

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE/TRAVIS



U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Ashton Gilbert. a 673d Healthcare Operations Squadron medical technician administers the first of a twodose series of a COVID-19 vaccine to U.S. Air Force Lt. Gen. David Krumm. the Alaskan North American Aerospace **Defense Command Region**, Alaskan Command and Eleventh Air Force commander, at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson. Alaska, Jan. 4, 2021. Upon receiving the initial shipment of the vaccine, JBER began inoculating personnel following the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's prioritization guidelines. The vaccines are part of Operation Warp Speed, a national initiative to accelerate the development, production and distribution of safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics.

Services will make call on religious exemptions to COVID-19 vaccines

C. TODD LOPEZ DOD NEWS

In a memorandum released this week, the secretary of defense explained how he will ensure the continued health and safety of the U.S military through the use of the available COVID-19 vaccines.

"I will seek the president's approval to make the vaccines mandatory no later than mid-September, or immediately upon the U.S. Food and Drug

Tailwind

Travis AFB, Calif. | 60th Air Mobility Wing

Air Force

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60th Air Mobility Wing commander

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Glen Faison | Todd R. Hansen

Administration licensure, whichever quire two injections. The Johnson & Johncomes first," said Secretary of Defense son vaccine requires only a single shot. Lloyd J. Austin III.

Right now, there are three COVID-19 vaccines available. All are being used across the United States under "emergency use authorization," or EUA, from the Food and Drug Administration.

Those vaccines include the ones from Pfizer and Moderna, both of which re-

See Biden-Vaccines Mandate, PAGE 7

If any of the three vaccines receive full licensure by the FDA before mid-September, Austin said, they will become mandatory immediately. If they do not receive the licensure by mid-September, however, the secretary will request a waiver from the president to make them mandatory.

For service members who have religious objections to receiving a vaccine,

See VACCINES Page 18

AUGUST 13, 2021

Base Exchange offers exclusive brands, savings for Travis shoppers

Defense Commissary Agency

TRAVIS AIR FORCE BASE — Shoppers save with tax-free purchases at Army & Air Force Exchange Service stores - and Exchange-exclusive brands offer even greater savings every day on clothing, health and beauty items, household supplies, kitchenware, home décor, snacks and more. "Exchange-exclusive

brands deliver the high quality shoppers are looking for," Travis Exchange General Manager Phonda Bishop said in a press release. "Travis Air Force Base families on a budget will find what they need at a price they can afford."

Women's and men's Exchange clothing includes brands such as JW, Passports and PBX Pro. For the children, military parents can find brands like Gumballs. Buzz Cuts and PonyTails.

The whole family can save up to 65% on apparel by looking for Exchange labels compared to name-brand equivalents, according to the press release.

Other Exchange categories also offer savings beyond clothing as Travis Air Force Base shoppers save 20% to

See SAVINGS Page 8

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On the cover

Lt. Col. Gregory Messel relinguished command of the 349th Air Maintenance Squadron to Maj. Frieden McLean at Travis Air Force Base, Aug. 7, 2021.

Photo by: Tech Sgt. Daniel Peterson



Travis AFB community together.

Staff Sgt. Christian Conrad 60TH AIR MOBILITY WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS



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U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Ryan Griffis, 22nd Airlift Squadron C-5 flight engineer, hits a ball during a softball game at Travis Air Force Base, California, Aug. 6, 2021. The game was a part of a larger event, which included activities such as team sports and static displays, aimed to bring the broader

Travis AFB holds end of summer event, encourages togetherness

TRAVIS AIR FORCE BASE,

cultivate togetherness among the base's Airmen.

The event was steeped in Calif. - As summer comes to a team-building and camaraclose and families prepare for derie through team sports, the new school year, Travis Air a car show and kid-friend-Force Base, California, held an ly activities like face-painting on base that have historically

end of summer event Aug. 6, to and movie-watching inside the base's Delta Breeze Club, encouraging Airmen to take a step back from their normal duties.

> The focus was creating connections between different squadrons and agencies

operated less as interwoven threads within the larger tapestry of the Air Force and more as independent enterprises, said Master Sgt. Katelina Tiumalu, 60th Force Support Squadron food service superintendent See EVENT Page 16

Travis Exchange extends layaway to include back-toschool electronics

Defense Commissary Agency

TRAVIS AIR FORCE BASE — The Army & Air Force Exchange Service is showing Air Force families that it matters where they shop, allowing more time to pay for electronics during back-to-school season.

Shoppers at the Travis Air Force Base Exchange can use lavaway now through Sept. 2 to hold taxfree purchases of computers, notebooks, tablets and iPads - items that are not typically eligible for the program.

"Technology is evolving quickly and having the right tablet or computer can be critical to academic achievement," Travis Air Force Bsae Exchange General Manager Phonda Bishop said in a press release. "The Exchange's layaway program is an affordable, practical way for students to stay on top of their studies.'

A \$3 service fee and a deposit of 15% are required to hold items on layaway. Items must be picked up by Sept. 2. Shoppers can visit customer service at the Travis Exchange for details.

Name: Time in service: What is your greatest A1C Eric Everett achievement? 2 vears Family: Unit Owning an old school bus and 60 FSS – Food Service Shelly (Mother), Teresia (Mother) turn it in to a tiny home on wheel Duty title: What are your goals? Factoids: Old soul in a young 3F151/Food Service Journeyman Funeral Director body Hometown: What are your hobbies? Glouster. OH Vintage VWs

AUGUST 13, 2021

Called to serve: An Airman's path to citizenship





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50th ARS 'Red Devils' named best in Air Force

Senior Airman David D. McLoney 6TH AIR REFUELING WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

MACDILL AIR FORCE BASE, Fla — The 50th Air Refueling Squadron 'Red Devils' have been recognized as the 2020 Senior Master Sgt. Albert Evans Outstanding Air Refueling Section Award winner.

The Evans award was established in memory of Senior Master Sergeant Albert L. Evans, a pioneer in the history of Strategic Air Command's air refueling operations. The purpose of the trophy is to annually recognize, on a rotational basis, the outstanding boom operator section within the Air Force, based on the collective accomplishments and professional qualities of the assigned boom operators.

"Words cannot express how proud and impressed I am with the men and women of the 50th," said Lt. Col. Menola Guthrie, the former 50th ARS commander. "Their ability to overcome any obstacle to include COVID-19 and come out the other end wildly successful is unprecedented."

The COVID-19 pandemic has been a major challenge for all lines of work across the services, but that hasn't stopped the 50th ARS from accomplishing its mission and leading the way.

During 2020, the 50th ARS flawlessly executed 6,500 flight hours on 725 combat sorties, offloading 29 million pounds of fuel to around 3,000 U.S. and allied aircraft supporting 70 special operations forces over 210 strikes. They also led an air refueling wing in U.S. Southern Command, which supported and executed 56 missions and executed the first largest drug operation since 1989 where over \$50 million of narcotics were seized.

"The 50th boom operator section was involved in multiple missions, including the Nuclear Operation Readiness Inspection in the beginning of the vear," said Master Sgt. Michael Fulton, 50th ARS superintendent. "We even had a member recognized as an outstanding performer by the [Air Mobility



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Rvan C. Grosskla

U.S. Air Force Maj. Joshua "Cabo" Gunderson, F-22 Raptor Demonstration Team commander, prepares to receive fuel from a MacDill Air Force Base, Fla., KC-135 Stratotanker, April 17, 2021, Gunderson, a Tampa native, rendezvoused with the KC-135 assigned to the 50th Air Refueling Squadron inbetween performances for the SUN 'n FUN airshow in Lakeland, Fla.

Command's] Inspector Gener- there are two active duty and al team."

Being recognized for this award is a major accomplishment due to the 50th ARS being the youngest air refueling squadron in the Air Force. This makes it a priority for them to work diligently and show off their dedication to the aerial refueling career field

"When the squadron stood up in 2017, we knew that we had some big shoes to fill and a reputation of greatness to uphold," said Senior Master Sgt. Kenneth Harwood, 6th Operations Group Standardization and Evaluation Division superintendent. "Senior Master Sgt. Evans had been stationed here at Mac-Dill during his time in the Air Force, so it is extra special to bring it to MacDill for the first time."

It's also the first time an aerial refueling squadron located at MacDill has accom-

one Reserve air refueling squadrons located here.

"This is my sixth air refueling squadron and I didn't need the Evans award to tell me that it's the best," Guthrie said. "While deployed, we were on the leading edge of KC-135 hot pit refueling, cluster base operations and other agile combat employment initiatives which we have continued to carry onward back in garrison."

The 50th ARS isn't just focused on the mission on base, but also tackles overseas missions working with different units across the Air Force.

"We've been the lead when it comes to accelerating change and with our in-house advance instructor school, and we were able to plan multiple overseas missions integrating with units from Misawa and Lakenheath Air Bases," said Fulton. "This ensures that we can adapt, plished this achievement, as plan and coordinate from any out the amazing work of the women of the 50th.



Airmen from the 50th Air Refueling Squadron (ARS) 'Red Devils' pose for a photograph under the boom of a KC-135 Stratotanker aircraft at MacDill Air Force Base, Florida.

erating change has become recognized.

"This award could not

Airmen in the squadron." Harwood said. "2020 threw so many huge challenges our a regular endeavor and their way and they knocked it out hard work has not gone un- of the park every time. I am honored to have been a part of this amazing team and I have been possible with- am so proud of the men and

continent in the world." For the 50th ARS, accel-

AIR FORCE

Senior Airman Kalee Sexton 913TH AIRLIFT GROUP PUBLIC AFFAIRS

LITTLE ROCK AIR

will work out.

Moreno, an electrical systems technician in the 19th immigrating to the U.S. in started his life in Sonora, a uel Moreno has learned to the southern border of Arizopush through any obstacle na. When he was 12, his fami-

keeping his faith that things to Tucson to be closer to relatives who lived in that area.

Although life wasn't much different for him in the U.S., FORCE BASE, Ark. — Since Civil Engineer Squadron, he said the biggest change was the language and he was 2007, Airman 1st Class Man-state in Northern Mexico on happy to be reunited with family members.

After high school, he to reach his goals, always ly decided it was time to move worked odd jobs around the

filled.

"I needed a challenge. day," he said.

the U.S. Air Force.

"I always felt like I've

city, but he never felt ful- never done enough. I look at my friends and I feel like they've gone so far in life something I'm not going to while I was working norget tired of doing every single mal jobs and not doing anything with my life," More-In March of 2020, Moreno no said. "So when I took the found that challenge: joining oath of enlistment, I felt like I

See CITIZENSHIP Page 15



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Airman 1st Class Manuel Moreno marches in formation during basic military training graduation at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas, May 7, 2020.



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AMC moves forward with second KC-46 ICR milestone



Capt. Wade Gallup, 7th Airlift Squadron pilot, approaches a KC-46 Pegasus during refueling training over central Washington, Jan. 30, 2019. With its multiple options the KC-46 can refuel Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps and partner nation aircraft.

Headquarters Air Mobility Command Public Affairs

SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, Ovost, commander of Air Mobility Command, approved a second Interim Capability Re- Pegasus aircraft and crews to lease mission set for the KC-46A Pegasus on Aug. 5.

This is the first ICR decision regarding the air refueling provides predicted reliability boom mission set, allowing the KC-46 to become taskable by refueling requirements. U.S. Transportation Command for the C-17 Globemaster III, B-52H Stratofortress and KC-46 receivers.

"We have reviewed many of the KC-46 operational employ- ated with the ICR plan, which ment criteria over the past several months and it was clear we confidence measures that alwere ready for another mile- low the AMC commander and stone," said Brig. Gen. Ryan other senior leaders to quali-Samuelson, AMC Deputy Di- tatively and quantitatively asrector of Strategy, Plans, Re- sess achievements at ICR milequirements and Programs and KC-46 Cross Functional Team Lead. "Though a fully-mission capable aircraft is a for operational use and crews few years away, releasing capability our KC-46 bases have

demonstrated they can safely and effectively support and employ is a large part of how AMC is accelerating the KC-46 on Ill. — Gen. Jacqueline Van the path to becoming fully operational and combat-ready."

AUGUST 13, 2021

This decision enables the accept operational taskings that would otherwise be filled by KC-135s and KC-10s and and capacity for joint force air

The first ICR decision approved the KC-46A Pegasus' Centerline Drogue System mission set on July 9.

There is no timeline associinstead focuses on establishing stones. If confidence measures are not met, then a particular mission set will not be certified will continue to fly training,

See MILESTONE Page 18



JIM GARAMONE DOD NEWS

said today.

to date.



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Biden endorses Austin's call to make COVID-19 vaccinations mandatory for US service members

By mid-September, Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III expects a waiver from President Joe Biden to make the CO-VID-19 vaccine mandatory for service members, Pentagon

Austin released a message at least one shot of the vaccines

President Biden replied almost immediately.

quired vaccinations for our service members not later than Press Secretary John F. Kirby mid-September," Biden said in a message released by the White House. "Secretary Austo the troops saying that after tin and I share an unshakable consultations with senior ci- commitment to making sure vilian and military officials, our troops have every tool they making vaccinations manda- need to do their jobs as safetory is the best way forward. ly as possible. These vaccines More than 73 percent of active will save lives. Period. They duty personnel have received are safe. They are effective. Over 350 million shots have been given in the United States

alone. Being vaccinated will plan how they will implement the services, but to the troops enable our service members to the program, and they have themselves." Kirby said, "We stay healthy, to better protect their families, and to ensure that our force is ready to oper- and reserve component. Kir- tunity to get the vaccines now ate anywhere in the world."

The Food and Drug Administration is expected to give full approval to the vaccines, possibly by the end of the month, Kirby said. If that happens, Austin will immediately add the vaccines to the mandatory military list, Kirby said.

been working on how they will certainly hope that they will vaccinate the rest of the active take advantage of the opporby said there is no shortage of that are available now to them vaccine and the department on a voluntary basis. That's does not think this will be a obviously the potential effect limiting factor.

sage to the force urged ser- message. But if they don't, vice members not to wait: To eventually we're going to get get the vaccine right away. to a mandatory sort of regi-"You can consider this memo, men and we'll take care of it The services have time to not just a warning order to then."

that we'd like to see achieved A full third of Austin's mes- as a result of the secretary's



Pentagon Press Secretary John F. Kirby holds a press briefing, at the Pentagon, Washington, D.C., Aug. 9, 2021.

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DAF Gaming League season two takes off

Air Force Installation and Mission Support Center **Public Affairs**

JOINT BASE SAN AN-TONIO-LACKLAND, Texas (AFNS) — The Department of Air Force Gaming League is back for another season with more games and prizes while expanding the community to include Air Force veterans and wounded warriors

After an inaugural season, in which more than 15,000 active duty Airmen and Guardians competed, the Air Force Services Center is rolling out several initiatives to expand its e-gaming program.

"Department of the Air Force Gaming League has now become the official gaming program for all Airmen and Guardians." said Col. Christopher Parrish, AFSVC commander. "It will be available to not only Airmen and Guardians at every military base, but to numerous groups across the Air Force."

The gaming league launched in 2020 to foster resiliency and retention through global e-sports events that bring Airmen and Guardians together in competitive leagues, said Parrish.

Now DAFGL is opening the competition pool to retired Air Force veterans, dependents and youth, wounded warriors, reserve and guard members, U.S. Air Force and ROTC cadets, and all Department of Defense civilians. The league will also allow for wide open participation in upcoming community events and weekend tournaments, Parrish said.

DAFGL season two will also introduce three of the world's most popular game titles: Call of Duty: Warzone, Apex Legends and Super Smash Bros. Ultimate. These titles join the

Duty: Black Ops Cold War, ians from AFGSC formed League of Legends and Rocket League.

men and Guardians between major command championthe ages of 18-34 identifying as gamers, the community has grown after just one season," said Col. Marc Adair, AFSVC chief of programs. "With the expansion of the program to more groups in season two, this will certainly build on the more than 15,000 men and women connected through a shared love of video games."

During the first season, the initial rollout involved Air Force Global Strike competitions. Command as the pilot program to help with challenges, lessons learned and insight to Airmen participation in this new intramural

previous games Call of sport. Airmen and Guardteams to compete with each base in the command, host-"With over 86% of Air- ing playoffs before the final ship

Registration for the new season is now open and closes Sept. 1. The program will move into regional league play with playoffs prior to a regional championship. Winners will receive prizes to include championship jerseys, DAFGL products and the chance to represent the Department of the Air Force as the official team in future public-facing events and

For more updates on the upcoming season or to join, Airmen and Space Professionals can visit the Air Force Gaming website.

Savings From Page 2

50% over brand names with additional Exchange-exclusive brands:

■ Simply Perfect offers home décor and kitchenware.

Powerzone features phone chargers, headphones, HDMI cables and more.

■ Exchange Select has military shoppers' everyday needs covered, from health and beauty items to household goods like paper towels, cleaning supplies and diapers.

■ Patriot's Choice has nuts and snacks for shoppers on the go.

Shoppers at Travis can find these brands at the press release. "Exchange-ex-Exchange and at Shopings to our shoppers while MvExchange.com. Contactless shopping options are also giving back to the Travis available, including delivery, Air Force Base community."

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Puzzles

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AUGUST 13, 2021

curbside pickup and buy on-

line pickup in store service.

are reinvested in the mili-

tary community, including

through support for quali-

ty-of-life programs such as

child, youth and school ser-

vices; Armed Forces recre-

ation centers; and more, ac-

cording to the press release.

The Exchange has contrib-

uted \$2.1 billion to these pro-

grams worldwide in the past

vides uniforms at cost, school

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"It matters where you

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Air Force to release dress, appearance changes in autumn

Secretary of the Air Force

Uniform Board.

"We remain committed to maintaining an iterative approach with our dress and appearance standards," said Lt. Gen. Brian Kelly, Air Force deputy chief of staff for manpower, personnel and services. "During this most recent review we approved several updates fully aligned with our Air Force standards and culture that maintain our focus and Airmen to understand and on warfighting while providing options to meet many of the needs of our Airmen."

2020 Air Force Uniform **Board initiatives**

Uniform Board changes will be effective upon publication in Air Force Instruction 36-2903, Dress and Appearance of Air Force Personnel, which is expected to publish in early October 2021. Below are examples of a few changes to the updated AFI:

■ Male bulk hair standards increase from 2 inches to 2.5 inches

■ Cosmetic tattooing on the scalp is authorized for men

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AIR FORCE

U.S. Air Force graphic by Staff Sgt. Elora J. McCutched

Left: New dress and appearance changes are expected to be released in early October 2021 upon the updated publication of Air Force Instruction 36-2903, Dress and Appearance of Air Force Personnel. Changes include male bulk hair standards, cosmetic tattooing, female hair accessory size, optional hosiery in dress uniform, transparent piercing spacers and morale patches.



PUBLIC AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON (AFNS) -New dress and appearance updates will soon be released following feedback, testing from Airmen and reviews conducted as a part of the 2020 Air Force

■ The size of hair accessories increases from 1 inch to 2 inches for females

■ Hosiery is optional for females with any combination of the dress uniform

■ Transparent piercing spacers are authorized

■ Wing commanders may authorize the local wear of approved OCP morale patches on Fridays or during special events

Furthermore, the board conducted a review of several policy items that previously mandated specific behavior based on restrictions. In some cases, the board recommended removing the restrictive language to entrust commanders adopt proper behavior based on their situation and circumstances

"We trust our Airmen, (noncommissioned officers) and commanders with incredible resources and significant responsibilities and we'll need to do so even more as we prepare for future conflicts," Kelly said. "We likewise trust they can figure out what it takes and means to maintain standards without specifying exact behavior in every situation."

Examples of guidance removed in the future AFI release:

■ When walking in uniform, members may not use a cell See PT GEAR Page 12

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349th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron marks change of command

Photos and story U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Daniel Peterson <u>349TH AMW</u>

TRAVIS AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. — Lt. Col. Gregory Messel relinquished command of the 349th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron to Maj. Frieden McLean at Travis Air Force Base, Aug. 7, 2021. Those in attendance thanked Lt. Col Messel for his dedication and "people first" mentality and gave a warm welcome to the new commander.







Photo by U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Daniel Peter



Photo by U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Daniel Peter



PT Gear From Page 9

phone or drink water ■ Members may not place hands in their pockets when

walking or standing in uniform Specific details about the initiatives listed above, as well as additional changes, will be available upon AFI publication. In total, more than 30 recommendations from the Air Force Uniform Board were approved for implementation to the field

Additional Uniform Item Improvements

leased for issue and/or puropment process is completed.

Men's Blue Shirt and Women's Blouse

The improved men's blue shirt and women's blouse will utilize a new stain-resistant. wrinkle-resistant and moisture-wicking fabric with a herringbone weave in the current

AIR FORCE



The following uniform item improvements were made considering feedback from the field and multiple uniform fit tests. These items will be rechase as the design and devel-

The men's shirt improvements include a tapered and lengthened shirt body with a reengineered armhole and shoulder. The women's tuck-in style blouse and semi-form-fitting blouse improvements include a lengthened shirt body, realigned buttons, a reengineered armhole, and a redesign

In addition, the updated maternity blouse will include a redesigned neckline and collar for improved fit and comfort. The back pleat of the previously-designed blouse was replaced with darts for better shape and fit. It has realigned buttons and a lengthened shirt body for accommodation through all trimesters.

sleeve blue shirt is expected to be available August 2021. The improved men's short-sleeve blue shirt and women's tuckin style blouse (long and shortsleeve) are expected to be available at the end of October 2021. The improved maternity blouse is expected to be available October 2021 and the updated semi-form fitting blouse is expected to be available in January 2022.

See PT GEAR Page 20

WORSHIP SERVICES

14 TAILWIND



Citizenship

From Page 5

had finally done something I could be proud of."

While becoming a U.S. citizen was something he had considered, it wasn't a top priority for him — until he learned that his immigration status made him ineligible to deploy. That's when he decided to take a serious look at the process.

Section 329 of the Immigration and Nationality Act allows eligible military members who have served during July 2021, he was asked to go periods of hostility to become U.S. citizens. According to the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service, the country has been in a period of hostility since Sept. 1, 2001. This act gave Moreno the resources he needed to seek citizenship.

MILITARY

DISCOUN

Although being an Airman made it easier for him, Moreno ploy and do my job overseas," consuming.

"You have to get everything right otherwise you just get denied and they move onto the next person," he said.

In fact, he had initially started the process in December 2020, but his paperwork was lost, so he redid everything and submitted again in April 2021. From there, he said, everything went quickly. At first, he was told it would take 12-17 months for everything to go through, but in to Tennessee for his citizenship interview and swearingin ceremony.

Much like taking the Oath of Enlistment, taking the Oath of Allegiance was a milestone for Moreno.

"I saw it as something that

had to be done so I could desaid the process was still time he said. "I want the full experience, not just being here. I'm a guy who likes challenges. I want to get to know places and meet different people and get to know their stories."

> His perseverance paid off, because as soon as his unit found out he had gained citizenship, they jumped at the opportunity to task him with a deployment

Moreno said he felt called to serve to give back to the country that has given so much to him and his family.

"As an immigrant, it was my way of paying back to the country for letting me stay here," he said. "On the other hand, my grandma always wanted to see us in uniform. When she passed away, I ficer. thought 'That's my cue.'"

Moreno said his grandma is

CALIFORNIA VEIN

WOUND CENTER

his biggest inspiration for ev- field," Moreno said. ervthing he's accomplished. Although his grandmother is he can help people who are no longer alive today, Moreno said he continues to try to live a life that would make his grandma proud.

"I know she's always watching over me," he said.

Moreno — who says he plans to serve at least 20 years in the Air Force — is now looking to study kinesiology or nutrition in college, saying he enjovs taking care of himself and wants to help people be physically healthy. After earning his degree, he wants to look into becoming an officer, believing he will be able to guide and mentor more people.

Although he loves his curhappy with any job as an of-

ers regardless of the career er lose your ground."

In the meantime, he knows

taking the same path he did to-

TAILWIND 15

wards citizenship. "I feel like my story can be motivation for people who are exactly where I was," he said. "I can give them insight into what it was like and how to deal with it. If they have any questions, they can come talk to me and I'll help guide them and counsel them because it's hard"

Moreno said the hardest thing to deal with is hitting a barrier, but he knows firsthand that hard work and perseverance pays off in the end.

"Just keep working toward rent job, he said he would be your goals until you reach them," he said. "My grandma always said you have to "I know I'll be helping oth- stay true to yourself and nev-

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16 TAILWIND

Event

From Page 3

and one of the event's coordinators.

Airmen could not only spend through during the event."

context, she continued.

headquarters.

well-deserved recharge time."

As the day reached its close, Airmen who'd been instructed to represent their group affiliations with specific colors began to mingle with Airmen from other groups, turning the event into a colorful mash-up of ideas, interests and hobbies.

uniform

warfighters."



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Top: Airmen from the 621st Contingency Response Wing cheer for teammates during a softball game at Travis Air Force Base, California, Aug. 6, 2021. The game was a part of a larger event, which included activities like team sports and static displays, aimed to bring the broader Travis AFB community together.

Left: An Airman assigned to Travis Air Force Base, California, climbs a rock wall at the base's end of summer event.

Bottom: U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. James Selph, left, 60th Civil Engineer Squadron firefighter, and Tech. Sgt. Rachel Selph, 60th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron aeromedical evacuation technician, show their baby the engine of a 1970 Chevrolet El Camino during a car show at Travis Air Force Base, California, Aug. 6, 2021.



"We definitely wanted to get everyone together before the school year started so that time with each other, but with their families as well," she said. "Forming connections between one another is important. and we wanted that to come

The military often uses the phrase, 'One team, one fight,' and the reality of putting that idea into practice can sometimes prove to be logistically difficult within a day-to-day

Another event coordinator. Tech. Sgt. Leon Kadoun, 60th FSS noncommissioned officer in charge of fitness center operations, credits the culture of Travis AFB as well as its commander, Col. Corey Simmons, for the leeway needed to truly exercise the ideas expounded by higher

"The base's leadership was front and center during the entire planning phase of the day's festivities," he explained. "With the pandemic and the summer's high operations tempo, there's been a lot of stress placed on our Airmen. Today is a much-needed time-out from all the craziness at play in the world so that we can take some time with loved ones and soak up some

Hopefully, Tiumalu said, the connections formed today represent a future for Airmen in which they feel untethered by the four walls of their own offices and feel that same level of togetherness with everyone in a

"I can't imagine the day could've gone any better," she said. "From all the agency and squadron support we received today to all the Airmen and families who came out, today was a team effort - an effort, I think, that did a lot of good for our



J.S Air Force photo by Nicholas Pilc



and exercise missions.

Vaccines From Page 2

religious objections to receivdia on Tuesday.

Kirby said.

by service, he said.

From Page 6

AIR FORCE

Milestone

exercise and demonstration missions until the operational confidence measures are met. Despite restrictions and deficiencies, the KC-46 continues to demonstrate its growing operational capacity. The KC-46 has safely conducted over 4,700 air refueling contacts with C-17, B-52 and KC-46 receivers since October 2020 on various training

As of July 1, 2021, crews have flown over 5,000 sorties, with more than 2,700 missions executed during the 2021 calendar year. Nearly 1,000 of those missions supported testing and joint force taskings around the world. The achievement of these confidence measures resulted in the AMC formally operationalizing the boom capabilities for these receivers.



KC-46 Pegasus Refuels C-17 Globemaster III. Capt. Wade Gallup, 7th Airlift Squadron pilot, approaches a KC-46 Pegasus during refueling training over central Washington. Jan. 30. 2019.

carefully.

ing a vaccine, the path for how they might seek an exception to the vaccine is defined by their individual military service's regulations, Pentagon Press Secretary John F. Kirby said during a meeting with the me-

"There is a religious exemption possibility for any mandatory vaccine, and there's a process that we go through to counsel the individual both from a medical and from a command perspective about using a religious exemption,"

Counseling, he said, includes a discussion with both a medical professional and a commander about the risks of not being vaccinated as well as how not being vaccinated might affect deployability, assignments or travel. Requests for religious exemption differ

the things that we sign up to mission.

defend," he said. "And so it's something that's done very

There are exemptions for mandatory vaccines for medical reasons as well, Kirby said, including pre-existing medical conditions.

"The primary care physician will be able to help make that determination," he said.

Nevertheless, the defense secretary and the department are confident that once the vaccines are mandatory, service members will do their part.

"We have every expectation that once the vaccines are made mandatory, the troops are going to ... do the right thing," he said. "Going forward with this particular vaccine, the secretary's expectation is that commanders are going to treat the administration of that vaccine with — as he wrote in his memo — professionalism, skill and compassion."

Kirby also said the department will ensure that every individual with reservations about getting a vaccine gets proper counseling on its safety "We take freedom of re- and efficacy as well as how not ligion and worship serious- getting the vaccine could affect ly, in the military, it's one of teammates, readiness and the

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duce additional alterations.



U.S. Air Force Col. Corey Simmons, left, 60th Air Mobility Wing commander, and Chief Master Sgt. Robert Schultz, right, 60th AMW command chief, recognize Staff Sgt. Jaime Ramirez, second from left, 660th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron KC-10 Extender communication and navigation craftsman, and Airman 1st Class Gabriel Perezrodriguez, second from right, 660th AMXS KC-10 Extender communication and navigation journeyman, as star performers during Leadership Rounds at Travis Air Force Base, California, Aug. 4, 2021. The Leadership Rounds program provides 60th AMW leadership an opportunity to interact with Airmen and receive a detailed view of each mission performed at Travis AFB.



U.S. Staff Sgt. Ryan Robinson, center, 660th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron communication and navigation craftsman and squadron physical training leader, shows Col. Corey Simmons, right, 60th Air Mobility Wing commander. and Chief Master Sgt. Robert Schultz, left, 60th AMW command chief, the 660th AMXS gym during Leadership Rounds at Travis Air Force Base, California, Aug. 4, 2021. The facility tour comes in light of the recent changes to the Air Force physical fitness assessment.



Airman 1st **Class Gabriel** Perezrodriguez. right, 660th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron KC-10 Extender communication and navigation journeyman, coaches Col. Corey Simmons, **60th Air Mobility Wing** commander. on how to run the identification of friend or foe system test set during Leadership Rounds at Travis Air Force Base, California, Aug. 4





Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Alexander Merchal



er combat uniform is a variant of the operational camouflage pattern uniform aimed at reducing layers of fabric in order to be lighter in weight, more breathable and quick drying, providing safer flame protection that does not melt or drip. It was designed to improve performance, survivability, lethality and safety in extreme hot and wet-weather environments. The improved hot weather combat uniform is expected to be available to Airmen in Octo-

Generation III Level 7 parkas, commonly referred to as extreme cold weather parkas, are expected to be available for personal purchase through AAFES online and in select AAFES stores this winter season. Previously, the parka was not available for personal purchase and was primarily distributed as organization clothing and equipment at northern tier or extreme cold weather

Men's blue trouser improvethe pocket design to enhance the fit of the trousers and re-The women's blue slacks

improvement includes a redesigned and lower waistband, removal of the front darts to create a flat front, and a shortened

U.S. Air Force graphic by Staff Sgt. Flora 1. McCutch Additionally, the pant legs will be straight cut as opposed to the previously tapered fit.

The updated trousers and slacks are expected to be available in May 2022.

Women's Mess Dress Slacks

The new women's mess dress slacks will provide Air Force women an option in addition to the current mess dress skirt and men's mess dress trousers. The slacks will be a female-fit version of the male mess dress trousers with design adjustments required to fit female measurements. Slacks can be worn with the current mess dress jacket. Women's mess dress slacks are expected to be available in August 2022.

Physical Training Gear

Modernized physical training gear will feature a revised fit and look with updated materials and fabric. The fabric includes soft, quick drying, antimicrobial technology that helps with moisture and odor control. The jacket, pants, and men's and women's t-shirts will be available along with new running and all-purpose shorts. The physical training gear is expected to be available in October 2022 with a four-year transition period for mandatory wear.

Space Force Guardians will follow the updates above except where Space Force specific guidance already exists. ments include an adjustment to For example, in accordance with SPFGM2020-36-01, USSF personnel are not authorized to wear morale patches. The Space Force held its inaugural uniform board in March and is currently developing comprehensive service-specific grooming and uniform policies with a rise to address fit concerns. targeted release late 2021





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