

March 26, 2021

gence Center said.

scale.

the present.'

he said.

modate full integration of AI.

any system," he said.



New \$21.9M facility will support KC-46A

Daily Republic Staff Report

TRAVIS AIR FORCE BASE. Calif. — Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command Southwest awarded Soltek Pacific Construction Co. a \$21.9 million contract March 15 in San Diego to construct a regional maintenance training facility at Travis Air Force Base, California.

Work is expected to be completed by spring 2023. NAVFAC Southwest is the contracting activity.

"We are glad to be part of the effort to support the home-basing of the KC-46A Pegasus, the Air Force's next generation of aerial refueling tanker, at Travis Air Force Base," said Cmdr. Dan Stokes, NAVFAC Southwest assistant operations officer. "This maintenance training facility is a key component of the support for the new tanker and one of many facilities projects underway at Travis in support of the new aircraft."

The work to be performed by San Diego-based Soltek Pacific Construction Co. provides construction of a 33,361-square-foot regional maintenance training facility that supports the home basing of the new KC-46A aerial refueling tanker at Travis AFB.

Soltek is part of Solpac Construction Inc.

The facility will provide specialized, hands-on training of maintenance personnel to enhance learning, facilitate the development of skills and permit the practice of proper procedures necessary for the maintenance of integrated systems of the KC-46A aircraft.

Travis AFB is a West Coast site to bed down the KC-46A. The base in Fairfield is scheduled to receive its first KC-46A in August 2023 and to receive 24 by and replaces the KC-135 Stratotanker, is responsible for providing engineering

Tailwind

Travis AFB, Calif. | 60th Air Mobility Wing

Air Force

Col. Corev A. Simmons 60th Air Mobility Wing commander

1st Lt. Jasmine Jacobs Chief of command information

Senior Airman Cameron Otte Tailwind staff

Daily Republic

Nick DeCicco | Todd R. Hansen Tailwind editor Copy editor

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

A KC-46A Pegasus assigned to McConnell Air Force Base, Kansas, sits on the flight line July 11, 2020, at Travis Air Force Base, California. The pending arrival of the KC-46 Pegasus at Travis AFB has sparked the construction of new facilities, including a newly awarded \$21.9 million contract to build a new regional maintenance training facility.

the first quarter of 2025.

air power and mobility operations of the Air Force. The high-capacity aircraft, globe. which displaces the KC-10 Extender

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Visit the Travis public web site at http://www.travis. af.mil. Read the Tailwind online at http://tailwind.dailv race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital sta-

The KC-46A is designed to boost the the ability to respond rapidly to crises key role in the bed down of missions and airframes for the new KC-46A.

Travis AFB was selected as the West

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On the cover

Senior Airman Saaiaadeen Jeffries. 60th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron crew chief, lowers a cargo winch on a C-5M Super Galaxy March 18 at Travis Air Force Base, California.

> U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Alexander Merchak

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Official urges DoD to act on artificial intelligence

C. Todd Lopez DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE NEWS

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Now is the time for decision makers, commanders and policymakers within the Defense Department to get on board with fully implementing artificial intelligence, the director of the Joint Artificial Intelli-

Right now, said Marine Corps Lt. Gen. Michael Groen, AI is being used in many places across the department – but not at

"I think you know you can see 1,000 flowers blooming across the Department of Defense and that's really powerful it's a step in the right direction," he said, speaking at the National Defense Industrial Association. "But we need to start building on it. This is a truism that I think bears repeating again and again: If we want artificial intelligence to be our future, then we have to start building it in

Accomplishing that will mean a lot of change and work within the department,

"We have to do this comprehensively," he said. "Transformation has to be wholesale if it's going to be effective. The magic really starts happening when you connect automated processes. So if you have a data-driven process and it can drive another data-driven process – now you're starting to execute at scale."

Groen said the entire warfighting enterprise must be modernized to accom-

fects, decision tools that derive from massive data flows and integrated infrastructure that allows any sensor to inform any decision maker or any sensor to inform

It's not just warfighting that has to



U.S. Army graphi

The Joint Artificial Intelligence Center and the Defense Innovation Unit hope to use artificial intelligence and machine learning to help the Army reduce the amount of time it takes to correct financial errors.

"We have to think about enterprise ef- evolve – the systems that support the warfighting effort must as well, he said. "[When] you think about the Department of Defense, there's the warfight-

ing end of the Department of Defense. but there's the large gears that turn underneath the department that make fense Logistics Agency and the Defense Intelligence Agency.

"Think about all of these activities that occur that are really the gears

warfighting possible and make warfight- that the department rides on for effecing successful," he said, citing agencies tive warfighting," he said. "These enterlike the Defense Health Agency, the De-prises are sitting on massive amounts of data. It's a natural target for AI implementation to create more efficiencies and

See Al Page 20



Time in service: Name: Duty title: What are your Staff Sgt. Chris Artis. Aeromedical evacuation hobbies? 10 years. technician. Traveling and sports. Unit: What are your goals? 60th Aeromedical To obtain a What is your greatest Hometown: Fayetteville, North Evacuation bachelor's degree in achievement? Squadron. Carolina. engineering Joining the military.







OFFUTT AIR FORCE BASE, Neb. — Although the 557th Weather Wing is primarily focused on applying environmental knowledge and outcomes to directly and deliberately impose cost on the adversary, it also has a lesserknown role monitoring volcanoes and tracking mission-impacting ash plumes.

Ash Advisory Centers.

Squadron.

pabilities.

tween us."

services.

bilities of the 557th WW.

ongoing issue of 2nd WS

quarantine **Military Health System Communications Office** FALLS CHURCH, Va. – In line with recent updates from

Defense

guidance

on testing,

revises

the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. the Department of Defense has revised several Force Health Protection measures.

The measures include guidance on quarantine and testing for DoD personnel and close contacts who have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19, deployment and redeployment guidance, reaffirmation of DoD mask use, and additional updated guidance focusing on protecting all DoD personnel.

Dr. Terry Adirim, acting assistant secretary of defense for health affairs, said the changes to DoD/Military Health System policy not only align with the White House and CDC, but also serve as one more step back to normalcy.

"These Force Health Protection changes demonstrate our continued commitment to our 9.6 million beneficiaries. and to maintaining a medically ready force," said Adirim. "These FHPs demonstrate the DoD's continued effort in battling COVID-19, while ensuring our service members are prepared to defend the nation. The measures are as follows

Force Health Protection 15

Focusing on testing, the biggest change in this guidance is related to quarantine and associated testing requirements for vaccinated close contacts who meet CDC criteria.

"When the close contact is an individual vaccinated with a Food and Drug Administration-authorized COVID-19 vaccine under emergency use

See GUIDANCE Page 14

ALCORE S unuunuunuu

Observer-controller/trainers at the Mayo Clinic Multidisciplinary Simulation Center in Rochester, Minnesota, monitor the vital signs of a simulated patient at the 399th Combat Support Hospital, 804th Medical Brigade, 3rd Medical Command (Deployment Support) out of Fort Devens, Massachusetts. The exercise was to practice Team Strategies and Tools to Enhance Performance and Patient Safety.

Program aims to diminish harm

Janet Aker MILITARY HEALTH SYSTEM COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE

FALLS CHURCH, Va. — The goal of the Department of Defense's Patient Safety Program technological programs and systems is to eliminate preventable patient harm.

Patient safety, which was highlighted during Patient Safety Awareness Week 2021, is the primary focus of the PSP. The program is designed to engage, educate, and equip patient care teams to create and set into motion evidence-based safety practices across the Military Health System.

The Joint Patient Safety Reporting system is a ma-

a wide range of patient safety concerns, from unsafe harm events, including

"good catches" across MHS military medical treatment facilities and the Department of Veterans Affairs. It is a critical tool that provides real-time data for local medical treatment facilities' leadership to track and trend data for process improvement and harm prevention, in contrast to other an Anderson, Health Infordata sources with lag times from weeks to months.

Similar federal reporting systems exist, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention/ Food and Drug Adminisjor part of the PSP. JPSR is tration's Vaccine Adverse high reliability, continuously

standardize the capture of and FDA's MedWatch adverse event reporting system. All are voluntary reconditions through adverse porting, but key to catching a range of issues, analyzing data and alerting relevant medical facilities around the world.

"JPSR captures, allows for secure investigations. and tracks patient safety events that may result in alerts which can be quickly disseminated to MHS health care providers," said Brimation Technology Systems lead and functional manager for JPSR.

Self-reporting of potential adverse events is one of the key components in the MHS's effort to achieve

a web-based application to Events Reporting System improve and provide the safest patient care possible. "Since the JPSR program

was implemented for DoD in 2011, we have made many improvements as our health care system has evolved," Anderson said. "We have added many new medications, vaccines, new electronic health record choices and virtual health parameters. We now have nearly 18,000 registered account users between DoD and the VA. The near real-time data source is readily available for leadership, in contrast to other quality measures that have long lag times."

The PSP's Patient Safety Analysis Center analyzes the JPSR reported data to provide cumulative reports

See PROGRAM Page 13

Program tracks volcanic ash | **Eielson to add**

2ND WEATHER SQUADRON

These plumes also affect commercial flying operations and require a close partnership with one of the U.S. Department of Commerce's Volcanic

The 557th WW serves as the backup to the Washington VAAC via its own VAAC located within the 2nd Weather

This backup capability ensures that the Department of Commerce continues to protect general and commercial aviation over the U.S by leveraging Department of Defense ca-

"The 2nd WS has had a longstanding relationship with the Washington VAAC," said Staff Sgt. Theresa Rutledge, 2nd WS Meteorological Satellite noncommissioned officer in charge. "Our relationship was further cemented at the end of 2020 with a renewal of the official agreement we hold be-

The most important part of the agreement appoints 2nd WS as the primary source of backup for the Washington VAAC if they are unable to provide their

In recent weeks, 2nd WS and the Washington VAAC, with the critical help of the 16th Weather Squadron and 2nd Systems Operations Squadron, reestablished the communications connection between the 557th WW and the Washington VAAC which had been inoperative for the past several months. Critical communications with the Washington VAAC have been restored, and the nation's commerce will continue to be protected by leveraging the capa-

"We were experiencing an



With a diverse mission that extends from space weather to meteorological operations at the top-secret level, the 2nd Weather Squadron manages the Defense Department's only volcanic ash advisory center. Operated by the 2nd WS's Weather Intelligence Flight, analysts are tasked with monitoring 1,500 active volcanoes around the globe 24/7 with a specific focus on eruptions that release volcanic ash and have direct impacts to DoD operations.

products not disseminating direct impacts to DoD operaproperly to the VAAC webpage during outages. With the help of 2nd SYOS, NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) and IT at the VAAC, we were able to restore capabilities to 100% within the week due to the cooperation we have between both civilian and military entities," Rutledge said.

With a diverse mission of its own that extends from space weather to meteorological operations at the top-secret level, the 2nd WS manages the DoD's only volcanic ash advisory center. Operated by the 2nd WS's Weather Intelligence Flight, analysts are tasked with monitoring 1,500 active volcanoes around the globe 24/7 with a specific focus on eruptions that release volcanic ash and have

tions

Analysts use open-source intelligence, which includes social media and webcams as well as meteorological satellite imagery to identify possible eruptions. Once identified, they verify the presence of any volcanic ash. Once volcanic ash is detected, analysts issue a volcanic ash bulletin. These text bulletins include specific details about the ash eruption to include location of the volcano, detection source, trajectory and where further information can be found. The 2nd WS also produces unique forecast animations to allow DoD units to see ash accumulation, concentration, height and movement over a span of time.

Ash cloud information is

See ASH Page 15

active-duty slots

Secretary of the Air Force **Public Affairs**

WASHINGTON. D.C. -The Department of the Air Force plans to increase the size of its existing Air National Guard KC-135 Stratotanker squadron at Eielson Air Force capabilities through-Force Base, Alaska, by adding an active-duty component the National Defense Strateto the unit.

add four additional KC-135s and up to 220 additional active balances of power, and ensurduty personnel making it a total force unit and increasing the squadron's total KC-135 aircraft to 12. The personnel will be reassigned from within the Air Force.

force in Alaska supports the 2019 Department of Defense Arctic Strategy by addressing the new and emerging threats in the Asia-Pacific region.

The strategy outlines the department's role and efforts to optimize Air and Space out the region in support of gy by defending the homeland. The department plans to competing when necessary to maintain favorable regional ing common domains remain free and open.

The first aircraft is scheduled to arrive in fiscal year 2023, pending the outcome of the required environmental

The expansion of the tanker impact analysis.

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Master Sgt. Justin Bauer from the 355th Fighter Wing at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz. was named the winner of the Spark Tank 2021 competition Feb. 26. Bauer's innovative design method for C-130 Hercules wheel repair was selected as the winner of the capstone innovation campaign.

AFWERX crowns Spark Tank winner

Air Force Research Laboratory Public Affairs

the 355th Fighter Wing at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Tank trophy after his innovative method for C-130 Hercules wheel repair was selected Feb. 26.

The Spark Tank event allows they face in everyday opera- the best chance at competing tions. These incredible Airmen for the stage today." This year's find, and oftentimes, create inventions that alleviate issues they experience while working across myriad of Air Force spe- by the Air Force Association. cialty codes and mission sets.

William Gautier, Spark Tank capability lead, emphasized ers and idea-makers from across the department; Airmen and Guardian intrapreneurs who refuse to accept the status quo and who have created solubring the very best to the fight."

This year, Airmen created everything from ear plugs that allow maintainers to communicate effectively in loud environments on the flight line

to augmented reality headsets that enhance the mission-de-WRIGHT-PATTERSON brief process for Air Force avi-AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio — ators. When discussing Spark Master Sgt. Justin Bauer from Tank participation across the Department of the Air Force. Brou mentioned that "the num-Arizona was awarded the bers this year were impressive. prestigious AFWERX Spark We saw that over 19,000 Airmen and Guardians viewed the over 300 ideas on the Airman Powered by Innovation platas the Spark Tank 2021 winner form. They provided almost 1.000 feedback comments on the ideas and, most important-Airmen to offer improvements ly, cast more than 14,000 votes and solutions to the problems for their favorite idea, giving it Spark Tank event took place during the Virtual Aerospace Warfare Symposium provided The AFWERX Spark Tank

while preserving their hearing,

event consisted of five teams of Airmen presenting their ideas that with the Spark Tank to a panel of nine celebrity judgevent, "We celebrate risk-tak- es. The panel of judges was made up of civilian professionals and investors with experience in government service and leading technology industries. Additionally, the secretary of tions to make it easier for us to the Air Force, the Air Force chief of staff, the U.S. Space Force chief of space operations. the chief master sergeant of the Air Force and the chief master sergeant of the Space Force See AFWERX Page 14

AIR FORCE

J.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Joshua Prest

David Gilmour, U.S. Embassy N'Djamena chargé d'affaires, presents a water salute to U.S. Air Force Maj. John Harris, 818th Mobility Support Advisory Squadron assistant director of operations, March 8 at Adji Kossei Air Base in N'Djamena, Chad. Harris took his final flight as a U.S. Air Force pilot after instructing Chadian air force personnel on RC-208B Caravan basic flight maneuvering, instructorship and flight safety.

US, Chad work to fight terror

Tech. Sgt. Luther Mitchell Jr.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

JOINT BASE MCGUIRE-DIX-LAKEHURST, N.J. — The 818th Mobility Support Advisorv Squadron recently conducted training with the Chadian Air Force to accelerate Chadian capabilities to support peacekeeping and counter violent extrem-

contribute to regional security across the Sahel, the 818th MSAS and Chadian leadership are enhancing the Chadian Cessna 208 Caravan training program. The RC-208B Caravan is an ISR counterinsurgency aircraft used for bilateral security and peacekeeping op-

"The Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance capacity-building program is a

al security cooperation with Chad," said U.S. Army Maj. Emma Schade, U.S. Embassy N'Djamena chief of security cooperation. "With this ISR capability, the Chadian armed forces can better conduct counterter-

over the course of 15 flights. Instructor pilots identified areas for improvement and assisted in developing RC-208B Caravan nel

"Via military-to-military engagements and training exercises through Department of State and Department of Defense program funding, the American bilateral security partnership with Chad increases the professionalization of Chad's military; builds defense and security institutions: and advances human rights, accountability and adherence to the law of armed conflict," said David Gilmour, U.S. Embassy N'Djamena chargé d'affaires.

Air advisors have contributed to the growth of African partner nation's RC-208B aircraft programs since 2018.

"The MSAS has played a large role in assisting recipient partners in developing their respective air mobility support enterprises to support and sustain RC-208 operations," said rorism operations in the region U.S. Air Force Maj. John Harto secure the Chadian people ris, 818th MSAS assistant direc-The 818th MSAS air advisors base defense, communications, N'Djamena defense attaché.

trained 21 Chadian personnel etc. We've been engaging in all on basic flight maneuvering, in- of these areas for years, ensurstructorship and flight safety ing that our partners can provide adequate support to keep their planes flying."

Harris, a former KC-10 Extender instructor pilot, took standard operating procedures his final flight at the end of the for Chadian Air Force person- training mission in Chad. 'Fini' flights are a longstanding tradition celebrating pilots leaving the unit or retiring.

"Over the past few years, my colleagues and I have devoted ourselves to building real, lasting friendships with our partners in Chad," Harris said. "Conducting my final flight with Chadian pilots is one of the great honors of my career and symbolic of how far our partnership has come.'

A group of Chadian pilots carried out the festivities of the day and helped to enact the water salute, a symbolic gesture of respect where pilots are sprayed with water in recognition of their final flight.

"It was great to see the camaraderie between the American and Chadian pilots and to receive the hospitality of the Chadian military, at the conclusion of a rigorous two weeks of flight and maintenance training," said U.S. Army Maj. Altor of operations. "Logistics, air exander Schade, U.S. Embassy

Summer Hire set to resume

Toni Whaley AIR FORCE'S PERSONNEL CENTER PUBLIC AFFAIRS

JOINT BASE SAN ANTO-NIO-RANDOLPH. Texas — More than 1,300 students will to keep this and associated get an opportunity to develop and hone their skills under the Department of the Air Force's flagship summer-hire program.

The 2021 Summer Hire Employment Program provides students in high school, college, trade school, vocational school and other qualifying educational programs with opportunities to work in federal departments and agencies and to explore federal careers while still in school. said Tracy Wise, Civilian Recruitment and Placement branch chief.

In past years and pre-CO-VID-19, the program, which runs from May through September, would have upwards of 2,000 available positions. This year, the Air Force's Personnel Center received 1.318 requests from participating stateside and overseas bases.

"In order to ensure the safety of the participants and be in compliance with public health guidance, the number of available positions was reduced," Wise said. "We have programs like the Pathways Internship program active to supply the civilian force pipeline with highly-qualified and skilled talent."

Local civilian personnel sections will manage the recruitment process for their respective summer-hire programs for clerical, recreation aid, laborers and general engineering fields. AFPC will recruit and hire the lifeguard positions.

In addition to summerhire opportunities, students can also apply for internships through the Pathways Internship program.

"An intern can be appointed to a position at any grade level for which he or she is qualified, which offers employment opportunities for eligible participants," Wise

See SUMMER Page 12



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U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Isaiah Miller

Staff Sgt. Jazmine Pierce, 19th Security Forces Squadron base defense operations center controller, receives one of the first new sets of female body armor March 8 at Little Rock Air

Airman 1st Class Mariam K. Springs

19TH AIRLIFT WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

LITTLE ROCK AIR FORCE BASE, Ark. — Female Airmen from the 19th Security Forces Squadron recently received the new issue of female body armor after years of wearing the standard tactical vest originally designed for a male body frame.

The new, better-fitting armor was designed to better protect female Airmen during combat and contingency operations

"This armor is built for us," said Staff Sgt. Jazmine Pierce, 19th SFS base defense operations center controller. "For years I've worn a vest built for a flat chest, causing a lot of pain and discomfort. I could tell the moment I put the new vest on it was curved to fit me and was immediately more comfortable. I can now move from side-to-side and not get blocked by bulk ... this vest has improved my mission capability

significantly.

The Aspetto "Mach V" system is designed to be lighter weight, offer a better fit, and allow for improved mobility and protection of the vital organs.

The new body armor variant has a curved chest plate, a shorter torso size and an adjustable back corset that tightens to fit the wearer. The adjustable corset helps the new armor avoid the old version's problem of being 'one size fits all,' closing in gaps and preventing exposure to risk.

The procurement of uniform items and gear optimized for female Airmen is an Air Force Chief of Staff initiative.

Staff Sgt. Nykiah Mitchell, 19th SFS base defense operations center controller, emphasized the significance of having gear that is tailored to properly fit a woman's body.

"I believe this change is very important and long overdue – it's nice to see the Air Force tackle female issues See ARMOR Page 14

from four to three years.

structors and technical training instructors.

filled, she said.

four years.



canceled for the safety of the Diana Cossaboom JOINT BASE CHARLESTON PUBLIC AFFAIRS paratroopers. "The fact that it is an all-fe-JOINT BASE CHARLES- male aircrew in both jets and TON, S.C. — Women assigned it's all female jumpers is a huge deal because all of these womto the 437th Airlift Wing conducted two all-female flights to en have gone through so many commemorate Women's Histo-

437th AW leads

all-woman flight

ry Month at Joint Base Charles-

ton, South Carolina, March 15

The first all-female C-17

al refueling with a KC-135 from

the 171st Air Refueling Wing,

Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, and

carried 20 women assigned to

The second flight included

two all-female crews who pi-

loted a two-ship C-17 forma-

tion, where they flew to Pope

Army Airfield, North Carolina,

to conduct an airdrop with 80

female 82nd Airborne Division

paratroopers, and an aerial re-

fueling with a KC-135 also from

the airdrop portion was

Due to weather constraints,

and 17.

Charleston.

the 171st ARW.

hurdles in order to be in their positions, be qualified, and be the tactical air women that they are," said Capt. Alisha Stroble, 16th Airlift Squadron deputy chief of tactics and C-17 pilot. flight crew conducted an aeri-

Females make up approximately 20 percent of the Air Force and 15 percent of the Army. Of the 20 percent of fevarious units across Joint Base males in the Air Force, approximately 1 percent are pilots.

"It's really incredible to celebrate all the women who have gone before us, and open these doors for us that we [now] can put together a mission completely crewed by females in what is typically a more male setting," said Staff Sgt. Rachel Pve, 4th Combat Camera Squadron aerial photojournal-

See FLIGHT Page 12



8 TAILWIND

AIR FORCE

ROTC reduces length of enlisted assignments

Phil Berube AIR UNIVERSITY PUBLIC AFFAIRS

MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE, Ala. — Headquarters Air Force ROTC has reduced the number of years enlisted cadre serve at detachments

Effective March 1, the reduction aligns the tour length with those of other special duty assignments, such as military training instructors and leaders, stateside enlisted professional military education in-

"The reduction allows these professional Airmen the opportunity to serve outside their operational career field for a short time, gain insight, mentor our future leaders and then return quicker to their career field more experienced well-rounded NCOs," said Chief Master Sgt. Nichole Dunton, Headquarters AFROTC senior enlisted leader. Currently, all 276 personnelist and administration noncomthe 145 ROTC detachments are

The reduction affects Airmen who arrived for detachment duty on or after Jan. 1, 2019. Those Airmen will have to apply for a one-year extension if they want to stay for the original

For Tech. Sgt. Anna Stevens, who started her job as a personnelist at the Boston University detachment in April 2019, the one-year extension is an atnot to apply for it, wanting to refield to "give myself a chance to mander.

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logether, possi

continue to grow both personally and professionally."

Resiliency was another deciding factor in reducing the assignments, Dunton said.

"Some of these detachments are not near a military installation," she said. "So, these Airmen don't have access to base services, such as commissaries or child care centers, as those serving near a military installation. After a while, you tend to miss not having access to base services?

That reasoning resonates with one NCO who, though not affected by the reduction, agrees that four years is a long time to be away from one's career field and the services typically found at a military base.

"At some point, we have to go back to our career fields and get certified or recertified with our main duties," said Tech. Sgt. Sarah Garcia, a personnelist with the detachment at San Jose State University, California. "Also, depending on where the detachment is, four years is missioned officer positions at a long time to be away from an operational base. One thing I miss about being at a base is the military community and convenience of services available."

Garcia's and Stevens' feelings on the reduction are exactly why ROTC leadership decided to make the change.

"Our enlisted cadre are making a tremendous impact not only on day-to-day detachment operations, but also on the professional and personal development of our future Air Force tractive option, but she chose and Space Force officers," said Col. Christopher Bennett, turn to her operational career Headquarters AFROTC com-

/ PRMI ==

Commission to investigate sexual assault in military

C. Todd Lopez DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE NEWS

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The independent review commission charged with looking into sexual assaults in the U.S. military kicked off its 90-day investigation March 24 with an online meeting for the highly qualified experts and leads for the commission's four lines of effort

During a press briefing at the Pentagon, commission chairperson Lvnn Rosenthal explained the importance of the IRC's mission and what it's been

asked to do.

"The charge of the independent review commission able.' is to make this broad assessment and then make recommendations to the secretary of defense and ultimately to the president," she said. "These people will be deliberating on those recommendations. I don't expect an in-the-weeds view of 150 policies that should be tweaked around the edges. That is not what we are about. We are about looking at major shifts and big picture items that could really change the culture, improve care for victims, bring

about evidence-based prevention and hold offenders account-

Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III announced the creation of the commission in a Feb. 26 memorandum to Defense Department leaders.

"Sexual assault and harassment remain persistent and corrosive problems across the total force," wrote Austin. "I expect every member of our total force to be part of the solution and leaders – both civilian and military – across the Department to take direct accountability to

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60th Maintenance Group takes page from Delta Air Lines



1) U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Jacob Hall. 60th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron home station check dock controller, points at the wing during a left wing inspection on a C-5M Super Galaxy March 19 at Travis Air Force Base, California. 2) U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Joshua Wyatt, 60th AMXS home station check lead dock controller, marks areas to be fixed on a C-5M Super Galaxy during an exterior pylon inspection March 19 at Travis AFB. 3) Senior Airman Angel Estevez, 60th AMXS crew chief, inspects the main landing gear of a C-5M Super Galaxy March 19 at Travis AFB





Story and photos by Airman **1st Class Alexander Merchak** 60TH AIR MOBILITY WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

TRAVIS AIR FORCE BASE. Calif.— Airmen from the 60th Maintenance Group conducted a weeklong maintenance experiment modeled after Delta Air Lines to enhance C-5M Super Galaxy readiness March 11-19 at Travis Air Force Base, California.

Airmen collaborated with the Air Staff Logistics Directorate's Tesseract team and key partners from the C-5 program office to implement commercial maintenance practices in scheduling and completing maintenance around flying demands.

"We're seeing significant readiness gains in our C-5 fleet," said Dale Patterson, 60th Maintenance Group deputy commander and base lead of the project. "The flexibility for aircraft utilization rates means we can produce more when the Tanker Airlift Control Center and nation need us most."

The practice illustrates how breaking down major maintenance inspection packages into smaller-sized segments allows the maintenance group to optimize home station checks while continuously supporting the flying mission. For example, during the C-5's weeklong home station check, the MXG could ground the aircraft on Monday for scheduled maintenance, fly a mission on Tuesday, then ground it again on Wednesday and Thursday for additional maintenance before flying on Friday.

"This method allows us to opportunistically schedule maintenance more like the airlines do and postures us to meet local training goals as well as any demands the combatant commanders have for airlift that only the C-5 can provide," said Senior Master Sgt. Joshua Chambliss. 60th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron lead production superintendent.

This accomplishes all required maintenance, meets local flying demands and frees up an airunavailable to meet local training demands in order to support ness capabilities."

worldwide TACC taskings.

"The scheduling methods help us optimize how we plan to do maintenance and make sure we kit all the resources necessary to complete the required work, which provides the extra support we need to be as effective as possible," said Chambliss.

The Air Staff-sponsored innovation pathfinder is officially called the Inspection Development Framework and Kitting and is also being implemented at Dover AFB, Delaware.

"This hasn't been an easy or short path to get to where we are today, but we believe the results are worth the effort to enhance logistics culture in the Air Force," said Maj. Kelsey Smith, Air Staff Tesseract lead for the pathfinder and a former Delta Air Lines fellow through the Education with Industry program.

Research and recommendations of Airmen assigned to the Delta EWI program from the past three years led to the development of IDF and Kitting.

"We were assigned to Delta to learn and bring back concepts relevant to Air Force goals," said Smith. "The most fun part of this has been building a team, locking arms and learning with our strategic partners at the Georgia Tech Research Institute and Delta Air Lines. These great institutions have signed up to assist the Air Force in research and advisory roles, and this process would not be possible without their tireless efforts working with Airmen.'

The 60th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, Tesseract and Georgia Tech Research Institute discussed how adopting this new maintenance process can decrease the amount of down time during home station checks.

"The maintenance team is looking forward to working shoulder to shoulder with our Tesseract and Georgia Tech partners to implement this process," said Lt. Col. Justin Hickey, 60th AMXS commander. "By taking a theoretcraft that would otherwise be ical concept and making it a reality, it will only enhance our readi-





4) U.S. Air Force Capt. Sophia Rizzo, right, Headquarters Air Force logistics, chief of sortie generation innovation, speaks with Senior Airman Angel Estevez, left, 60th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron C-5 crew chief, and Senior Airman Brooklin Billingsley, 60th AMXS propulsion specialist, during a home station check inspection development initiative March 18 at Travis Air Force Base, California. Airmen collaborated with the Air Staff Logistics Directorate's Tesseract team and key partners from the C-5 program office to implement commercial maintenance practices in scheduling and completing maintenance around flying demands. 5) U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Mario Hernandez, left, 60th AMXS home station flight chief, speaks with Steve Conley, second right, and Erik Klein, right, senior research associates at Georgia Tech Research Institute, during a home station check inspection development initiative March 18 at Travis AFB. 6) U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Ruzel Ditan, 60th AMXS crew chief, troubleshoots technical data from the cargo winch on a C-5M Super Galaxy March 18 at Travis AFB.







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Investigate

From Page 9

drive meaningful change."

In the memorandum, Austin ordered the establishment of the 90-day "Independent Review Commission on Sexual Assault in the Military," which he said supports the president's efforts best practice that we could try on to address sexual assault and ha- the military side, and then what rassment in the military.

problem in the U.S. military for low) us to do things that we can't many years. The services have do on the civilian side," she said.

been trying to solve the problem for decades now. Rosenthal said she believes the IRC will have a new take on the issue and will be looking at new aspects of the problem to try to find a solution that works.

"I think what we'll be asking: what hasn't been tried, what happens in civilian society that is a are the unique attributes of the Sexual assault has been a military environment that (al-



U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Rachel Pv

Capt. Alisha Stroble, 16th Airlift Squadron deputy chief of tactics and C-17 Globemaster III pilot, prepares to take off March 17 at Pope Army Airfield, North Carolina.

Flight

From Page 8

In 1975, then-Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David C. Jones, launched a test program 26, 1976, 10 women began pilot can and I will get it done."

Summer

From Page 7

said. "If an intern does well, they could be noncompetitively converted to an appointment within the Pathways Internship or "student" and apply followprogram such as Palace Acquire, Copper Cap and others."

Students may be employed for appropriated funded po- tion on the Pathways Internsitions in the grades of GS-1 ship program and other civilian to GS-5, as long as the job to- career opportunities in the Detals no more than 40 hours per partment of the Air Force, visweek. Summer-hire students it http://afciviliancareers.com.

training and trail blazed the future of women in the Air Force.

"Being on this jump means to me empowerment," said Command Sgt. Maj. Tonya Sims, command sergeant major for the 407th Brigade Support Battalion. "It lets me know that that would enable women to en- the 82nd Airborne Division, ter pilot training and staff the Center of the Universe, sees me all-volunteer force. By Sept. and hears me. They know that I

> should only be on board for the duration of the summer-hire program.

Interested candidates can learn more about the available positions by searching using the word "summer hire" ing the directions shown on the announcement or public notice. For additional informa-

Program

and feedback to medical treat-

ment facilities. The analy-

ses are also used to strength-

en tools and processes to assist

the MTFs and overall system

climb of JPSR reporting -

more event reporting each

year increases transparency

and learning from events, and

processes continue to improve

through the capture of near

misses and unsafe conditions."

JPSR system has expand-

ed to include the U.S. Trans-

portation Command Patient

Movement System and U.S.

Central Command deployed

medical facilities as key part-

ners, along with the VA sys-

tem and the Joint Trauma

System to provide integrated

In the past four years, the

Anderson said.

"We have had a steady

to ensure safe practices.

From Page 4





STR8TS No. 534 Medium Previous solution - Easy ow to beat Str8ts -Like Sudoku, no single number car repeat in any row or column. But... rows and columns are divided by blac 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 y order, eg [4,2,3,5]. Clues in black ells remove that number as an option in that row and column, and are not part of any straight. Glance at the solution to You can find more help, tips and hints at www.str8ts.com see how 'straights' are formed.

Puzzles

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Voluntary Leave Transfer Program

ployees are approved as leave recipients through the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program:

• Rebecca Austria, 60th Maintenance Group;

tics Training Squadron;

• Jaqualynn Cabanlit, Travis AFB Commissary:

• Neftaly Clark, 1st Special Operations Force Support Squadron;

• David Duncan, 319th Re-Forks AFB;

• Rabive Hamilton, Travis AFB Commissary;

• Patrick Hodge, United States Transportation Command, Scott AFB;

Holmes, tion, call 707-424-1720. • Mark



ious solution - Tough

4 5 7 1 9

er puzzles, check out our books one/iPad Apps and much more or our store at www.str8ts.com

The following Travis em- 10th Contracting Squadron;

• Dina Patterson-Steward, 60th Aerial Port Squadron; • Jason Perkins, Grand Forks AFB:

• Gina Silva, Air Force • John Butler, Special Tac- Academy headquarters; • Jean Sommer, Travis AFB

Commissary;

• Maria Thammasen, 60th Force Support Squadron; and Dennis Weaver. Air Force

Manpower Agency. The VLTP allows an employ-

connaissance Wing, Grand ee who has a medical emergency or is affected by a medical emergency of a family member and is without available paid leave to receive transferred annual leave directly from other employees. For more informa-



Armor

From Page 8

within the force," Mitchell allowing its female securicounterparts."



with excellent customer service.



reporting. The implement training and coaching, the health record MHS Genesis closely monitored via JPSR.

Another example of a key PSP tool is the Team Strategies and Tools to Enhance Performance and Patient Safety system, or TeamSTEPPS, an evidence-based framework of skills for improving patient safety through a comprehensive suite of ready-touse materials, tools, and training materials. The framework is designed to optimize team ported patient safety events performance across the health care delivery system.

At the center of the Team-STEPPS paradigm are the patient, family and core team who receive the benefits of effective teams, ensuring effective communication for every patient, every time.

"Through engaged leader, vigilant practice, ongoing kits & Guides at Health.mil.

tation of the new electronic teamwork system is an integral component of our culsystem, expected to be com- ture," said Heidi King, DHA pleted in 2023, also will be chief of the Patient Safety Program for Medical Affairs. "We use medical simulation in most TeamSTEPPS 'Train the Trainer' classes. Simulation allows practice of the strategies and tools as a means to change strongly ingrained patterns of behavior in a lowthreat environment. Practicing health care as a team is derived from military operations. Both learning from reand deliberate communication and teamwork enhance a culture of safety for ready reliable care."

Health care professionals can learn more about the Patient Safety Program and its wealth of resources - including toolkits and guides - at the Patient Safety Program Tool-

for flu vaccines Oct. 5, 2020, in San Diego. The Department of Defense wants to eliminate preventable patient harm and has instituted the Patient Safety Program technological programs and systems to this end.

Sailors assigned to Naval Medical Center San Diego assist active-duty service members in preparing forms The solutions will be published here in the next issue



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Isaiah Miller

Senior Airman Rebecca Mauch, left, Staff Sgt, Nykiah Mitchell, center, and Staff Sgt, Jazmine Pierce don their newly issued female body armor March 8 at Little Rock Air Force Base, Arkansas.

said. "With the rollout of the female vest, the Air Force is ty forces members to become more inclusive with their male

ers said they are looking for- ations center controller. "I ward to how these new vests believe these new vests will will positively impact their ability to execute their mission and what this means for wom- validated because they know en in the Air Force.

"This new vest is pushing security forces in a better direction for woman," said Senior Airman Rebecca Mauch. on the installation.

Moreover, female defend- 19th SFS base defense opermake women on shift everyday feel more included and their voices are being heard."

The new body armor is slated for distribution to all female security forces members

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AFWERX

From Page 6

also sat on the judge's panel.

Although all teams provided outstanding improvements to critical operational processes, Bauer was crowned Spark Tank's 2021 winner. In addition to the title of Spark Tank 2021 winner, Bauer is award-Spark Tank trophy. All teams shared the incredible opportuideas to Air Force senior leada follow-up from leadership to the Spark Tank event.

propel their ideas into reality and begin impacting the Air Force on a large scale.

AFWERX would like to extend a gracious thank you to three celebrity judges, Meagan Metzger, chief executive officer, Dcode; Matt Booty, head of Xbox Game Studios and Brittany Davis, general partner, Backstage Capital. Their focused questioning on funding ed one year's possession of the and the long-term impact of ideas in the Air Force helped ensure that all ideas were evalnity to present their innovative uated to the highest degree. Their participation proved inership. All finalists will receive valuable in the production of

Guidance

From Page 4

authorization, guarantine and testing for close contacts is not required if the individual is fully vaccinated and up-to-date with the latest vaccine guidance, and has remained asymptomatic since the current CO-VID-19 exposure," explained Army Col. (Dr.) Jennifer Kishimori, director of chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear medical countermeasures sistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs.

FHP 16

Focuses on deploying and redeploying personnel with an added exception for testing prior to air travel from the United States to a foreign country. The exception is based on previous full recovery from COVID-19 infection.

This measure also adds an assessment of prior COVID-19 infection and vaccination status to the DoD pre-travel screening process and clarifies that the head of an Office of the Secretary of Defense component or the secretary of the Military Department may, if host nation agreements allow, decrease restriction of movement.

There is also an added requirement for pre-travel testing prior to arrival in the United States for redeployment from a foreign country and added exceptions to pre-travel testing based on CDC allowance for travelers on military airlift and for those who ceive the vaccine," she said.

have fully recovered from CO-VID-19.

FHP 17

Reaffirms DoD mask use guidance consistent with CDC guidelines, including wearing masks on DoD transportation assets and at DoD hubs.

FHP 18

Includes significant changes that focus on commanders and supervisors protecting personnel in workplaces including:

Improved guidance for propolicy in the Office of the As- viding safe workplaces and work schedules with a primary focus on maintaining safe distancing between personnel.

> Clarification of the procedures for DoD personnel with COVID-19 symptoms and for personnel exposed to COV-ID-19 from "close contact" with individuals who have contracted COVID-19.

> Updates to information collection requirements for COV-ID-19-positive personnel in the workplace.

"The Military Health System will continue to provide our service members and military commanders with appropriate force health protection guidance to ensure they have the most current information during this global pandemic," added Adirim. "The latest Force Health Protection guidance provides our service members and frontline commanders with the most current information during this global pandemic and will continue to evolve as more Americans re-

Facility

From Page 2

Coast home for the Pegasus for several reasons: geographic location, existing tanker programs and better infrastructure capacity, according to Gary Thresher, contract support, managing Travis AFB's projects for the center.

Basing the KC-46A at Travis AFB requires numerous projects to renovate existing facility space or construct new facilities for mission functions that lacked sufficient resources or did not previously exist, 1st Lt. Alexander Bellows, KC-46 program integration office bed down project manager, has said.

Work to support the new airframe is taking place at Travis AFB; Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey; and Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma.

The center awarded a contract in December 2019 for a three-bay maintenance hangar. The \$137 million devel- hangar. opment is the biggest item in an estimated \$188 million list ready received the KC-46A: wide to deliver infrastructure of construction, repair and McConnell Air Force Base, for the new tanker.



The Travis Air Force Base flight line is seen from the base's air traffic control tower, Dec. 6, 2013.

modernization projects designed to get Travis AFB ready for the new tanker.

Bellows said that Travis AFB's hangar space was undersized and the three-bay hangar project will alleviate this deficit.

The hangar project began with the demolition of three facilities to make way for the new

Four other bases have al-

Kansas: followed by Altus Air Force Base, Oklahoma; Pease Air National Guard Base; New Hampshire; and Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, North Carolina.

Ash

From Page 5

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50 nautical miles away from

volcanic ash to prevent an in-

AFCEC is working jointly with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Naval Facilities Engineering Command; the center's facility engineering directorate is managing construction efforts Air Force-

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TAILWIND 15

fire and/or completely fail. "The 557th WW and 2nd WS will continue to utilize its unique capabilities to identify. coordinate and disseminate tailored information that not only serves DoD operations. but also the national interest domestically via its partnership with the Department of Commerce," said Lt. Col. cident. Ash can enter aircraft Daniel Santiago, 2nd WS comengines causing them to catch mander.

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16 TAILWIND



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March 26, 2021



18 TAILWIND

Ø

Bottling Line

Cellar

Forklift

66

- 2

CLASSIFIEDS

March 26, 2021



1) U.S. Air Force Capt.

Erika Allen, right, 60th **Aeromedical Evacuation**

60th Air Mobility Wing

commander, on how to

perform a static mission

during Leadership Rounds

March 19 at Travis Air Force

Base, California. The purpose

of these static missions is to

hone medical expertise and

maintain mission readiness.

program provides 60th AMW

leadership an opportunity

to interact with Airmen and

receive a detailed view of

each mission performed

at Travis AFB. 2) U.S. Air

Force Staff Sgt. Jasmine

instructor, shows Chief

how to perform a static

mission during Leadership

Rounds March 19 at Travis

AFB. 3) U.S. Air Force Col.

Suzie Dietz, right, 60th AES

Gates, left, 60th AES flight

Master Sgt. Robert Schultz,

60th AMW command chief,

The Leadership Rounds

Squadron flight examiner, guides Col. Corey Simmons, 20 TAILWIND

Α

From Page 3

large scale enterprises."

with auditability requirements.

practices," he said.

transformation, is going to be absolutely critical."











economies and effectiveness in those

Modernizing business processes within the department is also important, he said, in part to help the department become more compliant

"The department has historically been challenged from an audibility perspective, being able to account for where all of our dollars are ... it's a natural playground or natural implementation ground for artificial intelligence right in our business

The JAIC, he said, is aiming to help the Defense Department achieve the efficiency and effectiveness seen in commercial enterprise. "We believe that's possible, and we think that's necessary," he said.

Achieving national security objectives with AI can't be accomplished by the DoD alone, Goren said. Industry must be a part of that, he said. "I don't want you to underesti-

mate the key role that you play in underpinning national security," he said. "Your participation in this dialogue, and your participation in this



The Joint Artificial Intelligence Center and the Defense Innovation Unit hope to use artificial intelligence and machine learning to help the Army reduce the amount of time it takes to correct financial errors.

