lewis, 375th Civil Engineer Squadron operations flight commander, and his team, force at Scott AFB remember along with the 375th Security Forces Squadron, advised the installation commander to stop movement on the base. The gates were then closed to inbound traffic to prevent drivers from being trapped once inside. However, the rising waters were creating additional problems for Lewis and his team.

"There were too many impassable roads," Lewis said. "The mitigation efforts that we had, cones and barricades, were already washed away. (With that,) we weren't even able to effectively identify roads that were closed."

As the situation worsened, the 375th CES deployed more than 50 people to work mitigation efforts as the base continued to flood. Airmen from the 375th SFS were sent out to direct traffic and keep people off impassable roads.

"It was the worst flooding that continues to just dump on I had seen in my time here," said Airman 1st Class Agustine the water to go ... we just have Diaz, 375th SFS guardsmen. "We saw cars sinking. When we gate the damage and deal with were doing our inspections to

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LS Air Force photo/Karen Peti

U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Tiffany Hestand, 375th Security Forces Squadron installation entry controller, warns oncoming traffic of safety hazards from high water, Aug. 12, at Scott Air Force Base, Illinois. High waters and flash flooding occurred from a large storm front that produced more than five inches of water on the base in a matter of hours.

see what other areas were bad. we saw cars stuck by the 126th Air Refueling Wing, so we had to reroute traffic there as well."

According to Lewis, some of the worst areas accumulated almost 4 feet of water. Airmen attempting to move from the 126th Air Refueling Wing side of the base found themselves cut off near the 375th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron's buildings and ended up stuck in traffic.

As more cars began to sink and stall, Airmen with larger vehicles came together to help their fellow Airmen to safety.

"For the cars that I could get to, I would pull up and either have them jump in or guide them out," said Senior Airman Christian Mahoney, 375th Cyber Operations Center cyber operations controller. "All three of the people I was helping froze up, so just keeping them calm and getting them out safely was my top priority.

By 3 p.m., water levels began to lower and the sun came out. By 5 p.m., all the roads on base were deemed passable.

The following day, base personnel continued to assess damage while jumping in to clean up. More than 40 facilities were impacted by the flood, prompting some personnel to move to different office spaces to continue the mission. Hangar 3, home to the 458th Airlift Squadron's C-21 fleet, flooded, with water coming up to the bottoms of the aircraft. The flightline is not damaged and operations continue.

Col. Scot Heathman, 375th Air Mobility Wing commander, said he was proud of the way the base responded and the teamwork the Airmen demonstrated.

"Team Scott (AFB) really came together to respond to this storm, and I'm proud of how our Airmen jumped into action," Heathman said. "We've taken some punches, but I'm happy to say that only one minor injurv was reported, and operations didn't miss a beat. I would like to thank our Airmen, mission partners, and contractors for coming together and facing this event head on."



AUGUST 21, 2020

Hill Airmen demonstrate combat flexibility



8 TAILWIND

An F-35A Lightning II assigned to the 34th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron departs after conducting an aerial refueling with a KC-135 Stratotanker Dec. 3. 2019. above the Arabian Gulf.

Micah Garbarino

388TH FIGHTER WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

HILL AIR FORCE BASE, Utah — For 16 months, Airmen from the 388th Fighter Wing at Hill Air Force Base have been rently deployed. deployed in combat with the F-35A Lightning II and they continue to find ways to improve the capability of America's most advanced fifth-generation fighter.

Each of the wing's three squadrons, alongside Reservists from the 419th Fighter Wing. have deployed in support of the Air Force Central Command mission at Al Dhafra Air Base,

United Arab Emirates. The 4th the flexibility of the multi-role and July. The 421st FS is cur- er strike groups.

"Our Airmen continue to car-Air Force asks of us," said Col. Steven Behmer, 388th FW commander. "Not only that, but they are truly on the leading edge of developing how our service emnow and in the future."

helped when the 34th FS was tasked with the first short-notice F-35 deployment, and the largest F-35 combat deployment to date.

"I was flying a local exercise sortie at Hill (AFB) at the time. I got recalled by the command post while I was airborne to return to base," said Lt. Col. Aaron Cavazos, 34th FS commander. "That normally means somebody got hurt or we're being deple weeks later we had people in Europe last year. flving combat sorties."

When the squadron arrived at Al Dhafra (AB), they generated their first combat sortie witha single sortie to a maintenance issue for the next eight months.

demonstrated to senior leaders ies," Cavazos said. "They are so in theater what we've known to used to us showing up in counbe true: the F-35 is formidable. it is adaptable and it is less needy for half a year, doing the same in terms of maintenance than things, and leaving. They know people may expect," said Capt. it. We know it. Now we proved Susan McLeod, officer in charge we can be more agile. That prinof the 34th Aircraft Mainte- cipal can carry over operationnance Unit.

The squadron demonstrated tential adversaries there."



Fighter Squadron, deployed in F-35. On a given day, pilots per-April 2019, was the first. The formed strafing runs on close 34th FS deployed in October air support missions, and mari-2019 and returned home in June time escorts for U.S. Navy carri-

"We proved the F-35 can carry out a variety of missions," ry out the combat mission the Cavazos said. "While the F-35 is just another asset to be tasked. there are some other cool fifthgeneration capabilities that we bring to the table and have to be used the correct way. We can go ploys this very capable fighter, take away a chunk of airspace at a moment's notice and give it The building blocks the 4th back at a later point if we want FS deployment put in place, to. It was a pretty neat role to be able to support AFCENT and we're doing our best to communicate to combatant commands

exactly what we can offer them." The deployment was the first time an F-35A unit successfully sustained agile basing at a forward location. For more than three months, a third of the squadron forward deployed and flew missions from an undisclosed location. The groundwork ployed. It ended up being that we for how to implement agile baswere heading out for AFCENT ing was laid by the 421st FS duron a short-notice tasking. A cou- ing the "Rapid Forge" exercise

This agile basing construct gave AFCENT the ability to "project power across thousands of miles and numerous counin 24 hours, and they didn't lose tries with a single fighter unit," Cavazos said.

"We now have unpredictabil-"During this deployment we ity against potential adversartry, staying in the same place ally to other regions and any po-



mony at Pope Field, Aug. 14.

attack by the enemy.



AIR FORCE

U.S. Air Force photo/Capt. Katie Spend

Lt. Gen. Jim Slife, commander of Air Force Special Operations Command, presents the Silver Star Medal to Master Sgt. John Grimesey, a Special Tactics combat controller with the 21st Special Tactics Squadron, during a ceremony Aug. 14 at Pope Field, North Carolina. Grimesey received the nation's third highest medal for his actions while deployed to Afghanistan in 2013.

Airman awarded Silver Star Medal

Capt. Katie Spencer AIR FORCE NEWS SERVICE

awarded the nation's third highest award for valor, the Silver Star Medal, during a cere-Master Sgt. John Grimesev.

a Special Tactics combat controller with the 21st Special Tactics Squadron, 24th Special Operations Wing, was recognized for his efforts in Afghanistan in 2013. He not only saved the life of a fellow special operations troop, but called in multiple airstrikes while being under

Grimesey's objective was to clear and secure a village tion. in Ghazni Province to establish local Afghan police presence without the threat of opposition forces. Grimesey and his team partnered with the local Afghan police and together they set out to clear the area until one of the teams encountered a large band of Taliban fighters. "Our Afghan team got separated and started to take on enemy fire," Grimesey said. "Myself and an Army Special Forces Soldier maneuvered to

the Taliban."

When Grimesev peered around a wall to gain situation-POPE FIELD, N.C. -A al awareness, he noticed the Special Tactics Airman was wounded and dead Afghan police officers, to include the police chief. It was then Grimesey was struck by a rocket propelled grenade.

"I remember the ringing in my ears," Grimesey recalled. "I knew I was concussed from the blast because of the ringing, my vision was blurry and I was fatigued."

Despite suffering a concussion and shrapnel wounds, Grimesey was able to drag his Army Special Forces teammate away from the immediate danger zone and assess the situa-

"I snapped into a problem solving mode," he said. "The situation was dire and the only way to solve it was to rely on my extensive training and attempt to break down the large problem into small chunks. I had to prioritize what I was being faced with."

The Special Tactics combat controller was able to call in additional support from other Army Special Forces units, and from aircraft for close-air-supprovide assistance and quickly port; all the while engaging in a found ourselves engaged with fire fight with opposition forces.

"Eventually we were able to gain control and eliminate the Taliban resistance while also finishing the mission to secure the village," he said.

Grimesey said it was later discovered there was a Taliban training team who had made their way to the village, thus drastically increasing the number of fighters they encountered.

Lt. Gen. James Slife, commander, Air Force Special Operations Command, presided over the ceremony and remarked on Grimesey's actions.

"You may not call yourself a hero, Master Sgt. Grimesev. but I do," Slife said. "Because of your actions that day, families and friends did not experience loss. The men whose lives vou saved will continue to positively impact those around them, creating a chain of reaction that ripples across generations."

"I think about it every day," Grimesey reflected. "I even dream about it. It's an event that left an impression on me. While it was a harrowing experience, I look back with great pride and believe that my team and I were able to save lives and help ensure the security of the village."

Puzzles

STR8TS



Medium Previous solution - Tough 2 7 8 9

> How to beat Str8ts -Like Sudoku, no single number can repeat in any row or column. But... ows 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 se of numbers with no gaps but can be in any order, eg [4,2,3,5]. Clues in black cells remove that number as an option in that row and column, and are not part of any straight. Glance at the solution to see how 'straights' are formed

SUDOKU

No. 504 Medium								
	8						2	
			8		1		4	
1		4		3			5	
		1		8				
	4	6		5		8	9	
				7		4		
	6			4		5		9
	5		7		2			
	1						8	

Previous solution - Fasy 95623184

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

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

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

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

The solutions will be published here in the next issue

Voluntary Leave Transfer Program

Leave Transfer Program: Rebecca Austria, 60th Maintenance Group; John Butler, Special Tactics sary; Maria Thammasen, 60th Force Support Training Squadron; Jaqualynn Cabanlit, Travis AFB Commissary; Neftaly Clark, 1st Special Operations Force Support Squadron; David Duncan, 319th Reconnaissance Wing, Grand Forks AFB; Rabiye Hamilton, Travis AFB Commissary; Patrick Hodge United States Transportation Command, Scott AFB; Mark Holmes, 10th Contracting Squadron; Dina Patterson-Steward,

The following Travis employees are ap- 60th Aerial Port Squadron; Jason Perkins, Grand proved as leave recipients through the Voluntary Forks AFB; Gina Silva, Air Force Academy headquarters: Jean Sommer Travis AFB Commis-Squadron; and Dennis Weaver, Air Force Manpower Agency.

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



Travis plays role in transfer of remains of Marines, Sailor



U.S. Marine Corps photo/Lance Cpl, Brendan Mul



I.S. Marine Corps photo/Staff Sgt. Kassie McDo



U.S. Marine Corps photo/Staff Sgt. Kassie McDole



U.S. Marine Corps photo/Lance Cpl. Brendan Mullin

Staff Sgt. Kassie McDole

• Navy Hospital Corpsman

chaplain of Battalion Landing Team 1/4, 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit, pays his respects Aug. 12 inside the C-17 at MCAS Miramar.

Captain

From Page 4

Health Clinic Presidio of Monterev, and in Idaho at Mountain Home AFB.

Between the IOC and Wave Travis sites, changes based on feedback were implemented to infrastructure, training, and the MHS Genesis product itself, significantly improving the ease of adoption and providing benefits to users as well as beneficiaries.

"The initial rollout was a struggle," Tepera said. "I noticed significant updates from IOC to Wave Travis. Just a dispensed. lot of the functionality of the product improved. The num- emails from patients, or submitting was minuscule er providers, seems simpler," wait to get back on it."





• Se Habla Español

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compared to what we were doing at the IOC site. I'm pretty to full speed command-wise within about four weeks."

Tepera gives credit to "the overall can-do attitude at Lemoore to help make it work."

As for MHS Genesis, he lists several improvements, including an enhanced ability to update patient history and transfer among providers, and the ability to electronically check medications for potentially harmful interactions with patients' other prescriptions before being ordered and

"The ability to reply to lyportable.

Tepera said. "And then the ability to do what we call 'powsure at Lemoore, we were up er plans' on the day of surgery was simplified. I wasn't spending a significant amount of time writing orders."

> Tepera stressed the importance for users to realize that MHS Genesis means a change. "Adopting it may take some time," he said, "and it may seem difficult at first. And for patients, it may slow things down for a while. But the ultimate expectation is increasing access to quality care, and increasing access to your own medical records." And there is interoperability, he added, making medical data tru-

"I absolutely love MHS ber of trouble tickets we were even to forward notes to oth- Genesis," Tepera said. "I can't



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U.S. Air Force photo/Master Sgt. Caleb Dysert

U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Jacob Haines, 571st Mobility Support Advisory Squadron aircraft maintenance air advisor, teaches Ecuadorian maintainers about C-130 Hercules wire maintenance July 21 at Cotopaxi Air Force Base in Latacunga, Ecuador.

Ecuador

From Page 3

community relations event and brought school supplies including pencils and notebooks as well as soccer balls for the students.

The head director, Rosario Cruz, said she was especially grateful to receive "the blessthough the students were on break in between school terms, she expressed how excited they will be to see all their new supplies and soccer balls upon return.

The MTT ended on a high note, culminating with a formal graduation for the students. not only a graduation certifi-

to be pioneers in the air adviso- alongside my unit members ... ID-19 and its restrictive travel members of the MTT.'

requirements, this MTT managed to pave the way for future missions and to establish a new normal for conducting advisory missions in a COVID-19 environment.

The gratitude shown by the FAE, the schoolhouse and the lodging staff proved how vital this mission was to re-establish relationships in Ecuador.

"This course helped me beings for (her) students." Even come more intimately familiar with the technical workings of the C-130 aircraft," said Maj. Alonso Ortega, FAE commander of the 1121st Heavy Aircraft Maintenance Squadron and C-130 Hercules Aircraft Systems Course class student. "The knowledge I have gained from the course has made me The students were presented a better maintenance professional, especially in making ascate, but a pin with the 571st serted technical decisions in MSAS patch embedded with- my position as a maintenance in it. This pin can now be worn squadron commander. I was affor the entirety of their careers. forded time away from my rou-The 571st MSAS continues tine duties to learn and grow ry industry. The young unit not and most importantly to build only managed to combat COV- valuable relationships with all







Emissions

From Page 6

with local requirements to ensure employees remain compliant, regardless of which state their vehicles are registered in.

Scott Air Force Base, Illinois. one of the last and largest installations to implement the program, has maintained a high compliance rate through EČARS.

"While a quantitative analysis of any air quality impact cannot be determined, our participation and embrace of this program speaks to the teamwork and willingness of the Scott AFB military and civilian community," said Keith Brumley, physical scientist and Scott AFB ECARS lead. "The contractors responsible for managing the distribution and updating of those notified have done an outstanding job of continuing to update the process."

Force relied on the vehicle decal program, where employees compared to the time previwere required to provide proof ously required for in-person of registration, insurance and

an emissions test to obtain a decal. The decal program was discontinued after 9/11 in an effort to enhance security. leaving no standardized method to demonstrate compliance.

"We looked at various alternatives," said Brent Allred. contractor and ECARS program lead. "Options included reinstating in-person registration, having supervisors manually gather and store selfcertification forms, relying on each installation to implement their own compliance method, or developing a standardized. Air Force-wide information technology solution."

After analyzing various options, Mark Correll, former Air Force deputy civil engineer, approved a self-certification module into the existing Air Program Information Management System, requiring a minimal initial investment and small increase to ongoing sustainment costs.

The ECARS self-certification process takes less than five minutes per employ-Prior to ECARS, the Air ee, saving more than 200,000 man-hours per year when registration. It also provides

"Innovative solutions like **ECARS** have far-reaching effects across the Air Force."

-Ben Kindt

instant access for gathering, tracking and analyzing data to help installations meet overarching compliance goals and improve and sustain air qualitv.

Employee rosters are maintained by Air Force Directory Services and impacted employees receive automated email notifications when certification updates are required.

Cape Cod Air Force Station, Massachusetts, was one of the first installations to implement the program, and ECARS has helped simplify compliance tracking.

"Cape Cod Air Force Station is a small, geographically-separated unit with only about 80 participants in the program," said Stephen Mellin, CCAFS support officer and ECARS lead. "This allows me

to reach out to our folks and make sure they are updating ECARS promptly. ECARS allows me to quickly check and see if I have anyone who is non-compliant."

The program has had a few hurdles to overcome, including vehicle inspection stations refusing to test out-of-state vehicles. Installations have worked with local inspectors to help rectify these types of issues.

AFCEC completed a comprehensive evaluation of the compliance methodology in 2020. While the evaluation identified some opportunities for improvement, it also found that the self-certification process facilitated by ECARS continues to be effective in minimizing the cost of compliance and managing compliance risk.

"Innovative solutions like ECARS have far-reaching effects across the Air Force," said Ben Kindt, AFCEC Environmental Ouality Technical Support Branch chief. "The AFCEC air-quality team has not only made great strides in protecting the environment but has saved millions in dollars and man-hours for essential-mission requirements."

History

From Page 5

Rodriguez, Airman Heritage Museum superintendent. "It honors the women who actually lived and served prior to and during the Air Force's full integration of women into the service."

Nine years later, the WAF program ended in 1976 when women were integrated into the Air Force on many of the same conditions as men, but its rich history still echoes in the halls of the Airmen Heritage Museum, inspiring future generations of female Airmen.

"We want to pass on to our young female trainees that not only are they part of a rich Air Force tradition, but that they are the newest in a long line of women who have answered our nation's call to service," Manchester said.

With more than 55,000 visitors in 2019, the primary mission of the museum is to educate Airmen on the history of the Air Force, and to educate, train, inspire and serve as a recruiting tool for civilian visitors.



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Safety

and Space professionals to remain intently focused on accomplishing the mission safely in spite of the many distractions. Use sound risk management and make smart decisions for you enjoyed the solitude of camping and all those around you, on and off duty," Rauch said.

Summer is typically a time spent enjoying outdoor activities like trips to the beach, family vacations, barbeques and summer concerts. This vear, many of these activities were not fully available due to

pandemic restrictions, leaving many searching for other ways to enjoy themselves.

Many bought pools for their backvards or proceeded to natural bodies of water to cool off. Some experienced nature from the seat of their bicycle going down a mountain, while others in the wilderness.

Every activity brings with it some risk, none of which should be taken lightly. Safety experts agree that recreational and home activities must be managed effectively to avert any potential dangers that could cause injuries or fatalities.



1) U.S. Air Force Maj. Pamela Curry, center, a registered nurse assigned to the 60th Medical Group deployed from Travis Air Force Base, California, briefs civilian colleagues during a shift change in the emergency room Aug. 12 at Los Angeles **County + University of Southern California Medical Center in** Los Angeles, California. Curry is deployed in support of the continued Department of **Defense COVID-19 response** operations. 2) U.S. Air Force Capt. John Fratianni, a registered nurse assigned to the 60th MDG at Travis, works in the intensive care unit where COVID-19 patients are being treated Aug. 12 at LAC+ USC Medical Center in Los Angeles. U.S. Northern Command, through U.S. Army North, remains committed to providing flexible Department of **Defense support to the Federal Emergency Management** Agency in support of the wholeof-America COVID-19 response. 3) Curry briefs a civilian colleague during a shift change in the emergency room Aug. 12 at LAC+ USC Medical **Center in Los Angeles.**



Medics from Travis fight coronavirus in ... U.S. Air National Guard photos by Staff Sgt. Crystal Housman







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