



18th Air Force leadership ...  
**BUMPS**  
... into Travis AFB



PAGES 10-11



# Sergeant adds to family's flying lore at course

Nick DeCicco

60TH AIR MOBILITY WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Aviation history runs in the blood of Staff Sgt. Cade Yandell.

The sergeant at Travis Air Force Base, California, is the descendent of several generations of flyers; his father, who received his pilot's license at 15, an uncle who flew commercially and a grandfather who taught a generation of flyers, including Amelia Earhart.

Now Yandell, a KC-10 Extender boom operator with the 9th Air Refueling Squadron, is working on carving out his own space in that lineage. He recently attended the 509th Weapons Squadron's 15-week Advanced Instructor Course at Fairchild AFB, Washington — a course that focuses on the KC-135 Stratotanker.

Yandell attended the course as an auditor, along with boom operators who fly the KC-46A Pegasus, bringing members of Air Mobility Command's tanker community together for a rare opportunity. The program gave attendees exposure to the same lessons and training opportunities as their KC-135 counterparts while such a course does not exist for the KC-10 or KC-46.

Yandell explained the aim of the course is to both teach attendees how to integrate the practical applications of the job as well as see how it fits into a wider view of any particular mission in terms of operational planning and execution; the goal is to make well-rounded Airmen.

"The course is designed to produce tacticians," he said. "We focus on cargo air refueling as operators, but it's designed to make you more than just an operator."

Yandell said the course teaches the sorts of lessons he soaked up as a child immersed in a family devoted to flying, the kind of lessons and information his



U.S. Air Force photo/Chustine Minoda

**U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Cade Yandell, 9th Air Refueling Squadron boom operator, stands in front of a KC-10 extender Feb. 2, 2021, at Travis Air Force Base, California. Yandell attended the 509th Weapons Squadron's 15-week Advanced Instructor Course at Fairchild AFB, Washington. The course focused on the KC-135 Stratotanker, and Yandell was one of the several Airmen who attended as an auditor.**

grandfather learned through experience in an era when pilots didn't have classes or manuals.

"(It's there to) impart knowledge that wasn't written in books," he said. "To do the kind of learning that's 'hey, sometimes stuff isn't written in the books,' but we are here to learn that practical

knowledge."

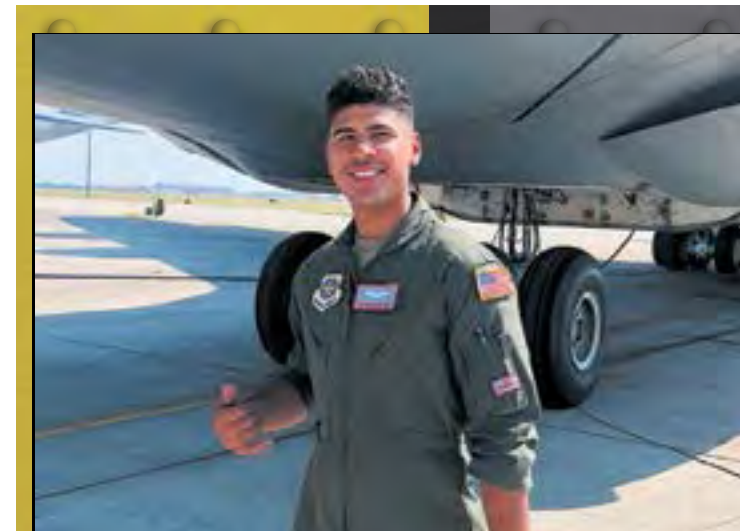
One of the lessons Yandell brought back to the 9th ARS echoes Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Charles Q. Brown's statement that the American military must "accelerate change or lose" in modern military campaigns.

"We need to develop and grow new

techniques and procedures," Yandell said. "We're constantly changing and adapting to what our near-peer adversaries are throwing up against us."

Also bringing back those sort of lessons to his squadron is Staff Sgt.

See LORE Page 16



Courtesy photo

## WARRIOR OF THE WEEK

<b>Name:</b> Airman 1st Class Angel Castillo.	<b>Time in service:</b> One year.	with friends, anything being outdoors, flying, listening to music, running, going to the gym and volunteering.
<b>Unit:</b> 22nd Airlift Squadron.	<b>What are your goals?</b> To complete in-house training and become a fully qualified C-5M loadmaster.	<b>What is your greatest achievement?</b> Being awarded the Career Enlisted Aviator wings.
<b>Duty title:</b> C-5M loadmaster student.	<b>What are your hobbies?</b> Driving, hiking, travel, hanging out	
<b>Hometown:</b> New Castle, Delaware.		

# DOD mandates mask usage

Department of Defense News

Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III signed a memo Feb. 4 that, effective immediately, directs all individuals on military installations and all individuals performing official duties on behalf of the Department from any location other than the individual's home, including outdoor shared spaces, to wear masks.

The guidance is in accordance with the most current Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines.

Individuals must wear masks continuously while on military installations except: (1) when an individual is alone in an office with floor-to-ceiling walls with a closed door; (2) for brief periods of time when eating and drinking while maintaining distancing in accordance with CDC guidelines and instructions from commanders and supervisors; (3) when the mask is required to be lowered briefly for identification or security purposes; and (4) when necessary to reasonably accommodate an individual with a disability. Individuals must consistently wear a mask that covers the nose and mouth and that comports with all current guidance from the CDC and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

Categorical or case-by-case exceptions to these requirements for Service members and their families in environments other than office spaces that are necessary for military readiness, that are related to living on a military installation, or that are related to mask wearing by children (so long as such exceptions are consistent with CDC guidelines for mask wearing by children) may be granted in writing by Department of Defense (DOD) Component heads and should include appropriate alternative



U.S. Air Force photo/Chustine Minoda

**U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Aldo Estrada, 860th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron communication and navigation systems technician, poses for a portrait Aug. 28, 2020, at Travis Air Force Base, California. Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III signed a memo Feb. 4 that directs all individuals on military installations to wear masks in any location other than the individual's home.**

safeguards whenever feasible, such as additional physical distancing measures or additional testing consistent with DOD testing protocols.

DOD Components will comply with applicable labor relations obligations to the extent such obligations do not conflict with the agency's

ability to conduct operations during this emergency.

The full memo can be viewed at <https://bit.ly/3aMR63m>.

# Down day to target extremism

David Vergun

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE NEWS

On Feb. 5, Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III ordered a Defense Department-wide stand down to discuss the problem of extremism in the ranks.

He directed commanding officers and supervisors at all levels to conduct a one-day stand-down with their personnel within the next 60 days.

Austin made it very clear that leaders have discretion to tailor discussions with personnel as appropriate to each command. Such discussions should include the importance of the oath of office that service members take, impermissible behaviors, and procedures for reporting suspected or actual extremist behaviors, Pentagon Press Secretary John F. Kirby said at a press briefing today.

"What [Austin] didn't want to do is be overly prescriptive on this because every command is different, every service is different. And, of course, some commands are very much in harm's way right now, and you have to make sure that they can do this in a way that doesn't impede their ability to accomplish missions around the world," Kirby said.

"This is, importantly, an opportunity for leadership to listen to the men and women they lead and to their concerns, to their experiences, and maybe even to their possible solutions for how to tackle this problem," Kirby said.

The secretary believes this will be a very deliberate process to try to tackle this problem, Kirby said. "He understands that a one-day stand-down across the force isn't going to solve everything, but it might bring to light concerns and experiences."

The department has not been centrally tracking extremism in the ranks and doesn't have a database it can

See DOWN DAY Page 16



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# Airmen, Soldiers team up to train

**Nathan Wilkes**  
JOINT BASE LEWIS-MCCHORD  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

JOINT BASE LEWIS-MCCHORD, Wash. — Airmen from the 627th and 446th Security Forces Squadrons from McChord Field conducted the first Air Force-instructed M153 Common Remotely Operated Weapon Station trainer course for Army combat engineers Jan. 26 to Feb. 6 on Joint Base Lewis-McChord.

Designed to familiarize and certify Soldiers and Airmen with the remote weapon system, the joint forces course is a unique opportunity for both services to work together while learning about the function and operation of the M153 CROWS.

“The M153 CROWS is a force multiplier that takes vehicle gunners out of the turret and into the safety of the vehicle they are riding in,” said Air Force Staff Sgt. Rafael Delvalle, a M153 CROWS instructor from the 627th SFS. “The interface within the vehicle allows gunners to remotely maneuver the system, identify and range targets and fire a variety of crew-served weapons. These include the 40 mm Mark19 grenade launcher, the M2 Browning .50-caliber machine gun, the M240B machine gun and the M249 light machine gun.”

Like something out of a video game or a flight simulator, gunners use a monitor and a joystick to operate the weapons

See TRAIN Page 15



Aircrew members with the 39th Airlift Squadron walk toward a C-130J Super Hercules aircraft on the flightline at Dyess Air Force Base, Texas, Dec. 9, 2020. During the deployment, the 317th Airlift Wing Airmen will provide humanitarian airlift, conduct airdrops, and transport cargo and military personnel.

# 317th AW Airmen deploy, support Africa Command

**Staff Sgt. David Owsianka**  
7TH BOMB WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

DYESS AIR FORCE BASE, Texas — Whether it’s participating in exercises or conducting local operational and training missions, Airmen continuously hone their skillsets to ensure they are ready for any real-world mission that may arise.

Members from the 317th Airlift Wing recently deployed to the U.S. Africa Command area of responsibility from Dyess Air Force Base, Texas, between Dec. 9 and 15, 2020.

“It’s incredibly important for our Airmen to be able to deploy whenever they are called upon because it plays into the recent push in the Air Force’s full spectrum readiness,” said Col. James Young, 317th AW commander. “Our Airmen play a critical role in the employment of combat power and combat airlift while they are deployed.”

In order for the Airmen to deploy in a timely manner, personnel from the 317th AW and 7th

Bomb Wing came together to complete necessary tasks that are required for Airmen to deploy.

The 317th AW leadership started the planning stages by determining what is required to move the aircraft, aircrew, maintainers and support personnel to the U.S. AFRICOM AOR. Members with the 317th Operations Support Squadron worked alongside the 317th AW plans and programs office to determine training required for deployment.

Airmen from the 7th BW provided essential support for the Airmen deploying to depart on time. These personnel helped deliver all required immunizations, pre-deployment COVID-19 testing, combat arms training, cargo and personnel transportation preparations, survival and chemical training, and all pre-deployment functions, requirements and processing.

“The base truly worked as a team to ensure everything and everyone was ready to deploy on

time,” said Maj. April Widman, 317th AMXS commander. “Our personnel need the healthiest aircraft possible anywhere we go which led us to complete all scheduled maintenance requirements that were due throughout the deployment to ensure our aircraft are mission ready.”

Even though the world is in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, the 317th AW Airmen deploying showcases that they are still able to conduct their mission on a global scale.

“We have processes and procedures in place for us to complete our mission and any tasks that may arise,” Young said. “Deploying our Airmen shows that we are still able to operate and get any mission done despite being in the midst of a global pandemic because we have very innovative and dedicated Airmen who take this business seriously.”

The Airmen provide intra-theater airlift support through airdrop and combat airlift

See SUPPORT Page 15

# MQ-9s execute new mission in Romania

**Staff Sgt. Savannah L. Waters**  
31ST FIGHTER WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

CAMPIA TURZII, Romania — The U.S. Air Force recently deployed MQ-9 Reaper aircraft and approximately 90 Airmen at the 71st Air Base in Campia Turzii, Romania, to conduct intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance missions in support of NATO operations.

Among those Airmen are MQ-9 maintainers and launch and recovery aircrew from the 31st Expeditionary Operations Group, Detachment 1, who support Agile Combat Employment concepts, fly freedom of maneuver missions

and integrate with joint and coalition forces in the region.

MQ-9 Airmen are responsible for providing dominant, persistent attack and reconnaissance capabilities while working with other U.S. Air Force assets. They also deploy overseas to operate and sustain the launch and recovery elements of these missions. Deploying overseas to launch the aircraft via a line-of-sight connection eliminates delay and provides real-time control over the aircraft as it begins and returns from missions.

“Being able to deploy is my favorite part of the job,” said Staff Sgt. W.C., a sensor

See ROMANIA Page 12

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**U.S. Army Command Sgt. Maj. Mildred C. Kelly**



**U.S. Army Reserve Staff Sgt. Joyce B. Malone**



**U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Hazel Johnson-Brown**



**U.S. Air Force Maj. Gen. Marcelite J. Harris**



**U.S. Army Sgt. Danyell Wilson**

## Quintet of African American women made impact

**Trishawn Smith and Bridgette Baldwin**

AIR FORCE SECURITY ASSISTANCE AND COOPERATION DIRECTORATE

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio — February is the celebration of African American history and the accomplishments of Black people around the world.

There are many female pioneers in African American history with various accomplishments that come to mind. Some

of these pioneers are Harriet Tubman, Sojourner Truth, Rosa Parks, Madam C.J. Walker and Shirley Chisholm.

Many black women also broke barriers while serving in the U.S. Military. These women worked on the front lines or provided support to U.S. soldiers and civilian employees.

**Command Sgt. Maj. Mildred C. Kelly** served in the U.S. Army from March

1947 to April 1976. The Army wasn't her first career choice. She attended and graduated from Knoxville College in Tennessee with a degree in chemistry. After graduation, she briefly taught high school before deciding to join the Army.

In 1972, she became the first Black female sergeant major in the U.S. Army. Two years later in 1974, she made ranks of the first Black female command sergeant major at Aberdeen Proving Ground. This

made her the first Black woman to hold the highest enlisted position at a major Army installation whose population was predominantly male.

After retirement, she continued to serve in a different capacity by remaining active on various boards such as the Women in Military Service for America Memorial Foundation, Maryland Veterans Commission and the Veterans Advisory Board. Kelly died from cancer in 2003.

**Staff Sgt. Joyce B. Malone**

Malone was originally a Fayetteville civic leader who enlisted in the Marines in 1958, where she served four years. Following her service in the Marine Corps in 1962, Malone got married and finished college at Fayetteville State University.

A few years went by and while working at Fort Bragg, she decided to join the Army Reserve — Fort Bragg's 82nd Airborne Division in 1971.

In 1974, Malone became the first and the oldest black woman to earn Airborne wings in the United States Army Reserve. By age 38, Malone completed 15 parachute jumps during her time in the Army Reserve.

**Brig. Gen. Hazel W. Johnson-Brown**

Becoming a nurse was Hazel W. Johnson-Brown's dream.

She attended the Harlem School of Nursing. Her career began at the Harlem Hospital as an operating room nurse after completing her studies.

In 1955, seven years after President Harry S. Truman eliminated segregation in the military, Johnson-Brown made the decision to enlist in the U.S. Army. She impressed her superiors with her incredible talent and taking multiple assignments across the world.

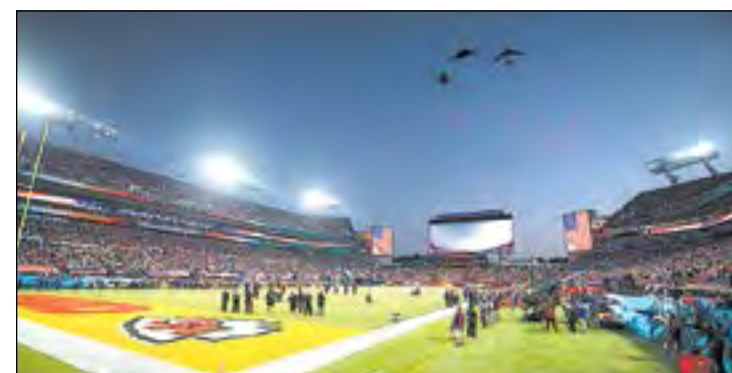
One of Johnson-Brown's assignments included Japan where she trained nurses on their way to Vietnam. She made history after being promoted in 1979 to brigadier general. With that promotion, she took charge of 7,000 nurses in the Army Nurse Corps, making her the first Black woman general officer to hold that post.

Johnson-Brown served in the U.S. Army from 1955 to 1983, receiving multiple awards and decorations.

**Maj. Gen. Marcelite J. Harris**

Harris was born in Houston, Texas on Jan. 16, 1943. She graduated from Spelman College, earning her Bachelor of Arts degree in speech and drama. She originally wanted to be an actress, but her plans changed so she signed up for the Air Force. In 1965 she completed Officer Training School

See IMPACT Page 16



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Jacob B. Wrightsman

Air Force Global Strike Command bombers perform the Super Bowl LV flyover at Raymond James Stadium Feb. 7 in Tampa, Florida. The trifecta was the first of its kind as it included a B-1B Lancer from Ellsworth Air Force Base, S.D., a B-2 Spirit from Whiteman AFB, Missouri, and a B-52H Stratofortress from Minot AFB, North Dakota.

## Super Bowl flyover took months to plan

**Air Force Global Strike Command Public Affairs**

BARKSDALE AIR FORCE BASE, La. — For fans watching the Super Bowl Feb. 7, the Air Force Global Strike Command tri-bomber flyover over Raymond James Stadium in Tampa, Florida, lasted seconds.

For the team planning this historic event, however — the first flyover of a major sporting event featuring a B-1B Lancer, B-2 Spirit and B-52 Stratofortress — the flyover has taken months of hard work.

"We started doing our initial planning for this flyover back in March of 2020," said Katie Spencer, Sports Outreach Program manager and Aerial Events coordinator for the Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs Office. "The bomber trifecta flyover is something that Carla Pampe, the AFGSC chief of civic outreach, had been pitching to us for about four

years, and this year it worked out for us to do it."

Spencer and her team worked with Pampe to get the flyover approved by Gen. Timothy Ray, the AFGSC commander. Once the flyover was approved at the major command level, Maj. Kendall Smith, the Directorate of Operations' Command lead, Bomber Force Management, began coordinating with the bomber units to see who was available to support the event.

"I reached out to all of our bomb wings and began working with them to see who had operational commitments that might conflict with the Super Bowl date," Smith said. "Then the wing commanders all got together to decide which wings would actually fly the event, and which units would send aircrew and maintainers to Tampa to represent the Air Force and AFGSC in media interviews on the ground."

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# 18th Air Force leadership pays visit to Travis AFB



U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Jonathon Carnell

1) U.S. Air Force Maj. Gen. Thad Bibb, 18th Air Force commander, center, speaks with Airmen from the 22nd Airlift Squadron Feb. 3 at Travis Air Force Base, California. The 18th AF visited Travis AFB from Feb. 3-5 to gain an understanding of Travis AFB's abilities as the gateway to the Pacific. 2) Bibb performs a security forces virtual reality street smarts training Feb. 4 at Travis AFB. 3) U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Raymond Ruffin, 660th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron communication and navigation technician and The Peak Café president, left, speaks with Shannon Bibb, center, wife of General Bibb, and Nicki Bickley, spouse of Chief Master Sgt. Chad Bickley, 18th AF command chief, Feb. 5 at Travis AFB. Travis AFB representatives provided the 18th AF leadership spouses a birds-eye view of the services their agencies provide Airmen and their families during a tour of the base.



U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Jonathon Carnell



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

## Senior Airman Jonathon Carnell 60TH AIR MOBILITY WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Maj. Gen. Thad Bibb, 18th Air Force commander, and Chief Master Sgt. Chad Bickley, 18th Air Force command chief, visited Travis Air Force Base, California, Feb. 3-5, to gain an understanding of Travis AFB's abilities as the gateway to the Pacific.

The 18th AF ensures the readiness and sustainment of 36,000 active duty, Air Force Reserve and civilian Airmen at 12 wings and one stand-alone group.

"You have to be ready mentally, spiritually, physically and emotionally," Maj. Gen. Bibb said. "Not one of the 36,000 of us know what call we could receive tomorrow, but we can remain trained for any possible action that needs our response. Team Travis has responded to these calls of action whenever, wherever at a moment's notice."

With approximately 400 aircraft, 18th AF supports AMC's worldwide mission of providing rapid global mobility to America's armed forces through airlift, aerial refueling and aeromedical evacuation.

Maj. Gen. Bibb said that Travis AFB's fleet of aircraft are a vital component to AMC's rapid global mobility mission, but it is the Airmen who make the mission possible.

Chief Bickley, 18th AF command chief expanded on Maj. Gen. Bibb's topic.

"These are unique times to be in the force," Chief Bickley said. "We are asking a lot of our Airmen and we know that, but no one is more capable than you."

During the visit, Maj. Gen. Bibb and Chief Bickley spent time with various agencies across all three wings assigned to Travis AFB while their spouses, Mrs. Shannon Bibb and Mrs. Nikki Bickley met with installation representatives who provided a bird's eye view of the services their agencies offer Airmen and their families.

Maj. Gen. Bibb and Chief Bickley toured a number of units across the installation including the 60th Security Forces Squadron, the 22nd Airlift Squadron and David Grant USAF Medical Center.

On the first day of their visit, the 22nd Airlift Squadron briefed the

leadership team on the unit's professional development program.

"Growing people to be the best Airmen, aviators, leaders, and people they can be is what we strive to do," said Lt. Col. Bryan Trumble, 22nd AS commander. "Defying convention and driving culture to establish continued personal and professional development for all 22nd Airlift members, drawing from a wide-range of disciplines and exploiting blended media and means of communication."

Maj. Gen. Bibb stressed that Airmen face various challenges to complete the mission during COVID-19, but there's no one more capable than those who have stepped up to serve their nation.

During the visit, Maj. Gen. Bibb and Chief Bickley spent time at Travis AFB's Phoenix Spark lab – the base's innovation hub, which works to find ways to decrease expenditures on the installation.

"We don't have a choice but to try new things," said Maj. Gen. Bibb. "Set the bar to a new height, maybe we fail, but we fail forward. If we don't have enough failure in our squadrons, we aren't thinking out of the box enough – it's OK to have failures."

As a conclusion to the 3-day tour, Maj. Gen. Bibb served as the guest speaker during the Travis AFB State of the Base event. There he highlighted the critical role the community members have in ensuring mission success.

"Our Air Force cannot accomplish its mission without our local communities," said Maj. Gen. Bibb. "Our civic leaders make it possible ... Thank you."

Since obtaining their leadership positions, Maj. Gen. Bibb and Chief Bickley have focused on ensuring Airmen have the resources needed for any personal or professional needs.

Maj. Gen. Bibb elaborated on the pair's vision for the 18th AF during his tenure.

"We want to make sure every Airman and every Airman's family is well taken care of," said Maj. Gen. Bibb. "Chief and I want you to know we are thankful for your service and acknowledge the hard work you are doing every day and night to continue Travis' (AFB) mission to rapid global mobility. Thank you Team Travis."



U.S. Air Force photo/Master Sgt. Lilianna Moreno



U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Jonathon Carnell



U.S. Air Force photo/Dennis Santarina



U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Jonathon Carnell

4) Lt. Col. Robert Kline, 921st Contingency Response Squadron commander, left, briefed the CR capabilities to Maj. Gen. Thad Bibb, 18th Air Force commander, right, Feb. 5 at Travis Air Force Base, California. 5) Emily Haley, 60th Air Mobility Wing community support coordinator, briefs 18th Air Force leadership Feb. 4 at Travis AFB. 6) Master Sgt. Rene Gutierrez, 349th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron C-5 Team Expedito, stands with Bibb Feb. 5 at Travis AFB. Bibb recognized Gutierrez for his efforts with the LNU Lightning Complex fires last year. 7) Bibb signs a heritage board inside the 22nd Airlift Squadron building at Travis AFB.



**Disposition of personal effects**

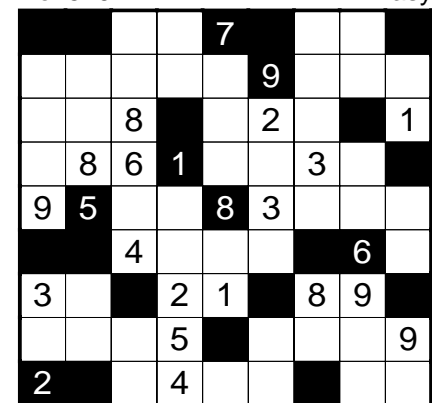
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**— 60th Force Support Squadron**

**Puzzles**

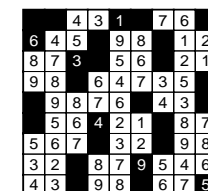
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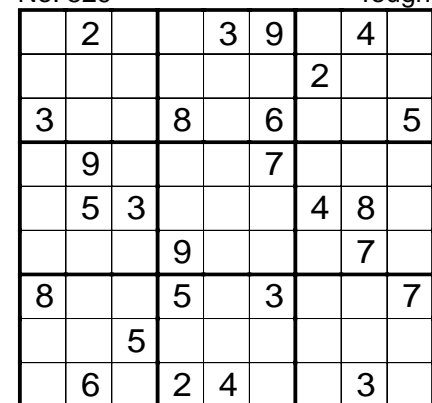
Previous solution - Medium



How to beat Str8ts – Like Sudoku, no single number can repeat in any row or column. But... rows and columns are divided by black squares into compartments. These need to be filled in with numbers that complete a 'straight'. A straight is a set of numbers with no gaps but can be in any order, eg [4,2,3,5]. Clues in black cells remove that number as an option in that row and column, and are not part of any straight. Glance at the solution to see how 'straights' are formed.

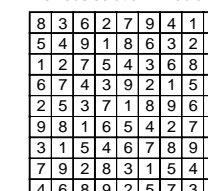
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The solutions will be published here in the next issue.

Previous solution - Medium



To complete Sudoku, fill the board by entering numbers 1 to 9 such that each row, column and 3x3 box contains every number uniquely. For many strategies, hints and tips, visit [www.sudokuwiki.org](http://www.sudokuwiki.org). If you like Str8ts, Sudoku and other puzzles, check out our books, iPhone/iPad Apps and much more on our store at [www.str8ts.com](http://www.str8ts.com)

**Voluntary Leave Transfer Program**

The following Travis employees are approved as leave recipients through the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program:

- Rebecca Austria, 60th Maintenance Group;
- John Butler, Special Tactics Training Squadron;
- Jaqualynn Cabanlit, Travis AFB Commissary;
- Neftaly Clark, 1st Special Operations Force Support Squadron;
- David Duncan, 319th Reconnaissance Wing, Grand Forks AFB;
- Rabiye Hamilton, Travis AFB Commissary;
- Patrick Hodge, United States Transportation Command, Scott AFB;

- Mark Holmes, 10th Contracting Squadron;
- Dina Patterson-Steward, 60th Aerial Port Squadron;
- Jason Perkins, Grand Forks AFB;
- Gina Silva, Air Force Academy headquarters;
- Jean Sommer, Travis AFB Commissary;
- Maria Thammasen, 60th Force Support Squadron; and
- Dennis Weaver, Air Force Manpower Agency.

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

**Airmen complete FTAC**



U.S. Air Force photo

**Congratulations to the latest Airmen to complete the First Term Airman Center course. Alphabetically: Airman 1st Class Alex Andrico, 60th Operations Support Squadron; Airman 1st Class Jannina Couch, 60th OSS; Airman 1st Class Andrew Cunningham, 60th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron; Airman 1st Class Sarah Ellington, 60th Inpatient Squadron; Airman 1st Class Josephine Fairall, 60th IPTS; Airman 1st Class Justin Gibison, 921st Contingency Response Squadron; Airman Ariel Henry, 60th Force Support Squadron; Airman 1st Class Niya High, 60th Logistics Readiness Squadron; Airman 1st Class Devyn Istvan, 60th LRS; Airman 1st Class Cynthia Li, 60th FSS; Airman 1st Class Julissa Lujano, 60th Medical Diagnostics and Therapeutics Squadron; Airman 1st Class Michael Nguyen, 60th Healthcare Operations Squadron; Airman 1st Class Marlyn Salvatierra, 60th LRS; Airman 1st Class Bernard Simms, 60th FSS; Airman Taylor Stoecker, 921st CRS; Airman Sean Stoll, 60th LRS; Airman 1st Class Jada Walker, 60th Operational Medical Readiness Squadron; and Airman Joynal Whitehurst, 60th OMRS.**

**Romania**

From Page 7

operator with the 31st EOG, Det.1. "While unknowns such as aircraft emergencies can make (the job) very challenging, we are learning a lot here."

Additionally, Airmen are playing a crucial role in installation development to establish an enduring U.S. military presence in Romania.

MQ-9 Reaper pilots and sensor operators stationed at Camp Turzii are skilled in takeoffs and landings and are one-half of two separate aircrews working together to successfully fly the MQ-9 Reaper aircraft.

Deployed maintainers specialize in the unique maintenance and support required for the MQ-9, with crew chiefs playing an integral role in ensuring the aircraft are safe to fly.

"As a crew chief, we unpack, assemble and maintain these MQ-9s," said Staff Sgt. Rafael,

**"It's remarkable to see the perseverance of these Airmen in the midst of not having what you'd normally have."**

— Chief Master Sgt. Larry

a maintainer from the 432nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron. "The unique part about being an MQ-9 crew chief is that, unlike most, we are hydraulic troops, engine troops and crew chiefs all in one."

While many Airmen arrive at deployed locations that are established in regards to living conditions, security and having access to support functions, Airmen are starting from scratch to fly missions, build partnerships with allied nations and secure the area of responsibility.

"It's remarkable to see the perseverance of these Airmen in the midst of not having what you'd normally have," said Chief Master Sgt. Larry, 31st EOG, Det. 1. "They have faith that leadership will procure

the things they need and are also patient and understanding as we make history being the first government-owned, government-operated MQ-9 contingent to fly in this country."

To observe the progress made so far, Col. Leslie Hauck, the 31st Operations Group commander, and Chief Master Sgt. Toby Roach, the 31st OG superintendent, visited Campia Turzii for a base facilities and mission familiarization tour.

As technology is constantly changing and evolving, agility, deterrence and resiliency are essential to defense and operational capabilities, and aircraft such as the MQ-9 Reaper continue to provide combatant commanders with unblinking eyes and multi-role capabilities from the skies.



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**Web Site:** www.stpaulfairfield.org  
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## Holistic

From Page 5

trained, developed, and cared for.

Likewise, TFF is a holistic framework for understanding, assessing, and maintaining the capabilities of the Armed Forces to execute the full range of military operations. Achieving and sustaining fitness and performance of units, organizations, families, and communities of military members through that framework is a key enabler of the 2018 National Defense Strategy's first line of effort: "Build a More Lethal Force."

"I think that 2020 has re-enforced the importance TFF," Deuster said. "You have to have that holistic perspective to be able to survive and be resilient. If you lack any piece of it, you're not going to be performing the way you want to."

TFF consists of eight domains to keep service members flourishing in an environment of sustained deployment and combat operations. The domains are derived from sources including current

practices on medical fitness, and integrative health care approaches used by the individual services and the National Guard. TFF looks to extend beyond the Soldier, Sailor, Airman or Marine to strengthen resilience in families, communities, and organizations, recognizing that these are critical to supporting overall resilience.

The eight domains of TFF are: physical; environmental (performing in any situation); medical and dental prevention; nutritional; ideological and spiritual (strengthening connectedness with meaning and purpose); social (productive personal and professional relationships); psychological, and financial.

Sometimes tailoring different aspects of the eight domains to the duty station environment is key to good results. You'd be hard-pressed to find a more unique place to be stationed than 'Gitmo' - that is, Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Maintaining TFF during a pandemic can be challenging, so keeping one's focus on the basics is sometimes the key, says Dawn Grimes, public affairs officer for Gitmo's Navy Medicine Readiness and Training Command.



1) U.S. Air Force 2nd Lt. Kayla Simmons, 60th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron assistant aircraft maintenance unit officer in charge, stands in front of C-5M Super Galaxy aircraft Feb. 3 at Travis Air Force Base, California. Airmen assigned to the 60th AMXS maintain, repair and advance Travis AFB's fleet of C-5M aircraft.



# MAINTAINERS ... get the job done

U.S. Air Force photos by Senior Airman Christian Conrad



2



3

2) U.S. Airmen assigned to the 60th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron work to diagnose a mechanical issue on a C-5M Super Galaxy Feb. 3 at Travis Air Force Base, California. The first C-5 to be added to Travis AFB's fleet landed at the base Oct. 24, 1970. Since then, the base's fleet of C-5 aircraft has expanded to 26.  
3) U.S. Air Force Airman 1st Class Dustin Buckless, 60th AMXS crew chief, works to diagnose a mechanical issue on a C-5M Feb. 3 at Travis AFB.

## Aid

From Page 2

airlifted over 1,000 respirators and 500 thousand test kits, world-wide.

But this mission was a two-parter. Part one, Ramstein AB COVID-19 relief, but because there was extra space on the C-17, these Airmen added the humanitarian aid supplies.

Of the entire shipment, two pallets were firefighting personal protective equipment and firefighting tools going to benefit 165 firefighters at the Asociación Nacional de Bomberos Municipales Departamentales, San Lucas, Sacatepequez, Guatemala. The equipment is on its way to providing more safety and resources for fire departments in that area.

Many nongovernment organizations coordinated to donate and deliver supplies to those in need. The donating agency



U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Christian Conrad

**A C-17 Globemaster III awaits take-off Jan. 28 at Travis Air Force Base, California. The C-17 was part of a mission to transport 35,950 pounds of firefighting equipment and personal protective equipment to Guatemala and Ramstein Air Base, Germany, respectively.**

applies to the JB Charleston Denton Program office, then after the shipment is approved, supplies are received at the closest Air Mobility Command location.

For this shipment of

firefighting aid, Travis AFB was the supporting unit with the 60th APS tapped to receive the equipment. The Port Dawgs packed all of the equipment onto pallets and loaded the pallets into a C-17 in only 17 hours.

The 21st AS then flew the supplies to JB Charleston where they'll be connected to the last leg of their journey to Guatemala.

Ken Hundemer, Denton Program operations director, explained that the Denton Program channels civilian-donated goods to partnering countries and also uses the mission to train aircrew. On this mission the flight was bound for Germany, so they loaded the firefighting PPE to get it last much close to Guatemala.

This shipment of supplies was donated by Firefighters Without Borders CA, a nongovernment organization out of San Rafael, California. The donations were mainly firefighting suits, helmets and self-contained breathing apparatuses as well as 25 fire hoses, each 50 feet long.

"We've been donating to stations in Guatemala for around 10 years," said Angel Landaverde, Firefighters Without

Borders CA president. "These donations allow them to be better prepared for fires."

Landaverde mentioned that when he was first contacted by the Guatemala station, the station only had one fire hose - he's been collecting donations for the last year.

The Denton program routinely delivers humanitarian aid supplies all over the world. In the last year, more than 2.4 million pounds of humanitarian aid has been delivered. The deliveries are handled by airlift units across the Department of Defense. More information on the Denton Program can be found at <https://www.ustranscom.mil/mov/denton.cfm>.

Travis AFB is often touted as Air Mobility Command's busiest base, where crews airlifted 50,000 tons in cargo in 2020, alone. The weight of the total mission topped out at 35,950 pounds, according to the DLA and the 60th APS.

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