

Senior Airman Cipriano Valle, 19th Maintenance Squadron crew chief, and Andres Torres, 19th Logistics Readiness Squadron fuel distribution operator, attach a fuel hose to a C-130J on Oct. 30 at Little Rock Air Force Base. Crew chiefs watch the end of the fuel hose during refueling, while fuel distribution operators operate the fuel truck and dispense the fuel.

U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO BY AIRMAN RHETT ISBELL

CONGRATULATIONS ALS GRADS!

Forty-six Airmen recently graduated from Airman Leadership School.

PAGE 2



OPERATION TENACIOUS TURTLE

Aircrew and pilots sharpen skills in 14-ship large formation exercise.

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MILESTONE CHANGES

COMING TO TRICARE

TRICARE beneficiaries will soon have increased access to health care through key changes starting in January 2018.

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COMBINED FEDERAL CAMPAIGN

UNDERWAY

The annual Combined Federal Campaign officially kicked off Nov. 20 and will be completed Dec. 30 at Little Rock Air Force Base.

PAGE 11

Congratulations ALS grads!

Honor Flight

■ Titan Flight

John L. Levitow Award

■ Staff Sgt. Mario Linton
41st Airlift Squadron

Academic Achievement

■ Senior Airman Logan Cole
19th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

Leadership Award

■ Staff Sgt. Tiffany Raines
61st Airlift Squadron

Distinguished Graduate

■ Staff Sgt. Tiffany Raines
61st Airlift Squadron
■ Staff Sgt. Jared Simpkins
22st Combat Communication Squadron (Houston, Texas)
■ Senior Airman Daniel Forero
19th Operations Support Squadron
■ Senior Airman Logan Cole
19th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

Graduates

■ Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Erdman
19th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
■ Senior Airman Juan Alvarez
19th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
■ Senior Airman Dylan Burkey
19th Security Forces Squadron
■ Senior Airman Antonio Colon
19th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
■ Senior Airman Joshua Dedenback
19th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

■ Senior Airman Kyle Faith
19th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
■ Senior Airman Dillon Johnson
19th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
■ Senior Airman Trenton Lloyd
19th Security Forces Squadron
■ Senior Airman Travis Lowe
19th Civil Engineer Squadron
■ Senior Airman Anna Staats
19th Logistics Readiness Squadron
■ Senior Airman Jerv Vaughn Stewart
96th Aerial Port Squadron
■ Senior Airman Michael Tielleman
19th Maintenance Squadron
■ Senior Airman Shawn Ward
19th Maintenance Squadron
■ Senior Airman Joseph Way
19th Operations Support Squadron
■ Senior Airman Christopher Bowman
19th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
■ Senior Airman Austin Bryson
61st Airlift Squadron
■ Senior Airman Torin Davis
19th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
■ Senior Airman Tyler Espinoza
19th Security Forces Squadron
■ Senior Airman Lachance Howard
19th Maintenance Squadron
■ Senior Airman Daniel Kenney
19th Maintenance Squadron
■ Senior Airman Taylor Maxwell
123rd Intelligence Squadron (Fort Smith)
■ Senior Airman Matthew Moss
19th Security Forces Squadron
■ Senior Airman Anthony Nell
19th Logistics Readiness Squadron

■ Senior Airman Rheanna Revelle
126th Force Support Squadron (Wichita, Kansas)
■ Senior Airman David Serna
19th Maintenance Squadron
■ Senior Airman Matthew Smith
19th Logistics Readiness Squadron
■ Senior Airman Braden Tjosaas
19th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
■ Senior Airman Vincent Williams
62nd Airlift Squadron
■ Senior Airman Clinton Willis
19th Maintenance Squadron
■ Senior Airman Michael Every
19th Maintenance Squadron
■ Senior Airman Travis Fowler
19th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
■ Senior Airman Deshawn McAlister
19th Logistics Readiness Squadron
■ Senior Airman Brian Pullen
19th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
■ Senior Airman Dakota Robinson
19th Medical Support Squadron
■ Senior Airman Genaro Ruiz
19th Maintenance Squadron
■ Senior Airman Joseph Sanchez
41st Airlift Squadron
■ Senior Airman Justin Smith
19th Maintenance Squadron
■ Senior Airman Matthew Snipes
19th Security Forces Squadron
■ Staff Sgt. William Turner
19th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
■ Senior Airman Shane Washburn
19th Operations Support Squadron

MSG CORNER

■ CMSgt Williams Drive is closed between Avenue A East and Avenue A West until late October. Avenue A East is still accessible from the east and Avenue A West from the west. The intersection of Thomas Avenue and CMSgt Williams Drive is closed.

■ Arnold Drive between Cannon Drive and 6th Street is closed and will remain closed for approximately four weeks for repairs. Through traffic traveling west on Arnold Drive will detour at Cannon Drive to CMSgt Williams Drive. Customers traveling west will still be able to access the Clinic and First Arkansas Bank and Trust parking lots.

■ The Warfit Track is currently closed for repairs. Alternate locations include the indoor track at the Fitness Center, the outdoor track (across from Burger King) or around base using the running map located on the rocking at the rock web page <https://www.rockinath-erock.com/fitness/>

Contact your PTL for PT testing location.

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COMBAT AIRLIFTER OF THE WEEK

NAME AND RANK

Senior Airman Clate Gatlin

UNIT

19th Maintenance Squadron

DUTY TITLE

Guidance and Control/
Unit Deployment Manager

HOMETOWN

Tucson, Arizona

TIME IN SERVICE/TIME ON STATION

6.5 years/5.5 years

GOALS

Finish schooling and submit a package for
enlisted nursing
commissioning program

HOBBIES

Football, automotive, racing, friends,
video games

AIR FORCE CORE VALUE PORTRAYED

Service Before Self

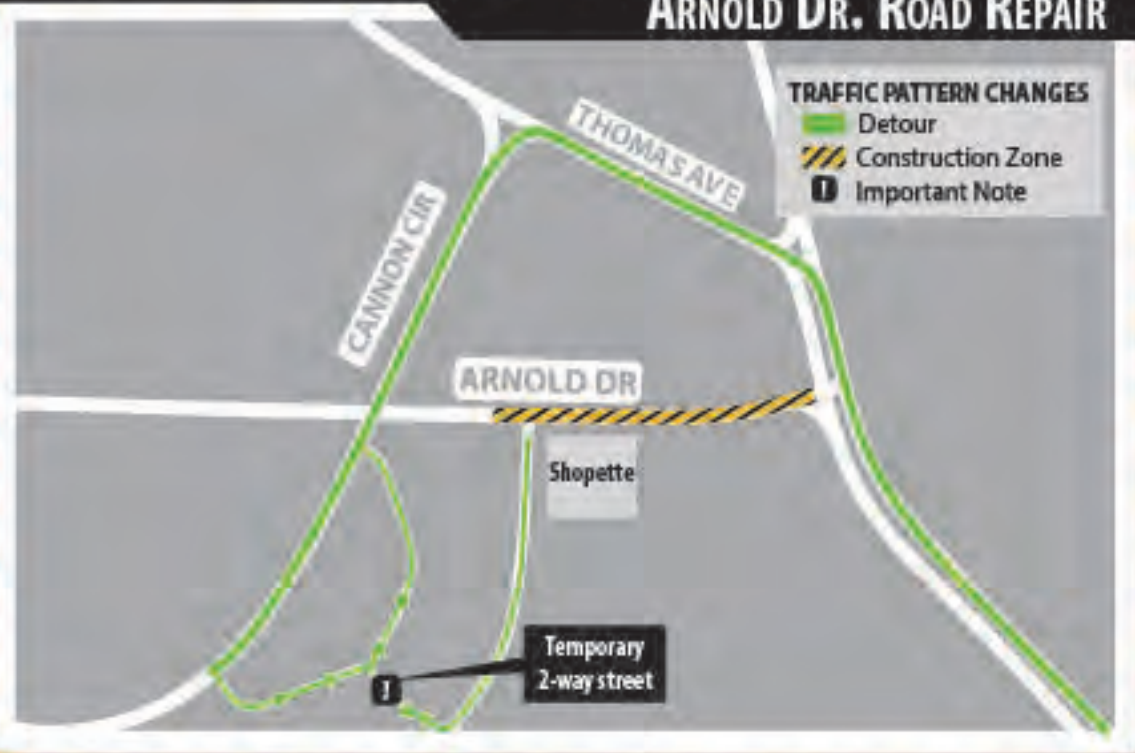
**HOW DOES THE INDIVIDUAL PORTRAY THIS
CORE VALUE?**

Senior Airman Gatlin exudes a willingness to put his primary and secondary responsibilities to the squadron first. As a UDM, he has voluntarily worked weekends to ensure deploying members are able to in-process or out-process as needed per the mission's requirement. His volunteer work has also extended out to the many squadron projects and fundraisers he took on and led.



U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. DANA J. CABLE

UPCOMING TRAFFIC CHANGES: HOW YOUR COMMUTE MAY BE AFFECTED ARNOLD DR. ROAD REPAIR



Arnold Dr. Construction Considerations:

- ▶ Arnold Dr. will be under construction between Vandenberg Blvd. and Cannon Cir.
- ▶ The Shopette will be open during construction, and be accessible following the depicted route.
- ▶ Popeye's Restaurant will be closed Dec. 9th and 10th, but will be open Dec. 11th and will be accessible following the depicted route.
- ▶ Estimated start date: Saturday, Dec. 9
- ▶ Estimated completion date: Monday, Dec. 11
- ▶ *Alternate construction date will be Dec. 16-18 should weather become a factor.*

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Little Rock AFB program SAVES lives

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 10,265 people were killed in the U.S. due to drunk drivers in 2015. Each crash effects not only the people involved but their families, friends, co-workers and fellow wingman.

Substance Abuse Victimized Every Service Member, or SAVES, is a program developed at Little Rock Air Force Base, Arkansas, that strives in reducing the amount of alcohol and drug related incidents involving Team Little Rock members on and off base.

"The SAVES program is very similar to the force protection conditions," said Stephanie Wynn, 19th Airlift Wing community support coordinator. "There are three levels that are colored coded: green, yellow and red depending on the amount of incidents occurring within a 60-day rolling period."

With each level activated, there are reactive measures that counter the circumstances at hand. The measures are implemented at the wing commander's discretion, but unit commanders may apply measures from higher levels to tailor their unit's specific circumstances.

LEVEL ONE

A steady state where day-to-day operations

are meant to be maintained indefinitely, similar to FPCON Alpha. This includes random entry point checks at base gates.

LEVEL TWO

A level of increased awareness is initiated if the number of drug and alcohol incidents rise above the prescribed level. For example, if the ARIs rise above six, one element that may be implemented is an increase in first sergeant visits to the dormitories due to a surge in underage drinking.

LEVEL THREE

Applies when the installation has a significant upward swing in DWIs, ARIs or drug positive results or if any of those areas is a factor that causes a loss of life. A measure for this level would be documented face to face counselling each week by first line supervisors for all personnel.

"SAVES by the numbers works, over the last seven years, we have incrementally lowered our driving while intoxicated cases and alcohol related incidents every year. However, this year we had a slight increase in our numbers," Wynn said.

See SAVES, page 6

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SAVES

Continued from page 5

In fiscal year 2017, Team Little Rock had 13 DWIs, 22 ARIs and 14 drug positive results. "It is the goal, with the help of all, to lower these numbers in the coming year," Wynn stated.

The SAVES program works closely with multiple agencies to include the Air Force Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention and Treatment program, or ADAPT, Drug Demand Reduction, and Security Forces to accomplish their mission.

"One thing we do for SAVES is we provide statistics," said U.S. Air Force Capt. Scotty Howard, 19th Medical Operations Squadron mental health element chief. "We don't collect names but we do gather information like the age, rank and unit of Airmen and give it to the SAVES coordinator to brief the commanders."

The data is then used to set SAVES levels and helps commanders address issues that are specific to their units. Preventative counseling is also done through ADAPT for any Airmen willing to get help for substance abuse.

"Prevention is what I like to stress to people the most; when things start becoming noticeable to you or your peers that's when reaching out is most important," Howard said.

Under direction of Col Gerald Donohue, 19th Airlift Wing and installation commander, the current alcohol related incident and driving under the influence unit sign has been removed and the SAVES level sign will be displayed next to the AADD sign as individuals leave base.

"After careful consideration and consultation, the unit sign will be removed as it does not actively work towards achieving our goal of reducing the number of alcohol related incidents," said U.S. Air Force Col. Gerald Donohue, 19th Airlift Wing and installation commander.

"Instead, it began to blend into the physical environment but also into the conversations regarding such instances. We needed a change and a refresh, a renewed effort to keep our Airmen and families safe," Donohue said.

For Airmen struggling with substance abuse, contact ADAPT at (501) 987-7338 for counseling and treatment. For more information regarding the SAVES program, contact Mrs. Stephanie Wynn, at (501) 987-1772.

(By Little Rock Air Force Base Public Affairs)

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14 Ship perform large formation exercise



U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. JEREMY MCGUFFIN



U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS GRACE NICHOLS

(Above) 14 C-130J aircraft perform an elephant walk towards the runway for takeoff during Operation Tenacious Turtle on Nov. 21 at Little Rock Air Force Base. The formation consisted of aircraft from the 19th Airlift Wing, the 314th Airlift Wing and the 189th Air National Guard. (Left) Parachutes deploy after pallets are dropped from a C-130J during Operation Tenacious Turtle on Nov. 21 at an airfield in Hope (Hempstead County). The event involved 14 C-130s from the 19th Airlift Wing.

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Fueling aircraft, fueling Combat Airlift

STORY AND PHOTOS BY AIRMAN RHETT ISBELL, 19TH AIRLIFT WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Liquid rushes from one huge, metal frame to another as fumes hit the air and Airman 1st Class Andres Torres, 19th Logistics Readiness Squadron fuels distribution operator, breathes in the scent he knows so well.

“Our mission is supplying all of the fuel needed for vehicles on base,” said Staff Sgt. Diamond Heffington, 19th LRS fuels distribution supervisor. “We fuel up every plane that comes through here and every government vehicle on base; that includes the firetrucks, police vehicles and K-loaders too.”

The Petroleum, Oils, and Lubricant Airmen accomplish this mission every day, but have to go through a number of steps to get to the aircraft in need of the vital resource.

“After we receive our morning briefing, we go out and do ‘Checkpoint,’” Torres said. “This involves a

62 step check of our fuel trucks for anything that’s hazardous or not working properly. We also test the fuel for impurities.”

After performing these checks, POL Airmen prepare to receive the call that sends them out to fulfill the most mission essential part of their job: fueling aircraft.

“If you do it right you’re only spending about 10 minutes pumping around 1,200 gallons into an aircraft,” Heffington said. “That way you can keep moving and supplying other aircraft with all of the fuel they need.”

After POL team members fuel an aircraft they go out and re-fuel their trucks so they can do it again. Running all around the flight line to fuel up aircraft and their own trucks, POL Airmen rely on each other heavily to accomplish their mission.

“Everyone’s really close here and I like that part of our shop,” Torres said. “When you need help, they’ll be there for you.”

After enduring daily strain from a 24/7 mission, it’s no mystery how the POL team become so close. This continuous effort to support the Little Rock Air Force Base mission left Heffington with a clear understanding of the POL flight’s part to play.

“At the end of the day we’re just trying to keep the base moving by providing the fuel necessary to accomplish that goal, so that security forces can go patrol, firefighters can get to the fires and planes can get in the air,” Heffington said. “Aircraft can be maintained all day long, but without fuel they’re going nowhere.”



(Above) Airman 1st Class Andres Torres, 19th Logistics Readiness Squadron fuels distribution operator, empties fuel into a bucket for purity testing Oct. 30 at Little Rock Air Force Base. The fuel is tested daily for any contaminants.
(Left) Senior Airman Kenneth Oakes, 19th Logistics Readiness Squadron fuels laboratory technician, tests a fuel sample for impurities Nov. 2 at Little Rock Air Force Base. One of the tests done each morning is testing the level of Fuel System Icing Inhibitor (FSII) in the fuel. This test determines the concentration of Diethylene Glycol Monomethyl Ether, which is the FSII additive used in fuel. The purpose of this additive is to combine with the water that is always present in fuel to keep it from freezing in the aircraft fuel tank and lines.
(Below) Staff Sgt. Brandon Mills, 19th Logistics Readiness Squadron NCO in charge of fuels laboratory, empties tested fuel into a container Nov. 1 at Little Rock Air Force Base. Airmen must prove themselves as exceedingly capable at their daily routines to be considered to operate in the fuel laboratory.



Milestone changes coming to TRICARE

FALLS CHURCH, Va. (AFNS) – TRICARE beneficiaries will soon have increased access to health care through key changes that are set to take place in January 2018. With the benefit set to undergo some of the biggest improvements in more than two decades, beneficiaries will be able to take command of their health care through expanded choices. These improvements include wider access to network providers, updated enrollment to reduce disruptions in care and simplified co-payments.

The Defense Health Agency recently met a key requirement for implementing these changes, with the publication of a formal document – called an Interim Final Rule – that establishes the legal “rules of the road” for putting in place changes mandated by Congress. The Interim Final Rule is now available for public review and comment.

“We are working hard to use the opportunity Congress gave us to continue building a health plan that does even better for our beneficiaries, the warfighter, and the taxpayers who support us,” said Vice Adm. Raquel Bono, Defense Health Agency director.

The goal of this change is to keep beneficiaries healthy by providing better health care options. This includes allowing doctors to make the decisions on whether beneficiaries need a referral or specialty care instead of the regional contractors. Urgent care will be available without a referral through either the military hospital or clinic or at a civilian urgent care center in areas the military health facility is not an option.

TRICARE is changing. Here is what beneficiaries need to know: Some of the key changes that will become effective on



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U.S. AIR FORCE GRAPHIC

Beginning in January 2018, there will be changes to the TRICARE benefit.

January 1, 2018, will affect region consolidation, TRICARE plans, enrollment, and costs. There are currently three TRICARE regions in the United States, including TRICARE North, South, and West. Starting in 2018, these regions will become TRICARE East and West. They will be administered by Humana Military and Health Net Federal Services. This change will allow for better coordination between the military hospitals and clinics and the civilian health care providers in each region.

Several changes will also occur in coverage plans at the start of the new year. TRICARE Select will replace TRICARE Standard and TRICARE Extra. In the U.S., TRICARE Select will be a self-managed, preferred provider network option. Beneficiaries will not be required to have a primary care

manager and can visit any TRICARE-authorized provider for covered services without a referral. Overseas, TRICARE Overseas Select will provide access to both network and non-network TRICARE authorized providers for medically necessary covered services. TRICARE Select, both stateside and overseas, includes additional preventive care services previously only offered to TRICARE Prime beneficiaries. Beneficiaries can review all available plans at www.tricare.mil/changes under the plan finder.

Starting Jan. 1, 2018, all current beneficiaries will also be automatically transitioned into their respective plan as long as they are eligible. TRICARE Prime enrollees will remain in this

See Tricare, page 12

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The fund-raising drive conducted by federal employees in their workplace each autumn supports and promotes generosity through a voluntary program that's employee-focused, cost-efficient and effective in providing all federal employees the opportunity to improve the quality of life for all.

According to the Department of Defense the CFC is the world's largest and most successful annual workplace charity campaign with 36 CFC Zones located everywhere federal employees work.

Last year, military and civilian employees contributed more than \$167 million to almost 20,000 local, national and international charities. Members of the military and DoD civilians accounted for more than \$67 million of that total.

Payroll donations will no longer be made through myPay and cash donations are no longer accepted. Instead, CFC payroll deductions will be made using paper forms or online at www.opm.gov/showsameloveCFC. E-check donations can be made at the same website.

New regulation changes allow federal retirees to participate in the CFC and donate through their annuities this year.

Also a change has been made to fundraising for the CFC. Special CFC events are permitted, but fundraising at those events is now prohibited. All events are required to include an educational component to bring the charities closer to the donor.

Contact your unit representative to learn more about donating to the CFC.

(Courtesy of 19th Airlift Wing Public Affairs)

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Tricare

Continued from page 10

plan. TRICARE Standard and Extra beneficiaries will be converted to TRICARE Select. Beneficiaries will be able to choose to enroll in or change coverage plans throughout the year-long grace period in 2018.

Beginning in fall 2018, enrollment will move to a calendar year open enrollment season like federal employee plans. During this time, active enrollment will be required to change plans for the following year. Those who are retiring will have to choose their plan and enroll to retain coverage. The open enrollment season begins on the Monday of the second full week in November and run through the Monday of the second full week in December of each calendar year starting in 2018. All beneficiaries should make sure their information is current in DEERS now so they are converted to the correct plan in January. Learn more about enrollment changes.

Beneficiaries will shift to a copayment structure from the current cost-share structure also starting Jan. 1, 2018. With fixed costs for specific services, beneficiaries will be able to better predict their health care costs. Updated out-of-pocket costs for 2018 will be

available at www.tricare.mil/ changes.

While the upcoming changes are significant, the goal of the Military Health System is to continuously improve health care for all its beneficiaries. Beneficiaries can prepare for the upcoming changes by visiting the TRICARE Changes page, where they can sign up for email alerts, complete a beneficiary checklist, and see available plans and updated costs for 2018.

"This marks a major milestone in our effort," said Bono. "It highlights the opportunity for our benefi-


ciaries to take command of their health plan, and our responsibility to ensure that these historic changes to TRICARE are a success for

beneficiaries and the department."

(Courtesy of Military Health System Communications Office)



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