

# TAILWIND

TRAVIS AFB, CALIF.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2002

VOLUME 27, NUMBER 50



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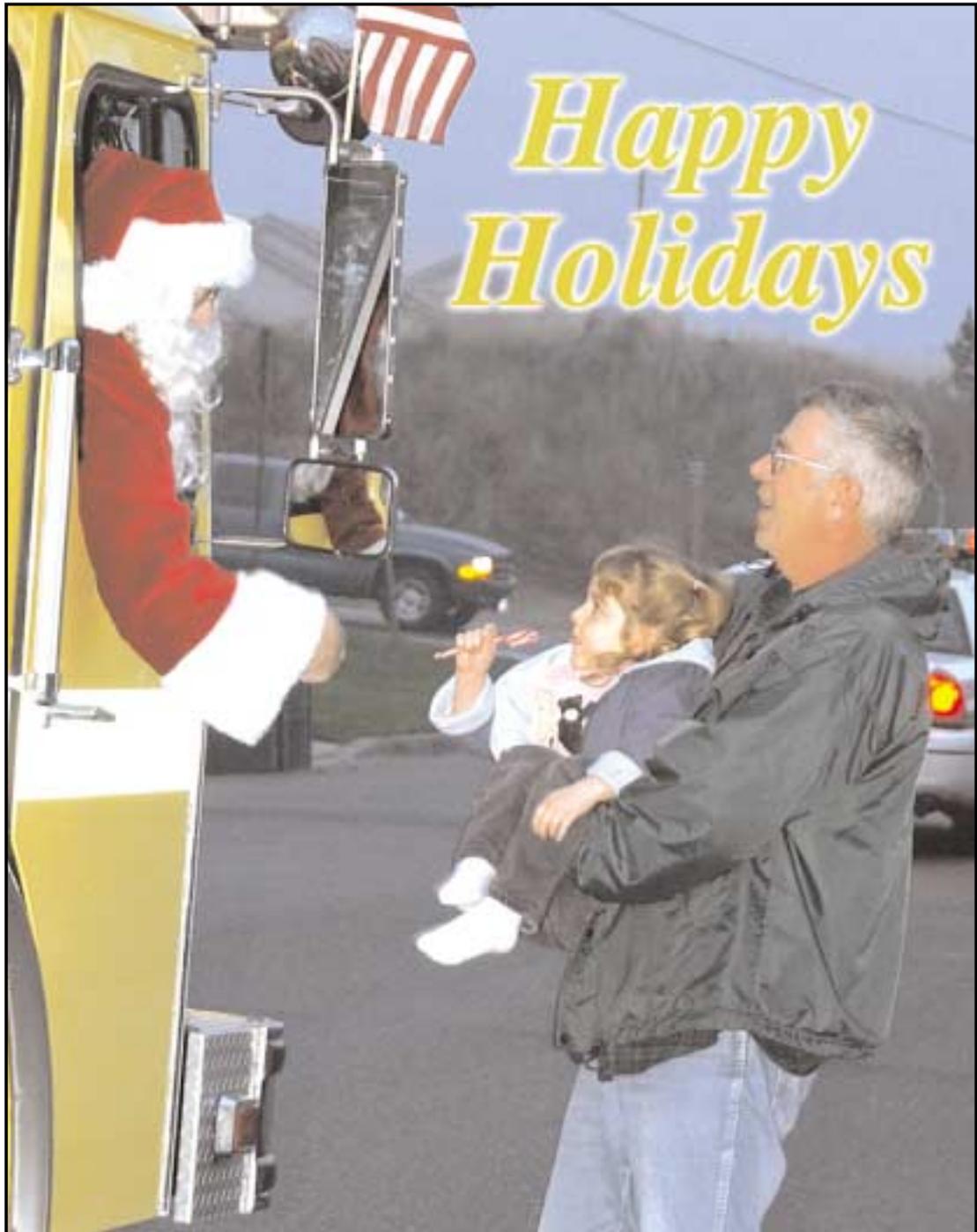
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# Commander's Corner

## Travis plays role in humanitarian mission



By **Brig. Gen. Brad Baker**  
60th AMW  
commander

Happy Holidays, Travis Team!

In the spirit of the season ... Travis was busy providing critical humanitarian relief and support to the island of Guam, hit Dec. 8 by a typhoon packing 180 mile per hour winds.

Despite our high operations tempo with our ongoing deployments for Air Expeditionary Forces 7 and 8, people throughout the wing pulled out all the stops to be a major part of this important mission.

Our dedicated C-5 aircrews flew more than 50 sorties ... providing humanitarian relief after the storm. The C-5 aircrews and maintainers are the unsung heroes for the week. They accomplished something that needed to be supported ... and gave up precious time off in several cases to do so.

More than 1,200 short tons were delivered to the beleaguered island ... in addition to the airlift of more than 250 people to Hawaii and elsewhere in the United States. Furthermore, we brought about 75 evacuees, mostly family members, to Travis.

Superstars like **Joan Bueto** of the Family Support Center, **Lt. Col. Cathy DeVera** and **Gil Freely** of the 60th Aerial Port Squadron and **Maj. Marc Bass** of the 60th Services

Squadron, organized a tremendous effort to find low-cost lodging, transportation and financial support for these families. It was heartwarming to see our request for volunteers so enthusiastically supported by people throughout the wing. Thank you all.

This response to help on behalf of Air Force families, reflects that Travis' holiday, giving spirit is in full ... and tonight we'll have a chance celebrate that at our **Wing Holiday Party held at the Delta Breeze Club at 6 p.m.** I congratulate the committee led by **Capt. Karie Pahia** for putting together a first class event and mobilizing the forces necessary to accomplish this effort.

The holidays are a time to celebrate and reflect on the milestones we've accomplished

in the previous year. For those of us fortunate to be here at Travis for the holiday break, let's consider and be thankful for the many blessings we enjoy and remember those members who are deployed in defense of freedom and the families who also serve by keeping the home fires burning.

However you decide to celebrate the holidays, please be safe. Toward this end, I've asked each commander to ensure you all receive a safety briefing. I don't want people to overextend and hurt themselves in the process. Please take care of yourselves ... I want to see each of you back safe and sound next year.

Happy Holidays ... God bless the Travis Team and God bless America!

## Gen. Becker: 'Happy holidays, celebrate safely'

By **Maj. Gen. John Becker**  
Fifteenth Air Force commander

For most people, the holiday season is a period traditionally spent with family and friends reflecting on the past year and making plans for the coming one. It is also a time when many of our AMC members are tempted to take unnecessary chances, placing their welfare and that of their families in jeopardy.

No matter where the holidays find you, I encourage you to celebrate them safely.

Many of you will be traveling significant distances to spend time with family and friends. Plan your travels well in advance and factor in flexibility. Due to weather this time of year, things don't always go as planned. Conduct a personal risk assessment before traveling and consider all potential areas of risk: unfamiliar roads, adverse

weather conditions, traffic delays, etc. If you're testing out those skis you haven't been on in a year, know your limitations.

Bottom line: include safety in all your upcoming holiday activities.

Leaders at all levels need to get involved and be proactive.

Caring for your people does not stop when the day's work is done.

Make sure your people know automobile

crashes are the number one cause of death for our service members. Emphasize that alcohol, speeding and fatigue increase the risks of a catastrophe. Help your personnel plan safe alternatives in all their activities.

We don't want to lose a single AMC family member during this holiday season.

Let's begin 2003 safely and be prepared for the challenges ahead.

I wish all of you a safe and happy holiday season.



**Becker**

## SECAF, CSAF send joint holiday message

By **Dr. James G. Roche**  
Secretary of the Air Force

**Gen. John P. Jumper**  
Air Force Chief of Staff

In this season of thanksgiving and reverent celebration, we send our warmest wishes to our entire Air Force team of active, Guard, Reserve, civilian, and retired airmen, and to your loved ones and families.

As defenders of America, we salute you for your honor,

courage and commitment — values worthy of our nation's deepest gratitude and profound respect. For each of you who voluntarily wear the uniform of our nation, this holiday season offers General Jumper and I an opportunity to simply say — thank you.

To those separated from loved ones during this special time of year — whether a result of a deployment or mobilization — we send our heartfelt appreciation for your sacrifice and willingness to bear the burdens of freedom. Your devoted service underscores all that is great about America. And in an era of grave new challenges to the values of liberty and equality, you represent the

strength of this diverse land, and symbolize all that is good about your generation. Wherever you are stationed or deployed, we urge you to reflect on the abundant blessings and privileges we enjoy as Americans. Indeed, we are richly blessed.

But with such riches come responsibility; the responsibility to preserve and defend freedom-loving people, and to ready ourselves for the future battles we must fight for our nation.

In this season of giving and thanks, take a few moments to reflect on the value your gift of service brings to every man, woman and child in America and around the globe. Your gift is freedom, and all who live under its protective wings benefit from this great offering of peace and hope. Whether you live here in the United States, or are stationed in a foreign land, the shelter and security of the Stars and Stripes goes with you.

To all members of the world's greatest Air Force, we offer our most sincere thanks for all that you do for America.

We wish you a safe and happy holiday season, and hope for peace in the New Year. Happy holidays!

## Tailwind

Travis AFB, Calif.  
60th Air Mobility Wing

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## On the Cover



Photo by **Arielle Kohn** / Base Visual Information

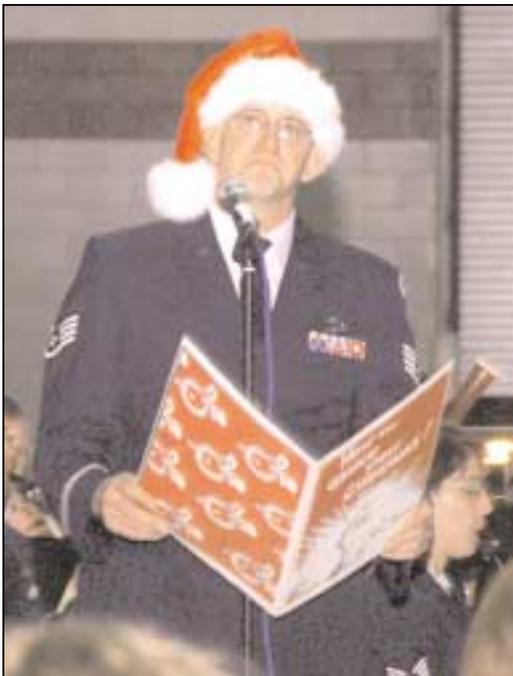
# Holiday IN Concert

Photos by Nan Wylie  
Base Visual Information



Airman 1st Class Bonnie Schuelke, a member of the U.S. Air Force Band of the Golden West, serenades Santa during the band's Winter Wonderland children's Christmas concert Saturday in Hanger P-14.

The concert was held in honor of Travis children who have a parent deployed during the holidays. Despite the rainy weather, the band concert attracted a large group of Travis families.



Staff Sgt. Jon Ruff puts on his best "Grinch face" as he reads "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" to the concert attendees. Ruff is a member of the Band of the Golden West.



**Above:** During the concert, children had an opportunity to tell Santa everything they want for Christmas.



**Left:** Brig. Gen. Brad Baker, 60th Air Mobility Wing commander, handed out prizes to the winners of band's Children's Coloring Contest. (The winner's of the coloring contest will be announced in the next Tailwind.)

## 29 Travis captains selected for promotion

Twenty-nine Travis captains were recently selected for promotion. They are:

### 60th Air Mobility Wing

**Michael G. Tison**, 60th AMW

### 60th Operations Group

**James M. Argento**, 21st Airlift Squadron

**Jason T. Cousine**, 22nd Airlift Squadron

**Vincent M. Durant**, 60th Operations Support Squadron

**Leif E. Eckholm**, 60th OSS

**Todd A. Garrett**, 22nd AS

**Tyson W. Hummel**, 9th Air Refueling Squadron

**Ryan T. Marshall**, 21st AS

**Brent J. Mesquit**, 6th ARS

**David L. Morisey**, 6th ARS

**Tyler T. Prevett**, 60th OSS

**Christopher M. Thompson**, 60th OSS

**Phillip C. Tucker**, 60th OSS

**Shawn D. Welsh**, 9th ARS

### 60th Maintenance Group

**Geoffrey C. Nieboer**, 660th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

### 60th Mission Support Group

**Grantino T. Reid**, 60th Communications Squadron

### 60th Medical Group

**Carrie D. Cooper**, 60th Medical Operations Squadron

**Kathleen S. Detamore**, 60th Medical Diagnostics and Therapeutics Squadron

**Michelle M. Even**, 60th MDG

**Andrea D. Gardner**, 60th MDG

**Stephanie M. Gardner**, AFIT

**Ileana Hauge**, 60th Medical Support Squadron

**Rochelle L. Haynes**, 60th Medical Surgical Operations Squadron

**Peggy A. Heimlich**, 60th MDTs

**Imelda M. Reedy**, AFIT

**Deanna D. Steeby**, 60th MSGS

**Melissa A. Ulitzsch**, 60th MDOS

### 615th Air Mobility Group

**Michelle N. Barrett**, 715th Air Mobility Squadron

**David A. Cutter**, 615th Air Mobility Operations Squadron

### Judiciary Western Circuit

**David B. Eby**

**James E. Key III**

**Kim E. London**

# Wear your seat belt and save about 350 lives

By Tech. Sgt. Mark Diamond  
Tailwind editor

A recent vehicle accident just outside the Travis North Gate has one master sergeant breathing a sigh of relief. And the 60th Air Mobility Wing safety office wants Travis people to pay particular attention to this accident — especially the outcome.

The master sergeant (who prefers to remain anonymous) explained to base safety officials that while driving on a road near Cypress Lakes Golf Course, he swerved to miss an on-coming vehicle that had drifted into his lane.

After swerving to the right to miss the approaching vehicle, the sergeant said he swerved back to the left in an attempt to miss a ditch on the right-hand side

of the road. This caused his vehicle to careen off the left side of the road and into another ditch. The sergeant said hitting the second ditch caused his vehicle to flip, end over end, three times.

When the vehicle finished tumbling, it came to a rest on its roof.

The master sergeant said he released his seat-belt and evacuated the upside-down vehicle.

After a passerby called 911, police and emergency medical technicians from Vacaville, Travis and the California Highway Patrol responded to the scene of the accident.

According to a wing safety report, the Vacaville

EMTs examined the master sergeant and determined that — with the exception of some minor bruises and a sprained pinky finger — the sergeant did not require further medical attention.

Wing safety experts said the outcome could have been deadly had the sergeant not been wearing his seatbelt.

"If he wasn't wearing his seatbelt, he could have easily been ejected from his vehicle," explained Tech. Sgt. John Young, 60th AMW safety technician.

Young said the wing safety office wants to tell this master sergeant's story to as many people as possible. They're hoping it will influence more base drivers to buckle their seat belt ... especially during the holiday season, when accidents tend to increase significantly.

According to statistics released this month by the Defense Department, if everyone would wear their seatbelt, 349 lives could be saved during the upcoming holiday period.

The 2002 Christmas holiday period begins Tuesday at 6 p.m. and ends Wednesday at 11:59 p.m. Safety officials estimate that nationwide there will be 160 traffic fatalities and about 8,600 nonfatal disabling injuries during this 30-hour holiday period.

On a good note, it is estimated that 120 people will not die this Christmas holiday period because they will wear their safety belts. And an additional 42 lives could be saved if everyone wears their safety belt.

The picture is even more grim during the upcoming New Year's holiday period.

The 2003 New Year's holiday period begins Dec. 31 at 6 p.m. and ends at 11:59 p.m. on Jan. 1.

# BANDing Together

## Travis' Band of the Golden West selected to organize 'Total Force' marching band

By Tech. Sgt. Mark Diamond  
Tailwind editor

During the Jan. 1 Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena, Calif., the Air Force will be represented by a "Total Force" marching band, organized by the U.S. Air Force Band of the Golden West at Travis.

According to Chief Master Sgt. Thomas Kistler, Band of the Golden West band manager, this is the third time the Travis-based band has been tasked to organize the combined Air Force marching band.

Kistler said the Air Force's Total Force Band was also formed in 1997 and again in 2000. Although the band did not perform in the 1997 Tournament of Roses Parade, he said they did march during the parade in 2000. He said that parade held special meaning for most band members because of the Millennium celebration.

This year's Total Force Band is comprised of 120 members from 15 Air Force, Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard bands.

According to Kistler, it takes a lot of practice to prepare for the Rose Bowl parade.

He said the Total Force band members arrive in Southern California on Dec. 29, the Sunday prior to the parade, leaving only two days to practice. He said on Monday and Tuesday, band members will rehearse twice a day — once in the morning and again in the afternoon.

"While we all know how to march in a marching band, none of the Total Force Band members have marched in an ensemble this large since their college days, if ever," Kistler said. "We must get used to the size and sound of the Total Force Band and to marching beside, in front of and behind different people."

The chief said most band members are looking forward to the parade because of its "world famous" status as the New Year's parade.

"Like deployed Air Force members, we are sad to be away from our families during the Holiday season, but we are proud to do our part displaying Air Force professionalism to the world," added Kistler.

Tech. Sgt. Ken Buchanan, a member of the Band of the Golden West, said he is excited to participate in the Total Force Band for a second time. He was a member of the band during the 2000 Tournament of Roses Parade, and he knows what to expect this year.

Buchanan said the two full days of practice prior to the parade are intense, but well worth the time and effort.

"You've got more than 120 band members who have never worked together trying to make it look like we've been working together for years," he said.

"When we turn that first corner and the TV cameras are on us, we want to present the total Air Force image."

Buchanan, who has been an Air Force band member for 13 years, said the band may only get 10 seconds of airtime on national TV, but that's 10 seconds in which the band can send its message.

"When we perform, we're representing everyone who wears a uniform," said Buchanan. "How incredible is that. This is an opportunity for us to remind everyone what the armed forces are all about, the Air Force in particular."

He said he thinks the Air Force band members will make a special connection with the American people, and their message will be heard loud and clear.

"It's amazing how proud the audience is when they see us," Buchanan said. "There's a bond between the military and the public. It's incredible to see and it's even more incredible to be a part of it."

Buchanan, who plays the euphonium, said the six-mile parade route goes by real fast because of all the excitement and the people.

"When you're rehearsing, it's difficult and stressful, but you forget all about that when you're actually marching," he said.

The sergeant did add that after marching six miles, his 13-pound euphonium (an instrument that resembles a small tuba) starts to get a little heavy.

"From a musician's aspect, it's not really about the music," explained Buchanan. "The band always sounds fantastic. The music is simply the tool we use to deliver our message ... we're the Air Force and we're here to help keep our country free."

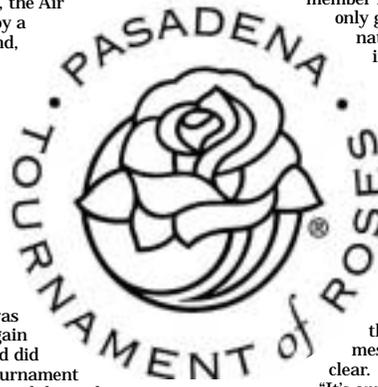
This year's Total Force Band includes 10 piccolos, 10 clarinets, 10 alto saxophones, 10 tenor saxophones, 12 French horns, 18 trumpets, 10 trombones, 10 euphoniums, 10 sousaphones, and 20 percussionists.

Additionally, Kistler said there will be 13 people in the formation performing Color Guard, banner carrier and command functions.

Kistler said for this year's parade, the commander of the Total Force Band, Capt. Douglas Monroe, has selected "The Air Force Song," "Washington Post" and "National Emblem" marches.

The 114th Rose parade — themed Children's Dreams, Wishes and Imagination — will feature majestic floral floats, high-stepping equestrian units and spirited marching bands from throughout the nation.

Following the parade, at 2 p.m. (Pacific Standard Time), the 89th Rose Bowl Game will feature the championship teams from the Pac-10 and Big Ten Conferences.



*"The music is simply the tool we use to deliver our message ... we're the Air Force and we're here to help keep our country free."*

The best guests to invite to a party are the designated drivers.

# NEWS NOTES

## TRAVIS AIR FORCE BASE

### Warning siren

The base "Giant Voice" warning system will be tested Jan. 3 at noon.

### Blood drive today

The base is sponsoring a Holiday Blood Drive with Blood Centers of the Pacific at the Travis Chapel Center today from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Holiday T-shirts will be given in appreciation of donations. For more information, call Blood Centers of the Pacific at 428-6001.

### Travis DGs

Three Travis people were recently named Distinguished Graduates during the Noncommissioned Officer Academy graduation Dec. 12. They are:

- ▶ Tech. Sgt. Vicki Bamberg, 615th Air Mobility Operations Squadron
- ▶ Tech. Sgt. Lenard Gleesing, 60th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
- ▶ Tech. Sgt. Lori Holmes, 60th Medical Operations Squadron

### Family movie deal

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service and Travis Integrated Delivery Systems, or TIDES, are offering a free movie and meal deal Jan. 4.

Travis families are invited to a free showing of *Spy Kids 2* at the Base Theater at 1 p.m. Afterward, AAFES is offering a Family Meal Deal at Taco Bell, located in the Base Exchange Food Court. The special Taco Bell Grande Meal includes two Nacho Bell Grandes, 10 bean burritos or tacos, and four medium drinks for \$9.99 (regular price is \$18.08).

### Separating?

Are you within six months of normal date of separation from active duty? If so, it's time to schedule your mandatory Reserve Opportunities Briefing. To schedule a briefing, call Master Sgt. Brown at 424-3083 or Master Sgt. Morales at 424-1919. The briefing is an opportunity to ask your Air Force Reserve In-Service Recruiter questions

about the Air Force Reserve.

Those interested in learning more about the Palace Chase Program should attend the mass Palace Chase Briefing at 9 a.m. in Bldg 381, Room D207, on the first and third Friday of each month.

No appointment is necessary for the briefing.

### New numbers

The Military Personnel Flight Customer Service office has new phone numbers.

For ID cards, call:

- Representative No. 1: 424-8483
- Representative No. 2: 424-8480
- Representative No. 3: 424-8481
- Representative No. 4: 424-8468

For the Records Section, call 424-5523, 424-2253, 424-7118, 424-3903 or 424-8347.

### Travis firefighters compete on ESPN2

Travis firefighters will be on ESPN2 four times in December and January as sports network broadcasts the Firefighter Combat Challenge World Championships.

ESPN2 is scheduled to broadcast the Survivor Relay tournament Saturday and again Jan. 6. The Firefighter Combat Challenge final is scheduled to air Jan. 11 and 24. Check local listings for times.

The Travis team took third in the Survivor Relay tournament behind two Canadian teams, and took second in the finals, losing out to a Canadian team by one second. Staff Sgt. Michael Melton, a Travis team member, finished third in the individual category.

### FTAC change

Beginning in January, First Term Airman Center classes will begin on Tuesdays only.

## AAFES holiday hours

### Dec. 24:

Main Base Exchange ..... 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
Main BX Concessions ..... 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

### Mini Mall:

Military Clothing and Sales ..... 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
Concessions ..... 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
Class Six ..... 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
Dry Cleaners ..... 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
Bakery ..... 6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

### Food Court:

Captain D's, Baskin Robbins,  
Taco Bell, Popeyes,  
Anthony's Pizza ..... 10:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
Manchu Wok, Robin Hood,  
Cinnabon, Seattle Best ..... 6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
Shoppette ..... 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.  
Main Gas Station (170) ..... 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.  
Firestone (Car Care Center) ..... 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Burger King ..... 6:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Hospital BX ..... 8 a.m. to noon  
Terminal Eatery ..... 6:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

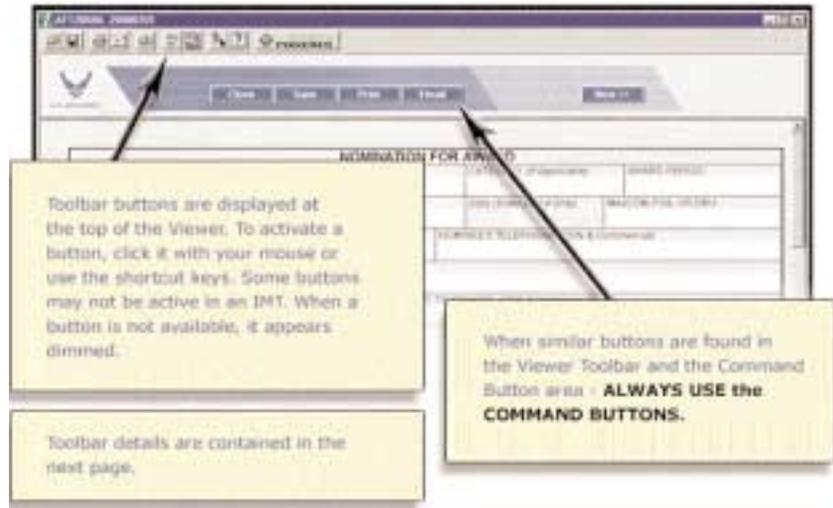
### Dec. 25

All AAFES facilities will be closed on Christmas Day so employees can celebrate the holiday with their families.

## Commissary holiday hours

On Dec. 24, the Travis Commissary will close at 6 p.m. and the Mini-Com will be closed. On Christmas Day, the Commissary and Mini-Com will be closed. Both stores will reopen for regular hours of operation on Dec. 26. The Commissary and the Mini-Com will be closed New Year's Day, and will observe normal hours of operation Dec. 31 and Jan. 2.

See Services holiday hours on Page 15



# PureEdge software replaces FormFlow

## Tailwind staff

In September, the Air Force Office of Installations and Logistics approved PureEdge Information Management Tool Viewer as the replacement for FormFlow Filler.

The Information Management Tool, or IMT, solution will enhance flexibility for the end-user, said Chief Master Sgt. Columbus Blocker, Headquarters Air Mobility Command.

Blocker added that the software is intuitive and easy to use.

"IMTs will integrate with Air Force workflow solutions and support nonconnected users," added the chief.

He said users will be allowed to complete IMTs off-line, if necessary, without a network connection or client-server activity. Later, when the user can access a network, the IMT data can be submitted on-line to continue the electronic processing.

Initially, Blocker said, the forms converted into the PureEdge software will be static with a similar look as today's forms. However, he said the new forms will have command buttons (save, close, e-mail, next page, and navigation) in a blue banner across the top of the IMT.

The chief said the next step is to revise the IMT and its processes into a more dynamic tool and maximize the capabilities of the software. He said

**"We are confident all users will welcome the (Information Management Tool) and find it very simple to operate."**

**Chief Master Sgt. Columbus Blocker**  
 Air Mobility Command headquarters

that dynamic multiple screen inputs, links, digital signature capability, built-in workflow and direct data integration into new or established databases will be incorporated as much as possible.

Also, Blocker said, in the future, users will be able to access IMTs via the Air Force Portal and save their data into the central database, a Content Management System, within the portal. He said this would enable users to access their files from any computer at any location.

PureEdge and FormFlow are not compatible; therefore, a form produced in one will not be viewable in the other.

All new and revised IMTs will be designed in PureEdge Designer, thereby requiring end-users to access them with the new IMT viewer. Although FormFlow data files cannot be

imported into the new IMTs, data can be cut and pasted into the new IMT.

Currently, there are 100 IMTs available on the Air Force Departmental Publishing Office's Web site at [www.e-publishing.af.mil](http://www.e-publishing.af.mil), and the goal is to have all existing forms converted to PureEdge IMT format by March. This will include more than 571 AMC and AMC base-level standard forms. The FormFlow versions will remain available on both the Air Force and AMC Web sites for an extended period of time before being archived.

According to the Travis Network Control Center, base workgroup managers will be notified when the program becomes available at Travis.

To assist users, a computer based training module is available on the Air Force's e-Publishing Web site at [#IMTCBT](http://www.e-publishing.af.mil/Publishing_tools.asp). This course was developed to familiarize all Air Force personnel with the use and functionality of the IMT Viewer.

The CBT presents step-by-step instructions, as well as "real-life" imagery. From start to finish, the end user will have a greater understanding of the IMT Viewer in just 10 to 12 minutes.

"We are confident all users will welcome the IMT and find it very simple to operate," Blocker said.

# Wet road conditions not an excuse for mishaps

**Editor's note** — the following information was provided to the Tailwind by the 60th Air Mobility Wing Safety Office.

## Tailwind staff

With the weather conditions being so wet, it's important people make sure their vehicle is in safe and serviceable condition.

Before drivers get out on the road, here are a few important things they should check, or have checked.

**Tires** — Check the tread and make sure it is adequate with no bald spots. Check the pressure and assure it is adjusted properly. Check to make sure they are all in good condition with no abnormal wear, with no cracks or bubbling.

**Windshield wipers** — Check to ensure wipers clear the window properly. Ensure the rubber is not cracked or torn. And check

## Safety office provides tips to help Travis drivers

the arms to make sure they are not bent.

**Brakes** — Check to make sure vehicle brakes are in good working order. It's important to have good brakes, especially during wet weather. Brakes don't operate as efficiently when they are wet.

Even if a vehicle in proper working condition, someone else's vehicle may not in good repair. Try to stay clear of any vehicle operator who looks to be driving in an unsafe manner.

### To avoid skidding ...

Wet weather driving is not an excuse for a mishap. Rather, it's a challenge to a vehicle operator's driving ability.

Here are some tricks for driv-

ing in inclement weather:

» Make sure your car is in good driving condition.

» Drive at safe speeds for weather, traffic and road conditions. Wet roads require 50 times more stopping distance.

» On wet roads, maintain at least twice the safe following distance for dry pavement or two car lengths for every 10 mph of speed.

» Make smooth gradual turns, and pump brakes lightly when slowing down. Don't let the wheels lock.

» Drivers should reinforce their reflexes. Don't automatically twist the wheel or slam on the brakes to squeak out of a tight spot. Start braking sooner in wet conditions to allow yourself enough time to stop.

» Expect water on bridges, and especially at an underpass, and never go around erected barriers.

» Keep in mind that intersections can be more slippery and extra hazardous.

### To avoid hydroplaning ...

Hydroplaning is a road hazard that often accompanies rain. It happens when vehicle tires lose contact with the road and ride on a wedge of water between the tires and the road.

Drivers may not know it's happening until they try to slow down, turn, or get hit by a gust of wind. Then it's too late.

Several factors contribute to hydroplaning:

**Speed** — Hydroplaning may

occur at low speeds of 30 mph (partial hydroplaning) or at speeds in excess of 55 mph (total hydroplaning).

**Road Surface** — Smooth roads increase the potential for hydroplaning.

**Water** — Hydroplaning often occurs with 1/2 inch or more of water on the road surface — but it can happen with less.

**Vehicle Weight** — The lighter the vehicle, the higher potential for hydroplaning. It can also happen if the majority of weight is in the rear of the vehicle.

**Tire Tread** — Worn or improperly inflated tires are deadly. Tire tread should be at least 1/16 inch deep.

If hydroplaning does occur, let off the gas and be prepared to correct skids that may follow. Remember, don't brake suddenly when skidding.

Classified Ads work. Call 425-4646.

# JAG releases court martial results

## Travis airmen convicted of drug use, Absent Without Leave

By Col. Andrea M. Andersen  
60th AMW Staff Judge Advocate

The 60th Air Mobility Wing Staff Judge Advocate's Office recently released the results of two Travis courts martial.

It is important to note that a military court-martial conviction is a federal conviction, which can carry with it a significant, long-lasting detrimental impact.

### 60th Operations Support Squadron airman convicted of using methamphetamine and being AWOL

On Oct. 18, Airman Basic Lydell A. Deguzman, 60th Operations Support Squadron, was court-martialed for multiple uses of methamphetamine and being absent without leave.

On the morning of April 22, while on his way to work, Deguzman stopped by a friend's house in Fairfield, took a few "hits" of methamphetamine, and continued on to Travis to report for duty.

Coincidentally, on the very same day, Deguzman's name was among those selected for random urinalysis. The results of his urinalysis showed very

high levels of methamphetamine.

A couple of weeks later, Deguzman again stopped by the same friend's house and again did methamphetamine. A second urinalysis also came back positive for methamphetamine. In the ensuing months, Deguzman persisted in showing up late for work.

His unit made special efforts to help him get to work on time, including assigning him a dorm room on base, but Deguzman ignored these efforts.

Ultimately, he went AWOL, but was quickly located by the Air Force Office of Special Investigations and brought back to Travis.

A pre-trial confinement hearing was held to determine if Deguzman should be considered a flight risk.

Based on the evidence, the hearing officer determined Deguzman was, indeed, a flight risk.

As a result, Deguzman was held in pre-trial confinement, first in the Sacramento County Jail and then in the Solano County Jail, to ensure he would be present for trial.

Deguzman pled guilty to all charges and elected to be tried

by military judge alone. The judge sentenced him to six months confinement and a Bad Conduct Discharge. Deguzman will receive 71 days credit toward his sentence for time served in pre-trial confinement.

### 60th Surgical Operations Squadron airman convicted of use of marijuana, attempted use of ecstasy and being AWOL

On Oct. 28, Airman Christopher E. Eaton, 60th Surgical Operations Squadron, was court-martialed for one-time use of marijuana, attempted use of ecstasy and being absent without leave. Airman Eaton committed all these offenses in the local area.

He had been AWOL a relatively short period of time when agents assigned to the Air Force Office of Special Investigations discovered his whereabouts and returned him to Travis.

Because Eaton was a proven flight risk, he was held in pre-trial confinement in the Solano County Jail until trial.

Eaton pled guilty to all charges and elected to be tried by military judge alone.

After a full day of court, the judge returned a sentence of five months confinement and forfeitures of \$737 pay per month for five months. At trial, Eaton received 108 days credit for pretrial confinement.

## Tops In Blue wants you

**60th Services Squadron**

A casting call for Tops in Blue could mean talented, active-duty singers, dancers or musicians will travel to the 2003 Air Force Worldwide Talent Contest.

This annual contest, from Feb. 9 to 17 at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, is a search for top Air Force talent.

In addition to competing for the coveted first place "Roger" and the second place "Wilco" awards, competitors will also compete for 30 positions on the 2003 Tops In Blue troupe. This group consists of Air Force active-duty personnel who are selected and trained to become world-class entertainers and distinguished Air Force ambassadors during a nine-month international tour.

The 60th Services Squadron is coordinating the local entries for this year's competition. According to Stephen Pierce, 60th SVS marketing director, interested applicants should call 424-5470 for application guidelines and procedures.

Both entertainers and support staff are needed for the talent competition and Tops In Blue. Bus drivers; stage, light and sound technicians; wardrobe/costume coordinators; choreographers and vocal assistants; and entertainers have a chance to compete at the worldwide competition and possibly earn the opportunity to tour with Tops In Blue.

To assist applicants in preparing an entertainer videotape and polish their act, a base-level taping will be held in early January. The location and schedule depends on the number of participants who have signed up by the Monday deadline, Pierce said.

Participants may also produce their own tape and forward it to the Air Force Services Agency by Jan. 10. Air Force Services Agency Entertainment Services Agency personnel will review all applications and entertainer videos. Those individuals who display the best talent will be invited to compete at the Worldwide Talent Contest in February. Funding for the contest is provided by Air Force Services, including permissive TDY, travel and lodging.

For more information about Tops in Blue check out the Air Force Services Web site at [www.afsv.af.mil/TIB](http://www.afsv.af.mil/TIB).

# Travis Commissary looking for a 'few good students'

By Jeffrey B. Cross  
Defense Commissary Agency

The Travis Commissary is looking for a few good students.

The Commissary is hiring high school and college students for part-time jobs through the Student Temporary Employment Program.

The commissary can offer a student flexible hours, opportunities for advancement, and career training programs. Students can invest in their future by attending school and at the same time hold a part-time job during the school year and work full-time during the summer.

The commissary student employment program provides income, early job responsibilities, and exposure to the latest retail and information technologies. Students can learn from a variety of work assignments that support the grocery business in areas such as retail sales, inventory control, merchandising, information systems, and marketing.

To be eligible, you must be a U.S. citizen, at least 16 years of age, carry a half-time course

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*The commissary can offer a student flexible hours, opportunities for advancement, and career training programs.*

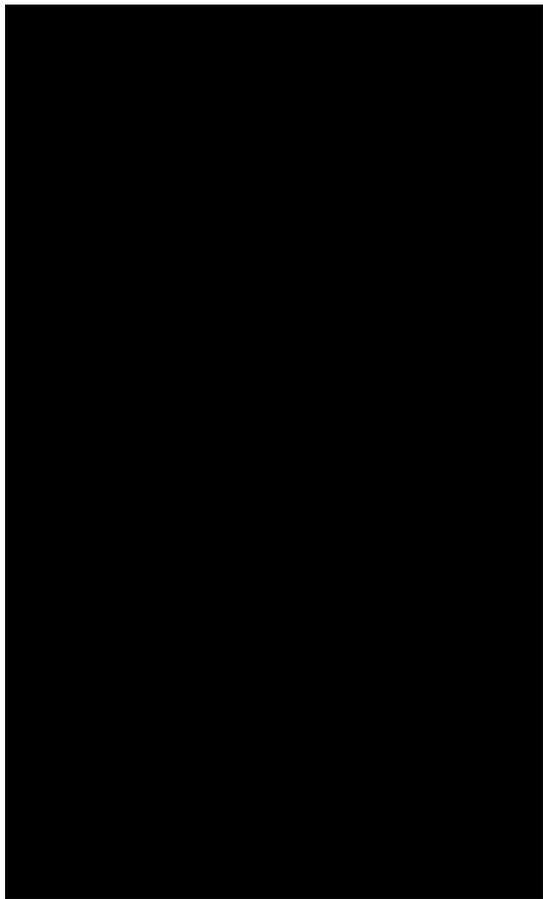
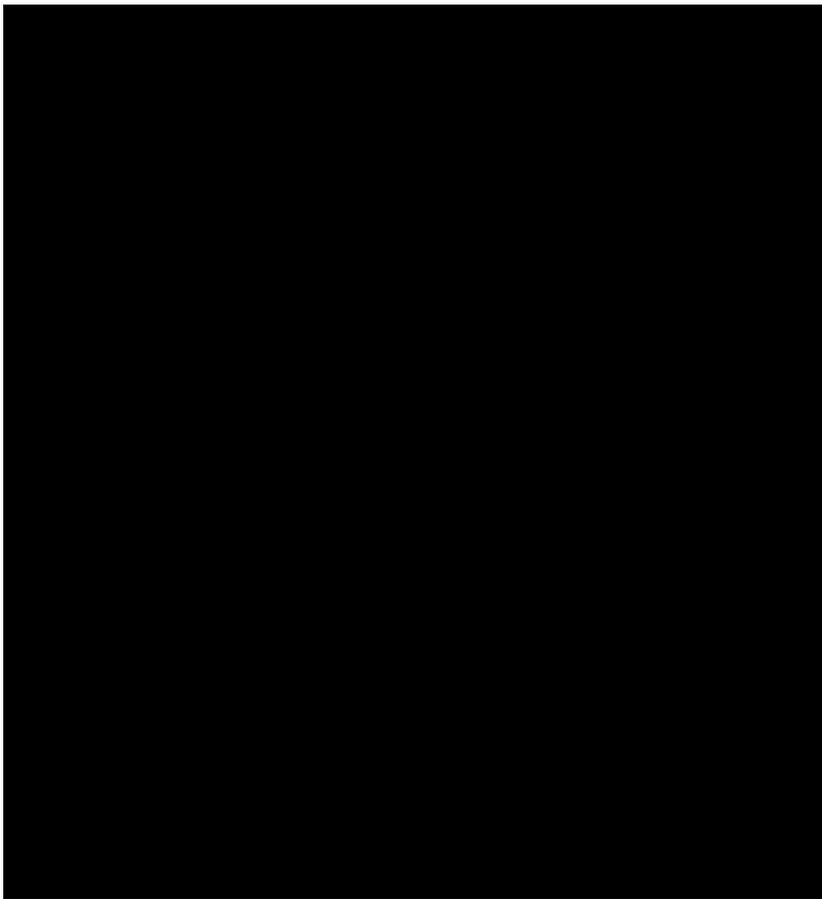
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load or greater in an accredited school, and have an overall grade average of "C" or better.

Interested students may apply by submitting a completed SF-171, Application for Federal Employment, an OF-612, Optional Application for Employment, or a resume to the commissary. Application forms may be obtained at the commissary.

For additional information, call the Defense Commissary Agency Western/Pacific Region Student Temporary Employment Program office at (916) 569-4977 or the Travis Commissary at 437-5454.

**GOT AN INTERESTING STORY IDEA?  
Call 424-2011.**



# Safety agencies remind consumers to choose safe toys for their children

## Tailwind staff

With the holiday season upon us, Prevent Blindness America reminds gift givers to choose toys that are safe for children. Unfortunately, toys rank as the number one cause of eye injuries in children.

Last year more than 14,000 toy eye injuries were reported in hospital emergency rooms. The actual number may be higher because the statistic does not include injuries treated at outpatient clinics or private doctor's offices.

According to safety experts, 90 percent of these eye accidents are preventable.

The right toy can help children develop imagination and coordination. However, an inappropriate toy can do more harm than good. While many toy manufacturers follow mandatory and voluntary safety guidelines for their products, a few do not. A parent's challenge is to find a safe toy their child will love.

How do parents select a safe toy for that special someone? It can be an easy task if gift givers keep the following tips in mind:

» Avoid toys that shoot projectiles or include parts that fly off. BB guns, slingshots and

even water guns are dangerous because they invite children to target other youngsters.

» Inspect toys for sound construction. Products given to young children should be made of durable materials with no sharp edges or points. Toys should also withstand impact.

» Avoid giving toys with small parts to young children. These youngsters tend to put items in their mouths, increasing their risk of choking.

» Read instructions carefully and follow suggested age levels. Is the item appropriate for the child's ability and age? Age labeling is provided not just for developmental reasons, but for safety reasons as well.

» Look for the letters "ASTM." This indicates that the product meets the national safety standards set by the American Society for Testing and Materials.

» Once the gift is purchased, keep the child's safety in mind by explaining to them how to use the toy.

» Repair or throw away damaged toys and don't let the child misuse them in ways that

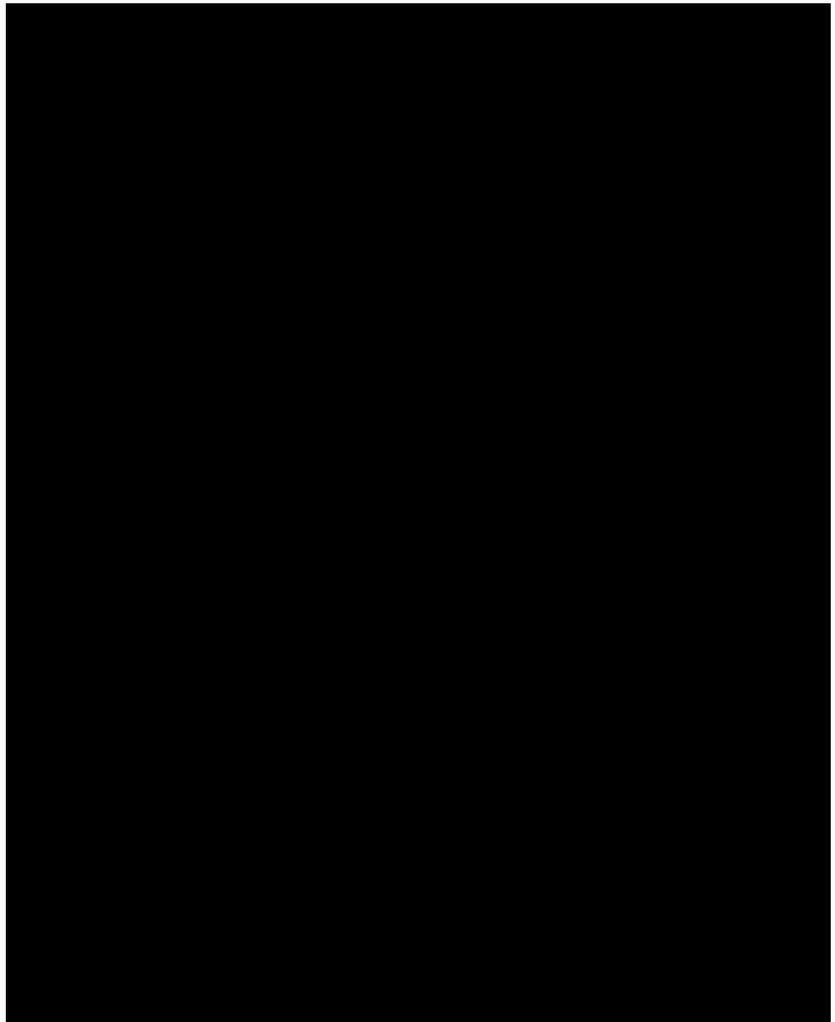
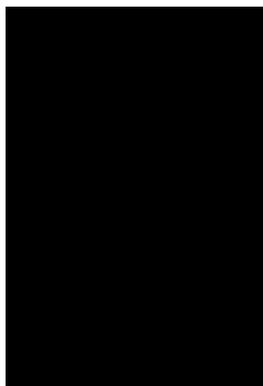
could be dangerous.

» Keep toys intended for older children away from the younger ones.

Dangerous toys often look harmless, so inspect all toys before purchasing. Your child's holiday shouldn't begin in the emergency room. Choosing safe toys takes time, but it is time well spent. Help keep the holidays safe for children.

**Editor's note**— Information from this story was compiled from stories released by Prevent Blindness America and the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.

**Read books at the base library.**





Courtesy photo

## MTI recruiting team to visit Travis Jan. 17

LACKLAND AIR FORCE BASE, Texas — A Military Training Instructor Corps recruiting team is visiting Travis Jan. 17 to talk with those interested in becoming an Air Force basic training instructor.

MTI recruiting team members said the briefing is a must for those who have ever been interested in becoming a member of one of the most elite groups of people in the Air Force — the Military Training Instructor Corps?

MTI duty is one of the most rewarding, satisfying, and challenging jobs in today's Air Force, according to Master Sgt. Jodie Swanson, MTI Recruiting Team Superintendent.

"There's a constant need for basic training instructors," said Swanson. "Applicants from all Air Force specialties are eligible to apply and are encouraged to attend the upcoming Travis MTI briefing to answer any questions you may have."

"Everyone remembers their MTI," added the sergeant. "The

MTI sets the stage for each individual's success in the Air Force and has the opportunity to mentor hundreds of new Air Force members."

Swanson said the MTI's job is filled with substantial rewards for those who want to have a hand in molding tomorrow's Air Force.

"Most concerns about MTI duty are based on misconceptions or fear of the unknown," Swanson added. "Our briefing will answer everything you want to know about MTI duty."

MTIs receive \$275 per month in Special Duty Assignment Pay, additional annual clothing allowance, an MTI ribbon and a stabilized three-year tour.

Senior airmen who commit to a second enlistment through technical sergeants with less than 17 years total active service are eligible to apply.

Get more details during the MTI briefing scheduled for Jan. 17 at 9 a.m. in the 60th Operations Group conference room. Spouses are encouraged to attend.

Re-enlisting, commissioning, separating, retiring, moving, PCSing,  
getting married, new baby, divorcing ...

## When change happens, update DEERS

By Mary Brown  
60th Medical Support Squadron, Director of Marketing/Education

If a military member changes their status and does not update their DEERS eligibility: Their prescriptions may not be filled.

Their medical claims may be denied, causing them to pay out of their own pocket.

They cannot make an appointment at a military treatment facility or with a Tricare network provider.

It is important that military personnel update their Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System record when their eligibility and personal information changes. These include changes in military career, address, family status (marriage, divorce, birth, adoption, death, etc.).

Active-duty personnel who re-enlist, separate, retire or move, should ensure their information gets updated in DEERS as soon as possible. If they don't, they and their families may experience a break in eligibility, which means a break in health care coverage.

As soon as military personnel re-enlist, they should take their reenlistment paper to their personnel support center or ID card facility so their information can be updated before their previous enlistment expires (rather than waiting for the paperwork to go through distribution).

Personnel who have a child older than 21 and a full-time student need to get that child's student status entered into DEERS so that TRICARE eligibility is not interrupted and

access to health care is not lost.

Retirees should remember their ID card and status in DEERS is permanent unless they change their address. However, their dependent's ID card expires every four years and should be updated before they expire.

Also, for retirees or their family members who are Medicare-eligible, entitled to Part A and enrolled in Part B, DEERS must be updated to reflect MEDICARE Part A and B status to retain TRICARE coverage.

Contact the nearest military ID card facility to find out what documents are needed update eligibility information in DEERS.

With documents in hand, retirees can present them at the ID Card facility, send a fax, or mail the changed information to:

Defense Manpower Data Center Support Office  
ATTN: COA  
400 Gigling Road, Seaside, CA 93955-6771

### For more information

For additional questions regarding a DEERS record, call the DSO Telephone Center at 1-800-538-9552. The hours of operation are Monday through Friday from 6 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. (excluding federal holidays).

For assistance with healthcare questions, contact the Beneficiary Counseling and Assistance Coordinator at 423-7921 or Tricare Marketing and Education at 423-7904.

# Local artist supports Doolittle Raider reunion

By 1st Angela Arredondo  
60th AMW Public Affairs

**W**hen Joe Adler emigrated from Israel to the United States in 1979, he never thought his artwork could become a part of American history. But that's what happened when the Benicia artist was recently commissioned to make commemorative plaques for the 61st Doolittle Raiders Reunion, which will take place at Travis April 15 to 18.

"As an emigrant to this country, I feel really great to help with the reunion," Adler said.

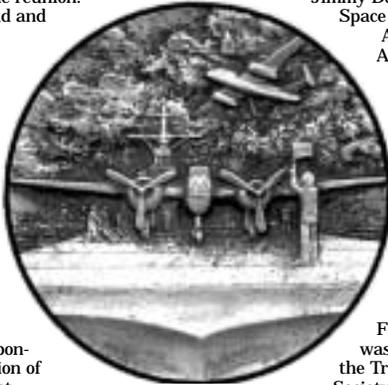
The plaques are also helping Adler combine his love for art and his love for the air force. Adler retired from the Israeli air force as a master sergeant equivalent. He worked in search and rescue. His enthusiasm for the service has remained strong over the years and he is actively interested in air force activities.

"Once in the air force ... always in the air force. Your heart never leaves," Adler said. "It was such a great opportunity to

participate in the reunion. I am really proud and happy to do it."

"Every year, the sponsors of Raider reunions commission artwork to recognize corporate sponsors and raise money for non-profit, patriotic causes. This year, our Museum Education Foundation is sponsoring the creation of some magnificent, pewter plaques that involve the artistic contributions of several people," said Cathleen Handlin, Jimmy Doolittle Air & Space Museum project manager.

The reunion will kick off fundraising efforts at Travis for a new, \$50 million



**A replica of the pewter plaque Adler designed for Raider reunion sponsors.**

Jimmy Doolittle Air and Space Museum.

According to Travis Air Museum officials, the base museum is currently located in a former commissary built in the 1950's. It is rapidly approaching full capacity and is in need of repair.

The Jimmy Doolittle Air and Space Museum Foundation, which was formerly known as the Travis AFB Historical Society, is leading a campaign to raise the necessary funds. The proposed facility, which will be located near the hospital, will

have direct access to the public, more storage capacity and enhanced display areas.

"Air and space museums attract thou-

sands of visitors each year," Handlin said. "Our community supports the construction of a larger museum as a major tourist attraction due to the positive economic impact it will have on the community and the benefits accrued by the projected educational outreach program."

Adler will make about 100 pewter tablets, which will be given to special Jimmy Doolittle Air and Space Museum donors who make contributions of specified sizes. The plaques depict a three-dimensional B-25 airplane taking off of the USS Hornet.

The depiction on the plaques serves as a reminder for Adler of his past search and rescue missions.

"I know what they are going through," Adler said. "One minute, the pilot is on a carrier, the next minute he's fighting for his life behind enemy lines. It's a great shock. When I see these stories on the news today I can't help but be worried. Once you're in the air force family, then you are in for life. When you serve in the air force, the love of airplanes never leaves you."

Each plaque is numbered and labeled as a special edition.

# Football Frenzy winner Super Bowl bound

By Stephen Pierce  
60th Services Squadron

After years of putting his name in the hat, retired Master Sgt. Carl Dean finally got his name drawn for a prize. Not just any prize, but the Super Bowl of prizes. Dean and his wife Voncile are going to Super Bowl XXXVII, courtesy of Air Force Clubs.

"I've been wanting to go [to the Super Bowl], but never have," Dean said. "You almost have to know somebody to get tickets."

Dean did know somebody, or at least the right program. The Air Force Football Frenzy program has been sending people to the Super Bowl for nearly a decade. This year he is one of five winners Air Force-wide going to the Super Bowl in San Diego. The winning prize also

includes two airline tickets, a hotel room and ground transportation to all the Services-arranged functions.

Dean comes out to the Delta Breeze Club every week for the Monday Night Football because he said he likes watching the games on the 12-foot screen TV.

"I enjoy the camaraderie at the club ... it's fantastic," Dean added.

Dean will continue to be there at 5 p.m. every Monday in the Gold Rush Lounge until regular season ends later this month. During that time, he will be anxious to see if the final match up will be both a Bay Area rivalry and a family rivalry.

"[My wife is] a 49er fan, I'm an Oakland fan," Dean said.

Dean admits it will take a series of hard-fought, luck-of-the-draw wins for both the San

Francisco 49ers and the Oakland Raiders to make it to Qualcomm Stadium for his first trip to the Super Bowl. If it does happen, the Deans don't plan on sitting on opposite sides of the field.

"We'll sit together. I'll get a pogo stick and put it between us," Dean said.

The Football Frenzy promotion is sponsored in part by the Miller Brewing Co., American Airlines, Destination Arlington and the Double Tree Alana Waikiki. No Federal endorsement of sponsors intended.

While the Deans enjoy the game in person, the rest of Travis can celebrate at the Super Bowl Party on Jan. 26 at the Delta Breeze Club.

This all ranks event starts two hours before kick-off with different rooms for different types of football fans. The main



Linda Mann-Iames / 60th Services Squadron

Retired Master Sgt. Carl Dean and his wife Voncile won a trip to Super Bowl XXXVII, courtesy of Air Force Clubs. Husband and wife are die-hard football fans, but cheer for teams on opposite sides of the Bay.

party is in the Gold Rush Lounge.

Families with children 12 and under can watch the game

on the large screen TV in the Oakview Room. Everyone is eligible for Super Bowl prize drawings and free food.

# Services facilities winter holiday hours

Facility	Dec. 24	Dec. 25	Dec. 31	Jan. 1
<b>Travis Bowl</b>	9 a.m. to 4 p.m.	Closed	9 a.m. to midnight	Closed
<b>Delta Breeze Club</b>	Closed	Closed	New Year's Eve parties	Closed
<b>Pizzeria</b> (see note below)	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
<b>Travis Conference Center</b>	7 a.m. to 3 p.m.	Closed	7 a.m. to 3 p.m.	Closed
<b>Cypress Lakes Golf Course</b>	8 a.m. to 3 p.m.	Closed	8 a.m. to 5 p.m.	Closed
<b>Veterinary Clinic</b>	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
<b>Outdoor Recreation</b>	8 a.m. to 3 p.m.	Closed	8 a.m. to 3 p.m.	Closed
<b>Information, Tickets &amp; Travel</b>	8 a.m. to 3 p.m.	Closed	8 a.m. to 3 p.m.	Closed
<b>Aero Club</b>	8 a.m. to 3 p.m.	Closed	8 a.m. to 3 p.m.	Closed
<b>Skills Development Center:</b>				
Auto Hobby Shop	Noon to 5 p.m.	Closed	Noon to 5 p.m.	Closed
Frame Shop	Noon to 5 p.m.	Closed	Noon to 5 p.m.	Closed
Wood Shop	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
<b>Travis Sailing Center</b>	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
<b>Sierra Inn Dining Facility</b>	Breakfast: 5:30 to 8 a.m. Lunch: 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Dinner: 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.	Breakfast: 5:30 to 8 a.m. Lunch: 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Dinner: 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.	Breakfast: 5:30 to 8 a.m. Lunch: 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Dinner: 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.	Brunch: 6 a.m. to 1 p.m. Dinner: 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.
<b>Golden Hills Dining Facility</b>	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
<b>Mitchell Memorial Library</b>	10 a.m. to 3 p.m.	Closed	10 a.m. to 3 p.m.	Closed
<b>Fitness Center</b>	10 a.m. to 6 p.m.	Closed	10 a.m. to 6 p.m.	Closed
<b>CDC I, II &amp; III</b>	6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.	Closed	6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.	Closed
<b>Youth Center</b>	6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.	Closed	6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.	Closed
<b>Teen Zone</b>	2 to 6 p.m.	Closed	2 to 6 p.m.	Closed
<b>Family Child Care</b>	7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.	Closed	7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.	Closed
<b>Skating Rink</b>	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
<b>Human Resources Office</b>	7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.	Closed	7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.	Closed

**Note** — The Pizzeria will also be closed Dec. 21 - 23.

# BEYOND TRAVIS

NEWS FROM OUTSIDE THE TRAVIS GATES

## AMC's 'travel in uniform' policy generates positive responses

By Master Sgt. Karen Pettit  
Air Mobility Command Public Affairs

SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, Ill. (AMCNS) - When Air Mobility Command leaders released a new policy directing the wear of the blue uniform for TDY travelers on commercial flights in the United States, some people had mixed reactions.

Some felt it that in today's environment they would encounter problems if they were "singled out" in an airport, or that they would be inconvenienced by trying to maintain correct dress and appearance while lugging lots of bags around. However, many airmen are finding there are more positive reactions that outweigh any concerns they may have had.

For instance, Master Sgt. Daniel McGuire from MacDill AFB, Fla., said he was feeling hesitant about the new policy at first, but once he got to the Tampa airport, his attitude soon changed.

"My positive experience started when I was checking my bags with the airline porters," he said. "Gary, an employee of American Airlines, wanted to thank me for serving. He told me he served in the Army and wished he were still serving. I then proceeded to my gate where I met John, a welder from Chicago. He had a number of questions about my opinion on current world events. I shared some of my concerns with him. Then he shook my hand, thanked me, and went on his way. At this point I started to feel a real sense of pride in serving my country.

"On my flight to St. Louis, I sat next to Edward and Marie from Fort Myers (Fla.). They had three children who served in the Air Force—two have retired and one is still on active duty stationed at Altus AFB, Okla. They had many questions about where I was going, and if I had a family of

**"My positive experience started when I was checking my bags with the airline porters ... an employee of American Airlines wanted to thank me for serving."**

— Master Sgt. Daniel McGuire  
MacDill AFB, Fla.

my own. I shared a very nice conversation with them about my time in the service and my family at home. They also thanked me for the choice I made to serve.

"When I arrived at St. Louis, I waited for my taxi in the USO," McGuire said. "I spent this time talking to the volunteers who selflessly donate their time so we have a place to relax when traveling. Of course we shared our stories until my taxi arrived, then we exchanged thanks, and I was on my way. During the hour or so taxi ride to Scott AFB, I thought back on the day's events. It renewed my motivation to serve my country."

Second Lt. Timothy Wade, from McChord AFB, Wash., said traveling in civilian clothes is a lot easier, but it doesn't match the pride one feels when people look at you and smile or say "good job."

"People who sit next to you on the plane strike up conversations about what you do, and let you know they support everything we are doing to protect them and ensure their liberties," he said. "Most of them usually have a relative in one of the branches of service, so they can relate to the sacrifice we make everyday in being away from our families for long periods of time."

For Capt. Loren Graham of Dover AFB, Del., the policy shows the public that "we're

here" and not just blending in with the crowd.

"I'm proud to wear my uniform, and I hope everyone else is, too," he said. "People do look at you differently, and they definitely strike up conversations with you. One elderly lady got an overview of the Air Force because she asked about ranks, jobs and everything. She said she felt like we were protecting her. When I'm in uniform, I'm treated a little differently—in a good way, so I can see why this is a good policy."

Staff Sgt. Kathy Ferrero, from Scott AFB, said the public thanks don't just come while traveling in airports either.

"I've been thanked several times in public while wearing my uniform. One time last year, a friend and I went to a buffet for our lunch break. We were wearing our BDUs. When we went up to pay, an elderly woman beat us to the cash register. She said she and her husband would be honored if we let them pay for our meal. I've never been more sharply aware of the pride and responsibility symbolized by my uniform.

Another time, during a tour with fourth-graders, a little girl asked me on the bus what my nametape said. I pronounced my last name, and she looked at it with a scrunched brow for a few seconds, then said, 'if you take the first four letters out and add an 'h', it says HERO!'"

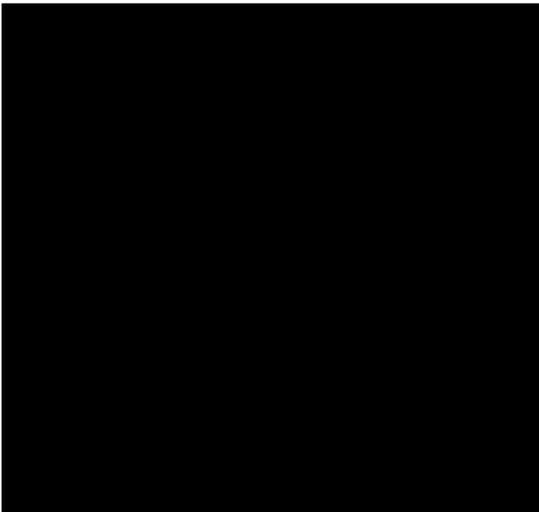
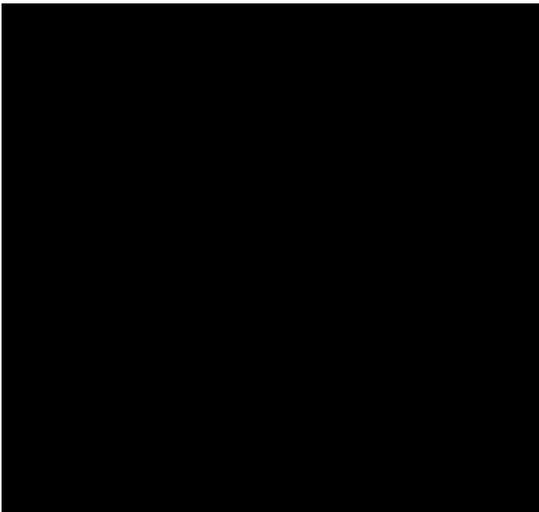
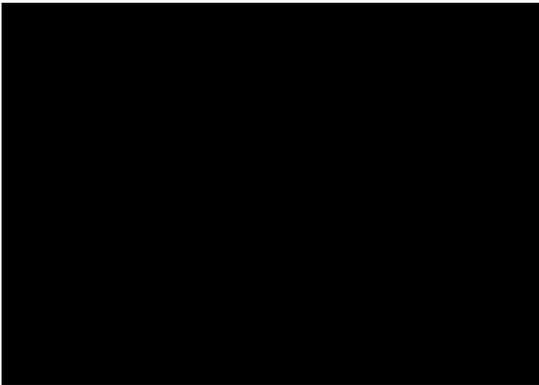
The uniform requirement came into effect in October and made AMC the second major command in the Air Force to initiate the mandatory policy.

In the AMC policy letter, senior leaders state the change is so Americans will have an additional sense of security during the continued War on Terrorism.

And, judging from the responses people are receiving, that message seems to be getting through.

**HOMETOWN NEWS RELEASES**

Fill out the Department of Defense Form 2266 and bring it in to the Public Affairs Office in Bldg. 51, Room 232.



Linda Mann-James / 60th Services Squadron

**Above left:** Using a "ditch witch" to dig trenches was a new skill Nick Walters learned while helping to install the irrigation system at the Youth Center's garden. **Above right:** Walters builds a trellis for the Youth Center garden while his 5-year-old brother Jack watches. Both projects were part of the 300 hours of community labor Walters put in to acquire his Eagle Scout ranking.

# Soaring to new heights

## Travis youth completes Eagle Scout project

### 60th Services Squadron

While completing his Eagle Scout project, Vanden High School Freshman Nicholas Walters learned to dig trenches, design and build a ramp, plan a winter garden and repair a greenhouse. Along the way, he also learned the meaning of determination and hard work.

His goal: to repair and revamp the Travis Youth Center's neglected garden so the children can plant, tend and eventually eat the vegetables and herbs they grow.

"I chose this project because I wanted to do something for my community, which is Travis Air Force Base. I wanted a project that was challenging and would put me to the test," said Walters.

The Youth Center's garden turned out to be quite a test.

Planning began in July, and the physical work in August. Walters had hoped to be done by October before the heavy rains began, but things took longer than planned and the work was finally completed in November.

The Youth Center Garden project included:

- » Installing a new irrigation system;
- » Designing and constructing a sign and trellis for the entrance;
- » Repairing the greenhouse screen;
- » Painting and repairing the tool shed;
- » Building a ramp for the shed;
- » Making signs for raised beds; and

### » Designing a growing plan for a winter garden

"I had to make a few changes to my project," explained Walters. "The biggest change was that I wasn't able to complete my project in two phases. I wanted to get the irrigation system done first, but because there was so much paperwork that had to be approved, I had to wait."

Youth Center director Sandra Latchford was impressed with Walters' professional manner and determination.

"I am sure he had no idea how difficult it can be to get things done in a bureaucracy," said Latchford. "What impressed me was his undaunted determination to see the project through no matter what. There were at least 23 shops that had to sign off on [the digging permit] before he could proceed."

With the assistance of his parents, friends, fellow scouts and adult volunteers, Walters accumulated more than 300 hours of labor on his Eagle project and received donations of needed materials and supplies from local businesses.

The project was completed just in time. His father, Chief Master Sgt. Frank Walters, was transferred to Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska, and Walters moved with his family last week.

Walters passed the Eagle board on Dec. 12 at Travis and will have his Eagle Scout Court of Honor in Alaska after they are settled in their new home.

The highest rank in the Boy Scouts is Eagle. It requires a minimum of 21 merit badges, community service, demonstrated leadership and an Eagle Scout Project. Only 2 percent of scouts ever achieve the rank of Eagle.

# CPSC makes list, says 'check it twice' for recalled toys

## Courtesy article

Washington, D.C. — Consumers are often advised to shop early for the holidays, even months ahead, to save time and money. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission is alerting consumers that they may have bought children's items that have since been recalled. Hal Stratton, in his first news conference as CPSC Chairman, announced a list of some of the Commission's largest recalls of children's products over the past year.

"We've made our list and want consumers to check it twice," said Stratton. "Preventing needless tragedies and providing a safe environment are the best holiday gifts parents can provide their children."

## Checklist of Recalled Children's Products

» **Gearbox Pedal Cars**, distributed by Alpha International, Inc. The paint on some of these pedal cars contains high lead levels. CPSC standards ban toys and other children's products containing high levels of lead. Young children could ingest the lead from the car's paint coating, presenting a lead poisoning hazard.

Call Alpha International at (800) 368-6367 to receive a replacement car or return the product to the place where purchased to receive a full refund.

» **Air Powered Rockets**, distributed by Estes Industries. The rockets' foam tips can break off exposing sharp edges that can cause face lacerations or eye injuries. The rocket system also has a weak pump handle that can break during use, posing a risk of hand lacerations. Estes and CPSC have received 16 reports of rocket tips breaking off. Six children were struck in the face by the rockets. There were 68 reports of broken pump handles, including six hand lacerations. Call Estes Industries toll-free at (800) 576-5811 to get a replacement rocket, or visit [www.estesrockets.com](http://www.estesrockets.com).

» **Firestormer and Skyblazer toy air-powered planes**, distributed by Spin Master Toys. The plastic air intake chamber of the air-powered toy planes can burst, throwing plastic pieces, posing a laceration, bruise and abrasion hazard to consumers. There have been no reports involving the Skyblazer planes. Call Spin Master Toys at (800) 622-8339

to get a free replacement plane or visit [www.spinmaster.com](http://www.spinmaster.com).

» **Animal Toy Sponges**, distributed by Dollar Tree Stores. The eyes on the toys can detach, posing a choking hazard to young children. CPSC and Dollar Tree Stores received one report of an eye coming off. Return the toy sponge animals to the store where purchased for a full refund. Call Dollar Tree Stores at (800) 876-8077 or visit [www.dollartree.com](http://www.dollartree.com).

» **Stuffed Polyester Pool Animals**, distributed by Dollar Tree Stores. The seams can separate exposing the polyester stuffing and foam beads. The foam beads pose a choking hazard to young children. CPSC and Dollar Tree Stores have received one report of the seam ripping, exposing the polyester stuffing and a plastic bag containing foam beads. Return the stuffed animals to the store where purchased for a full refund. Call Dollar Tree Stores at (800) 876-8077 or visit [www.dollartree.com](http://www.dollartree.com).

» **Cotton Candy Machine**, distributed by Rose Art Industries. The electric motor on the cotton candy machine can

jam and overheat, posing a fire hazard. The heating unit can be activated without the spinner in place, presenting a risk of burn to consumers. CPSC and Rose Art have received 225 reports of the machines overheating. CPSC received a report of two unconfirmed minor injuries. Call Rose Art at (888) 262-4474 for a free replacement motor unit, or visit [www.roseart.com](http://www.roseart.com).

» **Baby Walkers that can fall down stairs** Oriental International Trading Company distributed 3,500 such walkers, and Bikepro distributed 50,000. The walkers will fit through a standard doorway and are not designed to stop at the edge of a step. Babies using these walkers can be seriously injured or killed if they fall down stairs. Return the baby walkers to the store where purchased for a full refund.

Call Oriental International Trading Company at (866) 666-9868 or visit [www.bike-stroller.com](http://www.bike-stroller.com). For Bikepro walkers call Bikepro at (800) 261-2559.

Consumers can get the complete list of recalled products by going to the CPSC Web site at [www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov), or calling toll free, 1-800-638-2772.

# DOD details Smallpox vaccination program

DOD News Service

The Department of Defense recently highlighted its plan to prepare for and respond to possible smallpox attacks against servicemembers.

The Smallpox Vaccination Program is consistent with FDA guidelines and the best practice of medicine. This program supports the national smallpox preparedness plans announced by the President, but is tailored to the unique requirements of the Armed Forces.

Like civilian communities, DOD will ensure preparedness by immunizing personnel based on their occupational responsibilities. These include smallpox response teams and hospital and clinic workers. DOD will proceed to vaccinate other designated forces having critical mission capabilities. DOD will use existing FDA-licensed smallpox vaccine. Like other vaccinations this will be mandated for designated personnel unless they are medically exempted.

"The Department of Defense is establishing a smallpox vaccination program to protect the health and safety of military personnel. Smallpox is a serious infectious disease. We cannot quantify the threat of it being used as a bioweapon; we know the consequences of its use could be great," said William Winkenwerder, assistant secretary of defense for health affairs.

"Vaccinating servicemembers before an attack is the best way to ensure that our troops are protected and that they can continue their missions if a

smallpox outbreak occurs."

Smallpox is caused by a virus called variola, which spreads from person to person through prolonged close contact. Smallpox can cause a severe rash covering the whole body that can leave permanent scars, high fever, severe headache or backache. Smallpox kills about three out of 10 people infected.

In the United States, routine vaccination against smallpox ended around 1972.

In May 1980, the World Health Organization declared the global eradication of smallpox as a naturally occurring disease and recommended that all countries cease vaccination. Military smallpox vaccination programs continued longer.

In 1984, routine military vaccinations were limited to recruits entering basic training. This practice was discontinued in 1990. In the wake of the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001 and the subsequent anthrax letter attacks, the Department of Defense reassessed the threat of a smallpox attack.

The resumption of a smallpox vaccination program is intended to ensure that the military can achieve its missions in case smallpox is used as a bioweapon. DOD continues to work closely with the Department of Health and Human Services and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to be prepared to protect the nation in the event of a smallpox outbreak.

Further information regarding the Department of Defense smallpox vaccination program can be found at [www.vaccines.army.mil/smallpox.asp](http://www.vaccines.army.mil/smallpox.asp).

## U.S. Army mobilizes 9,000 Guard soldiers to augment security at AF installations

DOD News Service

The Departments of the Army and the Air Force have signed a memorandum of agreement under which the Army will mobilize approximately 9,000 Army National Guard soldiers to augment security at 163 Air Force installations in the United States.

"We are leveraging all of our active and reserve assets, in the spirit of joint operations and inter-service cooperation," said Thomas F. Hall, assistant secretary of defense for reserve affairs. "Our intent is to reduce the burden on the Air Force security forces personnel, in particular those Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve members who are serving into a second year of mobilization. We believe this is a prudent and judicious use of our reserve component forces."

The Army will augment security to enhance force protection at stateside Air Force installations for up to two years while the Air Force phases in permanent solutions to address its long-term force protection needs. Long-term solutions might include internal shifting of military resources to stressed career fields, contract security, and making better use of technology.

National Guard soldiers mobilized for this mission can expect to be ordered to active duty for one year. Mobilization figures for both services will fluctuate in the upcoming months as the mobilization, transition, and demobilizations occur.

## AF vaccination schedule being worked, smallpox shots should begin within next few months

By Master Sgt. Scott Elliott  
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — Air Force members will soon begin receiving smallpox vaccinations, as directed by President Bush Dec. 13.

The president, citing an increased bioterrorism threat since Sept. 11, 2001, ordered military members and others in high-threat areas to receive the smallpox vaccination.

While Air Force plans for the vaccination schedule are still being worked out, the program's director said inoculations should begin in the next few months.

"We'll start as soon as possible," said Brig. Gen. Robert Smolen, director of nuclear and counterproliferation at the Pentagon. "I can't tell you if it'll be next week or 30 to 60 days, but it'll be somewhere in that timeframe, as opposed to six months or a year."

Smolen said inoculations will be given in phases, but will initially target the active duty force.

One of the program's first goals is educating the force, Smolen said.

"(Smallpox) has been in the press for quite some time ... so we're just getting down to establishing the specifics," he said.

One specific item the program managers want to clarify is concern for the quality of the vaccine, and reports that it may have been diluted to "stretch" the supply.

"There is (currently) a limited supply of the vaccine the FDA has approved," said Lt. Col. (Dr) Kelly Woodward, chief of preventive medicine at the Air Force Medical Operations Agency. "(The vaccine) is currently licensed to be used full-strength, and that is how we will use it."

Because the World Health Organization declared that smallpox had been eradicated worldwide in 1980, the vaccine itself is several years old. But, Smolen said, that should actually be considered a benefit.

"I think we ought to take some comfort in that," he said. "While the vaccine may be old, this is (the) vaccine that has proven to be successful. The (supply) has been tested, and there's been no degradation to (quality)."

As successful as the vaccine has been in the past, Woodward points out that all inoculations involve some risk of side effect.

"Smallpox vaccine has some well-recognized side effects," he said. "Many people can expect to have minor side effects such as feeling achy, low-grade fever, headache and itching at the (injection) site. Those are minor reactions, and resolve on their own. They're not a big problem and are expected."

The smallpox vaccine is a "live-virus" vaccine that uses vaccinia virus; however, people cannot contract smallpox from the vaccine, Woodward said.

Since it is a live-virus vaccine there can be occasional "big problems," he said. One such problem, though extremely rare, is when the virus erupts widespread over the body, as opposed to staying limited to the vaccination site.

People who received the shots as children (the United States stopped its routine vaccination program in 1972) must still receive the inoculation.

"We know that, over time, the body's defenses against smallpox, that were gained through vaccination, decrease," Woodward said. "People, regardless if they've been vaccinated before, need to be re-vaccinated every 10 years."

A potential benefit to those being re-vaccinated, Woodward said, is that the threat of serious side effects is lower than for those getting the shot for the first time.

A benefit to all who receive the vaccination, Smolen said, is piece of mind.

"Certainly, if (people who have been vaccinated) go into a high-threat environment, they'll feel much better ... than if they had no protection at all," he said.

Even if no smallpox biological attack happens, the general said the vaccination program is well worth the effort.

"While there may never be an attack, it's still a prudent thing to do," he said. "We just can't afford to not do this. It's an insurance policy the president has decided we need to take out, and we always buy insurance in the hope that we'll never use it."

For more details, visit the official DOD smallpox vaccine Web site at [www.vaccines.army.mil/smallpox.asp](http://www.vaccines.army.mil/smallpox.asp).

## On the road again?

Take charge of your move with free relocation planning at the Family Support Center. Call 424-2486.



# Ready, set, go!

## Travis HAWC offers advice for achieving New Year's resolutions

By Maj. Beth A. Kaiser  
Travis Health and Wellness Center

New Year's Day has been celebrated for more than 4,000 years.

The New Year has always been a time for looking back at the past and forward to the coming year. It serves as a time to reflect on the changes we want or need, if we have the motivation to move forward.

Ancient Babylonians believed what a person does on the first day of the New Year will have an effect throughout the entire year.

Unfortunately, we often make resolutions, but then don't seem to get around to fulfilling them.

To help ensure Travis people are successful in fulfilling their resolutions this year, the Travis Health and Wellness Center has put together a variety of support options for many of the common New Year's resolutions.

Regarding resolutions, if you "fail to plan, then you plan to fail."

Col. Jeffrey Paddock, from the Life Skills Department at David Grant Medical Center, said there are a few basic tips that will help ensure people are successful with their resolutions.

First, you have an increased

chance of fulfilling resolutions if you limit them to one or two goals.

Second, once you have decided on a resolution, try to break it down.

Nobody accomplishes anything of significance by trying to do it all at once. It doesn't have to be a complicated plan, but include a number of small steps to reach your goal.

This is the time to call the

HAWC find out what support is available so you can build it into your plan. They will have many new programs for weight loss, tobacco cessation, and starting an

exercise program, as well as stress management and anger management classes.

Finally, write down your resolution and your plan of action, and post it as a constant reminder.

These simple steps will ensure you stay focused on your goals and ultimately help ensure you are successful in meeting those goals.

Most people don't reach their specific goal because they run out of steam and lose their original motivation.

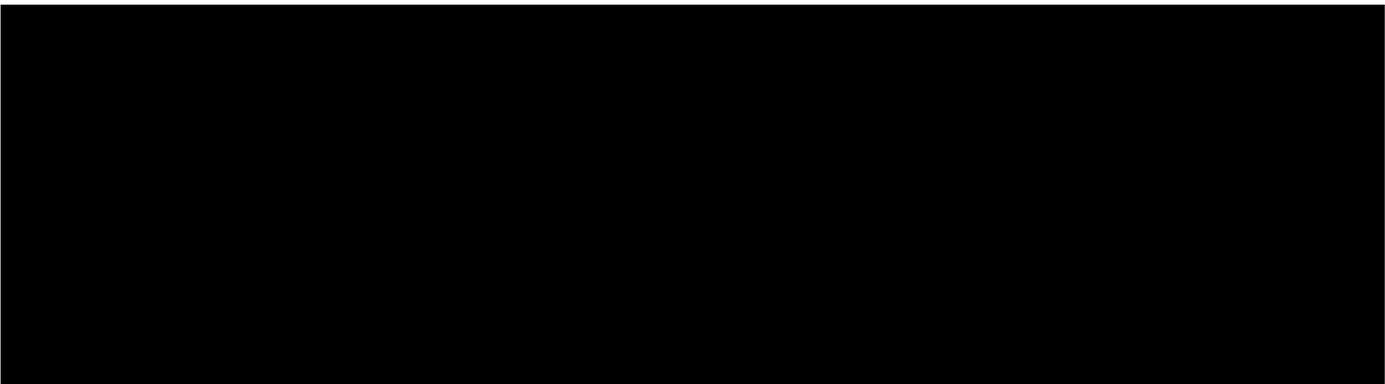
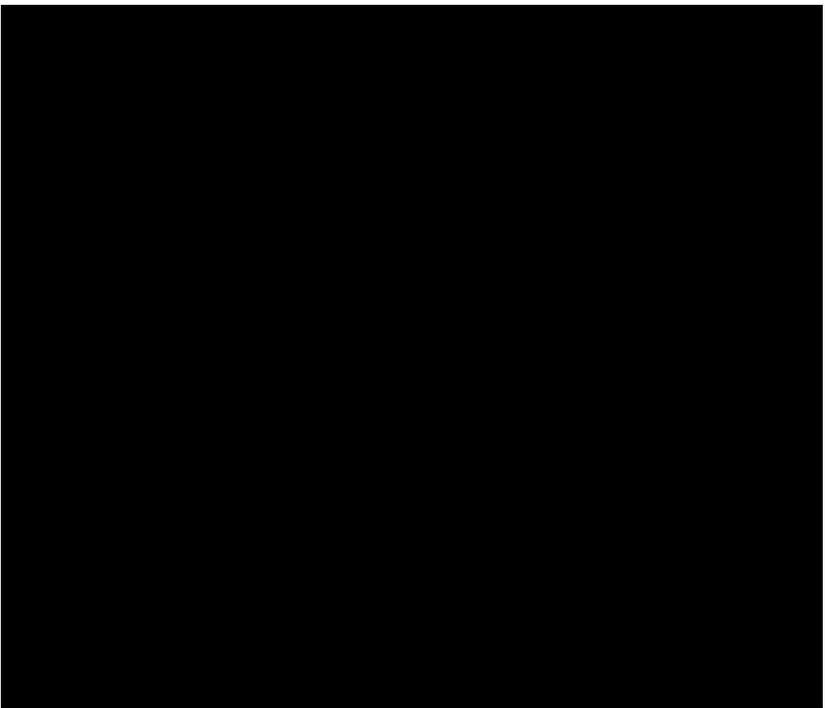
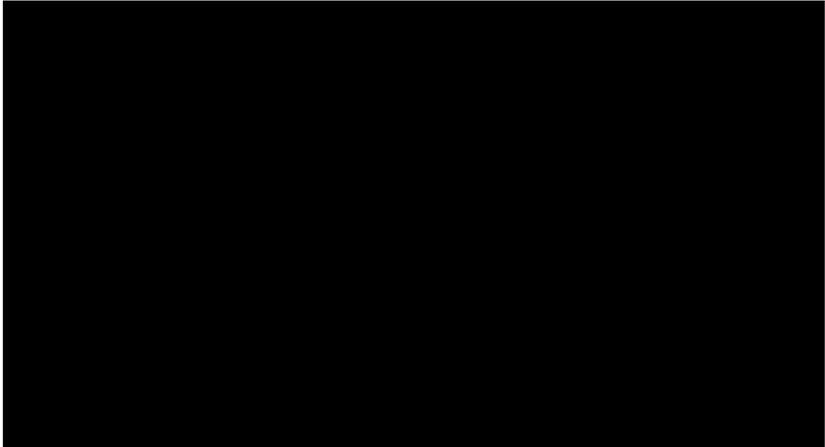
Don't "drop the ball" on your New Year's resolution ... make a plan.

For more details, call 424-HAWC.

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***Don't "drop the ball" on your New Year's resolution ... make a plan.***

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# COMMUNITY BRIEFS

## TRAVIS AIR FORCE BASE

### Announcements

#### Winter adventures

The Information, Tickets and Travel office offers a wide variety of winter trips. Take an ITT shuttle and Visit Pier 39 and Fisherman's Wharf Saturday; take a Napa Valley Tour Dec. 28; experience Chinatown Jan. 4 or spend the day at Roseville Galleria Mall Jan. 11. All ITT trips are from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and transportation is \$12 for adults and \$7 for children unless otherwise stated. Call Outdoor Recreation at 424-5659 for a complete schedule.

#### DBC holiday hours

The DBC will be closed to regular business from Monday to Jan. 1. Tickets for the New Year's Eve parties may be purchased at the Cashier's window from 1 to 7 p.m. Dec. 26, 27 and 30; noon to 5 p.m. Dec. 28 and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Dec. 31.

#### Auto shop closed

To complete the many improvements on the Auto Hobby Shop, Services will close the shop for interior painting and sign hanging from Jan. 6 to 8. The shop will reopen from noon to 8 p.m. on Jan. 9. Call the shop at 424-5300 or the Skills Development Center at 424-1338 for more information.

### Services

#### Today

▲ The Delta Breeze Club hosts a Members Only Holiday Social from 4 to 9 p.m. There will be holiday treats, music and drink specials. Bring a toy to donate to Toys for Tots and enter to win tickets to watch the Falcons take on Virginia in the San Francisco Bowl Dec. 31.

▲ Youth, ages 6 to 13, are invited to the late night skate at the Travis Skating Rink from 5 p.m. to midnight. Tickets are \$20, which covers pizza, games, prizes and skating all night. Call the skating rink at 424-3891 for details.

#### Wednesday

▲ There is a Christmas Day meal at the Sierra Inn for

enlisted members and their families. Call 424-0906 for menu and hours.

#### Dec. 31

▲ Sign up early for the New Year's Eve parties at the DBC and Travis Bowl. Call the DBC at 437-3711 or the Bowl at 437-4737 for details.

#### Jan. 1

▲ The New Year's Day dinner is from 4 to 6:30 p.m. at the Sierra Inn.

#### Jan. 3

▲ It's the last day to sign up for the Outdoor Adventure Program's snow camping and avalanche awareness course Jan. 11 and 12. The two-day course is \$50 per person. Call OAP at 424-5659 for more details.

#### Jan. 4

▲ Dance to old school and R&B from 10 p.m. to 3 a.m. in the Gold Rush Lounge at the DBC's late niter. Dance contests, door prizes, free snacks and drink specials are all part of the fun. There is a \$6 cover charge and members pay only \$3. Call the DBC at 437-3711 for details.

#### Jan. 7

▲ It's the last day to register for Travis intramural racquetball. Call the Fitness Center at 424-2008 for information about all the adult sports programs on base.

#### Jan. 9

▲ There are airman appreciation meals at Travis Dining facilities. Golden Hills serves lunch from 11 to 1 p.m. and Sierra Inn serves dinner from 4 to 6 p.m. to all eligible military members.

### Family Support

#### Monday

▲ Spouse Employment Orientation class is from 9 to 10 a.m. at the Family Support Center for newly arriving spouses, spouses returning to work or spouses wishing to explore new career opportunities. Learn about career development classes

## Horning in on the Christmas spirit ...



Arielle Kohn / Visual Information

Travis youth play Christmas songs during the annual base Christmas Tree and Menorah lighting ceremony Dec. 9. During the ceremony, a special Jewish prayer was read, followed by a holiday tune courtesy of the children's gospel choir.

at the Family Support Center. Call 424-2486.

#### Thursday

▲ The Airman's Attic will be closed through New Year's Day.

#### Weekly

▲ Applications are available at the FSC for the Air Force Aid Society's \$1,500 education grants for the next school year. Deadline for receipt of applications at Headquarter AFAS for the upcoming grant is March 14, 2003. For more information, call the Travis Air Force Aid Officer at 424-4349.

▲ The AFAS will pay for up to 20 hours of child care (per child) for all ranks of active-duty AF with PCS orders into Travis or departing Travis. The care is available within 60 days of arrival or departure. Child care is in licensed Family Child Care homes on Travis. Certificates are issued by the relocation staff at the FSC. For information, call 424-2486.

### Family Advocacy

#### Dads' boot camp

The Boot Camp for Dads is a program in which veterans (new fathers) show rookies (fathers-to-be) the ropes of fatherhood. The program is for men only and is currently recruiting for new fathers-to-be. Classes are being held quarterly. The next three-hour workshop is scheduled for Thursday January 30, 2003. For more information, call 423-5168.

#### Parenting class

The Parenting class is a

six-week program geared toward parents of children 3 and older. Topics include how to prevent problems before they occur how to stop problem behavior. Classes are held at the David Grant Medical Center. Call the Family Advocacy office to register at 423-5168.

#### Anger class

Anger management is a five-week course in which participants learn to recognize their feelings and direct them in a constructive manner. This class is held on Mondays at the DGMC or Thursdays at the Health and Wellness Center. Seating is limited. Call the Family Advocacy office at 423-5168 to register.

#### Couples class

Couples Communication is a five-week course offered on Tuesdays or Fridays at David Grant Medical Center. Call 423-5168.

### Holiday Services

#### Tuesday

Catholic Christmas Vigil Mass, Chapel One, 5 p.m.

Protestant Candle Light Service, Chapel Center, 6 p.m.

Protestant Candle Light Service, Chapel One, 8 p.m.

Catholic Lessons and Carols, Chapel One, 11 p.m.

Catholic Christmas Midnight Mass, Chapel One, midnight

#### Wednesday

Catholic Christmas Day Mass, Chapel One, 10 a.m.

Normal chapel services will resume January, 2003.

### Chapel Services

#### Catholic

▲ Monday through Friday, 11:30 a.m., communion service or Mass, Chapel Center.

▲ Thursday, noon, Catholic communion service, DGMC Chapel.

▲ Saturday, 4 to 4:45 p.m., confessions, Chapel One.

▲ Saturday Mass, 5 p.m., Chapel One.

▲ Sunday Mass, 9 a.m., Chapel One.

▲ Sunday, 9 a.m. children's liturgy of the Word, Chapel One.

▲ Sunday Mass, 12:30 p.m., Chapel Center.

#### Protestant

▲ Friday, noon, 30-minute worship service, DGMC Chapel.

▲ Sunday, 8 a.m., community, praise and worship service, Chapel Center.

▲ Sunday, 10:30 a.m., community worship service, Chapel Center. Nursery class for kids 3 months to 3 years.

▲ Sunday, 11 a.m., community Gospel service, Chapel One.

#### Contemporary

Sundays, 5 p.m., Inside Out, Chapel Center. Children's program provided. For more information, contact Chaplain (Capt.) Herb Shao at 424-3943.

#### Wicca

Classes are held at various locations and times due to deployments. E-mail Beltane@prodigy.net for current information.

**Classified Ads work. Call 425-4646.**

## **WEAR A**

**Wearing a motorcycle helmet is the law.**

*In an accident, it could be your life.*

## **HELMET**

# Holiday gift certificates 'selling like hotcakes' at base commissaries

FORT LEE, Va. — Commissary gift certificates are selling like hotcakes, but moms and dads are not the top givers of the "gift of groceries."

More than \$500,000 in certificates have been sold. The majority have been purchased by installation charitable concerns, such as chaplain's funds, but worldwide public donations of gift certificates are now possible thanks to the USO and the Air Force Aid Society. The two charitable organizations have agreed to facilitate the sending of commissary gift certificates to military members in need.

"The gift certificate program was started as a customer service enhancement, but this adds a rewarding dimension," said Patrick B. Nixon, deputy director of the Defense Commissary Agency. "The participation of prominent organizations such as AFAS and the USO means that military families can benefit from commissary gift certificates donated by the general public. We hope that more military-oriented charities will decide to participate."

The USO will accept donated gift certificates to help military service members overseas through USO centers in Europe and the Far East, wherever there are commissary locations. "Commissary gift certificates are the perfect way to support our troops," said Edward A. Powell, USO president and CEO. "The USO is pleased to be part of this partnership to help bring a little piece of home to our men and women around the world."

AFAS, the official charity of the Air Force, provided over \$300,000 in food assistance grants and loans to Air Force families in 2001. AFAS will accept donated commissary gift certificates and pass them on to installation family support centers.

"We're delighted to be a part of this program by partnering with family support centers to ensure donated commissary gift certificates get to the Air Force families with the greatest need," said AFAS executive director retired Lt. Gen. Michael D. McGinty.

Military service members have already benefited this holiday season as installation chari-

table concerns purchased gift certificates in bulk.

"The USARAK (U.S. Army Alaska) command chaplain stationed at Fort Richardson purchased in excess of \$11,000 in commissary gift certificates," said store director Dale Turpin in Anchorage Area, Alaska. "Some were used at the Fort Wainwright commissary in Fairbanks and we opened early on Nov. 26 so soldiers could use them here. The chapel staff, senior officers and NCOs provided the bagging and carryout service. All in all it was a very good day for everyone concerned! They intend to do the same, or more, for Christmas."

The new commissary gift certificate program is made possible through a business agreement with CertifiChecks Inc. DeCA does not derive any income from the agreement.

Anyone can buy commissary certificates, but only authorized shoppers can spend them. The certificates are not just for the holidays. They can be purchased anytime, for any occasion, as evidenced by some of the messages sent out on certificates going to families and friends.

"They range from the humorous to the touching," said CertifiChecks vice president Mike Baskerville. "We've seen them sent for new babies, or housewarming gifts or just because they miss their loved ones."

The certificates are not sold in commissaries. In addition to the link at

[www.commissaries.com](http://www.commissaries.com), certificates can also be purchased by phone at 1-877-770-GIFT (toll free in United States only). Purchasers can select the "order" link for personal gifts or the "donate" link to donate certificates through the charitable organization page.

A standard charge of \$4.95 pays the costs for printing, mailing and handling of up to 20 certificates — as long as all are going to the same address. Additional charges may apply for bulk orders or special handling and delivery.

Installation charities can obtain a form at their local commissary to waive the handling fee.

# Travis supports typhoon relief efforts

With moment's notice, Travis people, aircrews spring into action to support victims of Guam 'super typhoon'

By 1st Lt. Angela Arredondo  
60th AMW Public Affairs

The skies were blue over Travis Air Force Base when taskings for support of typhoon relief missions to Guam funneled down from the Tanker Airlift Control Center, located at Scott Air Force Base, Ill. The island was ravaged by a powerful typhoon last week and several Travis C-5 Galaxy cargo planes and KC-10 Extender planes were designated to transport more than 500 tons of critical equipment and supplies to the small U.S. territory in the Pacific.

Super Typhoon Pongsona struck Guam Dec. 8, unleashing 180 mph winds, destroying more than 1,700 homes and completely shutting off electricity and water. President Bush immediately declared a major disaster, authorizing the Federal Emergency Management Agency to spring into action.

As a critical part of federal response activities, Travis airlifted communications equipment, water, power units, FEMA personnel and other emergency items from Point Mugu Naval Air Station, Calif., to Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii, and then directly to Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, for immediate distribution.

"Air Mobility Command provides its aircrews the unique opportunity to support both conflict and humanitarian relief," said Capt. Chris Harty, an aircraft commander assigned to Travis' 301st Airlift Squadron. "Members of this crew feel honored to be part of the relief effort. Thousands are homeless and this is the most expeditious way to bring needed supplies to the disaster area."

However, Mother Nature can be fickle. Last week, Travis got a small taste of the weather's power as the initial missions to support typhoon relief in Guam became sidetracked by rain and high winds here.

Yet some Travis personnel managed to immediately deploy Dec. 12. Members of the 615th Air Mobility Operations Group

headed to Point Mugu to support the transportation of cargo and aircrews that flew to Hickam to lay the groundwork for a staging area.

Yet the inclement weather prevented all but one mission from launching Dec. 13.

## Weather hampers missions

The local weather looked just as grim Saturday, with relentless rain and high winds. Knowing the need was great, Travis aircrews, weather personnel, air traffic controllers, command post and maintenance personnel and many more leaned forward to take advantage of any opportunity to launch.

The winds briefly dropped within limits and Travis managed to get four planes safely into the air in less than 30 minutes. Two C-5s headed south to Point Mugu, where crucial supplies were standing by for immediate airlift.

"The attitude of professionalism is what gets the mission done. Our aircrews are experts, and when they are called upon to work quickly they can get it done," Harty said.

## Working side by side

Navy personnel and members of the 615th AMOG worked around the clock at Point Mugu to receive Travis planes and upload relief supplies.

"The generators and substation units are really needed since the power is out at Guam," said Tech. Sgt. Paul Casedevall, 301st AS loadmaster. Many of the water and fuel supplies are needed, too, since many of these were contaminated or damaged."

Many hands worked together to upload the heavy equipment, utilizing tractor-trailers, forklifts, chains, sweat and determination. Travis C-5s uploaded about 120,000 pounds of cargo in about two to four hours. Ground time was kept to a minimum and Travis planes were "quick-turned" to launch again, this time over the dark vastness of the Pacific, en route to Hickam.

"I know each and every one of our crewmembers would sacrifice time away from jobs and



Courtesy photo

**Above:** Travis personnel offload equipment from a C-5 Galaxy on the Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, flightline. Several Travis C-5 Galaxy cargo planes and KC-10 Extender planes were designated to transport more than 500 tons of critical equipment and supplies to the small, Pacific U.S. territory. **Below:** Senior Airman Adam Goldsberry, 301st Airlift Squadron, figures weight and balance data during the humanitarian airlift mission.

families to do this or any relief effort," Harty said. "As airmen, we are proud to step up to the plate when our country calls on us."

"Despite numerous weather and maintenance issues, this crew maintained its goal of moving the mission."

The 60th Air Mobility Wing commander, Brig. Gen. Brad Baker, was equally pleased with the performance of Travis people.

"Despite our already high ops tempo, people worked around the clock, providing critical airlift support for this humanitarian mission," said the general. "And they did a great job."



## Travis supports Andersen evacuees

On Dec. 8, Super Typhoon Pongsona blasted Andersen Air Force Base, Guam. In addition to flooding, many residents of the Pacific base lost water and electricity.

On Dec. 12, Travis mission support, Services, aerial port and family support representatives began gearing up for an influx of 300 to 350 military personnel and their families — evacuees from devastated Andersen AFB. Travis first sergeants and more than 30 volunteers also responded and were ready to transport and lodge evacuees here.

By early the next day, almost every imaginable service was in place and ready to receive the returning families. And on Saturday and Sunday, more than 75 family members arrived at Travis.

Several Travis organizations worked around the clock to ensure the evacuees had the necessary lodging and transportation.

▶ The Family Support Center organized volunteers to help transport and support the incoming

members displaced by the storm.

▶ The 60th Services Squadron ensured affordable off-base lodging was available.

▶ The 60th Aerial Port Squadron Passenger Terminal served as the reception center, as stations were set-up to assist travelers with their arrival here.

▶ Passenger Terminal agents were made available to assist travelers with Space Available flight information.

▶ Four laptop computers — complete with Internet access — were installed in the terminal allowing travelers to make necessary travel arrangements.

▶ The Army Air Force Exchange Service agreed to extend the terminal's food court hours for evacuees who needed to eat.

▶ The USO agreed to remain open for 24 hours to accommodate stranded travelers.

▶ The Air Force Aid Society provided financial relief for displaced Andersen AFB families.

— Tailwind Staff



1st Lt. Angela Arredondo / 60th AMW Public Affairs

Travis personnel offload critical equipment from a C-5 Galaxy on the Andersen AFB flightline.

# Travis aircrews use 'paradise' as a stage

By 1st Lt. Angela Arredondo  
60th AMW Public Affairs

The weather in Hawaii is pleasant at this time of the year, quite a contrast from the typhoon that ravaged Guam Dec. 8. Unfortunately, Guam is located in an area of the Pacific known as "typhoon alley." Super Typhoon Pongsona directly struck the U.S. territory and completely disrupted power and water supplies, uprooted trees and destroyed about 1,700 homes. As part of a coordinated, federal relief campaign, Travis is supporting airlift missions to move vital equipment and people.

Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii, is serving as a staging area for Travis missions since Guam is located about 3,700 miles southwest of Hawaii.

### Strategically located to launch

"Hickam is a great place to launch out of because of its location and facilities," said Capt. Jason Torgerson, a pilot assigned to the 21st Airlift Squadron. "We use charts that are like 'highways in the sky' to help us plan missions. The route from Hawaii to Guam takes us directly over Wake Island. Many of the routes we use today date back to World War II."

Travis personnel in Hawaii have little time to enjoy the tropical paradise. In order to move cargo efficiently, aircrews continuously rotate planes and missions. Additionally, they are on 12 hours of minimum crew rest and are on alert status so they can launch at a moment's notice.

"We land at Hickam and offload all the bags and cargo right away," said Airman 1st Class Lamont Wood, 21st AS loadmaster. "Base operations might be able to set us up on another mission or we have to wait for a mission to come down from the Tanker Airlift Control Center. Then we enter minimum crew rest until our alert time. That way, there's always a crew ready to go whenever a plane arrives and is ready to leave. Sometimes we get about three hours to go out and enjoy some food. We usually go out as a group. There's great camaraderie among the crew."

Travis planes flew missions from Hawaii to Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, Point Mugu Naval Air Station, Calif., Osan Air Base, Korea, and other locations that supported the relief efforts.

Personnel from Hickam, Yokota Air Base, Japan, and Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska, also deployed to

Guam to augment maintenance or civil engineer taskings.

Travis planes also helped evacuate Andersen families back to the United States. Many of their homes had been damaged or they had no access to water and electricity. According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency, a critical gas shortage was slowing recovery efforts, and many schools were closed to serve as emergency shelters.

"On our last mission we flew about 52 people from Hickam to Point Mugu," said Maj. Bill Price, 21st AS copilot. "About 30 of the passengers were children. It was great to help them get back home to the United States."

The families were immediately greeted by family support personnel and transferred to their next destination. In the mean time, the aircrew immediately flew back from Point Mugu to Hickam.

"Each crew position has a particular task to perform and checklists to go through," said Staff Sgt. Steve Cory, 21st AS flight engineer. "It's a teamwork effort. Even if something breaks, it helps increase crew knowledge of the plane. We're always ready to adapt to whatever comes our way."

The 21st AS crew Cory is a part of was assigned to fly a mission from Hickam to Guam and then back to Hickam for a 24-hour duty day. However, the mission changed during flight planning and the crew was reassigned to fly from Hickam to Guam and then to Osan. The mission turned out to be more than 24 hours long, which is the crew duty day limit.

The mission was hampered by weather and maintenance problems, which are common factors aircrews must troubleshoot. Event though Typhoon Pongsona is long gone, the weather in Guam was still treacherous. During this particular mission, the C-5 landed in the middle of the night. Rain made the ramps of the aircraft slippery and the heat was stifling. Downloading the cargo was hard work but the mission was accomplished safely and efficiently.

"Operating out of a stage requires flexibility," Torgerson said. "Never expect anything and be flexible within crew limitations. Missions can change at any time, even during a flight."

As the clouds parted to reveal the Korean peninsula, the crew is prepared to transport relief cargo immediately to Guam. Yet they are also prepared if that mission should change in the blink of an eye.

# Falcons prepare to battle Hokies

By John Van Winkle  
Academy Spirit staff

U.S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo., — The Air Force Academy Falcons will unleash their option running game upon No. 19 Virginia Tech during the San Francisco Bowl Dec. 31.

It's been 15 years since the Virginia Tech Hokies have faced an option running game on the gridiron, and on Dec. 31, they'll face the NCAA's No. 1 rushing offense in Division 1, engineered by the Air Force Falcons.

"With Air Force vs. Virginia Tech, we now have one of the best matchups in the entire 2002-2003 post-season bowl lineup," said Gary Cavalli, executive director of the bowl. "We have two quality teams, two of the premier programs in the country, and two of the most respected coaches in college football. It's a great start for a first-year bowl game."

The inaugural Diamond Walnut San Francisco Bowl is also a matchup of two coaches who have some of the longest tenures in NCAA football. In



Air Force Academy photo

The Falcons get pumped up prior to their Nov. 23 game vs. San Diego State. The Aztecs took an early 10-0 lead, struggled for two quarters, then scored 21 fourth-quarter points to defeat the Falcons.

his 16th year at Virginia Tech, head football coach Frank Beamer has the fourth-longest tenure amongst his peers. Only Penn State's Joe Paterno (37 years), Florida State's Bobby Bowden (27 years) and Air Force's Fisher DeBerry (19 years) have been head coaches at their schools longer.

Virginia Tech and Air Force

have only played once before, during DeBerry's first bowl game as Air Force head football coach. That was the 1984 Independence Bowl, where he engineered a 23-7 win and set a Virginia Tech record for most rushing attempts by an opponent. So the rematch gives the Hokies the chance to even the Air Force-Virginia Tech series

record, albeit 18 years later.

"We are excited about playing in San Francisco," said Frank Beamer, Virginia Tech head football coach. "It is a great city, and our fans will enjoy the new sights and sounds that San Francisco has to offer. We are looking forward to playing Air Force, a great institution with national recognition."

For many of the Falcon players, this is the first bowl game of their collegiate careers, like junior quarterback Chance Harridge.

"That's what we're looking forward to, is the experience of being at a bowl game and at the same time, playing on New Year's Eve," said Harridge. "I've always watched football bowl games growing up, and now I'm actually going to get the chance to play in one."

Tickets (\$45 to \$65) for the game can be purchased at the Information, Tickets and Travel Office. Call 424-5240 for more information.

The game will be televised on ESPN2 and kickoff is 7:30 p.m.

## Fast Facts

- ▶ The Falcons finished the regular season with an 8-4 overall record and a 4-3 mark in the Mountain West Conference.
- ▶ The Falcons finished third in the conference.
- ▶ The Diamond Walnut San Francisco Bowl is the 17th in Air Force history and 12 under Fisher DeBerry.
- ▶ Air Force is 8-7-1 overall, including a 6-5 mark under DeBerry.
- ▶ Air Force will be making its sixth appearance on national television this season.
- ▶ The Falcons are 2-3 this season on national television.
- ▶ The Falcons and Virginia Tech are two of the winningest programs in college football over the last six seasons.
- ▶ The Hokies rank 10th nationally with a 54-18 record while Air Force is 14th with a 51-22 mark.
- ▶ Air Force and Virginia Tech both make a living running the football.

# Travis 9-year-old kicks and throws her way to P&PK title

By Linda Mann-Iames  
60th Services Squadron

The flag football season may be over at Travis, but the competitions continue for 9-year-old Victoria Araujo. She still practices her passes and punts almost every day in preparation for the Punt, Pass and Kick competition Sunday in the Oakland Coliseum.

Unlike most girls her age, Araujo loves football and begged her parents to be allowed to play flag football this year. Her soccer coach recommended she attend a football clinic, as she had never even held a football before. When she got to the clinic, she found out it was really the Travis Punt, Pass and Kick competition.

"She was nervous," said her mother Angel Araujo. "But I just told her to try it."

That was the beginning of Araujo's football career. She won at the base level in September and went on to win the Regional event for her age group in the PP&K competition in Oakland on Nov. 10.

"At the base Punt, Pass and Kick competition, she had a face I'll never forget," said her mother. "She had the best time ... she was very excited."

The PP&K event will take place in the stadium during the Raider's warm up time. Araujo hopes to have a chance to meet her hero, Jerry Rice. She was also awarded three tickets to see the

## Travis Punt, Pass and Kick results

Travis youth results from the Nov. 11 National Football League Gatorade Punt, Pass and Kick Sectional Competition:

- 8-9 year-old girls, **Victoria Araujo**, first place, 149.1 points
- 8-9 year-old boys, **Christopher Burrell**, fourth place, 138.4 points
- 10- 11 year-old girls, **Thelia Vergara**, fourth place, 93.3 points
- 10- 11 year-old boys, **Ashaad Stephens**, fourth place, 219.7 points
- 12- 13 year-old girls, **Brittini Fuller**, second place, 185.5 points
- 12- 13 year-old boys, **Kyle James**, fourth place, 230.1 points
- 14- 15 year-old girls, **Brythi Houston**, second place, 141.3 points
- 14- 15 year-old boys, **Maleck Gilliard**, second place, 346.8 points

Oakland Raiders vs. Denver Broncos game following the competition.

"I like everything about football," said Araujo. "Someday I want to play in the NFL."

For a dedicated player who even practices in the rain, that dream might become a reality.

She will compete against four other regional winners on Sunday for the state title. The winners will go to the National PP&K Championship at the Super Bowl in San Diego.

Whether she wins the title or not,

Araujo plans to continue to play as many sports as she can. She starts basketball in January, and will keep practicing football on her own and with her 5-year-old sister, Brittany.

The Travis Youth Center — in partnership with the Boys and Girls Club of America, the Little League, Jr. NBA, the NFL and the Fitness Authority — keeps young athletes busy year-round with a variety of sports and competitions.

Call the Youth Center at 424-5392 for more details about their youth sports programs and coaching opportunities.



Courtesy photo

Nine-year-old Victoria Araujo won the Punt, Pass & Kick competition at the base level in September and went on to win the Regional event for her age group in the PP&K competition in Oakland Nov. 10. She will compete against four other regional winners Sunday for the chance to go on to the National competition at the Super Bowl.