Brig. Gen. Lenny Richoux, vice commander of the 18th Air Force, answers an Airman’s question during a breakfast with junior enlisted Airmen at MacDill Air Force Base Feb. 2. Richoux discussed education, and the many opportunities young Airman have to become successful.
A team effort

by Lt. Col. Carol Mitchell
310th Airlift Squadron commander

Sept. 15, 2015, started out as a routine day for Lt. Col. Brett Lent, aircraft commander of SPAR 28. It was a C-37A mission from Miami to Washington, D.C.

However, upon reaching his cruising altitude of 41,000 feet, and in the midst of moderate turbulence due to thunderstorms, he was confronted with multiple aircraft malfunctions. The yaw damper, the right engine sensors, and the aircraft stall protections failed.

While directing initial actions to investigate and resolve those issues, the aircraft’s automation systems also failed, further increasing the workload on Lent and his crew, particularly considering the weather they were in. Trouble-shooting was further complicated when the stick shaker activated, indicating that the aircraft sensed it was close to stalling.

In a necessarily quick analysis of the problem, Lent discovered a 30 degree discrepancy between the pilot’s and copilot’s outside air temperature sensors — a discovery that required incredible focus given the multitude of temperature sensors. This fault, coupled with other faults and indications in the flight deck, led the crew to conclude that one particular air data computer was malfunctioning.

Using his in-depth systems knowledge, Lent adjusted the aircraft’s sensor and guidance systems, activating alternate sources and isolating the failed computer. This corrected the yaw damper and stick shaker faults. He corrected the engine sensors by switching to a secondary sensor channel, allowing the aircraft’s warning system to validate his analysis by declaring the suspect computer as faulty.

After regaining control of the situation and completing several emergency checklists, Lent and his crew were able to safely land the aircraft at Andrews Air Force Base. His systems knowledge and experience, unwavering focus in the midst of chaos, and unmatched crew coordination skills ensured the safety of the passengers, crew and aircraft, prompting AMC to nominate him for the Koren Kolligian, Jr. Trophy for aviation safety.

The annual Koren Kolligian, Jr. Trophy recognizes outstanding feats of airmanship by an aircrew member. It is presented for extraordinary skill, alertness, ingenuity, or proficiency in averting or keeping the seriousness of a flight mishap to a minimum.

Lent was AMC’s 2015 nominee for this prestigious Air Force-level award based on his ability to control the aircraft and deal with the emergency situation. But like all aircraft operations, Lent could not have accomplished this amazing feat alone. He had the help of the entire 6th Air Mobility Wing.

Did you know that the 6th Logistics Readiness Squadron’s fuel section performs extensive laboratory testing on our JP-8 fuel to ensure it isn’t contaminated every time it refuels an aircraft?

Lt. Col. Carol Mitchell

Or that Airmen like Staff Sgt. Irina Velanovich from the 6th Comptroller Squadron manage a $2.2 million annual budget ensuring funds are available to support the 310th Airlift Squadron’s extensive travel expenditures?

The 6th Maintenance Group’s quality assurance inspectors execute the contract for our Gulfstream Aerospace Contractor Logistics Support team, which maintains the 310th’s C-37A aircraft. Amazing child development experts like Lourdes Padilla, 6th Force Support Squadron.

See COMMENTARY, Page 10
AMC commander: mobility Airmen the ultimate wingmen

by Master Sgt. Kristine Dreyer
Air Mobility Command Public Affairs

SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, Ill. — The commander of Air Mobility Command presented AMC’s role in joint operations as a vital part of national security and as an example of the ‘wingman concept’ in a presentation during the AMC Headquarters staff Wingman Day event here Feb. 8.

Gen. Carlton D. Everhart II, AMC commander, highlighted AMC’s purpose in joint operations through recent examples of headline-making global mobility missions.

“AMC is the ultimate wingman to our joint partners,” said Everhart. “Whether we’re delivering beans and bullets, fuel at 25,000 feet, setting up a bare base at forward locations or bringing wounded to life-saving care…we deliver.”

Some Airmen may not realize AMC crews are airdropping supplies in Syria, said the general. In November an Iraqi C-130 landed at Qayyarah West Airfield, which was the first time a fixed wing aircraft touched down at the field since 2014 thanks to the Airmen from the 821st Contingency Response Group at Travis and a team of coalition engineers who refurbished the field after ISIL forces destroyed it.

Wingmen are known for providing relief and support to those in need, partnering with others to signal resolve, values and a commitment to helping others.

The Denton program allows humanitarian supplies to be flown aboard a U.S. Air Force aircraft on a space available basis. In January, a non-profit organization donated 35 pallets containing 275,000 dehydrated meals, valued at $85,000, for the refugees and the command delivered yet again.

“Airmen from the 315th Airlift Wing at Charleston flew humanitarian aid to Ramstein last month,” said Everhart. “The food was delivered to refugee camps and is now feeding thousands of displaced men, women and children. We were their wingmen and they didn’t even know it.”

Meanwhile, AMC tankers were playing a vital global role for nine combatant commanders.

Fifteen AMC tankers refueled two B-2 Stealth Bombers on a 30-hour round trip mission to bomb ISIS camps in Libya, and four KC-10s from Travis AFB, California, and Joint Base

See WINGMAN, Page 13

Military Saves Week 2017

Special to the Thunderbolt

Military Saves Week (Feb. 27 – March 4) is an annual opportunity for individuals to assess their savings and take financial action. Each year, we encourage service members and military families just like you to set a goal, make a plan, and save automatically.

Life can be full of surprises – some good surprises, and some not so welcome ones, like when your car breaks down, the washing machine stops working, or a family member falls ill and you need to buy a last-minute airline ticket. These additional expenses can bring on unnecessary stress when you aren’t financially prepared for them.

According to a 2015 Federal Reserve report, nearly half of Americans can’t cover an emergency expense of $400 without borrowing the money or selling something. And more than half of households have less than one month’s worth of income in a readily available savings account.

Starting an emergency fund might seem daunting when you feel like you are barely making ends meet, but putting away even $50 a month can add up fast if you stick with it. There is no better time than now to pledge to save. During Military Saves Week, and throughout the year, we encourage you to try these five tips to help build an emergency fund.

Save a portion of your tax refund. Saving a portion of your tax refund can be a big step toward meeting your emergency savings goals. This tax season, build your emergency fund by splitting a portion your tax refund into savings.

Col. April Vogel, left, commander of the 6th Air Mobility Wing (AMW), and Chief Master Sgt. Melanie Noel, command chief of the 6th AMW, sign a Military Saves Week proclamation at MacDill Air Force Base Tuesday.

Do some early spring cleaning and sell your old stuff for cash. These days the options are endless for selling your old, but still-in-good-condition items for cash. From free websites, to apps, to online yard sale groups, you’d be surprised how easy it is to sell your old stuff and earn some cash simply

See SAVE, Page 13
WEEK IN PHOTOS

Staff sergeants recite the NCO charge during their Airman Leadership School graduation at MacDill Air Force Base Feb. 9. ALS provides Airmen the tools they need to be frontline supervisors.

Retired Air Force Col. Billy Graham, director of the MacDill Retiree Activities Office, and Col. Jennifer Crossman, vice commander of the 6th Air Mobility Wing, cut a cake during Retiree Appreciation Day. Retirees from every branch of service were offered first-come, first-served service at specific offices on MacDill to update their knowledge on retiree benefits and entitlements.

Former chief master sergeant of the Air Force, Bob Gaylor, left, shakes hands with chief master sergeant-selects during a chief induction ceremony at MacDill Air Force Base Feb. 10. Gaylor, who served as chief master sergeant of the Air Force from 1977-1979, visited MacDill to be the guest speaker during the ceremony.
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Dean S., Alumnus
How strong is your heart?

by Staff Sgt. Crystal Robinson
6th Medical Operations Squadron

Heart disease is the number one cause of death for both men and women in the United States. It is an equal opportunity killer that claims approximately a million lives annually. Every year, one in four deaths are caused by heart disease.

Heart disease is a broad term used for a wide variety of diseases of the heart and blood vessels.

One form of heart disease is coronary artery disease, which is when fat deposits (plaque) restrict blood flow to the heart. Another form of heart disease is from heart rhythm disorders, called arrhythmias, and defects of the heart which are present at birth, called congenital heart defects.

Here at MacDill, we are skilled professionals dedicated to keeping your heart healthy and in its best shape. We use different forms of non-invasive technology, such as simple electrocardiograms, which examines the electrical activity in your heart. The clinic also offers echocardiograms, which is an ultrasound that offers a look inside of your heart. These procedures allow us to make sure your heart is performing at its best. Although we are a referral only clinic, we are here to take care of you regardless of whether you are active duty, retired, or dependent status.

If you feel something is abnormal with your body, the number one thing to remember is do not ignore feelings of discomfort.

Tell someone. Whether it is your spouse, significant other, friend, or colleague, report your symptoms even when you think it's not serious.

Ask questions. Talk to your medical provider and inquire about the symptoms you are experiencing and what you can do to feel better. Everyone has loved ones, and everyone wants to be around to see them for years to come.

So ask yourself, how strong is your heart?
We all hear this phrase on a regular basis; are you ready? The question we should ask ourselves is, do we understand what readiness really is?

A quick search on Google defines readiness “as the state of being fully prepared for something.” In the Air Force and in our day-to-day lives, readiness is a culture we need to embrace as an individual responsibility and as a team responsibility. Team is defined as both our Air Force team and our personal family team.

Each of us must take the individual responsibility to ensure that we and our teams are fully ready for what today brings. When an active-duty member is tasked for deployment, he or she trusts that their unit deployment manager will provide them the framework to prepare for a smooth transition into their deployment role.

It then becomes the tasked member’s individual responsibility to ensure many things are in order before they deploy.

Readiness also includes preparedness for day-to-day emergency situations—the base and your unit exercise active shooter, shelter in-place and secure in-place actions. Do you take these lessons learned beyond the confines of MacDill?

You’re just as likely to encounter one of these emergency response actions away from MacDill as you are to encounter them on MacDill, and it’s your responsibility to ensure your family is ready to respond to these type of situations if required.

At the beginning of each and every day, I hope you and your teams are able to look in the mirror and say, “I’m ready.” If you are not able to say you’re ready, find the wingman that can assist you get ready and take the personal responsibility to become ready!
The 6th Air Mobility Wing welcomed a previous wing commander to base Feb. 2-3. Brig. Gen. Lenny Richoux visited the 6th AMW on behalf of the 18th Air Force commander and served as guest speaker for the wing’s annual awards ceremony. He met with many Airmen and offered professional mentoring and saw how the wing’s operations have changed since leaving the Sunshine State.

Richoux commanded the 6th AMW from 2010 to 2012 and now serves as the 18th Air Force vice commander at Scott Air Force Base, Illinois.

In his current role, he oversees Air Mobility Command’s operational arm which leads missions around the globe. Those missions include the 6th AMW’s KC-135 Stratotankers and refueling operations in or near Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan.

“Eighteenth Air Force is responsible for more than 10 worldwide conduct approximately 600 mission a day, on average, with 381 said. “The 6th AMW is a big part of that. Right now, Airmen from MacDill are directly involved in day and night, 24/7. It’s a very busy organization, and we and the work they do to make all of that possible.”

From discussing opportunities with junior enlisted Air commanders, Richoux met with all ranks, grades and levels of current operations. At each stop, he encouraged Airmen to complete their piece of the mission.

“I believe ability plus desire equals success,” explained both, and our air refueling mission gives us the ability to be...
Brig. Gen. Lenny Richoux, vice commander of the 18th Air Force, presents a coin to Staff Sgt. Paquita Williams, the NCO in charge of aviation resource management assigned to the 91st Air Refueling Squadron, at MacDill Air Force Base Feb. 2. Richoux met with many star performers around MacDill during his visit of the base.

**Training to use Deployed Electronic Health Records is out there**

by J.D. Levine
Air Force Surgeon General Public Affairs

FALLS CHURCH, Va. - The Air Force Medical Service (AFMS) is developing an electronic health record (EHR) that will enable medical Airmen to treat those who are wounded while deployed in a harsh or isolated environment.

Electronic health records track an Airman’s medical needs and document real-time data at every point of their journey from when the injury occurred, to anything that happened in transit, to the treatment received at the hospital or clinic.

The theater medical information program project (TMIP-AF) management office at Maxwell-Gunter Air Force Base, Alabama, currently tests, updates and trains the Deployed EHR for the AFMS, called Armed Forces Longitudinal Technology Application – Theater (AHLTA-T). It’s used in the back of aeromedical evacuation aircraft, staging and receiving facilities and many deployed locations.

There is a significant gap, however, between successfully training Airmen on the use of this application and providing the operating system to deployed medics, even though this system currently provides the best method of creating a consistent EHR for patients.

“Say a patient is hurt in the field and being transported to a hospital in Germany; when we transmit their records, the medical staff on the ground can see it before the patient ever gets off the plane,” said Darrell Mayers, a functional analyst for TMIP-AF. “It makes them better equipped to treat the new patient.

“From a patient safety standpoint, continuity of care is a major piece. We’re making sure we get everyone using the EHR trained.”

EHRs are important not just because they’re mandated by Congress, but because they further goals of patient care and positive patient outcomes, so ensuring Airmen are trained to use them properly is a top goal.

“We have a qualified team of medical functional experts available to train medical folks on AHLTA-T, so they are ready to support the patient on the ground or the back of an aircraft,” said Dolores Osborne-Hensley, the TMIP-AF Program Manager. “All commanders and training point of contacts have to do is reach out to our team and we can set up pre-deployed training for just about any AFMS specialty before they deploy.”

Readiness is essential.

“We should never have an Airman deployed without the right training,” said Master Sgt. Cheryl Chowning, the lead functional 4N for TMIP-AF. “We want to close that loop; this is especially important when sending our system administration medics out in the field to provide support for the AHLTA-T systems.”

Pre-deployment training, catching medical Airmen at just the right time, is a big issue for the AHLTA-T application. The knowledge for this system is a perishable skill that requires practice and repetitive use, and experienced skills are crucial to the success of quality documenting of electronic medical records. Osborne-Hensley said, “We try to go to the continuously deploying bases at least twice a year to train as many Airmen as possible.

“We always stand ready to train but knowing who, what, and where the training needs are is the real issue.”

The training offered by the TMIP-AF is a three-day course. System administrators learn every aspect of the applications based on their location. They manage the software’s connectivity, manage the components that transmit records, and learn how to troubleshoot problems. By the time the course is over they’re able to properly configure, maintain and sustain the system.

It’s impossible to know when and where someone might get injured, and Airmen work in dozens of different and unusual environments all over the world, which makes proper training that much more important.

“Ask the medical staff when you don’t have any connectivity in the back of an airplane, or the doctor in a deployed environment who can’t use his AHLTA-T system. They need to know the process of using and transmitting the EHR when they land and once they gain network connectivity,” said Staff Sgt. Laveonne Jones, the NCO in-charge of Systems Administration.

Mayers added that since they started transmitting medical records in 2011, they’ve pushed more than 500,000 ground based electronic medical records. He said while that’s a remarkable achievement, it’s only a fraction of what they could be doing in the future, and the training they provide will be more important than ever.

**COMMENTARY**

From Page 2

Squadron’s 2015 employee of the year, ensure that Lent does not have to worry about the care his children receive at the Child Daycare Center so he can focus on resolving aircraft malfunctions.

Because of all the hard work and support provided by members of the 6th AMW at every level and in every squadron, Airmen like Lent can accomplish the mission. It may be difficult to see the direct link between support functions and front-line operators on a daily basis, but on a day like Sept. 15, the connections become very clear.

Lent and the 310th AS could not provide safe, comfortable, reliable and connected airlift to the nation’s senior leaders without the help of our 4,500 teammates in the 6th AMW. So even though the Koren Kolligian Jr. Trophy is awarded to an individual, being nominated by AMC for the Air Force’s top safety award was not an individual accomplishment – it was truly a team effort.

Be sure to visit the official 6th Air Mobility Wing website at www.macdill.af.mil
the president and the secretary of the Air Force need us to do.”

The drive to encourage excellence continued as Richoux capped off the visit speaking at the wing’s annual-awards ceremony. His words brought cheers to the audience as he showed photos of squadrons and staff agencies across the base. Those pictures were followed with Richoux describing how each of those units makes the 6th AMW mission, and by extension, the 18th AF mission possible each day.

“Talent comes from many backgrounds and takes many forms,” Richoux said. “As an Air Force, we need the most talent America has to offer, and we have an amazingly talented force.

“We capitalize on diversity to make sure that we have difference of thought. Good ideas are not born out of a single person; it takes a team of different and innovative ideas to bring those together, and you can only get differing opinions if you have a diverse organization.”
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WINGMAN

From Page 3

McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey, enabled the F-35 exercise deployment to Marine Corps Air Station in Iwakuni, Japan. U.S. tankers have partnered with Coalition aircraft to fly more than 33,000 missions in support of Operation Inherent Resolve.

“Sometimes diplomacy and deterrence fail and when that happens our civilian leaders make the decision to send America’s sons and daughters into harm’s way,” said Everhart. “We take them to fight, and we also bring them home. I take my role as a wingman seriously every day. Our Airmen are why I serve.”

Everhart showed a video of wounded warriors who completed in the 2016 Invictus Games, highlighting the impact of Airmen who inspire him. Each individual shared a special thank you message for Air Mobility Command and the aeromedical evacuation mission, providing examples of relief and hope delivered by their wingmen.

In addition to those personal messages, the general left the audience with one final thank you from the perspective of the Chief of Staff of the Air Force, Gen. David L. Goldfein.

“Airpower is the oxygen the Joint force breathes,” Everhart said, quoting the Air Force Chief of Staff. “Mobility is the lifeblood that carries the oxygen.”

SAVE

From Page 3

by snapping a picture of an item and posting it online for sale. Consignment shops are another option.

Cut the cord—the cable cord that is. When considering this option, remind yourself that cable TV is a luxury, not a necessity. There are many alternatives to cable that are less costly and will allow you to still enjoy your favorite programs and channels.

Save your change. Use only cash whenever you buy something and then take the change and small bills and sock them away. You’d be surprised how quickly this can add up.

Bring your lunch instead of eating out. Bringing your lunch to work is probably one of the simplest ways to begin saving money for an emergency fund. It may require some effort and a big change of routine in the beginning, but you will soon realize just how much money you were spending, or rather wasting, by eating lunch out every day. Take some time each Sunday to plan your lunches, then look for sales at your base commissary. Get creative when packing your lunch and make it fun. Bringing lunch to work doesn’t have to mean a sandwich and chips every day.
Friday
Airman & Family Readiness Center
LinkedIn from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Unlock the secrets of LinkedIn by building and maximizing your profile, turbo charge your job search and learn how to network effectively through the number one professional networking social media site. Call 828-0145.

Saturday
Youth Superhero Run
Bayshore Running Path from 9-11 a.m. No advance sign-up required. Registration table located across the street from the Youth Center, day of run. Come dressed in your favorite Superhero costume. Drinks and snacks provided. Call the Youth Center at 828-7438.

Sunday
Bay Palms Golf Complex
Club Member Appreciation – Free golf and cart to AF Club card members. Call 840-6904 to make your tee time. Must show valid club card when checking in at the pro shop.

Base Theater
Free movie. “Moana” (PG) Doors open at 1:15 p.m. Movie starts at 2 p.m.

Monday
Base Theater
Free matinee. “Jack Reacher, Never Go Back” (PG-13) 1:30 p.m. “Snowden” (R) 4 p.m.

Thursday
Arts & Crafts Center
MacDill Retirees Water Coloring. $5 for unlimited water colors. Have you been looking for a way to meet others in the community while at the same time creatively expressing yourself? Look no further, and come join the fun at Arts & Crafts. Materials will be provided. Call 828-4413.

Base Theater
Free movie. “Bleed for This” (R) 7 p.m.

Eight new chiefs!
Chief master sergeant-selects and Team MacDill chief master sergeants pause for a group photo during a chief induction ceremony at MacDill Air Force Base Friday. Eight Airmen from MacDill were selected for promotion to chief master sergeant, the highest enlisted rank in the Air Force.

CHAPEL SCHEDULE

Protestant service
Sunday - 9:30 a.m. FamCamp (Bldg 2017-Raccoon Creek)
Protestant Worship: 11 a.m.
Islamic service
Friday - 1:30 p.m.-3 p.m. Prayer

Catholic Mass
Saturday - 5:30 p.m. - Mass
Sunday - 9:30 a.m. - Mass
Monday-Thursday - 12:10 p.m.
(Blessed Sacrament Room)

For all other faith groups or for any questions, please contact the Chapel by visiting http://www.macdill.af.mil/macdillchapel or calling 828-3621

Need an ID card?
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For a map - tinyurl.com/or87n5j

Be sure to visit the official 6th Air Mobility Wing website at www.macdill.af.mil
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