

# Crimson Sky

Gour Maker, a trainee at basic military training, receives an Airman's Coin at the coin ceremony Feb. 1, 2018, outside the Pfingston Reception Center at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas. Maker was recognized by his wingmen as a selfless leader and motivator during his time at BMT. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Dillon Parker)



## Former slave, two-time Olympian becomes an Airman

**By Airman 1st Class Dillon Parker  
502nd Air Base Wing Public Affairs**

**JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-LACKLAND, Texas (AFNS)** -- After enduring countless hardships and overcoming unimaginable obstacles, Airman 1st Class Guor Maker, a dental assistant currently in technical training, found his way out of war-torn South Sudan, Africa and into the U.S. nearly 20 years ago.

### Surviving

As one of roughly 20,000 children uprooted by the gruesome Second Sudanese Civil War, Maker's childhood was far from normal. After losing 28 family members, including eight of his nine siblings,

8-year-old Maker set out on foot from South Sudan to live with his uncle.

"The country I came from was torn apart by war," said Maker. "It was all I knew growing up, nothing else. I've seen people die in front of me, but I knew no matter what, I had to make it."

During his harrowing journey, Maker was captured and enslaved twice: once by Sudanese soldiers, and once by herdsmen.

"When I was captured, I was forced to be a slave laborer," said Maker. "I would wash dishes or do anything else needed to get by. I slept in a small cell and rarely got to eat...but not always."

Both times, Maker successfully escaped from enslavement and was finally able to join his uncle in Khartoum after three perilous years. However, his journey to safety was far from over.

During a nighttime attack in his uncle's home, Maker sustained serious injuries when he was beaten unconscious by a soldier who smashed his jaw with a rifle.

"My mouth was shut for two months and I could only consume liquids because my jaw was broken," he said. "We fled to Egypt after that, and the United Nations treated my injuries."

After two years of filling out paperwork at U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services in Egypt, Maker and his uncle's family were finally granted permission to enter the United States.

"I was very excited to come to the U.S.," said Maker. "Looking back at everything my family and I endured, it is a miracle that we made it out of there."

*- Continued on page 4 -*



**INSIDE** →



Misawa defenders secure PACAF-level award

**PAGE 8**



Yokota C-130Js exercise new refueling capabilities

**PAGE 10**



48th RQS PJs primed for deployment after extensive training cycle

**PAGE 22**



**Crimson Sky**

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Telephone: 738-2222 ext. 6815  
E-mail: oriental\_press@outlook.com  
Address: PSC 450, Box 758, APO AP 96206-0758  
Location: Dragon Hill Lodge, Bldg. 4050-BVisit us online  
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www.7af.pacaf.af.mil

Submit Letters to the Editor, guest commentaries, and story submissions to the bi-weekly Crimson Sky at:

7afpa@us.af.mil

51fwpa@us.af.mil

8fw.pa@kunsan.af.mil

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**Meg Reyes, Joint Base San Antonio Community Initiatives director, addresses attendees at the Air Installations Compatible Use Zones Program conference at Joint Base San Antonio, Texas, Feb. 27, 2018. The Air Force Civil Engineer Center hosted event brought AICUZ personnel from all around the Defense Department, as well as representatives from the Office of Economic Adjustment and Department of Agriculture to discuss and share best practices with each other. The overall goal of the program is to protect the health, safety and welfare of those living and working on or near military installations while ensuring the continued flight operations. (U.S. Air Force photo by Malcolm McClendon)**

# AFCEC revives in-person AICUZ training

By Malcolm McClendon, AFIMSC Public Affairs

**JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO, Texas (AFNS) --** In support of missions around the globe, the Air Force Civil Engineer Center revived a workshop long lost to the world of online training.

For the first time in six years, Air Installations Compatible Use Zones representatives from across the Defense Department gathered at a workshop on Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, Texas, Feb. 27 – 28, 2018.

Fred Pierson, Air Force AICUZ manager, said the event was designed to bring AICUZ representatives together and create a network in order to keep the missions going at installations.

“That’s our whole job here. We support the warfighter. If they can go out and train the way they need to train, then we did our job,” Pierson said.

The AICUZ program forms the basis for the Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force encroachment programs. It promotes compatible land-use development around military installations, promotes public health and safety in areas adjacent to installations, and sustains the operational capabilities of the installation. The program also identifies runway clear zones,

accident potential zones, and noise zones, and recommends land-use guidelines for achieving compatible land use in these areas.

“When you look at the bases and encroachment, it’s like sea waves coming up on a cliff and eventually eroding it away. Sooner or later you reach a point where you can’t do your mission,” Pierson said. “With proper land use planning, you can stop this and, in some cases, reverse it.”

This year’s event included representatives from the Office of Economic Adjustment and the Department of Agriculture, and covered topics such as the role of leadership in encroachment management and review of program implementation case studies.

“We had more than 100 attendees from bases around the country and all the services are,” Pierson said.

The online training that replaced the course for the last several years missed the much-needed human element, he added.

“The synergy in there is contagious, Pierson said. “You can talk to someone who’s had the same problem and take it back to your installation. This is how we solve issues with encroachment.”

Navy Capt. Erik Spitzer,

commander of Naval Air Station Kingsville, Texas, spoke at the workshop and said it was good to hear from other representatives and to learn about their practices.

“For me, some of it was a refresher, but a lot of it was looking at the different tools the other installations use, their mitigation strategies and how they go out and try to partner and build relationships,” Spitzer said. “You really need a team that goes out to the local community and can engage them.”

Community involvement is the key to program success, Spitzer said.

“If you don’t have a team dedicated to community outreach, you’re already behind,” he said. “They need to be attending community meetings and functions, because these meetings are where future developments are discussed and by simply being there, future encroachment problems can be averted.”

Pierson said he hopes attendees will take the tools learned here to their installations. He plans to hold the workshop annually and make it more accessible.

“We are giving them the tools they need to be successful and, as always, we’re here to help if they need anything,” Pierson said.



Pilots from the 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron fly a WC-130J Super Hercules aircraft over San Diego, California, during a mission to collect data from atmospheric rivers over the Pacific Ocean Jan. 28, 2018. (U.S. Air Force courtesy photo)



# Hurricane Hunters complete atmospheric river reconnaissance

**By Staff Sgt. Heather Heiney  
403rd Wing Public Affairs**

KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE, Miss. (AFNS) -- Imagine Much like a river on the ground carries water in streams through the earth, an atmospheric river carries water vapor in streams through the sky.

In partnership with the Scripps Institution of Oceanography at the University of California, San Diego and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron "Hurricane Hunters" performed weather reconnaissance on these atmospheric rivers this month.

According to Dr. Fred "Marty" Ralph, Scripps Center of Western Weather and Water Extremes researcher and director, atmospheric rivers can carry an equivalent of about 25 times the amount of water in the Mississippi River as water vapor. He also said that these rivers can be 500 miles wide, thousands of miles long and have winds between 50 knots and hurricane-force speeds.

"These missions improve our global weather forecasting models," said 1st Lt. Garrett Black, 53rd WRS aerial reconnaissance weather officer. "Which then can help meteorologists better predict precipitation events along the West Coast. Much of the rainfall the West Coast receives comes from these Atmospheric Rivers."

"In addition to the science, due to the high tempo we are launching dropsondes from the aircraft, these flights are great for training, especially for the ARWO and dropsonde operator/loadmaster," said Maj. Ashley Lundry, 53rd WRS ARWO.

In total, the squadron has flown six missions totaling 92 hours, launching WC-130J Super Hercules aircraft from Hawaii and California for four of the missions. Three of the missions were flown as a three-aircraft team with NOAA's Gulfstream IV-SP. The Hawaii crew flew a solo mission Sunday and the California crew flew the final mission Tuesday.

- Continued on page 7 -



Master Sgt. Thomas Barnaby, 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron loadmaster, loads a dropsonde into a dropsonde cannon aboard a WC-130J Super Hercules Aircraft Jan. 26, 2018 above the Pacific Ocean during an atmospheric river mission. (U.S. Air Force courtesy photo)





**Gour Maker, a trainee at Air Force Basic Military Training, stands in formation at the Coin Ceremony Feb. 1, 2018, outside the Pfingston Reception Center at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas. During the BMT Coin Ceremony Trainees are given Airman's Coins signifying the final transition from trainee to Airman. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Dillon Parker)**

- Continued from page 1 -

### Dreaming

When Maker first arrived in the U.S. in 2001, he settled in Concord, New Hampshire. Not only did he want to survive, but he wanted to thrive.

"I wanted to change my life, help my parents back in South Sudan, and give my future children a better childhood than the one I had," he said. "And the only way to do that was through education and determination."

Maker started with the basics and began learning English by watching children's cartoons and spending plenty of time with other high school kids just listening to their conversations and absorbing all that he could.

"Within a short amount of time, I was able to communicate effectively with other students and teachers, order food, and really get by on my own," Maker said.

While learning English was a crucial step on his personal journey, Maker's high school career really took off when one of his teachers introduced him to running.

"Running was always just natural and easy for me," said Maker. "It

was a great high school experience and it helped me meet a lot of friends, build confidence and it was genuinely fun."

After winning the National High School indoor two-mile title, Maker received a scholarship to compete at Iowa State University, where he allowed himself to dream of things that had never been done before.

"When I got to college in 2005, I remember hanging a piece of paper on my wall that said I was going to run in the Olympics in 2012 for South Sudan," said Maker. "I thought 'Why not me? Why can't I do it?'"

Maker graduated with a bachelor's degree in chemistry and reached All-American status as a student athlete, ready to start his new life. Maker planned to head to Flagstaff, Arizona to train for the 2012 Olympics.

The same day he left for Arizona in 2011 was the day South Sudan officially gained its independence.

"I drove the whole way celebrating and it was a very special day that I will always remember," said Maker.

Following his year of training, Maker qualified to run the marathon in the 2012 Olympics in London.

Even though South Sudan

officially gained its independence, the country was not yet a member of the International Olympic Committee and Maker was still not an official U.S. citizen.

"State senators from New Hampshire and Arizona presented my case to the Senate in Washington D.C. so the International Olympic Committee allowed me to run in the Olympics without a country," said Maker.

Even though his dream of running for South Sudan had not yet come true, Maker accomplished a great deal as an unaffiliated Olympian.

"All of the people in South Sudan knew where I was from," said Maker. "I wanted to be the inspiration for the children to say, 'Hey, if Maker can do it, you know what, I can do it too.'"

After the 2012 Olympics, Maker was undeterred and set a new goal for himself and his country.

"I said to myself, 'In 2016, I'm going to bring South Sudan to the Olympics for the first time,'" said Maker. "I wanted to try to do more for my country and the 2012 Olympics only strengthened my conviction to accomplish my goal."

This time around Maker's dream became a reality in Rio de Janeiro 2016 when he became one of three

athletes to be the first to represent South Sudan in an Olympic games, as well as South Sudan's flag bearer for the opening ceremony.

"Walking into that stadium, carrying the South Sudan flag was just indescribable," said Maker. "The people of South Sudan were in my mind the whole time I was running into the stadium with that flag and it meant so much to me."

While it was a truly incredible and improbable moment for Maker, his thoughts were filled with the people of his home country while he was running with that flag.

"Over 50 years of civil war and my country finally got independence," said Maker. "So many lives were lost for our freedom, it was just ringing in my head that we have done it, we have done it. On that day, everyone in South Sudan was at peace watching the Olympics for the first time."

For Maker, the 2016 Olympics were an enormous accomplishment that went far beyond his 82nd overall finish.

"I couldn't have accomplished any of it without all the support I received from my family and the opportunity the United States gave me. It's the highlight of my athletic career so far and a moment I'll treasure forever."



### Serving

The next chapter in Maker's life began when he decided to join the U.S. Air Force to serve the country that gave him so many opportunities.

"All of the things I've accomplished have derived from the opportunities the U.S. has afforded me," said Maker. "When I first came to America, I didn't have hardly anything, but with the support and opportunity this country has given me, I've been able to completely change my life."

The staff at basic military training had no idea who Maker was, but he quickly stood out to leadership at the 324th Training Squadron.

"I went out to the track and saw the instructors were putting their attention on one trainee in particular," said Maj. John Lippolis, director of operations for the 324th TRS. "I could see him running noticeably faster than everyone else and the instructors explained to me that we had a two-time Olympian at BMT."

In addition to Maker's Olympian status, his unique personal story also stood out to Lippolis.

"I was just absolutely floored when I talked to him about what he went through to get to where he is today," said Lippolis. "Not

only did he survive, he wanted to better himself and he has accomplished so much. He has an amazing story and the drive he has displayed to succeed like that in the face of such adversity is truly inspiring."

Maker not only inspired Lippolis, but other members of his flight were inspired too.

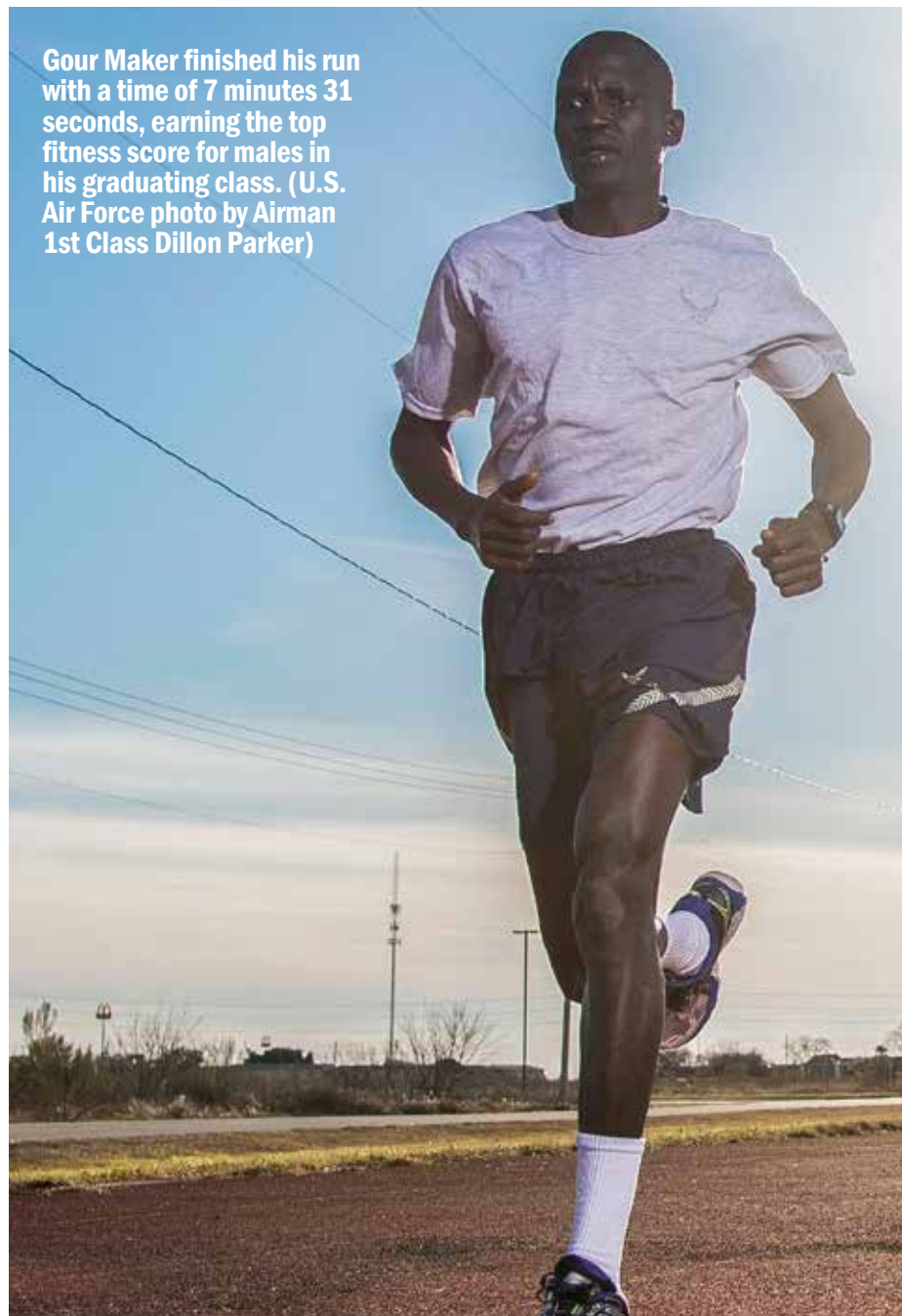
"All of his wingmen said the same things when I talked to them," said Lippolis. "They told me what an inspiration he was within the flight; that the flight rallied around him and he doesn't do anything he's supposed to do for himself until he helps out everybody else."

While Maker has accomplished a great deal in his lifetime, he's not done dreaming.

Maker hopes to join the Air Force World Class Athlete Program, a program designed to allow elite athletes the opportunity to train and compete in national events to make the Olympics. He also wants to make the 2020 Olympics where he'll have the opportunity to represent his new home and the country that gave him so much.

"Joining the greatest Air Force in the world has been an absolute miracle," said Maker. "I can't wait to see what this next chapter holds for me."

**Guor Maker finished his run with a time of 7 minutes 31 seconds, earning the top fitness score for males in his graduating class. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Dillon Parker)**



**Guor Maker, a trainee at basic military training, supports a wingman taking a physical fitness test Jan. 30, 2018, at the 324th Training Squadron's physical training pad at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas. Maker was selected as a physical training leader for his time at BMT, his duties include leading the flight during warm-ups and providing support for struggling trainees. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Dillon Parker)**







**Capt. Bryon Kroger and 1st Lt. Carlo Viray, review combat applications in Cambridge, Mass., Aug. 13, 2017. The officers, who are part of the Air Operations Center Pathfinder acquisition program run out of Hanscom Air Force Base, Mass., work with coders in an open workspace environment with civilians who train them on the techniques used by Silicon Valley's best software programmers. (U.S. Air Force photo by Rick Berry)**

# Misawa defenders secure PACAF-level award

## 35th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

### Senior Airman Brittany A. Chase

-- Team Misawa's 35th Security Forces Squadron received the Pacific Air Forces' outstanding medium security forces unit of 2017, beating nine other bases in the command.

The squadron consists of 225 U.S. Air Force active duty, civilian and Japanese national members divided among three flights, with two elements each.

The SFS team safeguarded approximately 11,500 Status of Forces Agreement personnel and \$3.5 billion in Department of Defense assets.

"It's an awesome recognition and it shows our squadron works really hard," said Senior Airman Ashley Raymon, a 35th SFS base defense operations center controller. "Even though I might not always understand why we do certain things a certain way, it makes sense now and it feels great knowing I played a role in that."

Over the 2017 calendar year, they led a wing-wide operation plan to increase forward deployment



**U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Alexia Hickson, a 35th Security Forces Squadron military working dog handler, and MWD Charly share a moment prior to completing the combat fitness assessment of the Winter Warrior Challenge at Misawa Air Base, Japan, Dec. 13, 2017. Hickson and Charly won first place for the MWD portion of the Winter Warrior Challenge. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Melanie Hutto)**



capabilities and designed the first wing co-operations and base cluster operation center to allow seamless integration and communication with their Japanese counterparts.

“The professionalism of the Airmen, NCOs and officers of the 35th SFS was the driving factor behind getting this award,” said Master Sgt. Bruce Rick, the 35th SFS integrated defense NCO in charge. “All members and direct leadership from our NCO corps made this year a success by improving our community relationships, our law enforcement and warfighting capabilities.”

They also led the Government of Japan and U.S. customs program on base, saving \$23.5 million.

“Now I realize how much coming to work every day and doing my job really does pay off,” Raymon explained while contributing the win to the whole squadron. “It’s [incredible] to be recognized not just in Misawa, but throughout PACAF.”

Being number one in PACAF is not a new accomplishment, as they also came out victorious against 10 security forces teams and one Army military police unit in the second annual advanced combat skills assessment.

Because of the win at the PACAF level, the 35th SFS will go on to compete for the Air Force-level award.

“This award is recognition of the tireless, intelligent and aggressive approach our Airmen take to protect the 35th Fighter Wing,” said Maj. Patrick Gordon, the 35th SFS commander. “It is also a message of assurance to our community and our allies. They are guarded by some of the best Defenders in the Pacific.”



▲ U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. James Ashby, the 35th Security Forces Squadron NCO in charge of training and combative instructor, referees the combatives tournament of the Winter Warrior Challenge at Misawa Air Base, Japan, Dec. 14, 2017. The competition covered mental and physical fitness, focusing on skills that Airmen are familiar with during routine operations. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Melanie Hutto)



◀ U.S. Air Force Airman 1st Class Adam Renteria, a 35th Logistics Readiness Squadron fleet management and analysis journeyman, takes a break during the red man challenge at Misawa Air Base, Japan, Aug. 21, 2017. This training is a part of the 35th Security Forces Squadron augmentee course, which provides Airmen from various careers a crash course experience of critical security forces skills. Upon course completion, Airmen could be called on to perform 35th SFS duties if there is a need for additional personnel. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Deana Heitzman)

### - Continued from page 3 -

In total, the 53rd WRS released 256 dropsondes into atmospheric rivers over the Pacific Ocean from about 30,000 feet. These dropsondes collect data including air pressure, temperature, humidity, wind speed and direction, and global positioning system information. This data is then used by Scripps, the Sonoma County Water Agency, the California Department of Water Resources, the Army Corps of Engineers and other agencies to gain more knowledge about atmospheric rivers and increase the accuracy of forecast models.

“The 53rd had a team located at Scripps Institute of Oceanography in San Diego that worked with

a forecast team and flight planning team,” Lundry said. “The forecast team would identify an atmospheric river they wanted to target for a flight, and we would work together to come up with a flight path that would work and relay this plan to the two crews.”

“Most of our missions totaled about nine hours in-flight time,” Black said. “Our goal was to fly at as high of an altitude as we could, which usually ended up being around 30,000 feet. Our dropsonde operator from the California crew, Master Sgt. Tom Barnaby, would release approximately 25 dropsondes about every 60 nautical miles or so. Depending on the flight level winds, we were releasing a dropsonde about every 10 minutes.”

Lundry also said that once the data was collected, the ARWO and loadmaster would quality control the data and send it to the chief, aerial reconnaissance coordination, all hurricanes unit at the National Hurricane Center, which then pushed out the information to be used in different forecast models.

In addition to the Global Forecast System, this data also went into the European Center for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts and the Coupled Ocean/Atmosphere Mesoscale Prediction System.

“One of the goals of the atmospheric river reconnaissance missions, led by Marty Ralph of Scripps Institute of Technology, is to improve the forecast for land

falling atmospheric rivers on the west coast of the United States,” Lundry said. “We are able to fly into the atmospheric rivers, before they make landfall, and collect critical meteorological data in data sparse areas that can be inputted into the forecast models, to improve the forecast of these systems.”

According to Scripps, atmospheric rivers are the primary cause of flooding in the California area and produce 25-50 percent of the water supply in key areas of the West. These missions are also important because while atmospheric rivers can be seen more than five days ahead of landfall, there can be a high level of error in predicting where they will go.





A U.S. Navy MH-60S Seahawk, assigned to the Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25, is refueled by a helicopter expedient refuel system (HERS) during exercise COPE NORTH 2018 at Tinian, U.S. Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Feb. 26. A HERS is a deployable fueling system capable of storing 3,000 gallons of fuel. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Juan Torres Chardon)

# Yokota C-130Js exercise new refueling capabilities

By Benjamin Newell  
66th Air Base Group Public Affairs

Andersen Air Force Base, Guam -- C-130J Super Hercules assigned to the 36th Airlift Squadron have exercised a new refueling capability during exercise COPE NORTH 2018 (CN18) at Tinian U.S. Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands, Feb. 26.

The Helicopter Expedient Refuel System (HERS) allows the 36 AS C-130s the rapid deployment of refueling assets in an austere environment, enabling other aircraft to continue their humanitarian assistance and disaster relief efforts.

“The idea is to be able to bring in fuel, drop it off, store it temporarily and put it on different aircraft as a sort of in-the-field staging of refueling capabilities,” said Capt. Andrew Kochman, 36th Mobility Response Squadron assistant director of operations.

With a maximum capacity of 3,000 gallons, the HERS enables the C-130J to quickly unload part of its own fuel to be used on other aircraft.

“We build our fuel bladder, our pumps and everything that we need to begin refueling out on the field,” said Kochman. “After, we take on



Airmen assigned to the 36th Mobility Response Squadron help setup a helicopter expedient refuel system during exercise COPE NORTH 2018 at Tinian, U.S. Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Feb. 26. Exercise COPE NORTH is a long-standing exercise designed to enhance multilateral air operations between the U.S. Air Force, U.S. Navy, U.S. Marine Corps, Japan Air Self-Defense Force and Royal Australian Air Force. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Juan Torres Chardon)



fuel from our source, in this case a C-130J, into the equipment that we brought up with us. Once we have completed that task, we are ready to start pushing gas to whoever needs it.”

During a HA/DR scenario, the HERS allows the Airmen to quickly refuel other aircraft, not just Air Force assets.

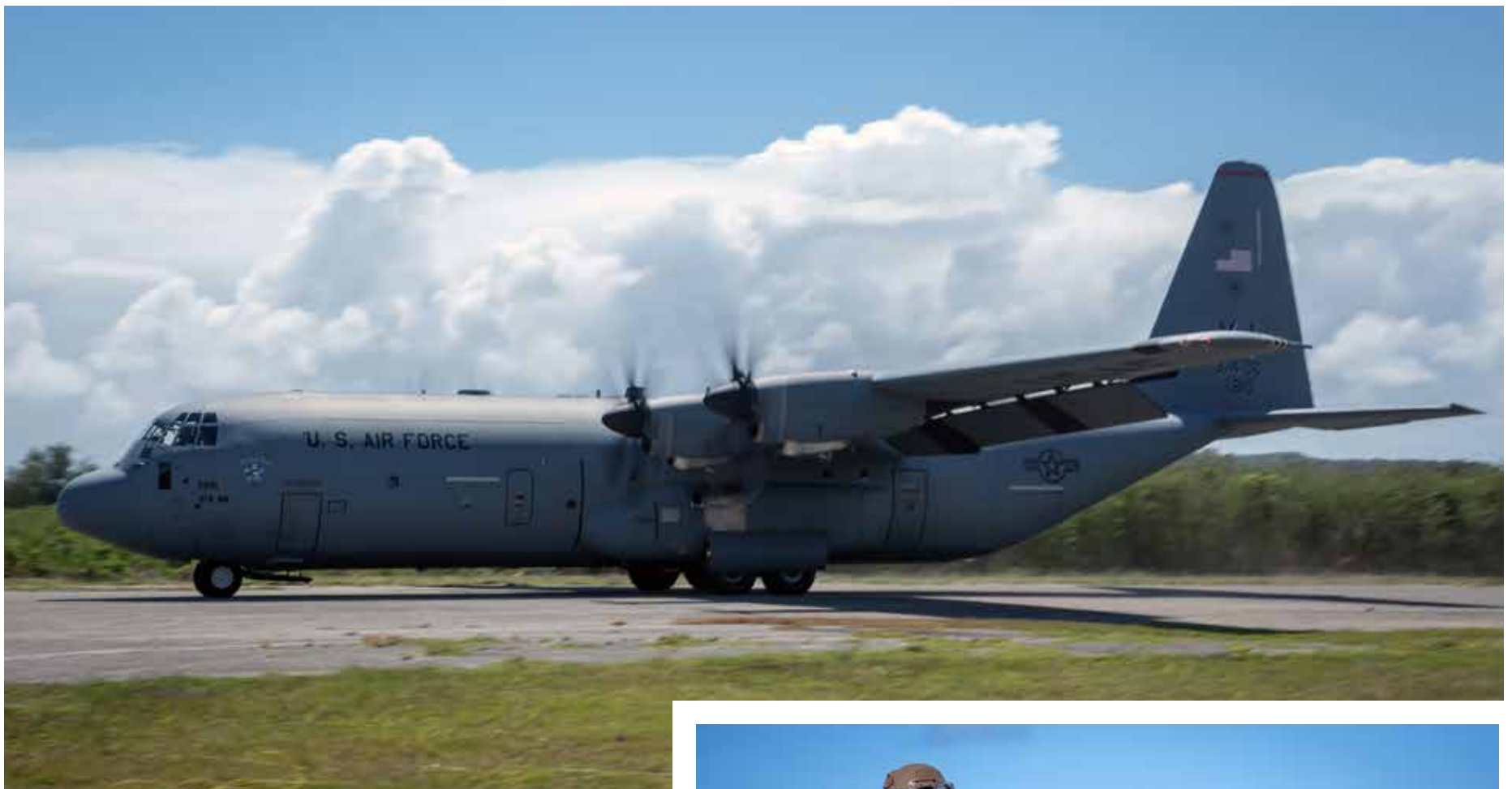
“For this exercise, we had a U.S. Navy helicopter come in and we were able to refuel it, so we are able to work not with just Air Force assets but really throughout our whole military,” said Kochman. “Those helicopters, their mission is search and rescue and they might not be able to refuel if they needed a hard-fixed asset [traditional fixed fuel source]. Being able to refuel them out in the field and have them continue their operations just makes us that much more successful in conducting our HA/DR operations.”

Through the practice of this new capability, it ensures the U.S. Military and allied partners participating in CN18 are prepared for any possible real-world HA/DR scenarios in the future.

“By coming here and staying current on this new capability, learning new techniques, testing new equipment, and seeing how much flexibility we have with all of these operations, we become a significantly more proficient unit,” said Kochman. “It’s also important for our international partners to be able to see how these operations work and understand how they can have a role in it as well, both with us and on their own in the future.”



**Maj. Sean Conley, 36th Mobility Response Squadron director of staff, left, and Staff Sgt. Adam Radamacher, 736th Security Forces Squadron Fly Away Security Team lead, watch U.S. Navy MH-60S helicopters, assigned to the Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25, take-off after refueling using a helicopter expedient refuel system during exercise COPE NORTH 2018 at Tinian, U.S. Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Feb. 26. Exercise COPE NORTH is a long-standing exercise designed to enhance multilateral air operations between the U.S. Air Force, U.S. Navy, U.S. Marine Corps, Japan Air Self-Defense Force and Royal Australian Air Force. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Juan Torres Chardon)**



▲ **A C-130J Super Hercules assigned to the 36th Airlift Squadron lands to recover a helicopter expedient refuel system (HERS) during exercise COPE NORTH 2018, Feb. 26, at Tinian, U.S. Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. A HERS is a deployable fueling system capable of storing 3,000 gallons of fuel. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Juan Torres Chardon)**

▶ **An Airman assigned to the 36th Mobility Response Squadron waits for the signal to hook up a helicopter expedient refuel system (HERS) to a C-130J Super Hercules, assigned to the 36th Airlift Squadron, during exercise COPE NORTH 2018 at Tinian, U.S. Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Feb. 26. A HERS is a deployable fueling system capable of storing 3,000 gallons of fuel. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Juan Torres Chardon)**







**T**he Thunderbirds Diamond formation pilots perform the Diamond Roll maneuver over the Nevada Test and Training Range during a training flight, Feb. 28, 2018. During the training season, each pilot masters their position and maneuvers, while developing trust within the formation. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Ned T. Johnston) ◀

**S**ervice members and veterans compete in the 100-meter freestyle swimming event in the 5th Annual Air Force Wounded Warrior Trials at the University of Nevada Las Vegas pool Feb. 25, 2018. Service members are participating in adaptive athletic reconditioning for lasting effects on physical and emotional recovery. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Kevin Tanenbaum) ▼

**T**wo F-35A Lightning IIs, assigned to the 4th Fighter Squadron from Hill Air Force Base, Utah, conduct flight training operations over the Utah Test and Training Range on Feb 14, 2018. The F-35A is a single-seat, single engine, fifth generation, multirole fighter that's able to perform ground attack, reconnaissance and air defense missions with stealth capability. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Andrew Lee) ▼







**C**hief Master Sgt. Brian Kuzelnick, 55th Wing command chief, thanks Gail Farrell, a 93-year old World War II and Korean War veteran who flew 21 missions as a tail gunner in the B-17 Flying Fortress, for his service after a medal presentation ceremony at the James M. McCoy Airman Leadership School Feb. 8, 2018. Col. Mike Manion, 55th Wing commander, presented Farrell with an Air Medal with two oak leaf clusters; the European-African Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with three bronze service stars; the American Campaign Medal; the World War II Victory Medal; and the Honorable Service Lapel Button, World War II. (U.S. Air Force photo by Zachary Hada) ◀

**A**n F-22 Raptor assigned to the 3rd Wing flies over Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska, Feb. 27, 2018. The F-22 is the Air Force's premium fifth-generation fighter asset. (U.S. Air Force photo by Jamal Wilson) ▼



**A**ir Force pararescuemen, assigned to the 83rd Expeditionary Rescue Squadron, 455th Air Expeditionary Wing, exit an Army CH-47 Chinook at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, Feb. 22, 2018. The pararescuemen primarily fly their missions on Army CH-47F Chinooks, making the 83rd ERQS the first joint personnel recovery team in Air Forces Central Command. (U.S. Air Force Photo by Tech. Sgt. Gregory Brook) ▲

**P**ararescuemen from the 48th Rescue Squadron out of Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz., drive off-road utility vehicles into an objective area during the final mission of a five-day tactical medical training course in Perry, Fla., Dec. 15, 2017. During the course, pararescuemen were tasked with a variety of missions in which they were required to clear opposing forces, and provide extrication and medical treatment to isolated personnel. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Chris Drzazowski) ▶





## CHIEF'S CORNER

### Ethical Leadership and our Core Values

**R**ight from the beginning of our Air Force careers, our core values are present. They are explained, discussed, and embedded into our everyday lives. Integrity first, Service before self, and Excellence in all we do--these are the foundational values that should be universal to all Airmen. But how does having core values impact organizational ethics and in turn, breed organizational and operational effectiveness?

We all have values that are influenced by how we were raised and the experiences we have endured. When we put these values into action it builds our moral character and develops into our personal code of ethics.

However, people of different backgrounds are raised with a range of differing values and assorted interpretations of these values. Additionally, sometimes we face ethical dilemmas, where we have to make a decision that puts two or more values we hold dear to us in conflict with one another. This is not to be mistaken with an ethical lapse where we know we are making the wrong decision to gain benefit.

An ethical dilemma can be tough to navigate, especially when as a leader, you face a situation and your resulting decision impacts the lives of the people you influence. Effective organizations have leaders who have the ability to navigate ethical dilemmas and determine what is "right" for the organization and its people. This is where our core values are so important, they illuminate a path to reach that "right!"

When leaders discuss an ethical dilemma, they should look upon the organization's shared norms and the service's core values to determine if their decisions are in line with that organization's ethics. When I make a decision where "right" isn't readily apparent, I rely on our core values to shine a light on a decision that fits what "right" looks like for the organization as a whole.



By CMSgt Select  
Joseph Bogdan, 51st Civil  
Engineering Squadron

## VOLUNTEERS OPPORTUNITY

### Osan City's English Program for Middle School Students

As part of the Good Neighbor Program, 7 AF Public Affairs has been supporting the conversational English program organized by the Osan City Mayor for middle school children in Osan city. The program is in need of American volunteers who will assist and teach conversational English to the students for the 2018 first semester.

The program occurs every Monday from 12 March to 9 July 2018 (TBD).

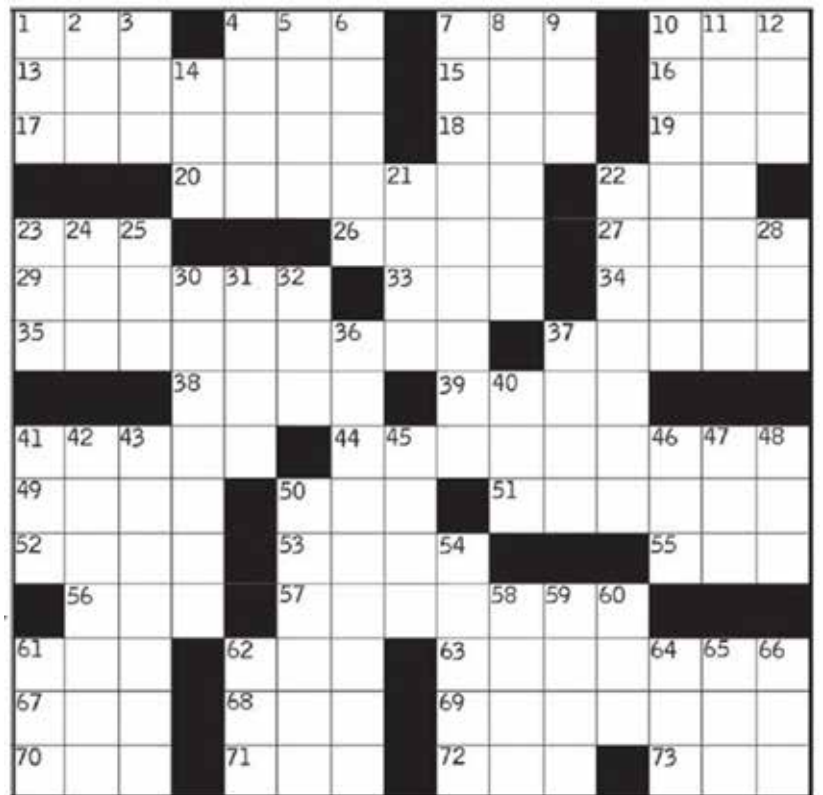
Transportation is provided; two mini buses depart from Checkertails at 1440 and return to Checkertails at approximately 1740 each Monday.

The program's goal is to improve Korean children's English language skills by allowing them to spend time with our service members in their Korean school classrooms. Spouses are welcome to volunteer. If you are interested in this "Adopt-A-School English Tutoring Program", please contact 7 AF/PA Ms. Yom, Kyong Suk via email [kyong\\_suk.yom.kr@us.af.mil](mailto:kyong_suk.yom.kr@us.af.mil) or DSN 784-4724, cell phone 010-4736-7979.



## The Crossword

By Jon Dunbar



### ACROSS

- 1 Comedian Margaret
- 4 Sweet potato
- 7 Truce Village
- 10 Not a big corporation
- 13 Small town
- 15 Hearing organ
- 16 Star Wars character Solo
- 17 Cosmic
- 18 Mineral
- 19 California fort
- 20 Olympic ice sport
- 22 Online laughter
- 26 U2 guitarist
- 27 Object
- 29 Wimbledon sport
- 33 CIA predecessor
- 34 Caffe \_\_\_\_
- 35 Skiing or swimming event
- 37 Special Forces hat
- 38 CTRL+U

### 39 Opposite of under

- 41 Earp or Cenac
- 44 Pepper spray advantage
- 49 Found under a hat
- 50 Korean movie theater chain
- 51 Korean punk rock band \_\_\_\_ Nut
- 52 Ladies' fingers
- 53 October birthstone
- 55 U-boat
- 56 WWW address
- 57 Painkiller
- 61 Time to arrive
- 62 GATT replacement
- 63 Northern and southern lights
- 67 Crimefighting scientist
- 68 Charged particle
- 69 Goes with figure or speed
- 70 Approved
- 71 Oil tanker cargo
- 72 Electric fish
- 73 Banned pesticide

### DOWN

- 1 Corner store
- 2 Strike
- 3 Good \_\_\_\_ boy
- 4 Korea-China river
- 5 Growth medium
- 6 Singer Haggard
- 7 Olympic county
- 8 Drill instructors
- 9 Where \_\_\_\_ you?
- 10 Biathlon athlete
- 11 Actress Dietrich
- 12 Opposite of begin
- 14 US company that doesn't pay taxes here
- 21 K-pop star
- 22 Freedom
- 23 Online exclamation
- 24 Opposite of him
- 25 Five minus four
- 28 Rendezvoused
- 30 \_\_\_\_ Nations Supervisory

### Commission

- 31 Opposite of is
- 32 HPV or gonorrhea
- 36 Gangwon Province ski resort
- 37 Cass or Hite
- 40 PC media player
- 41 Keith Moon's band
- 42 Siberian city
- 43 Siren cause
- 45 Speed skating rink
- 46 Opposite of hers
- 47 Mesopotamian sky god
- 48 A Paveway explosive
- 50 Goes with tail or mouth
- 54 Rent contract
- 58 Atomic attack
- 59 Spoken word
- 60 Many
- 61 \_\_\_\_-friendly
- 62 Actor Wheaton
- 64 Eliminate
- 65 Mergers \_\_\_\_ acquisitions
- 66 An NCO

### Answers (2-23-2018)

#### ACROSS

- 1 STARR
- 6 SOJU
- 10 SLID
- 14 KAKAO
- 15 LAOS
- 16 HITE
- 17 ADAPT
- 18 ITEM
- 19 EUSA
- 20 CFC
- 22 CPR
- 24 SOUP
- 28 TEAR
- 31 EMAIL
- 35 KATUSA

#### 37 BARRACKS

- 39 IRISH
- 40 MESS
- 41 NEED
- 42 HUE
- 44 OSS
- 46 ISNT
- 50 STUN
- 52 KOREA
- 57 QUARTERS
- 59 CYBORG
- 60 SEPIA
- 61 OAHU
- 63 SHAM
- 64 DOD
- 66 OPS
- 68 GATE
- 71 OPCW
- 74 OPSEC
- 79 AFKN

#### 80 DIAZ

- 81 FIELD
- 82 SNOT
- 83 OGRE
- 84 ATOMS

#### DOWN

- 1 SKA
- 2 TAD
- 3 AKA
- 4 RAP
- 5 ROTC
- 6 SLICE
- 7 OAT
- 8 JOE
- 9 USMC
- 10 SHERMAN
- 11 LIU
- 12 ITS

#### 13 DEA

- 21 FTA
- 23 PER
- 24 SKI
- 25 OAR
- 26 UTI
- 27 PUS
- 29 ABE
- 30 RASON
- 32 ACE
- 33 IKE
- 34 LSD
- 36 SHH
- 38 RSS
- 40 METRO
- 43 USE
- 45 SKY
- 46 IQS
- 47 SUE
- 48 NAP

#### 49 TRIDENT

- 51 USA
- 53 OBS
- 54 ROH
- 55 ERA
- 56 AGM
- 58 TAO
- 59 CUP
- 62 HOWZE
- 65 DODO
- 67 SOFA
- 68 GAS
- 69 AFN
- 70 TKO
- 72 PIG
- 73 CAR
- 75 PIT
- 76 SEO
- 77 ELM
- 78 CDS



Special tactics operators with the 21st Special Tactics Squadron out of Pope Field, N.C., serve themselves during Emerald Warrior 18 at Hurlburt Field, Fla., Feb. 28, 2018. The food served during this year's Emerald Warrior was adjusted from the standard deployment food, with a focus on nutritional benefits for the ST operators participating in the exercise. The adjusted menu provided more fresh fruits and vegetables, food with anti-inflammatory benefits, and a special focus on presentable, flavorsome food. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Victor J. Caputo)



# Fueling the SOF human weapon system

**By Staff Sgt. Victor J. Caputo**  
**24th Special Operations Wing Public Affairs**

HURLBURT FIELD, Fla. (AFNS) -- The Special tactics operators function as state-of-the-art human weapon systems and are force multipliers integrating airpower onto the battlefield. Dozens of different factors play into their ability to project forces, but there's one area that can be easily overlooked: nutrition.

Lindsey Pfau, a performance dietitian with the 720th Special Tactics Group and part of their Preservation of the Force and Family team, is setting out to make people rethink how an ST Airman should be fueled in a deployed environment.

"We've got years of nutritional science to tell us what foods are good for our bodies from a health perspective and from a performance perspective," said Pfau. "This is to push your body to the limit, to be bigger, faster, and stronger, to stay awake longer, to avoid muscle fatigue, to prevent cramping, to think more clearly. The food you're eating throughout the day out in the field is affecting your decision making; your precision, speed and movement as you're carrying 60 pounds of kit and gear; and your decision making that potentially impacts you, your team, your unit and your country."

More than 15 years of continuous deployments enabled many standard operating procedures to fall in place, and the types of food offered became somewhat standardized to satisfy the needs of the typical deployed troops. However, due to often times high-intensity missions, special operations forces have unique nutrition needs to meet the daily operational demands they face.

"The idea is to provide these warfighters with food that is more performance-based than traditional field feeding and gives access to larger portions to provide the calories they need to perform their

duties," said Pfau. "These guys are easily burning up to 4,000 calories in a day just to do their job, so we can't base their nutritional necessities on a generic 2,000-calorie-per-day diet."

## Trial Run

Emerald Warrior is an annual irregular warfare exercise directed by U.S. Special Operations Command out of Hurlburt Field. This year's installment, which started Feb. 22, 2018, was the first time that Pfau and USSOCOM Deployment Cell personnel were able to collaborate on providing an updated, specialized menu to special operations forces personnel.

The exercise operates out of a simulated deployed forward operating base set up by D-Cell, with a dining facility running out of a tent, hosting hundreds of patrons during the three meals offered every day. Integrating herself with D-Cell, Pfau worked to increase the number of hot meals available per day from two to three, provide more fresh vegetables and fruit, and allow the patrons to serve themselves as opposed to having set portion sizes.

"We need food that is going to be digested well, satisfy them, give them sustainable energy, and, once their mission is done, will help with muscle recovery," she said.

The long-term goal of the changes is to develop the nutrition plan to benefit all special operations forces down the line, instead of just a single exercise.

"We're starting to evolve the menu planning for all of SOCOM, so it's not just for Special tactics but also SEAL teams and other SOF," said Tech. Sgt. Flint Almiron, services craftsman with the U.S. SOCOM D-Cell. "Right now, we have more fresh-item selection, more variety and the quality of the food is much better, it's not just MREs."

## Long-term Health



Lindsey Pfau is a performance dietitian with the 720th Special Tactics Group at Hurlburt Field, Fla. Pfau, working with personnel from the U.S. Special Operations Command Deployment Cell, adjusted the food served during Emerald Warrior 18 from standard dining facility fare to foods focused on fueling the special tactics operators, fueling them to perform their best in the field. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Victor J. Caputo)

The realities of being an ST operator include a lot of hard physical and cognitive work. The tough work those Airmen go through requires special care, and the nutritional side of recovery is just as important as physical and mental fitness.

"These jobs place a lot of stress on your joints and your bones, there's a lot of inflammation going on, and then if we're serving up high-inflammatory foods throughout their career, it takes a toll," said Pfau. "That's why on our menu, we have lots of anti-inflammatory foods like avocados, blackberries and blueberries. We're trying to reduce our saturated fat intake, we've reduced the amount of butter in our recipes, and we're using leaner-quality meats and fresh ingredients."

Education can go a long way while at home station and each individual can directly control their diet, but ST Airmen rely on the food provided to them while deployed. The success and overwhelmingly supportive feedback received during Emerald Warrior 18 is a good first step into improving this area, said Pfau.

"Ultimately, the goal is to optimize the human weapon system for special operations forces on the battlefield to have the best chance at meeting our objectives," she said.



## Kunsan

**Kunsan Photo Club**

Interested in sharing your photography experience with others and exploring Korea along the way? Have a camera, but want to learn how to use it more completely? Then join the Kunsan Photo Club as they delve into the finer qualities of photography where the key concept is: "It's not the camera that makes a great photo, but the photographer." If interested in joining, the group can be found on Facebook, just search for "Kunsan Photo Club."

**Wolf Pack Lodge**

Lodging Space A Policy  
Need a break? Got family visiting and no room to house them? You can book lodging rooms on a space available basis up to 120 days in advance for a maximum of 30 days depending on availability. You can also book reservations for the holiday season (November and December) up to 30 days in advance for a maximum of 15 days. (Depending on availability) Book now for all of those relatives coming for the holiday!

Reservations – Front Desk-DSN 782-1844 or Commercial (82)63-470-1844 FAX: DSN 315-782-0633 Commercial (82)63-470-0633

**Sunday Sonlight dinner**

Every Sunday, volunteers from a specific unit cook dinner for their fellow Wolf Pack members at the Sonlight Inn. The dinner begins at 6 p.m. following grace led by a chaplain. Meals range from "breakfast for dinner" to "Italian cooking" to

"Southern style." For more information or to volunteer, contact the chapel at 782-HOPE.

**Sponsor training**  
Learn creative ways to assist newcomers reporting to Kunsan AB. Registration required. Class is held at the Airman and Family Readiness Center. Call 782-5644 for more information, dates or to sign up.

**ROKAF English Class**

Team 5/6 is looking for volunteers to support the ROKAF English class every Saturday, at the Sonlight Inn. You will be talking to ROKAF Airmen (enlisted) for approximately one hour. This event is open to all ranks! Civilian attire is preferred, however, UOD is allowed.

For more information, contact Staff Sgt. Charles Nelson.

**Ping Pong tournament**

Free to all. Prizes for first and second places. Prizes include Wolf Pack Won. To sign up, dates or for more information, call the CAC at 782-5213 or 4679.

## Osan

**Airman and Family Readiness Center programs**

**\*Bundles for Babies** - A workshop for expectant parents who want to learn more about parenting and support programs here at Osan. The class also offers you a finance piece that focuses on budgeting for your new baby from conception to college years and a chance to meet other new parents. Additionally, you'll receive a free "bundle" from the Air Force Aid Society.

**\*Separation & Retirement Benefits** - This is an optional workshop where separating and retiring members can learn about their benefits- includes briefings by MFLC, TMO, CPO, Finance, Tricare and SBP.

**\*Spouse Orientation** - This is a great opportunity for spouses to learn about the 51st Fighter Wing Mission, Non-combatant Evacuation Operation (NEO) process, and receive a protective (gas) mask demonstration. Spouses will also have an opportunity to meet key base representatives and learn about Korean Culture. As a bonus, a community information fair will end the day.

**Anthem Singers**  
Sopranos, altos, tenors and bass vocalists are needed to sing the US and ROK National Anthems at various events on base. Practice is held at 5 p.m. every Tuesday at the Chapel Annex. For more information, send an e-mail to: [nicholas.smith.21@us.af.mil](mailto:nicholas.smith.21@us.af.mil) or [ric.rebulanan.1@us.af.mil](mailto:ric.rebulanan.1@us.af.mil)

**\*Volunteers' Training** - The goal is to ensure all our volunteers are registered and they receive all tools and information to keep them informed of volunteer opportunities. For more information, call [784-0119](tel:784-0119).

**Volunteers for USFK Civilian Employees Appreciation Week**  
Each year, the USFK Commander takes time to recognize civilian employees for their accomplishments, contributions, and dedication to the USFK mission. This year, General Brooks has designated 11-15 September as USFK Civilian Employees Appreciation Week. We are currently seeking volunteers (US/LN Civilians, Active Duty Military, and Spouses/Family members) to assist in the planning and execution of this wonderful event. If you would like to volunteer to serve as a committee member, please contact Ms. Kim, Min Kyo, [min\\_kyo.kim.kr@us.af.mil](mailto:min_kyo.kim.kr@us.af.mil) or Ms. Precious Clermont, [precious.clermont@us.af.mil](mailto:precious.clermont@us.af.mil) at [784-4434/8177](tel:784-44348177).

**Open Continuous Vacancy Announcement for Pacific West Educational Aide positions**  
*Applicants who previously applied under the Open Continuous Vacancies will need to update their application and required documents under the new announcement numbers if they wish to be considered for the SY 17/18*  
PLEASE re-iterate to these interested applicants to have a complete resume attached. This includes but not limited to total employment period, i.e., starting and ending dates (month and year) and number of hours per week for each work experience, paid and unpaid. A description of duties and accomplishments for each experience, including volunteer. If a current or former Federal employee, highest Federal civilian grade held, job series, and dates of employment.  
Here is the direct link to the 2017 school support positions.  
Job Title: Educational Aide (GS-1702-04)  
Job Announcement Number: 17-042-KO-LG-1981388  
<https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/473464800>

Emergency Services	911	Commander's Hotline	782-5224
Off Base/Cell Emergency	063-470-0911	After-hours medical advice	782-4333
Crime Stop: (to report a crime)	782-5444	IG Complaints FWA Reporting:	782-4850 (duty hours) 782-4942 (anytime)
Base Locator: (after duty hours)	782-4743	Chaplain (After duty hours)	782-6000
Law Enforcement desk	782-4944	Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC)	782-7272
Emergency Leave / Red Cross		782-4601 (on base) 1-800-733-2761 (anytime)	

Emergency Services (Fire, Medical, Security Police)	911	Commander's Hotline	784-4811
Off Base/Cell Emergency	031-661-9111	Crime Stop: (to report a crime)	784-5757
Emergency Room:	784-2500	IG Complaints FWA Reporting:	784-1144
Base Locator: (after duty hours)	784-4597	Emergency Leave	784-7000
Force Protection Information Hotline:	115	Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC)	784-7272
Chaplain (After duty hours)	784-7000	Security Forces Control Center	784-5515



## CHAPEL SCHEDULE

### KUNSAN AIR BASE

**Protestant Services**  
**Gospel Service**  
 Sunday, 11:30 a.m.  
 Main Chapel, Bldg. 501  
**Contemporary Service**  
 Sunday 5 p.m.  
 Main Chapel, Bldg. 501

**Catholic Services**  
**Sunday Catholic Mass**  
 Sunday, 9:45 a.m.  
 Main Chapel, Bldg. 501  
**Daily Mass and Reconciliation**  
 Please call the Chapel

**Other Worship Opportunities**  
**LDS Service**  
 Sunday, 11:00 a.m.  
 SonLight Inn, Bldg. 510

**Point of Contact:**  
 Kunsan Chapel, 782-HOPE

**Visit us on SharePoint:**  
<https://kunsan.eis.pacaf.af.mil/8FW/HC>

### OSAN AIR BASE

**Protestant Services**  
**Gospel Service**  
 Sunday, 12:30 p.m.  
 Chapel Sanctuary  
**Community Service**  
 Sunday, 10:30 a.m.,  
 Chapel Sanctuary

**Protestant Ministries**  
**Awana Children's Ministry**  
 Wednesday, 5 p.m., Grades 7-12  
 Wednesday, 6 p.m., Pre-K to 6th Grade  
 Chapel  
**Osan Middle School**  
**Men of the Chapel**  
 Wednesday, 7 p.m., Chapel Annex  
**Singles & Unaccompanied**  
 Thursday, 7 p.m., Mustang Center  
**Friday, 7 p.m., Hospitality House**  
**Saturday, 6 p.m., Hospitality House**  
**Women of the Chapel**  
 Monday, 6:30 p.m./ Tuesday, 9 a.m.  
 Chapel Annex  
**Youth of the Chapel**  
 Monday, 6 p.m., Chapel Annex

**Catholic Mass**  
**Daily Mass**  
 Tuesday – Thursday, 11:30 a.m., Chapel  
**Reconciliation**  
 Saturday, 4 p.m (or by appointment), Chapel  
**Vigil Mass**  
 Saturday, 5 p.m., Chapel  
**Sunday Mass**  
 Sunday, 8:30 a.m., Chapel

**Catholic Ministries**  
**Catholic RE**  
 Sunday, 10 a.m., Chapel Annex  
**Korean Prayer Group**  
 Tuesday, 9:30 a.m.  
**Blessed Sacrament**  
**Bible Study**  
 Tuesday, 6 p.m., Chapel Annex Rm 4  
**Women of the Chapel**  
 Meet Monthly, Please call 784-5000

**Other Faith Groups**  
**Earth-Based (Contact the Chapel)**  
**Jewish (Contact the Chapel)**  
**Muslim (Contact the Chapel)**  
**Buddhist (Contact the Chapel)**  
**LDS Sunday, 1 p.m., Contact the Chapel**

**Point of Contact:**  
 Osan Chapel, 784-5000  
**Visit us on SharePoint:**  
<https://osan.eim.pacaf.af.mil/51FW/51FW-HC/default.aspx>  
**Visit us on Facebook (OSAN AB CHAPEL)**  
<https://www.facebook.com/OsanABChapel>

### USAG-YONGSAN

**Protestant Services**  
**Traditional Service**  
 Sunday, 9:30 a.m.  
 Memorial Chapel, Bldg 1597  
**Sunday, 9:30 a.m.**  
 Brian Allgood Hospital Chapel  
**Contemporary Service**  
 Sunday, 9 a.m.  
 South Post Chapel, Bldg 3702  
 Sunday, 10:30 a.m.  
 K-16 Chapel  
**Nondenominational Service**  
 Sunday, 11 a.m.  
 South Post Chapel, Bldg 3702  
**Gospel Service**  
 Sunday, 1 p.m.  
 South Post Chapel, Bldg 3702  
**Pentecostal**  
 Sunday, 1:30 p.m.  
 Memorial Chapel, Bldg 1597  
**Latter Day Saints (LDS)**  
 Sunday, 4 p.m.  
 South Post Chapel, Bldg 3702  
**Seventh-Day Adventist**  
 Saturday, 9:30 a.m.  
 Brian Allgood Hospital Chapel  
**KATUSA**  
 Tuesday, 6:30 p.m.  
 Memorial Chapel, Bldg 1597

**Catholic Mass**  
 Sunday, 8 a.m.  
 Memorial Chapel, Bldg 1597  
 Sunday, 11:30 a.m.  
 Memorial Chapel, Bldg 1597  
 Saturday, 5 p.m.  
 Memorial Chapel, Bldg 1597  
 1st Saturday, 9 a.m.  
 Memorial Chapel, Bldg 1597  
 M/W/T/F, 11:45 a.m.  
 Memorial Chapel, Bldg 1597  
 Tuesday, 11:45 p.m.  
 Brian Allgood Hospital Chapel

**General Service**  
**Episcopal Service**  
 Sunday, 11 a.m.  
 Brian Allgood Hospital Chapel

**Jewish**  
 Friday, 7 p.m.  
 South Post Chapel, Bldg 3702



**Point of Contact:**  
 USAG Yongsan Religious Support Office, 738-3011  
**Visit us on SharePoint:**  
<http://www.army.mil/yongsan>

## SPIRITUAL CHARGE

*Forgive us...as we forgive others.*

**H**ave you ever offended other people, or maybe someone has offended you? Erring or committing mistakes are just part of human nature, because humans are not perfect no matter how hard we try. Whether someone has offended you, or you have offended someone else, there is a longing in one's heart to make it right. This yearning is what is called forgiveness, which is our desire to restore a broken relationship.

I would like to share with you my personal journey towards forgiveness. My big sister, Maria, disowned me when I fathered a child while I was still a Roman Catholic priest. I created a big scandal within the Church, of which I was ashamed. Maria demanded that Lolita (now my wife) abort my son, thinking that by doing so it would solve the scandal. I stood my ground and protected my son from being aborted. I acknowledged that I committed sin by breaking my priestly vow of celibacy, however I firmly believed that killing my unborn son would not solve the problem, but would rather add another one. My decision to own the full responsibility of my action worsened the severed relationship with Maria.

Breaking a relationship with my sister and best friend pained me deeply, because she was not only a sister and best friend, but a parent to me as well. Losing her was like losing my whole world. My pain developed into intense anger, because the relationship I valued the most was gone. I thought bad of her, I wished her dead! I



**Ch, Capt Angeles De Leon**  
**Chaplain, Osan AB**

had "an eye for an eye" mentality; she hurt me, I hurt her back. I was not aware my anger with her made me angry with any female who had some resemblances of her, especially those with a strong personality. Some brought to my attention that I have an issue with some women.

For over ten years I did not deal with my pain and anger, because I thought time would heal, but I was wrong. Not long ago, I was chosen to attend Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE), the only Professional Military Education (PME) for the Air Force Chaplain Corps. In this program I became more aware of myself, and processed my issue, which was deeply rooted in my severed relationship with Maria. With God's grace, I worked to be at peace with myself and with Maria. I reconciled with her around my dad's death bed. We hugged and forgave each other, and this was one of the happiest moments in my life. When my father passed away, Maria and I, and the rest of my family grieved together. This shared experience of grieving strengthened our bond.

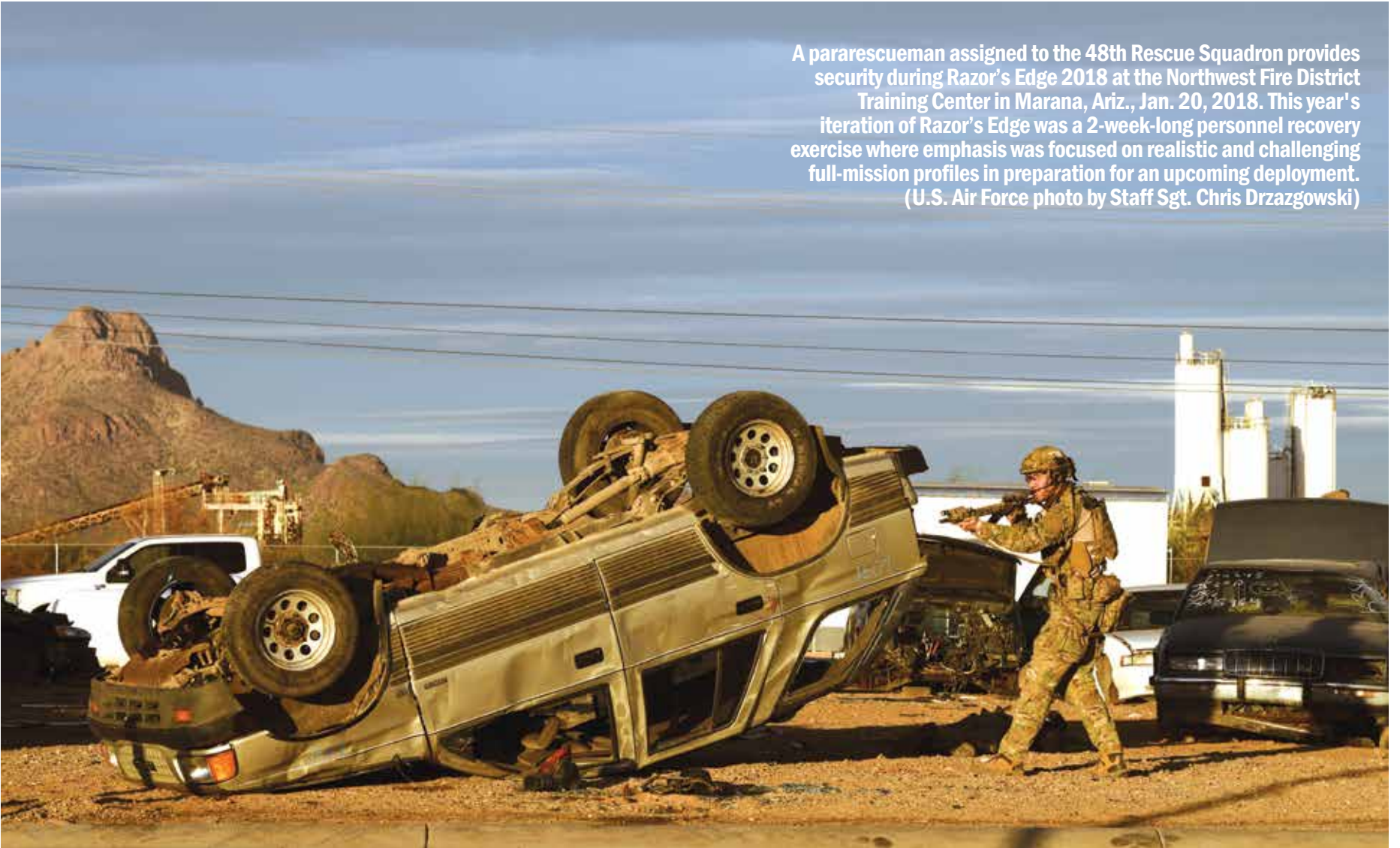
Looking back, I realized for over ten years I had not lived my life to the fullest. The hatred and unforgiving in my heart were like cancer cells, not only preventing me from living a fulfilled life, but were slowly killing the goodness in me as well. There is a tendency in me to get even with people who offend me, but I am aware as Mahatma Gandhi once said, "an eye for an eye makes the world blind."

If you need help dealing with forgiving others and seeking forgiveness, the Air Force Chaplain Corps is willing to journey with you. And for Christians who pray the Lord's Prayer, "forgive us our sins, as we have forgiven those who sin against us" (Matthew 6:12)...you can really mean what you pray.



# 48th RQS PJs primed for deployment after extensive training cycle

A pararescueman assigned to the 48th Rescue Squadron provides security during Razor's Edge 2018 at the Northwest Fire District Training Center in Marana, Ariz., Jan. 20, 2018. This year's iteration of Razor's Edge was a 2-week-long personnel recovery exercise where emphasis was focused on realistic and challenging full-mission profiles in preparation for an upcoming deployment. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Chris Drzazgowski)



**By Staff Sgt. Chris Drzazgowski**  
355th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

DAVIS-MOTHAN AIR FORCE BASE, Ariz. (AFNS) -- A dry and frigid December night hosts no moon in its sky and provides little ambient light as a team of pararescuemen race to their objective area in a convoy of open-cabbed, off-road vehicles. The intel provided to them states there are several critically-injured patients stranded in a collapsed structure. As they approach the rear of the demolished building, they are greeted with a barrage of rapid gun fire from a distant origin. The pops are immediately followed by a series of nearby thumps, including occasional ear-grazing whishes attributed to dime-sized projectiles. The technical rescue specialists dismount the vehicles and work quickly to clear opposing forces from the area. They paint their targets with infrared lasers, only visible by other members in the team, and then kill off the enemy. The scene is clear, but now exists the possibility that too many precious minutes were lost during the fire fight. It's time for the PJs to get to their patients, and then treat and transport them to safety as quickly as possible.

For the past few months, pararescuemen, or PJs, from the 48th Rescue Squadron out of Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Arizona, have been gearing up for a deployment in support of Operation Inherent Resolve.

They began with a five day tactical medical course in the pine-wooded environment of Perry,

Florida, and then moved on to the culmination of their training at Razor's Edge, a 2-week-long isolated personnel recovery exercise.

The PJs hold a unique mission in the vast spectrum of combat. They are expected to perform rescue operations in any situation and in any environment, which involves robust and high volumes of training.

"Your training should always be harder than real-world operations," said Capt. Caleb, 48th RQS combat rescue officer. "You want your team to be able to solve any problem they see because they've gone as far to the extreme as they can be taken in training."

This is a philosophy the PJs have embodied since the beginning of their careers as rescue specialists.

"We used the training in Florida as a foundation course for Razor's Edge," said Staff Sgt. Ty, 48th RQS pararescueman. "So it was heavy with medical training and also heavy on trying to develop standard operating procedures."

Both the medical course and Razor's Edge involved a variety of full-mission profiles for the team to acclimate to the cycle of planning, executing and debriefing. PJs would receive a mission drop from intelligence personnel, then plan and begin execution within one hour of the intel brief. The missions all involved isolated personnel recovery which required clearing the area of opposing forces with the use of non-lethal training ammunition, and then stabilizing and transporting the simulated patients to a mock

hospital for medical treatment.

"The training in Florida allowed these guys to take a step back and have a chance to refine their medical skills, and not focus so much on the big tasks like jumping, diving, and flying in helicopters," Caleb said. "It was meant to get them to remember the bread and butter of the career field—supporting and saving lives."

For PJs to be successful in their craft, realism is paramount during training. In order to achieve the most realistic and valuable medical training, cadavers were utilized during both courses.

"You can't get any more realistic than cadavers," said Senior Airman Matt, 48th RQS pararescueman. "They are extremely valuable because you're able to see how certain procedures are supposed to be carried out on human anatomy. It's also good for the medic to see the injuries on the cadavers, because when the time comes to treat a real live patient, he won't be surprised or taken aback because he's already seen those injuries in training."

To add to the realism and make problems increasingly difficult to solve, sleep deprivation was added to the mix. In Florida, the PJs sustained a near 24-hour rotation of operations. Then to cap off Razor's Edge, they kicked it up to 56 hours.

"You get to learn quite a bit about yourself after 50 hours of not sleeping," Ty said. "Everybody starts to change one way or another, good or bad. You have a moment of self-reflection to realize that when you start getting sleep deprived, you're going to react a certain way. So I need to be ready



to stay ahead of the curve to make sure the team gets taken care of."

The PJs had to practice appropriate risk management to avoid letting lack of rest be a hindering factor in their performance.

"I knew everyone was getting sleep deprived when we became more aware of each other's condition," Matt said. "We did more safety checks—if we were doing a rappel or extrication, we took that extra minute because we realized that we haven't been sleeping for 40 plus hours. So we made sure not to mess each other up and possibly gain a new patient just because we're sleep deprived. We took less risks to stay healthy and safe together as a team."

To maintain their unity as a team, each individual needed to learn what kept them motivated and ready for the next mission.

"For me, I just focused on the next task at hand," Ty said. "Making sure everyone is fully prepared, whether it was checking that weapons are cleaned, ammo re-jammed, our equipment is prepped, ready to go and staged. Once all that was done, it was just trying to give guys as much time off as possible, so that everyone could have a little bit of time apart from each other. Because when you spend that much time in a group, guys are going to get on each other's nerves. So making sure they had a few moments to themselves to decompress was really important."

During Razor's Edge, the PJs also had the opportunity to work together in tasks with approximately 30 joint operators from the Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command, Naval Special Warfare Command, U.S. Army Special Forces and the Border Patrol Tactical Unit.

"The intent of integrating joint forces into Razor's Edge was to bring in the exact teams we're deploying with so we could build relationships and conduct operations to ultimately mitigate risk on the battlefield," Caleb said.

Unlike the pre-established rapport the PJs had among themselves, they were given approximately 30 minutes to meet and talk with the other sister-service operators before venturing out together on nighttime missions.

"It was interesting being a young guy in this career field and meeting those joint forces who had 15 years of experience on each party," Matt said. "I wasn't completely aware of their individual experiences and they didn't know mine, which created a bit of a gap. But it was helpful for me to see how they ran things and operated so I could gain experience from them for future missions."

Overall, the team of PJs executed 98 missions during Razor's Edge. The exercise involved consummate coordination to ensure its pace never slowed or became easy, which was essential to providing the team with valuable training and complete readiness for their upcoming deployment.

"I felt that the opportunities we were given during this training cycle were pretty rare," Ty said. "Especially the amount of them—all the reps, the patients, everything we were able to use in order to train. Compared to my first two deployments, I feel much more spun up and ready to go for this one, and I feel like a lot of the other guys feel the same."

The exercise also helped the youngest of the PJs to establish a clear vision of what's to come for his first time downrange, as well as solid poise.

"I'm very confident in the team, from leadership all the way down," Matt said. "We all trust the leadership because they use their experience to



**Pararescuemen from the 48th Rescue Squadron out of Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz., prepare to extricate a simulated patient from between two vehicles during Razor's Edge 2018 at the Northwest Fire District Training Center in Marana, Ariz., Jan. 20, 2018. During Razor's Edge, cadavers were utilized to provide the most realistic training scenario possible. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Chris Drzazgowski)**



**Pararescuemen from the 48th Rescue Squadron secure an objective area during a high-angle rescue training scenario at a concrete production facility in Marana, Ariz., Jan. 9, 2018. The PJs were tasked with securing the area, locating and medically stabilizing isolated personnel, and then transporting them from a platform approximately 80 feet above the ground. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Chris Drzazgowski)**

help out the younger guys like me. They're always teaching us, but they also let us learn our own way as well. This is my first spin up, so I couldn't ask for anything better to increase my confidence as a member of this team."

The team is now armed with a comprehensive skillset in order to successfully execute their core function of personnel recovery downrange.

"Ultimately what this training provided as opposed to any other training we've done was problem solving," Caleb said. "It gave the team every possible problem with a mix of different aspects. I think when these guys go forward, I feel like they'll have a lot to fall back on when it comes

to solving problems. Not only solving them, but solving them quickly and efficiently. I think they'll be able to do it with minimal risk and minimum exposure to the threat and themselves."

Before Razor's Edge officially concluded, the team invited their families to observe the exercise's final mission.

"I wanted to bring in the families to show them the sights, sounds and smells of a realistic deployed environment," Caleb said. "The PJs are away from home about 250 to 300 days a year, so I wanted their families to see that when their husband or dad is gone, it's all to serve a greater purpose."





**Capt. Bryon Kroger and 1st Lt. Carlo Viray, review combat applications in Cambridge, Mass., Aug. 13, 2017. The officers, who are part of the Air Operations Center Pathfinder acquisition program run out of Hanscom Air Force Base, Mass., work with coders in an open workspace environment with civilians who train them on the techniques used by Silicon Valley's best software programmers. (U.S. Air Force photo by Rick Berry)**

# Airmen code for combat in Cambridge

**By Benjamin Newell**  
66th Air Base Group Public Affairs

**HANSCOM AIR FORCE BASE, Mass. (AFNS)** -- Six teams of Airmen hung up their camo and dress uniforms to don hoodies and Star Wars apparel before traveling to Cambridge, Massachusetts, where they work with civilian software coders to build combat applications.

The group of Hanscom Air Force Base Airmen are participating in the Air Operations Center Pathfinder project.

Their mission is to learn from today's best tech experts, while delivering custom-built software to warfighters. They are already saving the Air Force fuel and they have reduced the time it takes AOC warfighters to develop targets by 85 percent, making combat operations more precise and lethal.

"Our mission here is to turn the Air Force into a software company that provides airpower," said Capt. Brian Kroger, AOC Pathfinder program manager. He's also leading a team that is revamping an app called the Joint Tactical Toolbox. Kroger's comments reflect his unit's goal to make Air Force software as responsive as the operating systems in your smartphone, in order

to disrupt the adversary as effectively as Silicon Valley companies disrupt their competitors.

Kroger's team is working with a company called Pivotal Labs, which provides people and space to teach Airmen how to code like the workers in Silicon Valley. Open workspaces found in Cambridge contrast with traditional government workspaces on base with closed cubicles and offices. Pivotal Labs employees, and the Airmen they're teaming with, work on state-of-the-art computers and have a clear line of sight across the entire floor, increasing the chance for collaboration and innovation among people who don't use hierarchical job titles.

"Our biggest challenge right now is the Department of Defense's hiring and personnel system," said Lt. Col. Jeremiah Sanders, who leads the AOC Pathfinder. "It turns out that in order for this type of work environment to function, you need to select personalities who work well in team environments, rather than people who meet specific education requirements. We thought technology was the hurdle, but it turns out we can learn to do this, and we do it fast. We're only slowed by how quickly we can fund for more personnel and select the right people."

Program funding uncertainty in late 2017

threatened the project's existence. At the end of January, AOC Pathfinder received adequate funding to execute the program through mid-June, as a stop-gap until the 2018 Department of Defense Appropriations Act is passed and breathes life into the effort. Upon receiving budget authority, the program will be postured to deliver combat applications, on a weekly basis, onto military networks. According to Sanders, no one has accomplished that before.

Sanders assembled a diverse team, including junior officers and enlisted Airmen, charged with fusing their combat experience with the expertise found in Boston and Silicon Valley's technology sectors.

"I was an intel officer for several years before I joined this Pathfinder," Kroger said. "Sometimes when working through the process to develop a target, I found myself bridging all these different systems by copying and pasting coordinates or other details into Microsoft Word and then onto another system. These tools work, but when you create workarounds that complicated because the software won't communicate, you introduce the possibility for errors. We're talking life and death."

Sanders measures his program's success in time, money and lethality.



**Time**

AOC Pathfinder averages 120 days from development to delivery of each application. Traditional development for similar software would be accomplished as a whole suite and take up to five years.

So far, efforts by the AOC Pathfinder team have reduced the need for one tanker mission per day over the Middle East, because they created a refueling planning tool that eliminated pen-and-paper and whiteboard planning processes.

**Money**

Traditional acquisition techniques require up-front funding for an entire suite of systems. AOC Pathfinder personnel estimate they have, so far, saved hundreds of millions of dollars over traditional software acquisition techniques for the same number of software programs.

The Tanker Planning Toolkit saves approximately \$214,000 per day, and also reduces risk by reducing in-flight combat zone exposure for Airmen.

**Lethality**

A deliberate targeting application designed by Airmen significantly reduced the potential for human error and slashed the time required for targeteers to develop targets by 85 percent. Reducing human error improves accuracy, and makes combat air forces more lethal.

A dynamic targeting application saves 25 percent of the time previously spent manually checking targeting inputs, reducing human error that can crop up during a warfighter's more reactive type of kinetic strike. It is also auditable, meaning lessons can be easily extracted from previous successes and failures, making future operations more effective.

"When you look at the efforts being done in (AOC Pathfinder), we're taking the commander's intent, giving Airmen in the Air Operations Center the tools they need to make it a reality, and then providing the tools they need to assess and improve for the next mission," said 1st Lt. Carlo Viray, project owner for a software system called Marauder. "We want our leadership to have the best information to make better decisions during tomorrow's war."

# AF officials announce creation of Info Ops tech school

## Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (AFNS) -- Air Force officials have announced the creation of a new Information Operations technical training school, which is expected to open in fiscal year 2019.

The standup of a dedicated training school at Hurlburt Field, Florida, follows the Air Force's creation of the Information Operations career field and Air Force specialty code in late 2016.

"Information Operations is not new to the Air Force," said Col. Ziggy Schoepf, 14F career field manager. "However, this is the first time that the Air Force has codified this capability in a dedicated officer career field. With the creation of the career field and a dedicated schoolhouse, the Air Force is acknowledging the importance of Information Operations to the future of warfare."

Prior to the creation of the 14F Information Operations AFSC, Airmen from various AFSCs served in IO positions as career broadening experiences for a limited period. Because these Airmen returned to their core AFSC following their service in IO positions, the Air Force was limited in its ability to sustain institutional knowledge and practice of IO tactics, techniques and procedures.

Creation of the 14F AFSC enabled the service to standardize education and training for Airmen, building a foundation to cultivate IO expertise and improve a commander's ability to operate in more pervasive and connected information and operational environments.

The 14F Initial Skills Course will consolidate and integrate content from multiple IO-related training courses, such as IO intelligence integration, military deception, operational security and psychological operations. The 14-15 week-long courses will begin late fiscal 2019. Until the schoolhouse is fully operational, IO students receive training through a variety of Air Force and joint courses that cover the required subjects.

"Although our Airmen currently receive training on the same subject matters, standing up the 14F AFSC allowed us to create a continuum of learning to develop expertise and experience within the Air Force," said Schoepf. "The course will provide students with cohesive training rooted in social science. Graduates will have the skills to build strategies and plans that sustain or change perceptions and attitudes driving the behavior and decision making of relevant actors."

## Be the change: The power of representation



**Comic book illustrator Shawn Martinbrough speaks to Airmen about the power of diversity and inclusion in the comic book industry at the Pentagon Conference Center Feb. 20, 2018. Martinbrough is a former TEDx Mid-Atlantic presenter and an acclaimed author. (U.S. Air Force photo by Andy Morataya)**

### By Col. Eries L.G. Mentzer National Defense Fellow

WASHINGTON -- The Comic book illustrator Shawn Martinbrough met with Pentagon Airmen to speak about the power of representation Feb. 20, 2018. A native New Yorker, he has illustrated Black Panther, Batman, Luke Cage Noir, Captain America, and Hellboy characters for Marvel and Detective Comics.

"You've got to keep your hustle," he said. "You need to continually survey your environment, embrace emerging technologies, learn the business side of their industry, and reinvent yourself to remain relevant."

Martinbrough said diversity was not deliberately excluded in the comic book industry. The comics were developed through the lens of illustrators in an industry lacking diversity. As a black illustrator in high demand, he said that creating images representative of his race is empowering.

"Shawn's experience resonated with me because I am usually the only cyber female and African American in the room, and as I grow in rank, it is even more pronounced," said Maj. Dee Randolph, Cyber and Space Strategy Branch chief. "As a minority you need to have tenacity, so you can be eventually recognized for the abilities you bring to the table. You too can be the first if it hasn't been done."

Martinbrough elevated black comic characters from sidekicks and villains to leading characters and heroes. When he illustrated Luke Cage, he altered Luke Cage's image from a street image to a more professional representation with a classic suit and a fedora to show a strong superhero.

"As a parent, it is my job to reduce my children's exposure to racial stereotypes. I do not want them to be influenced by negative perceptions," said Maj. Chris Owens, Air Force Reserve Policy Integration chief of Congressional Inquiries. "It's important to constantly ensure that diversity is represented because it helps people who are not familiar with other cultures to be more informed."

Martinbrough was commissioned to illustrate a book without any specifics about the characters from the author, so he drew the lead female character to represent the strong black female role models in his life. The response from his editor, "Oh, she is black now. Cool."

The lack of diversity and inclusion in his childhood comics inspired him to illustrate the representation he desired. "You just need to illustrate your story through your lens," Martinbrough said. "Use your power to be the change you want to see in your field."

Col. Eries L.G. Mentzer is a National Defense Scholar at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. The views expressed are her own.





Army Spc. Peter Sky passes the torch to Air Force Senior Airman Hanna Stolberg during the 5th Annual Air Force Wounded Warrior Trials opening ceremony at the Warrior Fitness Center on Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada, Feb. 23, 2018. The trials are an adaptive sports event designed to promote the mental and physical well-being of seriously ill and injured military members and veterans. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Kevin Tanenbaum)

## 2018 Air Force Wounded Warrior Trials begin



Staff Sgt. Vincent Cavazos carries the Air Force flag during the 5th Annual Air Force Wounded Warrior Trials opening ceremony at the Warrior Fitness Center on Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada, Feb. 23, 2018. Service members are participating in adaptive athletic reconditioning for lasting effects on physical and emotional recovery. (U.S. Air Force photo by Corey Parrish)

By Master Sgt. Matthew Bates, Defense Media Activity

NELLIS AIR FORCE BASE, Nevada (AFNS) -- After More than 150 wounded warriors from the Air Force, Army, Great Britain and Australia gathered today to officially open the fifth annual Air Force Trials at Nellis Air Force Base.

The Paralympic-style event features wheelchair basketball, sitting volleyball, archery, shooting, track, field, cycling and swimming competitions, where participants vie for a spot on the Air Force's Warrior Games team which will compete June 2-9, in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

The Air Force Trials, which run through March 2, are part of an adaptive and resiliency sports program designed to promote the mental and physical well-being of the wounded, ill and injured service members who participate.

"We are here for one reason: To support you and help you on the road to recovery," said Maj. Gen. Brian T. Kelly, Air Force Personnel Center commander, during remarks at the ceremony. "Our hope is that you leave here stronger than when you arrived."

The Trials are also a test of the athletes' resiliency, strength and endurance, according to Col. Mike Davis, vice commander of the 99th Air Base Wing, and Nellis and the surrounding community are excited to host the event.

"We are honored for the opportunity to support these warriors," he said.

During the ceremony, the athletes were recognized by service and nation, the U.S. Air Force Academy's Wings of Blue performed a parachute demonstration, two HH-60 Pave Hawks from the 66th Rescue Squadron flew a two-ship formation and the Trials torch was lit.

This year, the participants are made up of 52 active duty, 12 Air National Guard and Reserve and 55 Air Force veterans.

The Trials are part of the Air Force's Wounded Warrior program, which is a congressionally mandated and federally funded organization administered by AFPC in San Antonio, Texas. The program includes recovery care coordinators, non-medical care managers and other professionals who work with wounded warriors, their families and caregivers to guide them through various day-to-day challenges.

For more news and information, go to [www.woundedwarrior.af.mil](http://www.woundedwarrior.af.mil) or visit the Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/airforcewoundedwarrior](http://www.facebook.com/airforcewoundedwarrior).



**CANDLE SAFETY**

According to U. S. Fire Administration, on average, 42 home candle fires are reported every day. Most of these fires are caused by the misuse of candles within the home or work place. Remember, candle fires are preventable!

Candles are a nice way to relax after a long day but anytime an open flame is present; there is always a risk of a potential house fire. So, be sure not to place any flammable material on or near a burning candle.

**Candles & Home Fire Safety Tips:**

- Consider using battery-operated or electric flameless candles and fragrance warmers, which can look, smell and feel like real candles – without the flame.
- If you do use candles, ensure they are in sturdy metal, glass or ceramic holders and placed where they cannot be easily knocked down.
- Avoid using candles in bedrooms and sleeping areas.
- Extinguish candles after use and before going to bed.
- Keep candles at least 12 inches from anything that can burn.
- Keep candles out of the reach of children and pets.
- Children should never be allowed to play with matches, lighters or candles.
- Never use a candle where medical oxygen is being used. The two can combine to create a large, unexpected fire.
- Always use a flashlight – not a candle – for emergency lighting.
- Never put candles on a Christmas tree.
- And NEVER leave burning candles unattended!

According to 51 FWI 32-2001, Para 6.15.2.2 (2013 Edition) states that the use of candles, incense, or other open flame devices is prohibited in all base buildings excluding MFH.

If there are any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Fire Prevention Office at 784-4834/4835.



**E**very year, almost 1,000 smokers and non-smokers are killed in home fires caused by cigarettes and other smoking materials. These fires are absolutely preventable!

If you smoke or live with someone who smokes, learn the facts. A lit cigarette accidentally dropped onto a chair or bed, hot cigarette ashes or matches tossed away before they are completely extinguished can ignite a fire in seconds.

**Smoking & Home Fire Action Steps:**

- If you smoke, smoke at the designated area.
- Whenever you smoke, use deep, sturdy ashtrays.
- Keep matches and lighters up high, out of children's sight and reach.

- To prevent a deadly cigarette fire, you have to be alert. You won't be if you are sleepy, have been drinking, or have taken medicine or other drugs.
- Before you throw out butts and ashes, make sure they are out, and dousing in water or sand is the best way to do that.
- Never smoke in a home where oxygen is used. (Ref: U.S. Fire Administration)

Smoking in Air Force facilities is prohibited in most cases. (Ref: AFI 40-102, Tobacco Use in the Air Force) All areas will be considered "NO SMOKING" areas unless a "DESIGNATED SMOKING AREA" sign is posted.

Any questions, feel free to reach out to Fire Prevention Office at 784-4834 or 4835.



# Making History

By U.S. Air Force Story by Staff Sgt. Franklin R. Ramos, 51st Fighter Wing Public Affairs

OSAN AIR BASE -- Mr. Kang, Tae Chun, 51st Civil Engineer Squadron Operations Flight deputy commander, was named the U.S. Air Force Outstanding Civil Engineer Manager of the Year. He is the first ever Republic of Korea national employee to receive this award.

Kang has been serving in his role for more than five years. He assists with leading 275 technicians in the sustainment and repair of Osan's \$3.5 billion infrastructure.

"Here at CES Operations Flight, we take care of all the property on Osan AB. As the deputy of the Operations Flight, I take care of the funds side of things," said Kang. "Using a life cycle budget tool, I plan for the funds every fiscal year for the year ahead. I'll submit all the requirements for approval and once we get an amount of the funds, we plan on how to utilize the funds for each element within CES."

With most Airmen leaving here after 12 months, Mr. Kang being a local employee helps make it easier for Team Osan to continue the mission.

"With our high-rate of turnover, he is the continuity that keeps our flight's strategic planning on track. He also provides superb leadership to our almost 100 civilian employees and bridges the gap between our U.S. and Korean family members," said U.S. Air Force Senior Master Sgt. Joseph Bogdan, 51st CES Operations Flight chief. "Without Mr. Kang's [continuity], leadership and insight, the maintenance and repair of Osan's



Mr. Kang, Tae Chun, 51st Civil Engineer Squadron Operations Flight deputy commander, was named the U.S. Air Force Outstanding Civil Engineer Manager of the Year at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, Feb. 13, 2018. He is the first ever Republic of Korea national employee to receive this award. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Franklin R. Ramos/Released)

already challenging infrastructure would be exponentially more difficult."

Kang's accomplishment highlights how working together better enhances the Rok-U.S. alliance.

"To be the first-ever Korean National employee to be named [for this award] not only breaks barriers, but also exemplifies how important our Korean national teammates are in accomplishing our mission," said Bogdan. "His impact is felt every day by everyone on this installation. He empowers every Mongrel (51st CES) to accomplish the amazing things we do on a daily basis in support of the mission. Whether it's ensuring we have reliable power or guaranteeing our runways

are clear during inclement weather, Mr. Kang has his hand in ensuring our Airmen have the resources and training to "Make it Happen!"

Although the award is recognizing the individual, Kang believes it represents his unit altogether.

"I think this award is important for the people that I work with because [although] the package describes what I did, it could not have been done by myself. That means that the work is performed by our team and I'm proud of our team. This award is for our whole Operations Flight," said Kang. "They are constantly busy, and I am thankful to them for all their hard work every day. I'm proud of my flight."

## Assistant secretary for installations, environmental, energy named 2017 Federal Engineer of the Year

By Courtesy Story

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (AFNS) -- John Henderson, P.E., the assistant secretary of the U.S. Air Force for installations, environment, and energy, has been named the National Society of Professional Engineers' 2018 Federal Engineer of the Year.

Henderson, who received the honor during the 39th Annual FEYA Banquet at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C., Feb. 23, 2018, was nominated for the award while serving as district commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District.

"This is a great honor," said Henderson, shortly after he was named the winner. "I was aware of some of the other nominations and accomplishments and I'm very humbled and honored to be recognized among such a really well-qualified group of people. I want to say I also accept this award on behalf of the 1300 engineering professionals and project management

professionals out of the Omaha District who have done some incredibly amazing things."

As district commander, Henderson guided his agency during the Dakota Access Pipeline permitting process, which received national attention after Corps lands were occupied by thousands of protestors. While under scrutiny, he consistently demonstrated profound leadership by focusing teammates on the role of the Corps as a neutral party, exercising regulatory authority according to the law and sound science.

Henderson's team also negotiated a 20-year partnership with the Western States Power Corporation to provide more than \$1 billion in private funds for the rehabilitation of federal hydropower infrastructure on the Missouri River. Aside from his problem solving skills, Henderson oversaw 1,300 personnel in 10 states and managed over 2500 projects involving more than \$250 billion of critical federal infrastructure and real property, including dams, hydropower

plants, levees, navigational channels, and recreational areas.

In his new role as an assistant secretary of the Air Force, Henderson is responsible for the formulation, review and execution of plans, policies, programs and budgets to meet Air Force installation, energy, environment, safety and occupational health objectives worldwide.

Henderson holds both bachelor's and master's degrees in civil engineering from the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology. He also attended the Massachusetts Institute of Technology for a National Security Studies Fellowship. He is a member of numerous organizations including NSPE, Society of American Military Engineers, American Society of Civil Engineers, and the Army Engineer Association. Throughout his career and duty locations, Henderson also took time to volunteer with Optimists International, providing input on STEM programs in local schools, and volunteering as a sports coach.





## 8th MXS Airman chosen for Senior Leader Enlisted Commissioning Program

By Staff Sgt. Jasmonet D. Jackson  
8th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

KUNSAN AIR BASE -- The Staff Sgt. William Willmann, an electrical and environmental aircraft technician assigned to the 8th Maintenance Squadron, began his career with the Air Force when he enlisted in 2012, and has launched and caught heavy aircraft and conducted fighter jet phase inspections, ever since.

Although Willmann's enlisted career consisted of electrical and environmental aircraft maintenance, his career progression is set to change, due to his selection for the Senior Leader Enlisted Commissioning Program.

"Commissioning has always been on my mind" said Willmann. "But then, the SLECP program was brought to my attention, which gave me the opportunity to go for it."

SLECP is a commissioning program which enables designated Air Force senior leaders to directly select enlisted members to commission through officer training school who are highly talented and exhibit exceptional performance.

The program also provides a two-track opportunity; one for enlisted members to pursue their degree while on active duty status (SLECP-A), as well as Airmen who have already acquired their degree to directly commission through OTS (SLECP-O). Willmann fell into the SLECP-O category, as a result of his bachelor's degree he earned from University of North Texas in 2011.



**U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. William Willmann, electrical and environmental aircraft technician assigned to the 8th Maintenance Squadron, was selected for the Senior Leader Enlisted Commissioning Program at Kunsan Air Base, Republic of Korea. SLECP is a commissioning program which enables designated Air Force senior leaders to directly select enlisted members to commission through officer training school who are highly talented and exhibit exceptional performance. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Jasmonet D. Jackson)**



“Programs like SLECP, Airman Scholarship & Commissioning Program (ASCP) and Officer Training School (OTS) are awesome for our young Airmen and NCO’s to ‘cross over’ to the officer side of the house,” said Lt. Col. Christopher Haley, 8th Maintenance Squadron commander. “SLECP specifically, does not require a board or application, which is, one hell of a deal if you ask me!”

Willmann did have to submit a number of documents within just a week’s time for SLECP, he also had to do an in-person interview with 8th Fighter Wing commander, Col. David Shoemaker.

“My leadership knew that I only had a short period of time to get my paperwork together, so I really had to bust my rump, so that I wouldn’t let this opportunity pass me by,” said Willmann. “It was almost smooth sailing, but I still had to sit with Wolf before my package could go outside of the 8FW.”

Willmann’s leadership notified him that his package was chosen over the two other nominees, but his package still had to go to the 7th Air Force

and lastly, Pacific Air Forces.

“I knew William was highly competitive, because I have helped a lot of my Airmen over the last three years as a commander get into various commissioning programs” said Haley. “William’s records, grades, and personal character were all rock-star strong.”

While awaiting to hear about his SLECP-O package, he began to prepare himself for, “What if I’m not selected for the program? What’s next?” He recollected his thoughts from a conversation he had with Lt. Col. Haley.

“It’s been awhile, I haven’t heard anything. I highly doubt I got accepted,” said Willmann to Haley. “I’m going to work towards putting my package in for the next OTS cycle.”

Although Willmann counted himself out, Lt. Col. Haley had a trick up his sleeve.

“I could not have been more proud and excited when Wolf informed me he [Willmann] won at PACAF,” said Haley. “The look on his face when Wolf gave him a ‘Butter Bar’ coin to congratulate him—priceless.”

Although there is no boarding process or application needed for SLECP, make no mistake in assuming that it’s a “cake walk”, said 8th Fighter Wing Command Chief Master Sgt. Reiko Meeks. Each MAJCOM is allowed to select one candidate each for a direct slot into SLECP—SSgt Willmann is the 8th Fighter Wing and PACAF’s one.

“I want to be an officer because I believe I have the traits that an effective leader in the Air Force needs to motivate Airmen and manifest mission success,” said Willmann. “I am capable of adapting to those ever-changing situations and making reasonable decisions in the face of adversity.”

Willmann is set to head to Officer Training School in late spring, then to his follow-on assignment to Yokota Air Base, Japan. He is headed right back to the maintenance career field, only now, as an officer.

For more information on commissioning in the Air Force contact your base education office or visit <https://www.airforce.com/how-to-join/process/enlisted-to-officer>

# Running since 1993



An Okinawa Marathon runner hydrates as supporters cheer them on Feb. 18, 2018, at Kadena Air Base, Japan. More than 600 military servicemembers and their families came out to support the marathon runners. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Omari Bernard)

**By Senior Airman Omari Bernard  
18th Wing Public Affairs**

**KADENA AIR BASE, Japan** -- Kadena Air Base has a history of supporting community events to strengthen community relations and build upon international friendships. They support the Okinawa International Carnival, host the Kadena Special Olympics, and open their gates to runners during the marathon.

Every year thousands of people train to run the Okinawa marathon. Some train professionally for competition while others practice to stay in shape, and each year Team Kadena is there to support the athletes.

Smiling service members and their families hand out water, fruit and small candy to runners at designated stations along the running path.

Others crafted signs and cheered on their favorite runners who dressed in a wide variety of costumes, including popular culture figures, merchandise, food, anime characters and superheroes.

“I think the marathon was cool to see,” said Airman 1st Class Thomas Lerner, 18th Security Forces Squadron patrolman. “I’ve been here for a year now and this is my first time seeing the marathon. There were a lot of cool costumes and people were having a great time.”

The Okinawa Marathon was established to help promote fitness throughout Okinawa, as well as bring communities together through a common event. This year was no different with more than 15,000 runners taking to the road.

To open the marathon up to more runners, this year’s event featured three races: a full marathon, a half marathon, and 10k race for participants from

around the world to enjoy.

The Okinawa Marathon seems to grow larger each year and each year the number of supporters from Team Kadena grows as well. Last year more than 500 volunteers came out to support the marathon, while this year more than 600 showed up in support of the event.

This marathon is more than just a 42-kilometer timed run to the Okinawans and Americans participating in the event. It’s about bringing people together.

“I think that allowing the marathon to run through Kadena is great, it blows my mind to see how many people are running in the marathon,” said Lerner. “Both Okinawans and Americans come together to support this event, build relations, and it allows runners to see our community caring and supporting them in their event, it’s pretty incredible.”