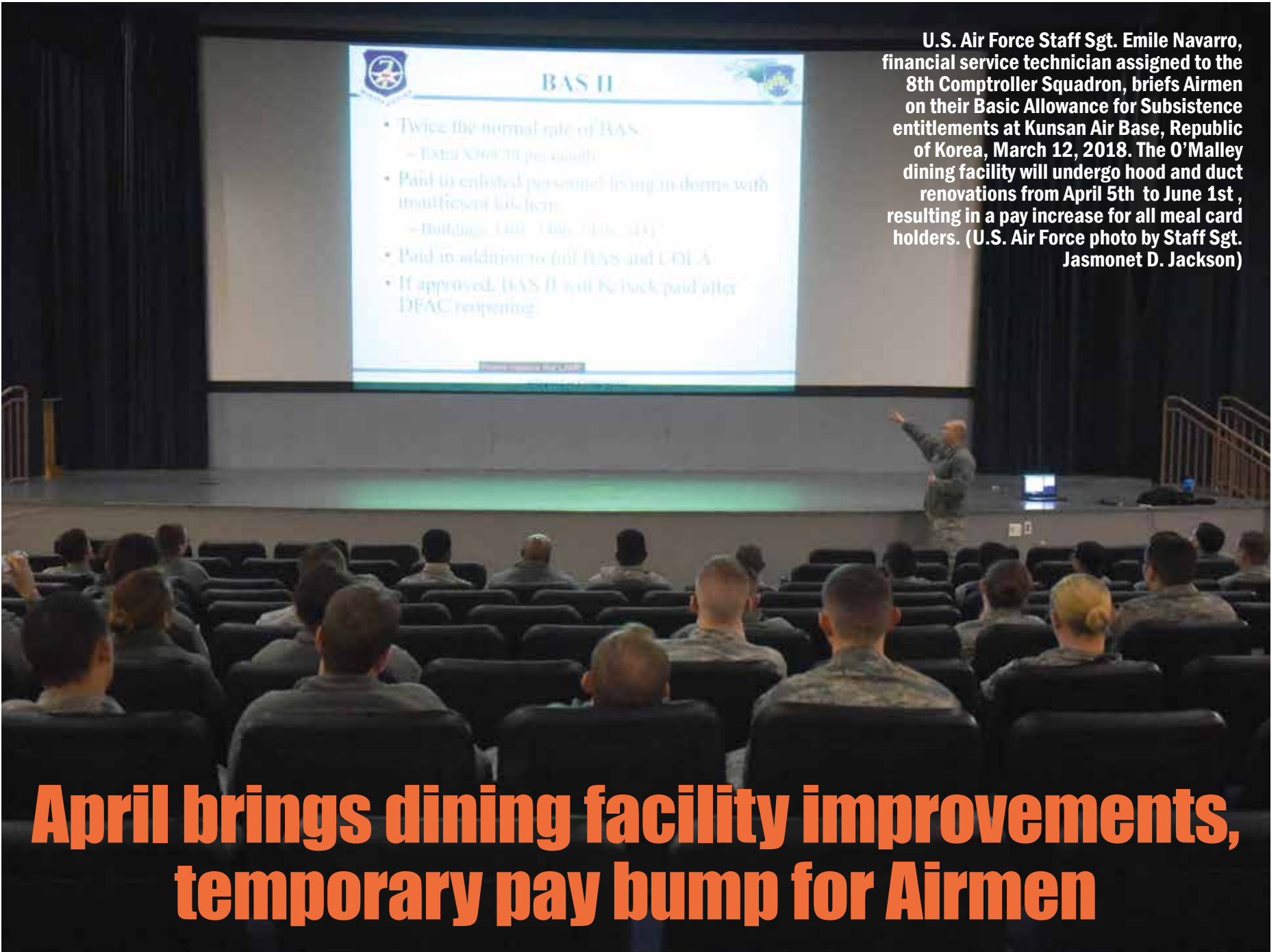


# Crimson Sky



**U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Emile Navarro, financial service technician assigned to the 8th Comptroller Squadron, briefs Airmen on their Basic Allowance for Subsistence entitlements at Kunsan Air Base, Republic of Korea, March 12, 2018. The O'Malley dining facility will undergo hood and duct renovations from April 5th to June 1st, resulting in a pay increase for all meal card holders. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Jasmonet D. Jackson)**

## April brings dining facility improvements, temporary pay bump for Airmen

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

**KUNSAN AIR BASE, Republic of Korea --** The O'Malley dining facility at Kunsan Air Base, Republic of Korea closes its doors starting Thursday, April 5 with a scheduled reopen date of Friday, June 1, 2018, driving a temporary Basic Allowance for Subsistence pay increase for some Airmen stationed here.

The DFAC will undergo hood and duct renovations through this time period and the closure will result in pay changes for all enlisted members currently on meal card status.

Normally, not all members receive BAS, due to meals provided at the DFAC. The allowance

is normally deducted from those with meal cards along with a reduced Cost of Living Allowance rate.

During the DFAC closure, all enlisted members will receive full BAS and COLA.

Meal card holders affected by the closure should see pay changes on their 15 April Leave and Earnings Statement.

Due to a number of moving parts and the risk of overpayments or underpayments during this period, representatives from the 8th Comptroller Squadron ask that supervisors talk their Airmen about the importance of budgeting and financial responsibility.

"Start mentoring and letting your people know now, that they will be getting paid a little extra

than normal, but the caveat is, they will need to use that extra money to buy their own food," said Staff Sgt. Emile Navarro, 8th CPTS financial service technician. "Please stay in touch with your troops so they are not spending all of their money on things other than food."

Some of ways to mitigate negative impacts includes:

- Remain knowledgeable as to how the DFAC closure affects you
- Review your LES every two weeks
- Avoid spending money you think may have been overpaid on

If you have any further questions or concerns, please refer to the BAS/BAS II fact sheet provided by the CPTS or call them at DSN 315-782-6636.



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Two Air Force Reserve Pararescuemen killed in Iraq helicopter crash



**Crimson Sky**

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**Secretary of the Air Force Heather Wilson is briefed by 2nd Maintenance Squadron Airmen during a tour at Barksdale Air Force Base, La., Nov. 14, 2017. The secretary recently spoke at a forum at the Center for Strategic and International Studies and said the American military's most crucial advantage is its people and that investment must continue to attract and retain them. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Mozer O. Da Cunha)**

## Service Secretaries: People Are Most Important Part of DoD's Success

**By By Jim Garamone, DoD News, Defense Media Activity**

WASHINGTON -- Speaking at a forum here March 12 on issues surrounding the president's fiscal year 2019 defense budget request, the three service secretaries agreed that the Defense Department's most crucial need is continued investment in people.

Army Secretary Mark T. Esper, Navy Secretary Richard V. Spencer and Air Force Secretary Heather Wilson told the Center for Strategic and International Studies that the American military's most crucial advantage is its people and that investment must continue to attract and retain them.

All three service leaders said the fiscal 2018 budget goes a long way toward repairing the damage done by the Budget Control Act spending cuts and that the 2019 request will begin the road to modernization.

"At the end of the day, people are what makes everything work, and we really have to focus on this," Spencer said.

### War for Talent

The services will be in a war for talent with the private sector, other portions of government and each other, the Navy secretary noted.

"We are all going to be looking for more people to do more things in a

more intelligent manner," he said. "We are going to have to figure out a way to adopt and adapt those people that we have."

Esper noted that the budget request supports the National Defense Strategy announced last month. He said the world is entering a "dynamic environment" with the return of great-power competition with Russia and China and the threats from Iran, North Korea and terrorism.

The Army must be capable of countering terror threats as well as those posed by near-peer competitors, he said.

The Army must be able to fight across the spectrum of warfare, and it must be fast, Esper said. He pointed to the stand-up of the Army Futures Command later this year as a defining moment for the service.

"It will be the biggest reform in the Army since 1973 in terms of structure," he said. "It promises to really reduce the time it takes to ... field a new piece of equipment [and] to do it at less cost, and in time for the Soldier to be able to use it."

### Joint Force Evolution

Wilson stressed that the services are continuing the evolution to a truly joint force. When she first joined the Air Force, she said, being joint meant having to serve in an assignment with people from other services, and joint operations meant deconflicting a battlespace.

"I would say the services are on the cusp of becoming integrated -- not just interdependent, not just joint -- but integrated in our operations," she said. "Because if we can do that -- if we can gather information faster, decide faster and act faster, then we are going to prevail in 21st-century conflict. I think we are on the cusp of being able to think and move in that direction."

"What distinguishes our military, what makes us the premier fighting force in the world -- which guarantees it will prevail in any conflict -- is the quality of our service members," Esper said. "They are -- bar none -- the best in the world. They're smart, they're aggressive, they're resourceful, they are persistent and they have a lot of grit."

All of the secretaries said the services need some personnel reforms. Wilson noted that it takes 150 days to hire a civilian employee and said the backlog for security clearances has doubled over the past 18 months.

The Air Force secretary said she wants organizational shifting to stop while the service implements acquisition reform.

"There is something we need to pause, which is organizational change," she said. "There's been a lot of it in the Pentagon, and we need to just let the org-chart boxes stay where they are this year and focus on things like personnel reform and fine-tuning acquisition."



# Alaska Guardsmen conduct operations in frozen Beaufort Sea

By Staff Sgt. Balinda O'Neal Dresel  
Alaska National Guard Public Affairs

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska -- More than 50 Alaska National Guardsmen are supporting the U.S. Navy's Ice Exercise several hundred miles north of the Alaskan coastline. The training is linked to the Alaska National Guard's Arctic Eagle 2018, a statewide exercise involving national, state and local agencies designed to provide opportunities for participants to conduct sustained operations in arctic conditions.

ICEX 2018, which officially kicked off March 7, is a five-week exercise that allows the U.S. Navy to assess its operational readiness in the Arctic, increase experience in the region, advance understanding of the Arctic environment, and continue to develop relationships with other services, allies and partner organizations.



U.S. Navy equipment is air dropped from an Alaska Air National Guard C-17 Globemaster III transport aircraft crewed by members of the 249th Airlift Squadron to Ice Exercise 2018 participants on the frozen Beaufort Sea several hundred miles north of the Alaskan coastline March 2, 2018. This training is linked to the Alaska National Guard's Arctic Eagle 2018 and U.S. Navy's Ice Exercise. The U.S. Navy equipment being dropped was palletized by U.S. Marine Corps riggers from the 1st Air Delivery Platoon, Landing Support Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group. A number of Department of Defense exercises afford participating forces the opportunity to operate in a joint environment while assessing the ability to conduct sustained operations in arctic conditions including Arctic Eagle 2018, Alaskan Command's Exercise Arctic Edge, the U.S. Army's Arctic Pegasus, and the U.S. Navy's ICEX. ICEX 2018 is a five-week exercise that allows the U.S. Navy to assess its operational readiness in the Arctic, increase experience in the region, advance understanding of the Arctic environment, and continue to develop relationships with other services, allies and partner organizations. The exercises occur in February and March 2018, and dates for each exercise varies. More than 50 Alaska Air and Army National Guardsmen are participating in both AE18 and ICEX.





Alaska Army National Guardsmen with 1st Battalion, 207th Aviation Regiment, began preparation for the exercise by outfitting three UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters to carry six and a half hours of fuel in internal and external fuel tanks. The helicopters underwent training flights to test the new weight of the birds.

The extra fuel allows the unit to be able to rendezvous at the U.S. Navy's Ice Camp Skate and get back to their staging location in one trip. Ice Camp Skate is a temporary ice camp that was established on a sheet of ice in the Arctic Ocean, known as an ice floe.

"Sometimes we do things differently, so it is really great for us to get together to plan and really coordinate our operations," said 1st Lt. Cade Cross, a pilot with 1st Battalion, 207th Aviation Regiment, speaking about multi-agency coordination. "[This exercise] gives us experience as well as a unique opportunity."

The unique opportunity takes the Alaska Guard aviators more than 1,000 miles north of their home location at Bryant Army Airfield and into extreme cold temperatures.

"The cold can cause things to break on the aircraft," said Cross, discussing the extra parts that were also added to the birds in anticipation of maintenance issues. "No matter where we are asked to go, we should be able to get there and execute our mission unless there are other factors out of our control."

The Alaska Air National Guard's 176th Wing supported preparation for the exercise with an air drop mission by partnering with U.S. Marine Corps riggers from 1st Air Delivery Platoon, Landing Support Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group, to palletize U.S. Navy equipment and conduct air drop operations via a 249th Airlift Squadron C-17 Globemaster III transport aircraft on to the frozen Beaufort Sea to begin initial set up of Ice Camp Skate on March 2.

Air Guardsmen from the 176th Wing's 211th Rescue Squadron crewed an HC-130J Combat King II aircraft and air dropped equipment, including an Arctic Sustainment Package, and 10 pararescue personnel from the 212th RQS into Ice Camp Skate on March 5.

The Arctic Sustainment Package is an airdroppable package, including rescue personnel, that can provide shelter, heat, transportation, fuel and food for 28 individuals for up to six and half days in extreme arctic conditions.

"This marks a significant point in history since this was the first time dropping the Arctic Sustainment Package out of the HC-130J, Combat King II" said Lt. Col. Eric Budd, commander of the 211th Rescue Squadron and pilot in command of the mission.

After highlighting the significance of the drop, Budd revealed that as with the Black Hawk preparation, a lot of hard work went into making the mission happen a head of time.

Within 48 hours of dropping equipment and personnel at the ice camp, the plan was for Guardsmen to transport them back out via the Air Guard's 210th RQS HH-60 Pave Hawk and Army Guard's 1-207th AVN UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters. Army Guardsmen with 1st Battalion, 297th Infantry Regiment, would assist with sling load operations, ensuring transportation of all items to Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson via HC-130 from Deadhorse.



Poor weather required a change of plans. The Black Hawks were delayed due to unsafe weather conditions for two days, and due to continued poor conditions, the operation was prevented from mission completion within the scheduled timeframe.

"Weather is a factor wherever you fly," said Cross, "but the challenges we deal with operating in the Arctic during a late winter mission can be a limiting factor that is not overcome until the weather cooperates," he said.

The Pave Hawks at Deadhorse, were not able to slingload all of the equipment out because they were at maximum weight and capacity for cargo and number of roundtrip flights from the ice camp to Deadhorse.

"We regularly have to adapt and overcome," said Budd, adding that a plan was in place to get the additional equipment and personnel out of the ice camp.

"For us to be the arctic experts and employ our aircraft in this type of environment speaks highly of the Air and Army National Guard as a whole," explained Budd. "It's our backyard and hopefully when people look to the subject matter experts they are looking towards the Alaska National Guard."

A number of Department of Defense exercises afford participating forces the opportunity to operate in a joint environment while assessing the ability to conduct sustained operations in arctic conditions including Arctic Eagle 2018, Alaskan Command's Exercise Arctic Edge, the U.S. Army's Arctic Pegasus, and the U.S. Navy's ICEX. The exercises occur in February and March 2018, and dates for each exercise varies.







U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. William Horne and Senior Airman Isiah Bishop, 80th Fighter Squadron crew chiefs, change a left main-tire Jan. 10, 2018, at Kunsan Air Base, Republic of Korea. The crew chiefs and maintainers who work on swing shift to keep the 80th Fighter Squadron mission ready have a saying that reminds them no matter the weather condition, they have a job to do, and they'll "do it better than you." (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Colby L. Hardin)

## Maintenance professionals recognized as best-of-the-best at Kunsan

### 8th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

**KUNSAN AIR BASE, Republic of Korea** -- Airmen with the 8th Maintenance Group received recognition for their job performance during the annual Maintenance Professionals of the Year ceremony held March 16, 2018, at Kunsan Air Base, Republic of Korea.

At the event, guest speaker and former 8th MXG commander, Brig. Gen. Ronald E. Jolly Sr., 82nd Training Wing commander, provided remarks on the enduring efforts and professionalism of the maintenance career fields as a whole and the accomplishments of those in attendance.

"From the maintenance analyst, to the munitions storage area, to the prop shop to the fuel cell all the way out to the flightline there is absolutely no other place that has the kind of comradery that maintenance has," said Jolly. "We don't do anything on our own, but tonight we are here to celebrate those who exercise leadership, regardless of rank."

The 8th MXG is responsible for

a broad scope of operations from day-to-day pre and post-flight maintenance to bomb builds and all the way up to regular phase inspections of the Wolf Pack's F-16 aircraft.

"Everything that we've accomplished [here at the Wolf Pack] has come from the ground up," said Col. G. Hall Sebren, 8th MXG commander. "When you leave Kunsan, you will be an asset to whatever installation you go to. They will come to you to figure out how to generate combat air power. Take the things that you've learned here and make them better because I could not be more proud of all of you."

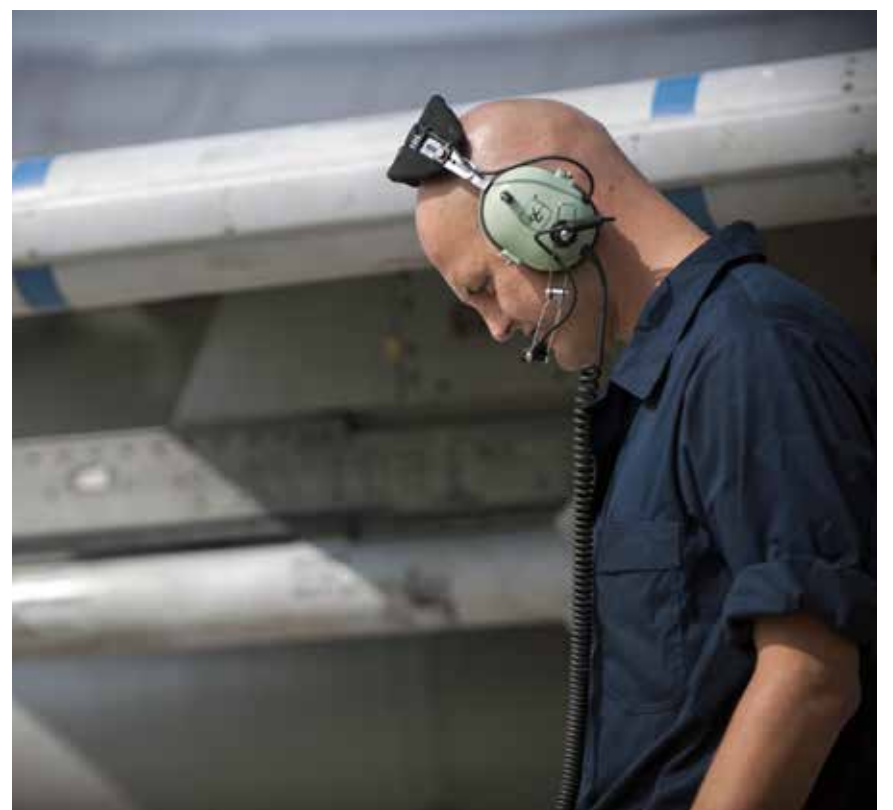
In total, Airmen competed in over 30 categories related to the performance of their various skillsets and trades.

The following were the 2018 winners:

Analyst Airman of the Year-Senior Airman Todd Ameer

Analyst NCO of the Year -Staff Sgt. Mikhail Gutkin

Analyst Senior NCO of the Year-Master Sgt. Conroy Brown



U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Eugene Travis, 8th Air Maintenance Squadron crew chief, prepares to launch a jet while participating in the "Job Swap" event at Kunsan Air Base, Republic of Korea, Sept. 12, 2017. The week-long event was to give 8th SFS defenders a better look at the assets that they are protecting day in and day out. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Victoria H. Taylor)



March 23, 2018

Scheduler Airman of the Year  
-Senior Airman Michael Letendre  
Scheduler NCO of the Year-Tech Sgt.  
Larry Davis

Outstanding Load Crew of the Year  
Crew 9: Staff Sgt. Derrick Dion, Airman  
1st Class Alden Begay, Senior Airman  
Brenda Escobar

Armament Systems Technician of  
the Year-Senior Airman Jacob Venegas

Armament Systems Supervisor of  
the Year-Staff Sgt. Sean Hatcher

Armament Systems Manager of the  
Year-Master Sgt. Lawrence Pyne

Maintenance Training Section of the  
Year-8th MXG

Maintenance Training Section  
Instructor of the Year-Staff Sgt. Alex  
Tamsen

Maintenance Training Section  
Manager of the Year-Staff Sgt. Floyd  
Reeves

Airman Maintenance Professional  
of the Year-Senior Airman Mitchell  
Mosier

NCO Maintenance Professional of  
the Year-Staff Sgt. William Horne II

Senior NCO Maintenance  
Professional of the Year-Master Sgt.  
Joshua Masimer

Company Grade Officer  
Maintenance Professional of the Year-  
Capt. Bryan Beals

Airman Maintenance Support  
Professional of the Year-Senior Crystal  
Trivolis

NCO Maintenance Support  
Professional of the Year-Staff Sgt.  
Corrin Baker

Senior NCO Maintenance Support  
Professional of the Year-Master Sgt.  
Joshua Chellberg

Munitions Systems Supervisor of  
the Year-Tech Sgt. Michael Burdge

Munitions Systems Manager of the  
Year-Master Sgt. Jerrad Kooley

Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force  
Barnes Crew Chief of the Year-Staff Sgt.  
Brett Vought

Lt. Gen. Leo Marquez Aircraft  
Maintenance Award – CGO Capt.  
Joseph Griffin

Lt. Gen. Leo Marquez Aircraft  
Maintenance Technician Award –  
Manager Senior Master Sgt. Steven Nealy

Lt. Gen. Leo Marquez Aircraft  
Maintenance Technician Award –  
Supervisor Tech Sgt. Junior Martinez

Lt. Gen. Leo Marquez Aircraft  
Maintenance Award – Technician Staff  
Sgt. Shelby Throckmorton

Lt. Gen. Leo Marquez Munitions  
and Missile Maintenance Technician  
Award – Manager Master Sgt. Jerrad  
Kooley

Lt. Gen. Leo Marquez Munitions  
and Missile Maintenance Technician  
Award – Supervisor Tech Sgt. Michael  
Burdge

Lt. Gen. Leo Marquez Munitions  
and Missile Maintenance Award –  
Technician Senior Airman Dylan Hayer

Lt. Gen. Leo Marquez Munitions  
and Missile Maintenance Award –  
Civilian Manager Mr. Kyong Min Yi

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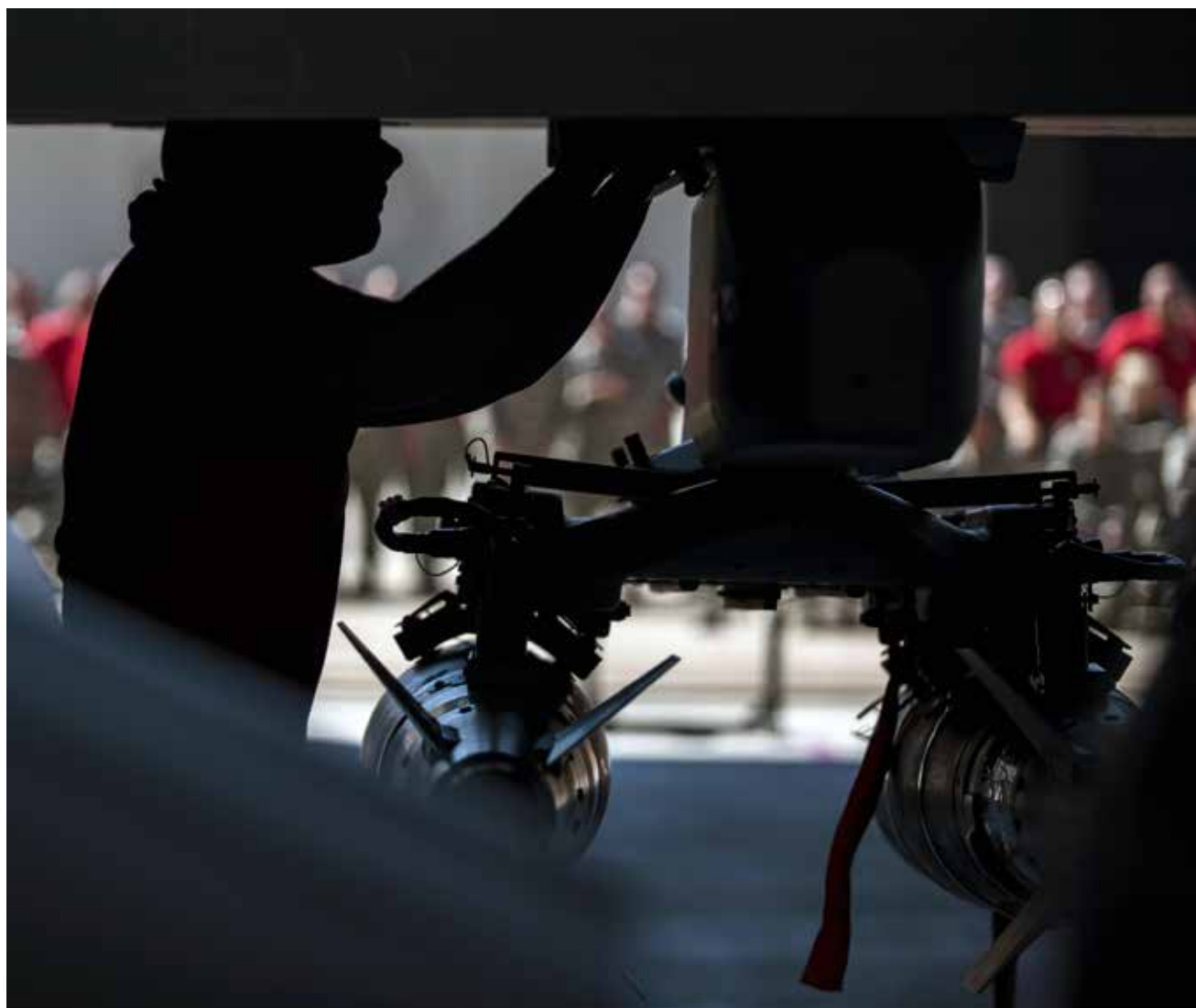
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Civilian Manager Mr. Kyong Min Yi

Lt. Gen. Leo Marquez Munitions  
and Missile Maintenance Award –  
Technician Senior Airman Dylan Hayer



**U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Abigail Nelson, Wisconsin Air National Guard 115th Fighter Wing weapons load crew member, participates in a weapons load competition at Kunsan Air Base, Republic of Korea, Oct. 20, 2017. The 8th Maintenance Group weapons standardization team hosted the competition to showcase the skills and abilities of each Aircraft Maintenance Unit squadron as well as to promote esprit de corps. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Victoria H. Taylor)**



**A U.S. Air Force Airman marshals an F-16 Fighting Falcon, or more commonly a Viper, assigned to the 176th Fighter Squadron, 115th Fighter Wing, Wisconsin Air National Guard into a spot at Kunsan Air Base, Republic of Korea, Aug. 3, 2017. The 8th will host approximately 200 Airmen and 12 Vipers with the 176th in support of a U.S. Pacific Air Forces' Theater Security Package deployment to the Korean Peninsula. These deployments are regularly initiatives to uphold U.S. Pacific Command obligations to aid in the security and stability of the Western Pacific. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Victoria H. Taylor/Released)**





# Air Force, NATO works to address pilot shortage

By John Ingle, 82nd Training Wing Public Affairs

**SHEPPARD AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFNS) --** The shortage of pilots in the Air Force has been well documented, but the United States isn't the only member of NATO looking for more people to fill seats.

That was one of several topics discussed during the 75th meeting of the Euro-NATO Joint Jet Pilot Training program Steering Committee at Sheppard Air Force Base that wrapped up March 9, 2018.

Col. Andrea Themely, 80th Flying Training Wing commander, said the program was tasked to conduct a capacity study after the 74th Steering Committee meeting in September, as well as the limitations to growing T-6A Texan II, T-38C Talon and Introduction to Fighter Fundamental tracks taught in the program.

"We knew going into this that it would be a competition for scarce resources to try to get everybody's students through this program," she said. "We also knew the T-6 operational pause that we took in February would also have ramifications on the student throughput of the program for not just the U.S. students, but for all of our partner nations."

Themely said the availability of simulator and flight instructors is one of the primary reasons preventing the program from expanding the number of student pilots it can handle at one time.

In years past, the Air Force tended to be the "shock absorber" when it came to assigning the number of seats each partner nation requested heading into the year. Themely said the U.S.

no longer desires to serve as the shock absorber as it works to address the pilot shortage and the program works down a path to figure out how to meet the needs of all NATO partners in the Euro-NATO Joint Jet Pilot Training.

It's no secret that the T-38 is an old aircraft; aircraft flown at Sheppard AFB came into active service in the 1960s. The colonel said the cost for maintaining the fleet of more than 120 continues to increase, which prompted the committee to query about the new T-X trainer the Air Force has selected to replace the T-38 and when it would arrive at Sheppard AFB. Themely said the Air Force has announced Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, Texas, will be the first base to receive the Advanced Pilot Trainer, but the service has yet to decide in what order the other flying training bases — Columbus AFB, Mississippi; Laughlin AFB, Texas; Sheppard AFB; and Vance AFB, Oklahoma — will take delivery of the jets. The colonel said the 80th FTW should be considered first because it has the largest T-38 fleet in Air Education and Training Command and has the only fighter-centric flying training program.

"Almost 50 percent of the total U.S. Air Force students that fly fighters come from Sheppard Air Force Base," she said. "This is the only fighter training pipeline for our partners from Germany, Norway, the Netherlands and Denmark."

"To be able to have that stepping stone from our T-38 to the fifth-generation fighters — we have a huge capability gap right now. That T-X will bridge that gap and be able to give us all of the capabilities that we need to train our fifth-generation pilots."

She said eight of the 14 partner nations participating in ENJJPT have purchased the F-35 for their respective air forces.

The contract for building the T-X aircraft has yet to be awarded but that is expected to happen this spring.

Themely said there were several changes to the training syllabus, but none more significant than the addition of air combat maneuvering sorties in Introduction to Fighter Fundamentals. The module trains pilots to work within an element of two aircraft to defeat a bandit. She said it's a little more advanced than traditional dog fighting.

The colonel said U.S. pilots received air combat maneuvering training in their follow-on aircraft, which would be the F-15C Eagle or the F-22 Raptor. With the syllabus change, U.S. pilots in IFF will receive the same advanced training as their colleagues.

"That was a big win to train our U.S. personnel the same as our international personnel because it is one program and it should be one syllabus and we should all meet the same standard at the back end," she said.

Themely said there were a few other syllabus changes of note including adding more flexibility in pilot instructor training, deleting a formation simulator sortie in the T-6 track, and a few other administrative changes.

The next Steering Committee meeting will be this fall in Romania, the newest ENJJPT partner nation. Romania is scheduled to begin sending instructor and student pilots to the program in 2019 with instructors arriving first.



# U.S., Indonesian air forces kickoff exercise Cope West 2018

By Tech Sgt. Richard Ebensberger  
Pacific Air Forces Public Affairs

MANADO AIR BASE, Indonesia -- Exercise Cope West 2018 (CW18), a Pacific Air Forces-sponsored, bilateral exercise involving the U.S. and Indonesian air forces officially kicked off March 12, with an opening ceremony held at the at Sam Ratulangi International Airport, Indonesia.

CW18 is designed to advance interoperability and build upon already established partnerships between U.S. military forces and Indonesian air forces.

- Continued on page 17 -



Members from the U.S. Air Force and Indonesian military march during the exercise Cope West 18 (CW18) open ceremony at Sam Ratulangi International Airport, Indonesia, March 12, 2018. CW18 is a Pacific Air Forces-sponsored, bilateral exercise involving the U.S. and Indonesian air forces and is designed to advance interoperability and build upon already established partnerships between the air forces. This year will mark the second time that U.S. fighter aircraft training has taken place in Indonesia in two decades and the sixth time Cope West has been hosted in Indonesia. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Richard Ebensberger)



**A** pararescueman assigned to the 83rd Expeditionary Rescue Squadron, Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, operates the canopy of his parachute while conducting a high altitude, high opening military free fall jump working with a C-130J Super Hercules flown by the 774th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron, Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, March 4, 2018. Guardian Angel Team members conduct training on all aspects of combat, medical procedures and search and rescue tactics to hone their skills, providing the highest level of tactical capabilities to combatant commanders. (U.S. Air Force courtesy photo by Tech. Sgt. Gregory Brook) ▶



**A** NATO air force EC-725 Super Cougar receives fuel from a U.S. Air Force C-130 Hercules as part of Emerald Warrior over the Gulf of Mexico March 2, 2018. At Emerald Warrior, the largest joint and combined special operations exercise, U.S. Special Operations Command forces train to respond to various threats across the spectrum of conflict. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Trevor T. McBride) ◀

**A** ir Force Academy center fielder Daniel Jones runs down a well-hit ball to right, during the Freedom Classic baseball tournament at Grainger Stadium in Kinston, N.C., Feb. 24, 2018. Jones is a third-year cadet at the Air Force Academy originally from Coppell, Texas. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. David W. Carbajal) ▼





**T**wo F-22 Raptors and three F-16 Fighting Falcons fly in formation behind a KC-135 Stratotanker while returning home from the Heritage Flight Training Course at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz., March 5, 2018. The course brings pilots, maintainers and aircraft from various generations together to train for dissimilar formation flights to demonstrate the Air Force's history of airpower. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Destinee Sweeney) ▶



**S**enior Airman Eric Poole, 374th Civil Engineer Squadron firefighter, battles a simulated aircraft fire during live-fire training at Yokota Air Base, Japan, March 8, 2018. Aircraft live-fire training is conducted periodically throughout the year to ensure Airmen and civilians with the 374th CES and 374th Maintenance Squadron repair and reclamation section are always prepared to combat aircraft fuel fires. (U.S. Air Force photo by Yasuo Osakabe) ▲



**C**hief Master Sgt. Hope L. Skibitsky, 737th Training Group and Air Force Basic Military Training superintendent, leads a female military training instructor mass during a BMT graduation March 9, 2018, at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas. The formation was to honor National Women's History Month which Congress designated in March 1987. (U.S. Air Force photo by Ismael Ortega) ▲



**U**S. Marines from the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit arrive at an exercise site in Israel to conduct urban combat training with the Israeli Defense Force in support of Juniper Cobra March 12, 2018. Juniper Cobra 18 is a ballistic missile defense joint U.S.-Israel exercise that uses computer simulations to train forces and enhance interoperability. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Matthew Plew) ◀



## • BULLETIN •

**OSAN AIR BASE, ROK** -- SrA Anthonycarlo Rusconi, stationed at 607th Support Squadron Osan AB, Pyeongtaek, ROK, recently passed away.

Anyone with a claim for or against his estate should step forward at this time by contacting Capt Tom Stortz, reachable by telephone at 010-3034-1786 or by email at thomas.stortz.2@us.af.mil.

Direct all questions to Capt Stortz.

### 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 first semester of 2018.

The program occurs every Thursday from 29 March to 26 July 2018 (TBD).

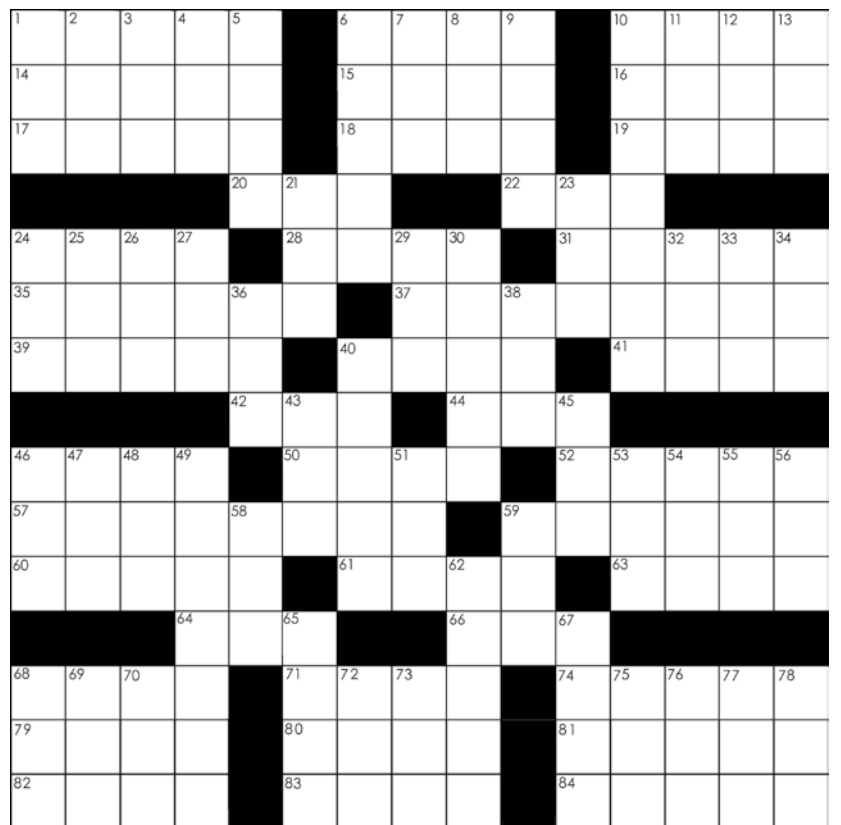
Transportation is provided; two mini buses depart from Checkertails at 1530 and return to Checkertails at approximately 1800 each Thursday.

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 or DSN 784-4724, cell: 010-4736-7979.



## The Crossword

By Jon Dunbar



### ACROSS

- 1 Market research firm
- 6 Legendary
- 10 Sky warfare branch
- 14 Type of online ad
- 15 Opposite of papa
- 16 Zilch
- 17 Cognizant
- 18 European mountain range
- 19 Cheorwon triangle
- 20 Police scientist
- 22 Korean bar
- 24 Food
- 28 \_\_\_ vera
- 31 Spock's philosophy
- 35 Found at War Memorial of Korea
- 37 \_\_\_ Resolve Campaign Medal
- 39 Wind instruments
- 40 "Ye \_\_\_"
- 41 Restaurant's list

- 42 School website top-level domain
- 44 Korean-Chinese idol group
- 46 Desertion
- 50 Shell shock
- 52 Goes with killing or trip
- 57 Battle of Incheon operation
- 59 75th \_\_\_ Regiment
- 60 Lends
- 61 Pimple
- 63 Eons
- 64 Axl Rose's band
- 66 Infantry transport
- 68 Immediately
- 71 Fraud
- 74 Watering hole
- 79 Meats and cheeses store
- 80 Fits between delta and foxtrot
- 81 Unify
- 82 Small branch
- 83 Arrival times
- 84 Examine

### DOWN

- 1 Type of beer
- 2 Captured soldier
- 3 Found at a resort
- 4 Airlift for \_\_\_ servicemen
- 5 Up to \_\_\_
- 6 Google service
- 7 Buddy
- 8 Troublemaker
- 9 Money
- 10 Soldier's clothes
- 11 Coast Guard op
- 12 Much \_\_\_ About Nothing
- 13 Air conditioning alternative
- 21 Anti-aircraft weapon
- 23 Grand \_\_\_ Opry
- 24 Frankenfood
- 25 Massage
- 26 Camp Kim occupant
- 27 Honey maker
- 29 Tanker cargo
- 30 Opposite of started
- 32 Girls' Generation song
- 33 Motel
- 34 24 agency
- 36 Operate

- 38 Curse
- 40 "I'm \_\_\_ here"
- 43 Resolution measurement
- 45 Son \_\_\_ gun
- 46 Knee ligament
- 47 UN public health agency
- 48 Are you a man \_\_\_ mouse?
- 49 Cannibal's delicacy
- 51 Triple \_\_\_
- 53 Once \_\_\_ while
- 54 Breakfast food
- 55 President Myung-bak
- 56 MDs
- 58 Microsoft portal
- 59 Spokesperson
- 62 Crete neighbor
- 65 President Syngman
- 67 Bloodless revolt
- 68 US security company
- 69 Stitch up
- 70 Boxer Mohammed
- 72 Between Sept and Nov
- 73 Exclamation of discovery
- 75 Actress Gasteyer
- 76 Honorific for superior
- 77 \_\_\_ a jungle out there
- 78 Look at

Answers (3-09-2018)	29 TENNIS	62 WTO	8 SARGES	41 WHO
ACROSS	33 OSS	63 AURORAS	9 ARE	42 YAKUTSK
-----	34 BENE	67 CSI	10 SHOOTER	43 AIRRAID
1 CHO	35 FREESTYLE	68 ION	11 MARLENE	45 OVAL
4 YAM	37 BERET	69 SKATING	12 END	46 HIS
7 JSA	38 UNDO	70 OKD	14 LLC	47 ANU
10 SME	39 OVER	71 LNG	21 IDOL	48 LGB
13 VILLAGE	41 WYATT	72 EEL	22 LIBERTY	50 COTTON
15 EAR	44	73 DDT	23 WTF	54 LEASE
16 HAN	NONLETHAL	DOWN	24 HER	58 NUKE
17 STELLAR	49 HAIR	-----	25 ONE	59 ORAL
18 ORE	50 CGV	1 CVS	28 MET	60 LOT
19 ORD	51 CRYING	2 HIT	30 NEUTRAL	61 ECO
20 CURLING	52 OKRA	3 OLE	31 ISNT	62 WIL
22 LOL	53 OPAL	4 YALU	32 STD	64 RID
26 EDGE	55 SUB	5 AGAR	36	65 AND
27 ITEM	56 URL	6 MERLE	YONGPYONG	66 SGT
	57 TYLENOL	7 JEONGSEON	37 BEER	77 ELM
	61 ETA		40 VLC	78 CDS





Future anglers pose with their first catch at Beale Air Force Base's Upper Blackwelder Lake, Calif. The Air Force recently partnered with the National Park Trust to bring the Buddy Bison Great Outdoors Challenge to military families at several installations. The program encourages children and families to spend less time in front of a screen and more time outdoors. (Courtesy photo)

# New partnership encourages kids to explore great outdoors

**By Angelina Casarez, Air Force Installation and Mission Support Center Public Affairs**

**JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-LACKLAND, Texas (AFNS)** -- The The Air Force Services Activity is partnering with the National Park Trust to bring the Buddy Bison Great Outdoors Challenge to military families at installations.

The Buddy Bison program encourages children and families to participate in programs such as camping, canoeing, fishing and hiking while exploring local, state and national parks.

Thanks to funding from the Office of the Secretary of Defense, Military Community and Family Policy, the Air Force is piloting the program at: Moody Air Force Base, Georgia; Hurlburt Field, Florida; Little Rock AFB, Arkansas; Hill AFB, Utah; F.E. Warren AFB, Wyoming; Peterson AFB, Colorado; and the U.S. Air Force Academy, Colorado.

The funding allows the Air Force to supply installations with support materials to encourage participation.

"We are excited to partner with the National Park Trust," said Anthony Alcala, AFSVA's Child and Youth Programs recreation specialist.

NPT is a national non-profit that "protects

national parks and engages kids with all of our country's public lands and waters," according to the organization's website.

"This partnership (with NPT) gives our Air Force families opportunities to explore the great outdoors, strengthen family bonds and have fun while engaging in healthy activities," said Fernando Brown, AFSVA's Outdoor Recreation recreation specialist.

Participating installations will host kick-off events for Buddy Bison in the coming weeks.

With the program, children receive a Buddy Bison passport or bingo card to collect stamps at Buddy Bison stops. The stops can be found on an installation and at parks in the community.

"This really is a great opportunity to raise awareness of all the local resources available to Airmen and their families," said Brown.

Although not every installation will be enrolled in the Buddy Bison program, all can participate in NPT's Kids to Parks Day, held the third Saturday of May each year. This national day of outdoor play encourages exploring outdoor recreation, learning about science, technology, engineering and math; and embracing park stewardship, according to the NPT's web site.

Based on the success of the Buddy Bison partnership with the Air Force, it may be expanded

to other installations in the future.

For more information on the Buddy Bison Program and Kids to Parks Day, visit <https://www.parktrust.org/kids-to-parks-day/>. Information about an installation's Buddy Bison program is available at participating bases' child and youth programs and outdoor recreation. "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

Great Expectations

Have you ever had great expectations about something in life? Maybe something you were really hoping for, or looking forward to? In my faith tradition, Palm Sunday, which is March 25th this year, is a time of great expectation for the Christian Church. It's a time when we remember Jesus, entering into the city of Jerusalem, and the city being ecstatic with excitement & expectation! Out of celebration and devotion, people laid their cloaks & palm branches on the ground for Him to walk on – much like we roll out the red carpet for VIP people today.

Historical documents record Jesus's entry into Jerusalem at that time, caused a "great stir" within the region, because of His presence. People were filled with hope and joy, as they expected Jesus to meet their expectations, and deliver them from Roman oppression. Imagine the disappointment the people must have felt when Jesus was imprisoned, beaten, crucified and buried in a tomb just a few days after his "Triumphant Entry" into Jerusalem. All hope and expectations seemed to be lost, as the stone seal was placed over his tomb. People were filled with loss and disappointment, because their great expectations went seemingly unmet the day Jesus died.



**Ch, Maj R. John Boyer**  
 Deputy Wing Chaplain, Osan AB

Many of us have great expectations in life too. Maybe it's our hopes or dreams for our future, our career, our health, or our loved ones. It can be hard when those hopes, dreams and expectations go unmet, and things don't turn

out the way we want them to. We all know what it's like to be let down, just remember, when life seems to disappoint, and the great expectations you have don't happen like you were hoping – you are not alone. Your unit Chaplain and Chaplain Assistants are available 24-7 to support you, and encourage you when life discourages and disappoints. Always remember what you're going through is just a chapter in the story of your life, and like every great story – this chapter will someday come to an end, and a new one will begin.

In my faith tradition, the day Jesus died and was buried in a tomb, many people thought His story had come to an end. Yet, as the page of Jesus's life turned, it revealed not the end, but rather a new beginning! Just as the morning sun rose in the East announcing the beginning of a new day, full of hope, newness and opportunity – the angels proclaimed the beginning of New Life by declaring at His resurrection, "He has risen!" (Matthew 28: 6) I don't know what disappointments, discouragement or unmet expectations you've encountered in life. I don't know what hardships or hurts you've faced, but I do know Chaplains are there for you to help you turn the page toward new beginnings in the great story of your life.



# Test pilot briefs T-6 nation



Maj. Justin Elliott, Air Force Strategic Policy fellow, presented a briefing Feb. 22, 2018, at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, Texas. Elliott's briefing, sharing an aviator's perspective on physiological events in flight, is being integrated into student undergraduate pilot training across Air Education and Training Command bases. (U.S. Air Force photo by Melissa Peterson)

By 1st. Lt. Geneva Croxton, Air Education and Training Command Public Affairs

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas (AFNS) -- An F-16 Fighting Falcon's sustained 9 g-force break turn is no small matter on a normal day. Imagine yourself there. Your head weighs 180 pounds and your arms are pinned to the stick and throttle; let go of your breath the wrong way, and you watch the world fade from gray to black in an instant. Now add to this situation a corset-tight upper vest built to restrict lung inflation and an oxygen hose with half the normal flow rate – on purpose.

This is the situation Maj. Justin Elliott, Air Force Strategic Policy fellow, experienced for two weeks in 2015 while trying to identify the array of physiological problems affecting Defense Department fighter pilots.

Currently working South Asia strategy for a deputy assistant secretary of defense, Elliott's flight experience is uniquely suited to communicating the complexity of physiological problems affecting the DoD's fighter fleet.

A graduate of both U.S. Air Force Weapons School and Test Pilot School, Elliott has flown over 2,000 hours and 255 combat hours in more than 30 aircraft from the MiG-15 to the F-15SA Advanced Eagles. His flight test experience spans from early F-22 Raptor "work of breathing" testing to managing the development and testing of the Air Force's first "smart" cockpit pressure gauge, fielding this year.

In a powerful statement of transparency,

Air Education and Training Command officials decided to put Elliott's experience to good use.

"The punchline is that we do not have all the answers yet," Elliott said. "But, the best doctors, flying physicians, physiologists, engineers and pilots in the world are working on this every day. And right now, I am going to catch you up to the state of the science."

Following a recent series of unexplained physiological events, Maj. Gen. Patrick Doherty, 19th Air Force commander, capitalized on Elliott's expertise, asking him to share his experiences with AETC's T-6 student pilots and instructor pilots.

During a two-week period, Elliott briefed all of AETC's flying training wing members. The briefing was one he initially presented to AETC senior leaders during a cross-tell event Feb. 8-9, 2018, at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, Texas.

"We want our aircraft back in the air, but our priority is making sure our aircrew are safe and smart in the aircraft, confident in themselves and their equipment," said Doherty. "I took the brief from Maj. Astro Elliott at the On-Board Oxygen Generation System Conference. His flying experience and knowledge is invaluable to our Air Force, and I knew it would be critical for our young officers to hear what he had to say, so we sent him out to talk to T-6 Nation the following week."

This visionary move by Air Force leaders is a positive departure from the way physiological research was communicated to pilots during the

F-22 Raptor investigations in 2012. Instead of dictating procedural changes to pilots from an isolated group of researchers, Air Force officials are opening joint communication lines across all platforms and career fields involved in addressing this critical problem.

"It is heartwarming to see this kind of transparency from our leadership," Elliott said. "It will go a long way in keeping the faith with our aircrews."

"Though these issues are new to T-6s, they are very familiar to me given my life as an experimental test pilot who happened to be at the right place at the right time," said Elliott, who built the core of his brief in 2015 with outreach and culture change in mind.

Three years later, the brief has grown to include collaborative anecdotes from F-35 Lightning II, T-45 Goshawk, the international fighter community and even the Air Force's elite pararescuemen.

"Woven together, these stories teach lessons that will last well beyond the mechanical 'smoking gun' we are certain to find and solve in the T-6 fleet," said Elliott.

Elliott recommends pilots use the following "do no harm" approach to change their psychological mindset in the air to arrive home safely.

"Do not try to diagnose yourself at 500 knots – or 316 knots in your case," Elliott emphasized, "Just get to a safe space."

"Imagine yourself again in the 9 g-force



situation – but you did not put yourself there in a controlled flight test,” he said. “Instead of focusing on breathing and cognitive abilities, imagine you are focused on a target lock or an aerial gun attack when you suddenly feel dizzy and unable to think straight. Many of my friends have been there, and it creates a mental stress not comprehensible at 1G and 0 knots. At least six physiological issues we know of can compound to put you in this situation on any given day. We have to teach people how to get out of it.”

He also said, “Unnecessary mental stress of realizing something is affecting you beyond classic hypoxia – especially when no one has told you what it is – can lead to subconscious hyperventilation that makes a bad situation worse.”

By education alone, aviators can take an

important step towards safety. The good news is, while the causes of physiological symptoms vary dramatically, the solution is the same.

“Go to Colorado or to Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan, where I landed every day at 5,000 feet,” Elliott said. “No matter what your jet was doing to you before, breathing ambient air calmly at these altitudes, at a normal rate and depth, will work you toward recovery. There is no need to rush home in a panic and land a jet at the peak of your cognitive problems. Just descend to a safe altitude and relax.”

A group of experts in medical, physiological, aviation and engineering called COPE Fighter has been refining this solution for the past two years.

“COPE will solve the mechanical issues across our current fleets, rewrite our syllabi to educate

aircrew, change checklists and cross-flow solutions across platforms,” said Elliott. “We are not focused on one platform. COPE will work to ensure we design our future systems with the physiological state of the science in mind. That means aiming sensors at humans so the pilot never has to think about breathing again.”

“What we have been hearing over the last few weeks has been word of mouth, so it was nice to have someone informed on the situation talk to us about it,” said 1st. Lt. Joseph Uhle, 37th Flying Training Squadron upgrade instructor at JB San Antonio-Randolph.

Since briefing AETC personnel in person, Elliott’s briefing was recorded and is now being integrated into student undergraduate pilot training across AETC bases.

*- Continued from page 9 -*

The exercise will afford both countries the opportunity to exchange techniques in aircraft generation and recovery, close air support training and air-to-air fighter training, combat search, and rescue, and play host to a subject-matter expert exchange in aircraft maintenance.

“Over the next two weeks more than 250 Airmen from our air forces will exchange tactics, techniques, and procedures (TTPs) for conducting aerial combat,” said U.S. Air Force Col. Jason Cockrum, Cope West 18 exercise director. “This exchange extends from our pilots, maintainers, support personnel, and special operators.”

Approximately 110 U.S. personnel will participate in the exercise along with approximately 150 service members from the Indonesian air force. The exercise will involve approximately 12 aircraft, including U.S. Air Force F-16C/D Fighting Falcon from the 13th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron,

35th Fighter Wing based out of Misawa Air Base, Japan, and F-16 fighters from the Indonesian air force as well as Airmen from the 353rd Special Operations Group assigned to Kadena Air Base, Japan.

“This will also be the first time Indonesian and U.S. Air Force Special Operations Forces will integrate into Cope West, they will be performing Joint Military Free Fall training and Ground Tactical Air Control operations,” said Cockrum.

Cope West is a recurring exercise that has occurred since 1989. This year will also mark the second time that U.S. fighter aircraft training has taken place in Indonesia in two decades and the sixth time Cope West has been hosted in Indonesia.

“I enjoy studying history, and especially aviation history, being part of Cope West is very exciting to me. The history of modern combat aviation can trace many of its roots back to this region of the world,” said Cockrum. “More than 80 years

ago, Gen. Douglas MacArthur used airpower to accomplish his island-hopping campaign through Southeast Asia. This was an aviation first, today we look back on this effort as the initial foundation for conducting multi-domain joint operations, now it's a capability that our Airmen provide around the world on a constant basis.”

U.S. forces routinely conduct operations, exercises and training missions with other countries in the Pacific. These regional engagements are focused on improving interoperability and familiarization with allies and partners to safeguard the freedom of the seas and overflight in international airspace, deter conflict and coercion, and promote regional stability.

“The seeds that we sow over the next two weeks during Cope West, are critical to bearing the fruits of strong defense partnership that will promote security, stability and uphold a free and open Indo-Pacific region,” added Cockrum.







# Female crew chief overcomes adversity, joins PACAF F-16 Demo Team

**U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Emily Wall, a Pacific Air Forces' Demonstration Team crew chief, pauses for a photo after performing maintenance on an F-16 Fighting Falcon at Paya Lebar Air Base, Singapore, Feb. 3, 2018. As a surprise to her family, Wall took a different route than her siblings and enlisted in the military knowing she wanted to impact her peers, travel the world and make a difference for her country. After her four years of experience, she now encourages other women in her profession to push through and overcome adversity in the maintenance world. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Sadie Colbert)**

**By Senior Airman Sadie Colbert  
35th Fighter Wing Public Affairs**

**MISAWA AIR BASE, Japan --** Six It's been more than a decade since a woman joined the Pacific Air Forces' F-16 Demonstration Team, and in late January, Senior Airman Emily Wall, a 14th Aircraft Maintenance Unit crew chief, broke social norms introducing something new to the aerial demo team.

Growing up the youngest of seven siblings, she wanted a life of her own, different than that of her brothers and sister. She knew she wanted to stand out and ultimately enlisted with the U.S. Air Force.

"I like pushing myself to experience more because I love dabbling into different things," Wall explained. "None of my siblings enlisted in the military and I never really had a chance to have a voice of my own. That drove something inside me to give the

military a chance and see where it would take me."

Wall said her family was a little shocked at first, but after seeing how positively her military life impacted her and all she accomplished, they supported her.

"She's never been one to think of herself before others and I think that characteristic fits perfectly with her military career," said John Wall, one of her brothers. "I've always felt that no matter what path she's chosen in life, she finds success. It was evident while growing up that she not only outworked anyone around her, but she never backed down from a challenge or let a hardship defeat her. The military has given her the opportunity to prove that."

Wall described some challenging situations on the flightline which took up much of her spare time. She found herself constantly fighting the negative stigma associated with being a woman in her career field.

"When I make a mistake, most times, people associate my mistakes

with me being a female," Wall explained. "People will say a lot of bad things about me and I just let it roll off."

Because her identity on the flightline is associated with being female, there's a tendency for her coworkers to view her as an underdog.

"As a female maintainer, you stick out like a sore thumb on the flightline and you have to work twice as hard sometimes because, naturally, if you need a guy or a girl to pick up a heavy box you're going to select a male to pick it up," Wall described.

She added despite the negativity, there are great people besides her and she continues to fight those stereotypes to become the hard-working, positive crew chief she wants to be.

"As a female, I think it is crucial to have a female role model in this career field," said Airman 1st Class Casey Chase, a 14th Aircraft Maintenance Unit crew chief. "With

a job that can be as stressful as this one, you need someone who you can connect more easily with."

Chase added Wall always made herself available to assist herself and others leaving an encouraging impact on the Airmen around her.

"She not only gave instructions for the jobs at hand, but she also came to me with advice for remembering to not let this job get to me," Chase said. "She stands up for herself and has confidence when anyone comes to her with a problem. That's very empowering. Needless to say, I'm glad the squadron has someone like her."

Chase added whenever she sees her, she has a smile on her face and she works as hard as she can.

"I'm being promoted to a staff sergeant this year and I wanted to distinguish myself from the rest on the flightline," Wall said. "I wanted to be different so I could help other young women know there are many opportunities within maintenance for us to do awesome things, like



join the demo team.”

Master Sgt. Jeff Parker, a 13th Aircraft Maintenance Unit section chief, said although Wall’s first air show included the 2018 Singapore International Air Show, one of the world’s largest, she performed beyond expectations.

He added, regardless of gender, the team requires professionalism and strives for excellence during each show and her abilities exceeded those standards.

“I was excited because the 2018 Singapore International Airshow was my first trip with the team,” Wall said. “As ambassadors of the U.S., it’s all about how we look and present ourselves so every show must be executed with top professionalism and perfection.”

As a crew chief on the team, Wall inspects the engine and ensures the jet is in a prime, flyable condition, so the team can showcase the F-16 Fighting Falcon’s airpower and communicate reassurance to the U.S. Air Force’s partners and allies.

“I love the demo team,” Wall expressed. “It’s a fresh point of view. It was perfect for me because I wanted to travel and gain in-depth experience on the jet.”

Wall said she learned more about the F-16 because she closely worked with other aircraft maintainers that she normally doesn’t get to be around.

During airshows, the demonstration team consisting of three crew chiefs, one team lead crew chief, an electrical and engineering specialist, two

avionics specialists and an engines specialist, who work with each other to accomplish one goal, to perform a great air show.

“When it comes to launching for a show, we all have the same values about getting the job done and executing it well,” Wall said.

She like how the demonstration team offers a little bit of a switch for environments each time they go somewhere different.

“I needed a change up,” Wall said. “Joining the demo team helped me see a different aspect of my job, which is important for everyone to experience in their career. Some people get stuck doing one thing for so long they become narrow-minded and end up not liking it.”

Not only does she enjoy her time with the team, she’s also grateful of the character the Air Force helped her build as a woman since she joined.

“Appreciate who you are as a woman,” Wall expressed. “It’s the best life lesson I’ve learned through the military. Being in the Air Force taught me to be tough even through hardship, and I have so much more confidence in who I am than before I enlisted.”

From her experience, she encourages all women to keep pushing through any life struggles.

“It’s tough no matter the job you’re in,” Wall said. “You’re going to be in a stressful environment. It’s not just the military, but you must be steadfast in who you are and don’t let those situations change you for the worse, use them to change you for the good.”



**U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Emily Wall, a Pacific Air Forces' Demonstration Team crew chief, moves aircraft steps at Paya Lebar Air Base, Singapore, Feb. 3, 2018. Wall had an opportunity to be one of the few female Airmen who have worked on the team and reinforced international relations between the U.S. and its allies through demo performances. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Sadie Colbert)**



**U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Emily Wall, a Pacific Air Forces' F-16 Demonstration Team crew chief, plays a piano at Changi, Singapore, Feb. 2, 2018. Wall enjoyed dabbling in many different hobbies growing up, piano being one of her favorites. Wall enlisted in the Air Force to try a more challenging path to facilitate character growth in her life. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Sadie Colbert)**

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# Physical therapist strengthens EOD mission readiness



**Tech. Sgt. Jacob Wielgosiek, 39th Medical Operations Squadron surgical services flight chief, assists Master Sgt. Matthew Wilt, 39th Civil Engineer Squadron additional duty first sergeant, with yoga poses during a physical therapy session at Incirlik Air Base, Turkey, Feb. 2, 2018. Yoga can increase balance and core strength, and help prevent potential injuries. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Octavius Thompson)**

**By Airman 1st Class Octavius Thompson  
39 Air Base Wing Public Affairs**

**INCIRLIK AIR BASE, Turkey (AFNS)** -- For some Air Force careers, everyday physical demands can have a significant impact on an Airman's comprehensive fitness in a big way.

Explosive ordnance disposal Airmen at Incirlik Air Base, Turkey, are working with the 39th Medical Operations Squadron to help reduce the stress that comes with wearing 75-pound protective bomb suits.

To ensure 39th Civil Engineer Squadron EOD Airmen are fit-to-fight, and are properly taking care of their bodies under such strain, members of the 39th MOS physical therapy element immersed themselves with the EOD flight to observe the causes of injuries, and provided the Airmen with preventative safety measures.

"We need to prevent injuries by going out and working with Airmen and seeing what their job is by performing their duties," said Capt. Dennis Shay, 39th Medical Group physical therapist.

Shay said he can speculate why Airmen have injuries but being able to complete job specific tasks puts injuries into perspective.

Once the physical therapy element has

experienced their physical workload first-hand, they look for specific factors that will trigger or cause injuries while participating in job-specific activities. This allows the physical therapy element members to determine if the Airmen need exercises to treat and manage pain, or if they are performing movements improperly.

The proposal to work alongside the EOD flight was part of the physical therapy element's focus areas of performing full-spectrum medical readiness and integrating operational support to ensure proper care is provided.

According to Shay, this plan is not the first of its kind, but will hopefully become a standard across the Air Force.

Having a physical therapist fully understand what they do allows the EOD Airmen the opportunity to learn injury prevention exercises. Shay emphasized that this approach is not meant to replace a higher level of care, or have the member self-diagnose, but it is intended to provide a proactive approach to injury prevention and management.

This new approach should improve overall readiness and mission effectiveness, as well as decrease reactive methods, where physical therapists treat patients as they develop pain and

other symptoms after the injuries occur.

"The exercises that we were taught by the physical therapist helps me manage all the stress that I put on my body," said Senior Airman Gershom Slonim, 39th CES EOD technician. "I have never been a part of a physical therapy targeted session, but I think it is important for them to help us treat our injuries."

Over a period of several months, the physical therapist will continuously monitor the readiness of the unit by observing changes in profile rates of the unit, physical fitness scores, missed work days due to injuries and visits to their primary care providers. Once trends are identified, they will be able to adjust the program as needed.

Shay stressed that all Airmen, not just EOD, should be aware of work space injuries that may limit their ability to efficiently perform within their unit, and should take proactive measures to prevent injury.

"Whether Airmen come to us at the Medical Group, or we go to them for physical therapy support, the endgame is ensuring Airmen are fit-to-fight, and able to protect the surety and combat missions at the 39th Air Base Wing," Shay said.



## The 4 things you should remember when you drive in Korea

### Don't

#### Drink & Drive



BAC	Criminal	Administrative
0.05-0.099%	Less than 6 months or ₩3 million (Max)	License is suspended for 100 days
0.01-0.199%	6 months-1 year or ₩3-5 million	License is revoked
0.2% or Higher Failure to Comply with Sobriety Test	1-3 years or ₩5-10 million	License is revoked

### Respect

#### School Zone



Fines and penalty points are doubled for every traffic violation committed inside school zones.

(The speed limit in school zones is 30km/h)

### Who can use

#### Bus-only Lane



Bus-only lanes are indicated by a blue line.

※ Fine of up to ₩70,000 / Penalty points : 30

City roads	Buses with at least 36 seats
Expressways	Buses or 9-passenger vans having at least 6 passengers

### How to make

#### Left Turn



Unprotected left turn

This turn sign & Green signal

(You may need sufficient clearance between you and opposing traffic.)

※ The opposing traffic going straight has priority.

Protected left turn

Green left-turn arrow

Please drive safely, your safety is our priority!



Pyongyang Police Station



## 24th ANNUAL AUSA ESSAY CONTEST



**Subject: "Life in Korea"**  
**Title: Author's Choice**

Essay must be based on the author's personal experience (either work or social) in Korea  
Open to all U.S. Service members, Civilians and their Family members currently in Korea.

**GRAND PRIZE (One Winner) ..... ₩ 1,000,000**  
**FIRST PRIZE (Two Winners) ..... ₩ 700,000**  
**SECOND PRIZE (Three Winners) ..... ₩ 500,000**

- Essay Length: 1,000 to 2,000 words
- Deadline for Entry: 11 May 2018
- Format: MS Word document/double spaced
- Prize Winners will be announced 1 June 2018 and prizes awarded on 22 June 2018
- Award Time and Location: TBD, Camp Humphreys

A brief resume of the author must be enclosed including full name, phone number, unit and mailing address.

For more information call Timothy K. Spann at 755-4032.

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# First Airman selected for UN Logistics Officer Course

By Tech. Sgt. Liliana Moreno, 621st Contingency Response Wing

TRAVIS AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. (AFNS) -- For the first time ever, an Airman will attend the 2018 United Nations Logistics Officer Course in Bangladesh starting in fall 2018.

Capt. Stephanie Kaari a logistics officer assigned to the 571st Mobility Support Advisory Squadron, recently received notification she was selected to attend the course.

"I'm really excited about the opportunity to travel to Bangladesh and attend this course to learn about logistics from a U.N. perspective," Kaari said. "Throughout my career, my best memories are from working with local national personnel and partner nation militaries and I'm looking forward to learning from the people from the Bangladeshi, Indian, Sri Lankan, and Nepalese militaries who will also be attending this course."

Kaari explained how she became familiar and interested in the U.N.'s peacekeeping missions as an air advisor in the 571st MSAS.

"Over the past year, air advisors from my squadron have trained and advised the Uruguayan and El Salvadoran air forces to deploy in support of U.N. global peacekeeping objectives in the Congo and Mali, respectively," Kaari said. "The 571st MSAS is on the front lines of enabling Southern Command nations to transform other countries from areas of conflict to peace, and it's really exciting to be a part of the team."

The board considered 30 applicants before selecting Kaari to be the first Air Force representative to attend the U.N. Logistics Officer Course. The course prepares participants for work in all aspects of logistics in a U.N. operation, including the ability to differentiate between national and U.N. logistic responsibilities.

"We have no doubt that with her experience,



**Capt. Stephanie Kaari, 571st Mobility Support Advisory Squadron logistics officer, at Travis Air Force Base, Calif., recently received notification she was selected to attend the 2018 United Nations Logistics Officer Course in Bangladesh starting in fall 2018. The board considered 30 applicants before selecting Kaari to be the first U.S. Air Force representative to attend the U.N. Logistics Officer Course. The course prepares participants for work in all aspects of logistics in a U.N. operation, including the ability to differentiate between national and U.N. logistic responsibilities. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Liliana Moreno)**

Kaari will be an exceptional representative to our partners in the region," said Lt. Col. Minpo Shiue, a member of the Secretary of the Air Force International Affairs.

Shiue explained, this type of training supports one of the top priorities of the secretary of the Air Force and chief of staff of the Air Force, to strengthen alliances and emphasizes on international partner engagement and security cooperation.

"For Bangladesh, we are trying to improve our engagement and relationships at the tactical level, Airmen to Airmen level," Shiue said. "We've had high level interactions through attendance by senior officers at U.S. Air Force Professional Military Education courses. But there has been a lack of engagement at the lower level, unless it's during the numerous humanitarian assistance and disaster response missions. These PME opportunities allow us to build and enhance relationships at the lower level in a non-crisis environment. Our attendance at this course shows the U.S. commitment to the region."

Kaari said this opportunity will help prepare

her for future missions as an air advisor and prospective positions in the Security Cooperation enterprise.

"As an Air Force logistics readiness officer, understanding how logistics processes function in other large organizations enables me to be a more well-rounded logistician," Kaari explained. "I'm looking forward to bringing back what I've learned from the course and sharing it with the logistics community."

Most importantly, Kaari believes this course could help open doors to build personal and professional relationships between U.S., Bangladeshi, Indian, Sri Lankan, and Nepalese military members.

"Through sharing experiences and getting to know someone at an individual level, you realize that everyone, regardless of country of origin, gender, religion, etc., shares common elements of humanity," Kaari added. "I believe those commonalities are what links us all and will help establish a foundation for a partnership moving forward."

## Airmen feedback critical to future Air Force

Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (AFNS) -- Select total force Airmen will be chosen to participate in one of two surveys supporting the Invisible Wounds Initiative.

The 2018 IWI Culture Assessment Survey and the 2018 Invisible Wounds Needs Assessment are confidential, voluntary surveys that will take approximately 20 minutes to complete.

Feedback received from the IWI Culture Assessment will enable an understanding of the

culture surrounding invisible wounds which includes post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injuries and other cognitive, emotional or behavioral disorders associated with trauma experienced by an individual. This will assist the IWI in developing strategies to improve the perceptions of invisible wounds within the Air Force and increase the support Airmen receive.

Air Force leaders will also understand Airmen's non-medical supportive needs from the Invisible Wounds Needs Assessment which will enable the IWI to provide Airmen with a smoother road to recovery and increase resiliency via peer-led

support groups.

"Optimizing human performance is critical to the future of our Air Force," said Michelle Padgett, director of warrior wellness and policy integration. "Information collected from these surveys will play a key role in guiding the policies and processes the Air Force implements to support Airmen with invisible wounds and ensure they are treated with the honor, dignity and respect they deserve."

Airmen selected to participate in one of the surveys will receive a direct email from the IWI with a link to participate.





**Then-Tech. Sgt. William Posch, pararescueman assigned to the 920th Rescue Wing, Patrick Air Force Base, Fla., earned the 2013 Air Force Noncommissioned Officer of the Year Award. Throughout the year Posch went above and beyond the call of duty, he was credited with more than 140 combat rescues and led the evacuation of 126 Americans from the U.S. Embassy in Juba during a violent Southern Sudan uprising. Posch also planned and executed upgrade training for 18 fellow pararescuemen 90 days ahead of schedule. (Courtesy photo)**



**Staff Sgt. Carl Enis, 31, was among the seven Airmen killed in a helicopter crash in Iraq, March 15, 2018. He was a pararescueman assigned to the 308th Rescue Squadron at Patrick Air Force Base, Fla. The squadron of elite Guardian Angel Airmen serve as highly specialized rescue specialists on the battlefield providing life-saving trauma care and search and rescue as part of the 920th Rescue Wing - one of the most deployed units in the Air Force Reserve. The 308th RQS is part of the 920th Rescue Wing. (Courtesy photo)**

## Two Air Force Reserve Pararescuemen among 7 Airmen killed in Iraq helicopter crash

### 920th Rescue Wing Public Affairs

**PATRICK AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. (AFNS)** -- Two Air Force Reserve pararescuemen, Master Sgt. William Posch, 36 and Staff Sgt. Carl Enis, 31, are among the seven Airmen killed in a helicopter crash in Iraq, March 15, 2018.

Both men were assigned to the 308th Rescue Squadron at Patrick Air Force Base, Florida. The squadron of elite Guardian Angel Airmen serve as highly trained rescue specialists, on and off the battlefield, providing life-saving trauma care and search and rescue as part of the 920th Rescue Wing - one of the most deployed units in the Air Force Reserve.

Also lost are: Capt. Mark K. Weber, 29, of Colorado Springs, Colorado. He was assigned to the 38th Rescue Squadron at Moody Air Force Base, Georgia. Capt. Andreas B. O'Keeffe, 37, of Center Moriches, New York; Capt. Christopher T. Zanetis, 37, of Long Island City, New York; Master Sgt. Christopher J. Raguso, 39, of Commack, New York; Staff Sgt. Dashan J. Briggs, 30, of Port Jefferson Station, New York. All four were assigned to the 106th Rescue Wing at the Francis S. Gabreski Air National Guard Base, New York.

"It is with a heavy heart that I send you this message," said Col. Kurt Matthews, 920th RQW commander, in an email Friday morning announcing the loss to his wing of approximately 2,000 Reserve Airmen. "I am asking that the 920th Rescue Wing take an operational pause in honor of our lost brothers."

The men died while traveling in an HH-60G Pave Hawk Helicopter when it crashed. All personnel aboard were killed in the crash. The crash did not appear to be a result of enemy activity; however, the cause of the accident is under investigation.

An accompanying U.S. helicopter immediately reported the crash and a quick reaction force comprised of Iraqi Security Forces and coalition members secured the scene.

Enis and Posch were both serving in combat roles like they have on multiple overseas deployments during their Air Force careers.

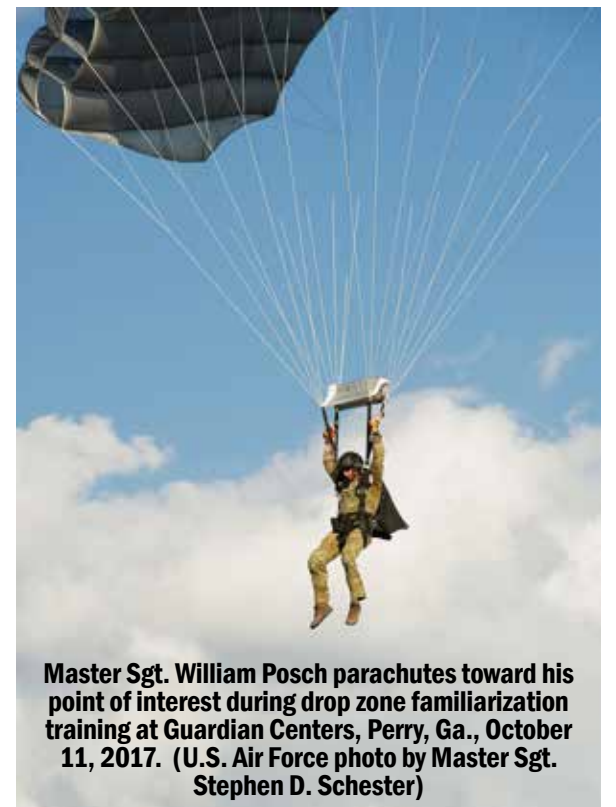
Posch, an Indialantic, Florida, resident, was part of a long-range rescue mission at sea to save two German sailors whose sailboat caught fire and sunk in July 2017. A month later, he assisted on many rescues in Texas during the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey. He had 18 years of service, the last ten of which were with the 920th RQW. Among his decorations were the Air Medal with silver oak leaf cluster; an Aerial Achievement Medal and the Air Force Commendation Medal with Valor.

Enis was a Tallahassee, Florida, resident who joined the unit in 2010 and served for 8 years. Among his decorations are the Air Reserve Forces Meritorious Service Medal with bronze oak leaf cluster; the National Defense Service Medal and the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal.

Currently, the flag is being flown at half-staff on Patrick AFB in remembrance of the fallen Airmen.

"No words can heal the pain from the loss of these true American heroes," said Matthews. "You can be proud knowing that Master Sgt. Posch and Staff Sgt.

Enis gave their last full measure performing their mission and serving our most noble pararescue creed: 'These things we do, that others may live'. Our deepest sympathy goes out to their families. In the face of this tragedy, we will honor their service and sacrifice and join their loved ones in mourning the immense void left behind by the loss of these great men - our rescue brothers."



**Master Sgt. William Posch parachutes toward his point of interest during drop zone familiarization training at Guardian Centers, Perry, Ga., October 11, 2017. (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Stephen D. Schester)**



# First-ever blood test for detecting brain injury cleared by FDA

## Military Health System Communications

FALLS CHURCH, Va. (AFNS) -- You're throwing a football around in the yard with your neighbors. While stretching out as far as you can to catch the pass, you slam your head hard against a pole going for the ball. Seeing stars and feeling confused, you take a seat. Wouldn't it be nice if a test could say whether you have a brain injury?

Brain injuries can happen from a fall, while in combat or during training exercises. Thanks in part to research funded by the Defense Department and the Army, Banyan Biomarkers has created the first-ever brain trauma blood test. On Feb. 14, 2018, the Food and Drug Administration cleared marketing of the Banyan Biomarkers' Brain Trauma Indicator.

The BTI can identify two brain-specific protein markers, called Ubiquitin Carboxy-terminal Hydrolase-L1 and Glial Fibrillary Acidic Protein. These proteins rapidly appear in the blood and are elevated 12 hours following an incident where a head injury occurs and can signify if there is bleeding in the brain. The two protein markers won't be elevated if your brain is uninjured or if you have a mild traumatic brain injury, otherwise known as a concussion.

"When these proteins are elevated, there may be blood in the brain," said Kathy Helmick, acting director of the Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center. "A hematoma, or blood in the brain, may indicate a more serious brain injury has occurred, which could require rapid evacuation for neurosurgery to remove a clot in the brain."

The first thing a doctor tries to rule out with suspected brain injury is the potential for serious complications, like losing consciousness, going into a coma or death. According to the research results and FDA clearance, the blood test can help medical professionals determine the need for computed tomography scans in patients suspected of having a concussion. It also can help prevent unnecessary radiation exposure for patients.

Prior to discovering these biological protein markers, medical professionals had to rely on symptom reporting and other more subjective means to evaluate patients with few signs of more serious head injury.

"This technology helps us identify red flags after you suspect a head injury so that you can get the person to definitive care," Helmick explained. "Most times, the blood test will be negative and the medical provider will continue with a concussion evaluation."

Lt. Col. Kara Schmid said Army Medical Research and Materiel Command will "begin limited user testing with the device in the first quarter of fiscal year 2019." Schmid is a project manager for the Neurotrauma and Psychological Health Project Management Office at the Army Medical Materiel Development Activity. "Improvements could make the device more supportable by the military health system."

The DoD has been seeking a method for diagnosing and evaluating TBIs in service members for over a decade. According to DVVIC, over 375,000 service members have been diagnosed with TBI since 2000. Approximately 82 percent of those TBI

cases are classified as a concussion.

According to Dr. Kelley Brix, branch chief for interagency research and development at the Defense Health Agency, the need for diagnosing milder forms of brain injury sparked research questions that were funded as part of a greater TBI research portfolio.

"The research question became centered on if the brain releases anything detectable into the blood stream when there is damage," said Brix. "The answer is yes. This is a big project with a successful outcome. But, it's only part of our large portfolio looking at improved ways to diagnose and treat TBI."

Helmick says knowing whether blood, swelling or bruising on the brain has taken place helps with understanding the severity of the TBI.

"These two proteins give us a window of insight into what is going on in the brain," said Helmick. "We have lacked objective devices and data in TBI, especially with concussion. The reason biological markers are so important is because they are accurate, sensitive and objective."

Making the machine required to run the blood test smaller and more portable is a work in progress, as currently it's intended for use in a laboratory. Logistical constraints of the BTI device make deployment to the force a challenge.

"There is active work going on to reduce the three to four hour time frame for getting test results, which could make it even more usable for austere environments," Helmick said. "This blood test is an example of a significant public-private success and a huge advancement in the field of TBI."

## Travis AFB beta tests lasers

By Staff Sgt. Amber Carter, 60th Air Mobility Wing Public Affairs

TRAVIS AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. (AFNS) -- Travis Air Force Base, California, prides itself on leading the way in innovation and continues to look toward the future with a laser removal process that has enhanced the 60th Maintenance Squadron aircraft structural maintenance section's efficiency since the arrival of two lasers in April 2017.

The 60th MXS is one of only two bases chosen to test the Clean Laser 1000 and the Clean Laser 300 as a new way to remove paint and corrosion on aerospace ground equipment.

"The main difference with this laser is that it can remove corrosion without removing metal," said Tech. Sgt. Brian Brown, 60th MXS aircraft structural maintenance corrosion manager. "Sanding and grinding remove additional material while the laser burns off corrosion without taking any metal with it."

This important difference creates a safer and more efficient way to navigate deep-rooted corrosion in equipment.

"We cannot use paint remover, so we have to use sanders," said Senior Airman Troy Chuckran, 60th MXS aircraft structural maintenance journeyman. "When you are sanding, you can't always tell how much paint material you are removing and you tend to blend the crack, which causes the severity of the corrosion to be covered up and be discovered by the (Non-Destructive Inspection team). With the lasers, you're not removing surface or polishing the surface, you are only removing paint and corrosion."

Another improvement is a decrease in the amount of waste by using a laser versus a hand sander.

"Our traditional method is to use an orbital sander or blasting machine," said Brown. "For the orbital sander, you have to be suited up in a full Tyvek suit, full face respirator, force air respirator and nitrile gloves."

Tests were performed to ensure the correct personal protection equipment is worn.

"We did a week's worth of testing to determine what type of PPE is needed while using the laser," said Chuckran. "We had to be fully suited up, we took air samples and used the laser to collect data while testing the air quality to make sure we are safe."

The tests resulted in another improvement when compared to the hand sanders.

"Now we don't wear the Tyvek suit," said Chuckran. "All we need are specialized glasses, hearing protection and gloves. It's a major improvement especially in the summer when the Tyvek suit becomes a sauna suit."

The lasers are currently being used on all support

equipment for the airframes at Travis AFB, such as air conditioning units, hydraulic carts and the power generator, which provides power to the aircraft. These same tests are currently being performed on an old panel from a C-5M Super Galaxy.

"I see the lasers as the future of removing paint and corrosion," said Chuckran. "It will definitely have a huge impact once we can begin using them on the aircraft."



Airman 1st Class Levi Gordon, 60th Maintenance Squadron aircraft structural maintenance, uses a Clean Laser 1000 to remove paint from a sheet of metal March 7, 2018, at Travis Air Force Base, Calif. The 1000-watt laser can remove paint and corrosion and reduces the waste created from sanding paint by 90 percent. Travis AFB was chosen as one of two bases to test the capabilities of the laser. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Amber Carter)