



# Combat Airlifter



19TH AW HOSTS

# Holiday

CELEBRATION

Page 8-9

U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS AARON IRVIN

Children take photos with Santa and Mrs. Claus during the Red-Nosed Herk holiday celebration at Little Rock Air Force Base, Arkansas, Dec. 5, 2019. More than 300 Airmen and families came together to witness the tree lighting and enjoy arts and crafts, photos with Santa, and bouncy houses.



## **CARING FOR AIRMEN AND FAMILIES**

### **THROUGH DEPLOYED FAMILY DINNER**

The Airmen and Family Readiness Center hosted a Deployed Family Dinner Dec. 10, 2019, for Team Little Rock families with loved ones currently deployed.

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## **DO YOU READ**

### **THE COMBAT AIRLIFTER?**

We need your feedback to determine the future of the base paper!

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## **ALS CLASS 20-1 GRADUATES**

Forty-seven Little Rock Air Force Base Airmen graduate ALS Class 20-1.

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## **LRAFB COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

### **EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETS**

Members of the Little Rock Air Force Base Community Council Executive Board met Dec. 10, 2019.

PAGE 7

# Caring for Airmen and families through Deployed Family Dinner

STORY AND PHOTOS BY  
AIRMAN 1ST CLASS MARIAM K. SPRINGS

The Airmen and Family Readiness Center hosted a Deployed Family Dinner Dec. 10, 2019, for Team Little Rock families with loved ones currently deployed.

This was the first time the A&FRC hosted the event to better align families of deployed Airmen with helping agencies and to remind them they have a second family ready to help.

“A Deployed Family Dinner is an opportunity for spouses and families to get together while a member is deployed,” said Sharon Thompson, A&FRC flight chief. “They have a chance to network and socialize with each other as well as connect with resources and leadership. It’s a reminder that whether their sponsor is deployed or not -- they are still a vital part of Team Little Rock and everything we do.”

The A&FRC and other helping agencies provide many support programs to aid families that are separated by deployments. Spouses also have a first-hand opportunity to talk with squadron leadership in a relaxed setting.

“It’s important for all families to know what resources are available to them every day – but especially when a member is deployed,” Thompson said. “Their leadership is always available to them as well as on-base resources such as the A&FRC, chapel, medical group, family advocacy, school liaison officer, and more. If someone has a question and they have no idea who to call, start with the A&FRC. If we don’t know the answer, we’ll research it and call you back with the information you need.”

Events like the Deployed Family Dinner contribute to fostering a strong base and local community, responsive to Airmen and families’ needs.

“We ask a lot of our Airmen,” Thompson said. “When you take care of what’s most important to them they know you value them. It allows them to focus on their job and the mission. Being part of a team that’s about excellence as well as service before self while still being involved in their own family ensures success for them as well.”

It’s important to care and celebrate Airmen and their families throughout the lifecycle of a member’s tour through all the sacrifices they make to accomplish the mission.

“I want to thank all the families for your sacrifice,” said Col. John Schutte, 19th Airlift Wing commander. “It’s not lost on me that your military member is serving our nation. He or she could not be doing that without the love and

**See Families, 5**



(Above) Col. John Schutte, 19th Airlift Wing commander, speaks with family members of deployed Airmen during a Deployed Family Dinner at Little Rock Air Force Base, Arkansas, Dec. 10, 2019. The dinner gave families of deployed personnel a chance to meet with other families who are sharing in similar experiences, build friendships, and develop support networks.

(Left) Children color in photos during the Deployed Family Dinner at Little Rock Air Force Base, Arkansas, Dec. 10, 2019. This was the first time the Airmen and Family Readiness Center hosted the event to better align families with of deployed Airmen with helping agencies and to remind them they have a second family ready to help.

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# COMBAT AIRLIFTER OF THE WEEK



U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO BY MASTER SGT. JESSICA ROLE

**NAME AND RANK**

Tech. Sgt. Robert W. Smith

**UNIT**

189th Logistics Readiness Squadron

**DUTY TITLE**

Air transportation craftsman

**HOMETOWN**

North Little Rock, Arkansas

**TIME IN SERVICE**

15 years

**TIME AT LITTLE ROCK**

13 years

**GOALS**

Obtain the rank of master sergeant and serve as a first sergeant

**HOBBIES**

Cycling, running, water sports, camping, and being with his family

**AIR FORCE CORE VALUE**

**PORTRAYED**

Service Before Self

**WHY WAS THE INDIVIDUAL SELECTED AND HOW DO THEY DISPLAY THE CORE VALUE?**

Smith is all about taking care of Airmen and leading them in the right direction for success. He believes in mentoring younger Airmen on how to rig and recover airdrop and shows them the proper way to carry out our day-to-day mission. He is the first to volunteer for any given thing that comes up. He has stepped up to fill the role on drill weekend as our alternate first sergeant and performs his duties on a top notch level. Smith makes himself available to anyone needing questions answered and either answers them himself or gets the answer through someone else.

## Do you read the Combat Airlifter?

Should we have a printed base paper? We need your feedback! Visit the survey website below and tell us how often you read the base newspaper, the Combat Airlifter. Your feedback is important and will help improve our services to the base populace. Please visit: <https://forms.gle/aJuG36qN8QZFWGnR8> (not accessible by government computers)



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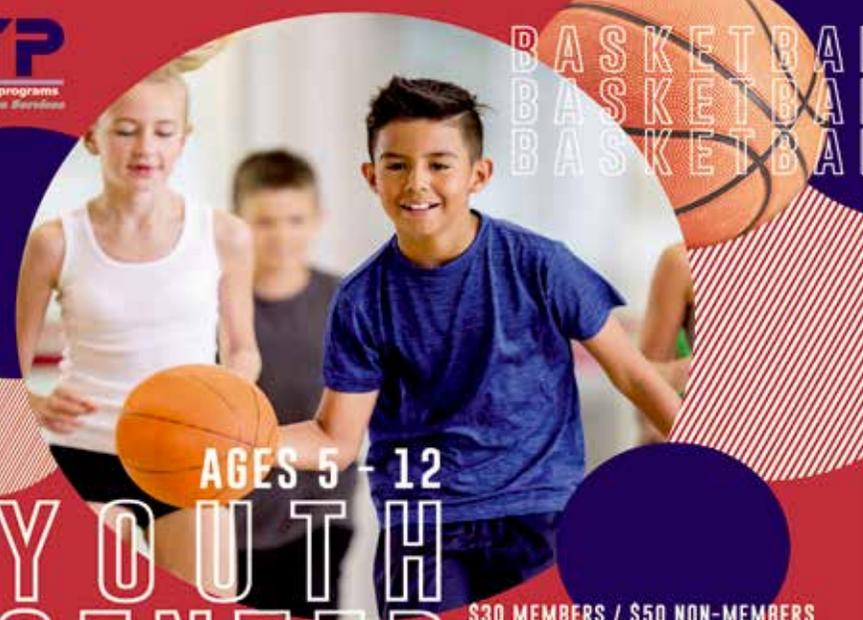
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AGES 5 - 12

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# HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

## FROM FSS



@rockinattherock @19FSS



Children sing Christmas carols during a Deployed Family Dinner at Little Rock Air Force Base, Arkansas, Dec. 10, 2019. Families enjoyed food, arts and crafts, and photos with Santa.



Kimberly Euton, Airman and Family Readiness Center community readiness specialist, reads a Christmas book to children during a Deployed Family Dinner at Little Rock Air Force Base, Arkansas, Dec. 10, 2019. This was the first time the Airmen and Family Readiness Center hosted the event to better align families with of deployed Airmen with helping agencies and to remind them they have a second family ready to help.

## Families

Continued from page 2

support you provide at home.”

The dinner gave families of deployed personnel a chance to meet with other families who are sharing in similar experiences, build friendships, and develop support networks.

“If you aren’t taking care of what’s most important to Airmen, you’re missing an opportunity to positively impact the mission as well as how that member feels about the military,” Thompson said. “The military lifestyle is a choice – more times than not, it’s a decision a family makes.”

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Christopher Pederson

## COMMANDANT AWARD

Ashley Sherry

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Courtney Wagner

Ashley Sherry

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Trenton Dennis

Erica Golliday

James Poole

Justin Swain

Dylan Thomas

Matthew Wood

Christopher Atkinson

Alexis Brown

Alexis Castano

Jash Mikyle Ancheta

Matthew Basa

Alex Latulippe

Vinson Mixon

Jesse Tuthill

Cory Lett

Tanner Ballard

Tyler Early

Gabriel Garcia

Chyanne Heady

Steven Stoy

Adam Bailey

Jared Asher

Charles Harrell

Yancy Martin

Jacob Phipps

Cody Richardson

Joshua Alsup

Dustin Decelles

Amanda Haley

Lacy Valentine

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# LRAFB Community Council Executive Board meets



U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTOS BY SENIOR AIRMAN GRACE NICHOLS

Members of the Little Rock Air Force Base Community Council Executive Board listen to U.S. Air Force Col. John Schutte, 19th Airlift Wing commander, speak about happenings on the installation during a meeting at Little Rock Air Force Base, Arkansas, Dec. 10, 2019. The council is a civilian non-profit organization of central Arkansas community leaders dedicated to serving Little Rock Air Force Base, its mission and its people.

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— 19TH AW HOSTS —  
**Holiday**  
 — CELEBRATION —

STORY BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS AARON IRVIN

Airmen and families from the 19th Airlift Wing kicked off the holiday season with a tree lighting and Rudolph the Red-Nosed Herk holiday celebration at Little Rock Air Force Base, Arkansas, Dec. 5, 2019.

More than 300 Airmen and families came together at Heritage Park to witness the tree lighting event.

See **Holiday**, 11



U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS AARON IRVIN

(Above) Children make cards for an Elf to deliver to Santa during the Red-Nosed Herk holiday celebration at Little Rock Air Force Base, Arkansas, Dec. 5, 2019. More than 300 Airmen and families came together to witness the tree lighting and enjoy arts and crafts, photos with Santa, and bouncy houses.

(Left) Members from the 19th Airlift Wing kicked off the holiday season with a tree lighting ceremony at Heritage Park on Little Rock Air Force Base, Arkansas, Dec. 5, 2019. More than 300 Airmen and families came together to witness the tree lighting and enjoy music from the Jacksonville Lighthouse charter School Choir.

U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS AARON IRVIN



U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS MARIAM K. SPRINGS

Members of Team Little Rock line up to take pictures with Santa during the Red-Nosed Herk holiday celebration at Little Rock Air Force Base, Arkansas, Dec. 5, 2019. The 19th Maintenance Group took charge in coordinating this year's Rudolph the Red-Nosed Herk holiday celebration, which was held in hangar 232.



U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS AARON IRVIN

Children make cards for Santa at the crafting station during the Red-Nosed Herk holiday celebration at Little Rock Air Force Base, Arkansas, Dec. 5, 2019. More than 300 Airmen and families came together to witness the tree lighting and enjoy arts and crafts, photos with Santa, and bouncy houses.



U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS AARON IRVIN

Children play in a bouncy house during the Red-Nosed Herk holiday celebration at Little Rock Air Force Base, Arkansas, Dec. 5, 2019. More than 300 Airmen and families came together to witness the tree lighting and enjoy arts and crafts, photos with Santa, and bouncy houses.



# Changes to TSP coming in December

By 21st Space Wing Public Affairs

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. (AFNS) – According to the Thrift Savings Plan website, all TSP participants must have validated contact information and use two-step authentication to log in to the TSP My Account beginning in December.

“It’s a security measure,” said Vic Villarreal, 21st Force Support Squadron personal financial readiness leader. “In today’s world of high-tech and hackers, it’s another layer of security and protection against fraud. It’s in line with what other financial agencies do.”

The traditional login method, with a member’s username/account number and password, is enhanced by adding a one-time verification code members receive through email and/or text message each time the account is

accessed. Someone who tries to fraudulently log in to an account won’t be able to gain access without the username/account number, the password and the one-time code.

Account holders who want to learn more about what they can do with TSP accounts can now find a series of educational and informational videos on YouTube under the TSP4gov account. These videos provide an in-depth look into retirement investment planning and answer questions that TSP investors care about the most.

The video page contains episodes for new employees, seasoned investors, military personnel and civil service employees. There are TSP webinars, ‘learn how to manage’ TSP accounts, investment options and participant testimonials – more than 60 videos and growing. The material is created by TSP

experts and is free to all who are interested in growing their knowledge of the TSP investment program.

“Although these are tools for people to utilize at home,” Villarreal says, “we encourage people to come in and ask questions to get individual answers, and that’s for everyone, to include DoD (Department of Defense) civilians – not just junior Airmen or people in financial trouble.”

Also, annual TSP contribution limits will increase to \$19,500 starting in January 2020. The annual “Catch-Up” contribution limit, which allows people over the age of 50 to invest a little more and catch up with those who started investing earlier in life, is rising to \$6,500 as well. The 2019 limits for TSP contribu-

tion and “Catch-Up” contributions, set by the Internal Revenue Service, were \$19,000 and \$6,000 respectively in 2019, so both have gone up by \$500. Contributors are reminded to carefully calculate their contribution over the course of the calendar year. In the event contributions are maxed out prior to the end of the calendar year, agency matching contributions for remaining pay periods will be affected.

“Let’s say in October, you’ve met the \$19,500 annual limit, and you were getting 5% matching contributions,” Villarreal said. “For the pay periods in November and December, you would not be able to contribute any more. Therefore, you would not be receiving any additional matching funds.”

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# Brig. Gen. Gibbs visits Team Little Rock



U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS JAYDEN FORD

Airmen from the 19th Operational Medical Readiness Squadron Bioenvironmental Flight brief U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. Richard W. Gibbs, Air Mobility Command Logistics, Engineering and Force Protection director, on their capability to detect radiation on a C-130J Super Hercules at Little Rock Air Force Base, Arkansas, Dec. 3, 2019. The 19th OMRS put these capabilities to the test during the exercise, ROCKI 20-01 for the first time.



U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS JAYDEN FORD

Airmen from the 19th Maintenance Squadron demonstrate the use of equipment they invented to U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. Richard W. Gibbs, Air Mobility Command Logistics, Engineering and Force Protection director, at Little Rock Air Force Base, Arkansas, Dec. 3, 2019. The tool holds the rims of a C-130 tire and allows the operator to spin the tool in order to spray an even coat of paint onto the rim.



U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS AARON IRVIN

U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Allen Horton, 19th Security Forces NCO in charge of combat arms training and maintenance, offers a tour of the shooting range to U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. Richard W. Gibbs, Air Mobility Command Logistics, Engineering and Force Protection director, at Little Rock Air Force Base, Arkansas, Dec. 3, 2019. Horton discussed the advanced designated marksman qualification and the plans for renovating the shooting range.



U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS JAYDEN FORD

U.S. Air Force Airman 1st Class James Garbo, 19th Maintenance Squadron isochronal inspection crew chief, shows an invention that holds tools and a laptop to U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. Richard W. Gibbs, Air Mobility Command Logistics, Engineering and Force Protection director, at Little Rock Air Force Base, Arkansas, Dec. 3, 2019. This innovation was created to give Airmen more space to work and gives them better access to tools they may need for mission completion.



U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS AARON IRVIN



U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS AARON IRVIN

(Above) Matthew Smock, 19th Civil Engineer Squadron chief of portfolio optimization, briefed a future runway project to U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. Richard W. Gibbs, Air Mobility Command Logistics, Engineering and Force Protection director, at Little Rock Air Force Base, Arkansas, Dec. 3, 2019. Smock explained the plan to renovate the runway.

(Left) U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. Richard W. Gibbs, Air Mobility Command Logistics, Engineering and Force Protection director, speaks with Lt. Col. Michael Stefanovic, 19th Civil Engineer Squadron commander, left, and Col. Will Clark, 19th Airlift Wing vice commander, right, at Little Rock Air Force Base, Arkansas, Dec. 3, 2019. Gibbs toured the base to observe how the 19th AW successfully accomplishes combat airlift.



U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS AARON IRVIN

U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Collin Gendron, 19th Security Forces combat arms instructor, briefs U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. Richard W. Gibbs, Air Mobility Command Logistics, Engineering and Force Protection director, at Little Rock Air Force Base, Arkansas, Dec. 3, 2019. Gendron discussed the importance of maintaining an up-to-date shooting range to ensure mission-readiness across the installation.



U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS JAYDEN FORD

Airmen from the 19th Maintenance Squadron show a storage device built from old parts to U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. Richard W. Gibbs, Air Mobility Command Logistics, Engineering and Force Protection director, at Little Rock Air Force Base, Arkansas, Dec. 3, 2019. The 19th MXS displayed multiple tools they invented to streamline processes and increase production.

# 62nd Airlift Squadron Yacht Club reunion



**U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTOS BY SENIOR AIRMAN GRACE NICHOLS**

*Alumni and families of the 62nd Airlift Squadron, also known as the Yacht Club, gather to remember past members and preserve history during their annual reunion at Little Rock Air Force Base, Arkansas, Dec. 6, 2019. Originating in 1971 as a means to bring the members of the 62nd Troop Carrier Squadron together, the Yacht Club has since opened its alumnus to the men and women of the 62nd AS who have participated in combat*



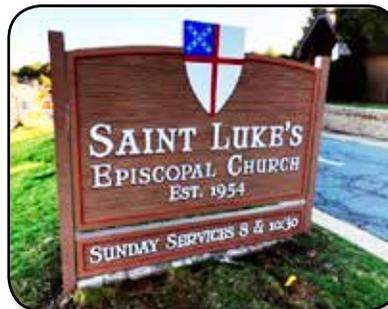


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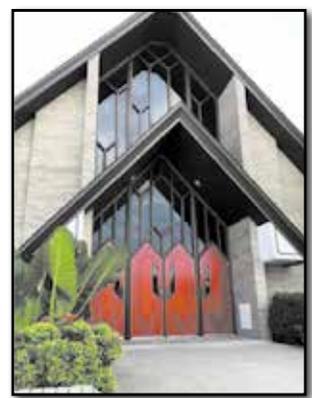
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stlukeepiscopal.org

**Christmas Eve Services:**  
December 24th: 5 pm & 10:30 pm

**Weekly Services:**

- † **Sundays:**  
8 am: Rite I & 10:30 am: Holy Eucharist Rite II  
9:15 am: Formation for all ages
- † **Wednesdays:**  
12 noon: Holy Eucharist with Healing Prayer

Fr. Carey Stone, Rector




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SINCE 1936

**GEICO** Local Office

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