Vol. 16, No. 2

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FEBRUARY 2023

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#### INSIDE

# Thunderbirds soaring into 70!

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Airman 1st Class Paige Weldon
PAVE HAWKS REPLACED

See Page 6 -7

#### **DOD News**

The Thunderbirds, the Air Force flight demonstration squadron, took to the skies during the team's inaugural winter training trip at Spaceport America, New Mexico, earlier this month.

This year marks the team's 70th anniversary and the trip allowed them to demonstrate their seven decades of air show experience and best practices in preparation for the upcoming season.

The Thunderbirds will appear at the Thunder and Lightning Over Arizona Air Show at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base Saturday, March 25 – Sunday, March 26.



U.S. Air Force photos by Tech. Sgt. Nicolas Myer

The Thunderbirds, the Air Force's flight demonstration squadron, practice during the team's inaugural winter training trip at Spaceport America, New Mexico, Jan. 12, 2023. This year marks the team's 70th anniversary.









Continue to get Davis-Monthan Air Force Base latest news and information from these sources: http://www.aerotechnews. com/davis-monthanafb and social media Desert Lightning News

**Date of publication** 

#### First Friday

of the month

Submission deadline **15th day of the month**prior to date of publication

#### **Veterons**

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Active-duty, Reserve, Retirees
All military branches are included
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brief description of your service to
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# FIREFIGHTERS ON ICE

#### **DOD News**

Being a firefighter anywhere requires a cool head. In Alaska, it sometimes calls for one that is ice cold.

Fire protection specialists assigned to the Air Force's 673rd

Civil Engineer Squadron headed to frigid Six Mile Lake at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska, recently for ice rescue training. They tested their skills in a series of scenarios designed to mimic realworld rescues.

The training followed a classroom course. Once the firefighters qualified in the skills needed to conduct ice rescue and recovery efforts in extreme cold-weather environments, they received certifications as ice rescue technicians.



U.S. Air Force photo by Alejandro Pena







Steve White, a firefighter assigned to the 673rd Civil Engineer Squadron, role-plays as a cold-water casualty during ice rescue training at Six Mile Lake at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska, Jan. 8.



U.S. Air Force photo by Alejandro Pena



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Patrick Sullivan

Air Force fire protection specialists assigned to the 673rd Civil Engineer Squadron conduct ice rescue training at Six Mile Lake at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska, Jan. 8.



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Patrick Sullivan U.S. Air Force Airman 1st Class Austin Conner, a fire protection specialist assigned to the 673rd Civil Engineer Squadron, prepares to rescue fellow firefighters during ice rescue training at Six Mile Lake at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska, Jan. 8.



U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Joshua Sacerio, Lightning Spark Lab Technician, tests a cooling vest prototype during a proofof-concept presentation at the 355th Wing Innovation Office. The cooling vest will allow Airmen to stay cool while working in hot environments.

# Innovation keeping things cool

#### By Airman 1st Class DEVLIN BISHOP

355th Wing Public Affairs

The 355th Innovation Office, known as Lightning Spark, held a proof-of-concept presentation at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz., Dec. 7, 2022.

The focus of the presentation was testing a cooling vest prototype designed to keep Airmen cool while working in high temperatures for extended periods of time.

"Right now, we're focusing on just the flight line maintainers," said U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Conrad Nelson, 357th Fighter Generation Squadron lead production superintendent. "The main focus is on their health and safety while working in hot environments and to prevent heat exhaustion."

The cooling vest uses dry ice to cool alcohol within a closed-circuit pump system, which is then pumped through the interior of the vest to cool down the wearer's core.

"It's going to let the Airman be more comfortable, and therefore, more productive," said Mark Weitz, vice president of Strategic Development at Kennon Products. "By making the Airmen more comfortable doing their jobs, it could have a positive effect on morale as well."

Lightning Spark is always working to come up with new and innovative ways of solving problems for the Airmen of the 355th Wing and DM.

"I'm really stoked to see these innovation cells happening at bases around the nation and being able to work with them is just fantastic," said Weitz. "I look forward to working with them and seeing what they come up with so we can work together to help build better products for our warfight-

Kennon and Lightning Spark expect to roll out the first iteration of cooling vests for the Air Force before summer 2023.



U.S. Air Force photos by Airman 1st Class Devlin Bishop U.S. Air Force Col. Clarence McRae, 355th Maintenance Group commander, watches as Mark Weitz, vice president of Strategic Development at Kennon Products, explains the inner workings of a cooling vest prototype during a proof-of-concept presentation at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz., Dec. 7, 2022. The cooling vest uses dry ice to cool alcohol within a closed-circuit pump system, which is then pumped through the interior of the vest to cool down the wearer's core.



Mark Weitz, vice president of Strategic Development at Kennon Products, explains how a cooling vest prototype works during a proof-of-concept presentation at the 355th Wing innovation office.

### Suicide crisis benefit expansion

WASHINGTON – As of Jan. 17, Veterans in acute suicidal crisis can go to any VA or non-VA health care facility for emergency health care at no cost — including inpatient or crisis residential care for up to 30 days and outpatient care for up to 90 days. Veterans do not need to be enrolled in the VA system to use this benefit.

This expansion of care will help prevent Veteran suicide by guaranteeing no cost, world-class care to Veterans in times of crisis. It will also increase access to acute suicide care for up to 9 million Veterans who are not currently enrolled in VA.

Business Manager ....

Designer

Preventing Veteran suicide is VA's top clinical priority and a top priority of the Biden-Harris Administration. This effort is a key part of VA's 10-year National Strategy for Preventing Veteran Suicide and the Biden-Harris administration's plan for Reducing Military and Veteran Suicide. In September, VA released the 2022 National Veteran Suicide Prevention Annual Report, which showed that Veteran suicides decreased in 2020 for the second year in a row, and that fewer Veterans died by suicide in 2020 than in any year since 2006.

....Lisa Kinison

...KC Rawley

..Sandi Bueltel

..Tinna Sellie

"Veterans in suicidal crisis can now receive the free, world-class emergency health care they deserve — no matter where they need it, when they need it, or whether they're enrolled in VA care," said VA Secretary for Veterans Affairs Denis McDonough. "This expansion of care will save Veterans' lives, and there's nothing more important than that."

VA has submitted an interim final rule to the federal register to establish this authority under section 201 of the Veterans Comprehensive Prevention,

See SUICIDE, Page 8



# Desert Lightning News Staff Publisher Paul Kinison

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website, the Armed Forces Information Service, Air Force News Service, Air Combat Command, staff writers and other sources. All advertising is handled by Aerotech News and Review. For business advertising, call 877-247-9288 or email Sandi Bueltel at sbueltel@aerotechnews.com.

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### Prevent teen dating violence with awareness, empowerment

#### By SHARON KOZAK

Prevention Coordination Specialist

#### **Dating Challenges**

While dating can be a way for youth to learn vital relationship skills such as communication, trust, honesty, and compromise, it can also bring forth many challenges. Teen dating violence is the sexual, physical, psychological, and emotional abuse within an adolescent dating relationship.

A youthful relationship consisting of the following qualities may be dangerous:

•Dating at an early age. More susceptible than older adolescents to peer pressure, it is common for younger adolescents to be easily influenced by their peers. Peers are a key component in influencing adolescent decisions about risky behaviors like having sex.

- Dating an older partner. Before an adolescent is developmentally or emotionally ready, some older partners may push the younger partner to have sex, pressuring the younger one into undergoing the act. The age difference can carry legal consequences when brought to authorities. An adolescent has many stages of learning, and not being fully educated on the repercussions of having sex, there is a higher risk of pregnancy or contracting a Sexually Transmitted Disease.
- Having unrealistic expectations. There is often a false sense of reality in youth relationships. Their expectations may force progress, causing an unhealthy connection. Often, the more relationships

advance differently than expected, the more adolescents experience poor mental health and overall misperception of their worth.

#### Signs of Abuse

Teens who are abuse victims are more likely to develop low self-esteem, issues of depression and anxiety, and turn to drugs and alcohol for an escape. The best way to help teens who are victims of emotional abuse is to understand what the signs look

Signs of emotional abuse in teen dating relationships include:

- Teens withdrawn from normal activities of interest.
- · Random outbursts or mood swings.

See DATING, Page 5



**Courtesy graphics** 

February, which contains Valentine's Day, is also Teen Dating Violence Prevention Month. It is important to create safe spaces where abuse in a relationship is not tolerated, addressing the signs, and modeling loving relationships.





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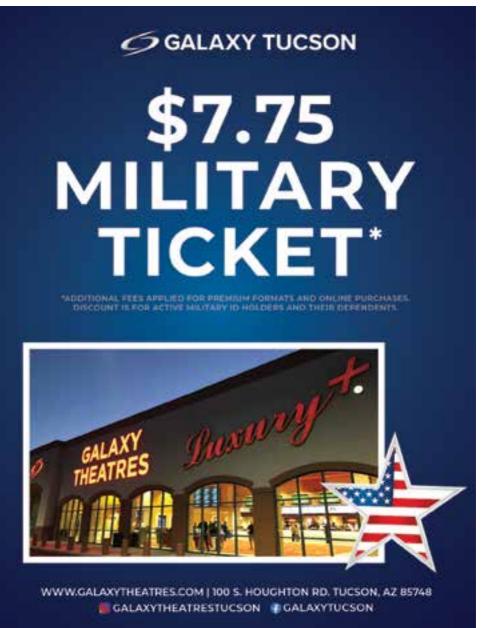
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#### (from Page 4)

5

# Free tax return preparation

By DAVIS-MONTHAN AFB (DMAFB)

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Office

**DAVIS-MONTHAN AIR FORCE BASE, Ariz.**The Davis-Monthan AFB (DMAFB) Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Office is gearing up for the next tax season.

DMAFB VITA volunteers are trained and certified by the IRS to prepare returns for our military community. This is a free service for any of the following personnel: Active Duty, dependents (with valid military ID), National Guard, Reserve, Public Health Service, NOAA and Military Retiree with valid ID and access to the base. We cannot assist Veterans who have base access using their Veterans Health Identification card.

The appointment line is open 8:45 a.m.-3 p.m., and appointments began Jan. 23. Walk-ins are accepted between 8:45 a.m.-noon, on a limited basis, as long as you have all your tax documents in hand when you walk in the door. (Dates subject to change based upon IRS schedule for accepting tax returns)

The following categories for walk-ins will be accepted through Feb. 10:

- $\bullet$  Active Duty with W-2 only for member/spouse (no dependents on return); max of two W-2's for the return
- Retirees with 1099R and SSA statements only for retiree/spouse; max two 1099R's for the return
- Dependent with just one W-2

From Feb. 13 through the rest of the tax season, only the first category above will be accepted as a walk-in.

#### Key paperwork to bring to your appointment is:

- Government / Military ID for Taxpayer and Spouse (not required for dependents unless we are doing a return for them)
- Social Security Number (SSN) Cards for everyone who is listed on the return MANDATORY PER THE IRS

Preparers are required by the IRS to verify SSN Cards for each person listed on a return each year even if we have prepared your return previously. A photocopy or picture on your phone is acceptable.

Accepted alternatives: Military ID Card w/ SSN on it or Social Security Benefits Statement

NOTE: To request a replacement SSN Card go to the Social Security Administration website at SSA.GOV or contact them at the 1-800-772-1213. The local office is available to take calls 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday-Friday. They are located at: 3808 N 1st Ave

- Last year's Federal and State Tax Returns
- All Tax Forms (W-2s, 1099's, 1098's, etc)
- Checking/Savings Account Information (Institution, Routing # and Account #) A blank check has this information; do not bring a deposit slip as the routing number on the deposit slip is different.

To better prepare for your appointment, we recommend you stop by the office a few days before your scheduled appointment to pick-up the Interview/Intake Sheet to fill out before your appointment. This will also help you ensure you have all the documentation you need for your appointment.

To make an appointment, call 520-228-3489.

#### • Expressing immense fear of upsetting their partner.

- Reluctance to engage in activities without their partner, for fear of retribution.
- Rather low self-esteem and self-worth.
- Drug and alcohol use.

DATING

• Self-harming and/or suicidal behaviors.

#### Consequences

Many teens are jumping into very intimate relationships, while still learning about the compromise, patience, communication, and trust required to maintain a balanced relationship, which can be confusing for young adults. Relationships are more likely to fail when partners are young and immature. Unfortunately, this results in a surplus of teens experiencing teen dating violence in romantic relationships. Each year, 1.5 million high school students nationwide experience physical abuse from a dating partner in a single year. On average, nearly 20 people per minute are physically abused by an intimate partner in the United States. In one year, this equates to more than 10 million women and men.

#### Dating Violence Prevention

Teen dating violence can be prevented, especially when teens are empowered through family, friends, and other (including teachers, coaches, mentors, and youth group leaders) who exemplify the importance of a healthy relationship. It is important to create safe spaces where abuse in a relationship is not tolerated. Send the message that abuse will not be accepted in any form. Do not be afraid to reach out to those you can confide in. Preventing future cases of abuse starts with addressing it in the first place.

If you feel you or a loved one is in an abusive relationship and needs help, contact the Teen Dating Abuse Helpline, a 24-hour/365 days national web-based and toll-free telephone helpline at 866-331-9474 or email loveisrespect.org.



# GOLISION OVER AND OUT

#### By Airman 1st Class PAIGE WELDON

355th Wing Public Affairs

**DAVIS-MONTHAN AIR FORCE BASE, Ariz.**— The HH-60G Pave Hawk, recognized by its iconic mustache, has been the premier rescue aircraft at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base for almost two decades.

But the U.S. Air Force began phasing out the Pave Hawk in 2022 and replacing them with a newer helicopter, the HH-60W Jolly Green II. The new fleet of Jolly Greens is set to be fully integrated at the 55th RQS by 2024.

Airmen with the 55th RQS deployed with three Pave Hawks in early 2022 and returned in October of the same year. While on their final deployment at an undisclosed location, the Pave Hawks aided in missions that included personnel recovery, casualty evacuation and over 2,400 hours of on-call support to joint and coalition forces. These aircraft have supported countless rescue objectives during their time in service, including search and rescue in active combat zones, local civil search and rescue missions, supporting the launch of NASA space flights and much more.

"The golf (HH-60G Pave Hawk) has been essential to ensuring success of the Air Force's worldwide personnel recovery mission during their time here at DM," said U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Paul Sheehey, 55th RQS director of operations. "Countless people across the globe have survived their worst day because of these aircraft and the highly skilled 55th aircrew who operate them."

"While everyone at the 55th is sad to see the golf models go, we are excited about the transition to the whiskey model," Sheehey said. "The newer HH-60 platform should increase aircraft availability and bring newer technology to bear that our aviators can leverage to guarantee the solemn promise that Air Force combat search and rescue affords our nation into the future."

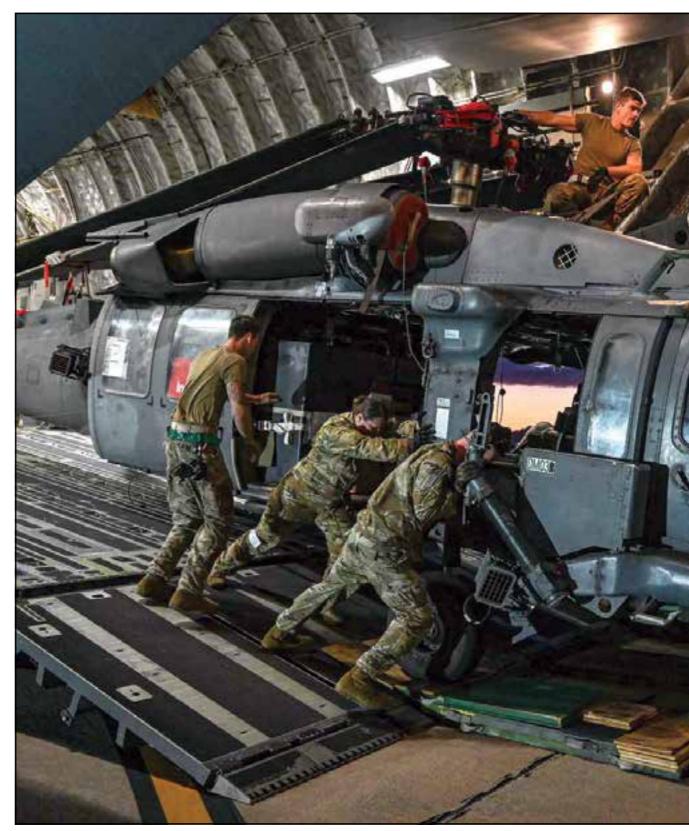
In 2003, the 55th Rescue Squadron was assigned to DM, which brought the Pave Hawks with them. These aircraft have been used across the globe during deployments, as well as humanitarian rescues in areas of the United States devastated by natural disasters ever since.

"Entering service in 1982, the Pave Hawks have been used for the rescue mission set in nearly every US military conflict since 1989," said George Tinseth, 355th Wing historian. "The Pave Hawks from the 55th RQS and 66th RQSs have directly participated in saving thousands of lives."

Pave Hawks are a highly modified version of the U.S. Army HH-60 Black Hawk utility helicopter. The integration of multiple communication system upgrades, automatic flight controls, in-flight refueling, all weather flight regime, and the ability to employ multiple insertion and extractions have set the Pave Hawk apart from its Army counterparts.

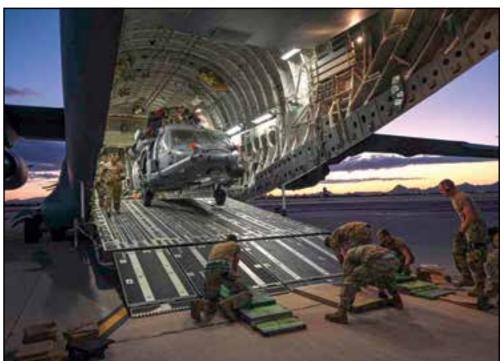
Active-duty, Reserve and Air National Guard units have used Pave Hawks in response to countless natural disasters across the United States. In 2005, after Hurricane Katrina, Pave Hawks from across the country aided in the rescue and recovery efforts of those affected by the tropical storm. The helicopters flew non-stop for nearly a month and are credited with saving over 4,000 people across multiple states.

The Air Force rescue community and those whose lives were saved will never forget the legacy of the HH-60G Pave Hawk because of the valiant actions of the Airmen at DM who work tirelessly to ensure no one's worst day is their last day.















U.S. Air Force photos by Airman 1st Class Paige Weldon Airmen unload an HH-60G Pave Hawk from a C-17 Globemaster III assigned to Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington, at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Arizona, Oct. 17, 2022. The first of three HH-60G Pave Hawks assigned to the 55th Rescue Squadron returned from a deployment to an undisclosed location on the Globemaster. This was the final deployment that Davis-Monthan used Pave Hawks.

#### **DOD** rescinds vaccination mandate

#### By SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE

**Public Affairs** 

ARLINGTON, Va. (AFNS) — On Jan. 10, Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III rescinded the Aug. 24, 2021, memorandum mandating that members of the Armed Forces under Department of Defense authority be vaccinated against COVID-19, and the memorandum of Nov. 30, 2021, pertaining

to the vaccination of National Guard and Reserve personnel. This rescission requirement was established by the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023.

The health and readiness of the Force are crucial to the Department's ability to defend our nation. Austin continues to encourage all service members, civilian employees, and contractor personnel to get vaccinated and boosted against COVID-19 to ensure Total Force readiness.

#### SUICIDE \_\_\_\_\_(from Page 3)

Access to Care, and Treatment (COMPACT) Act of 2020. The final policy, which took effect on Jan. 17, will allow VA to:

- Provide, pay for, or reimburse for treatment of eligible individuals' emergency suicide care, transportation costs, and follow-up care at a VA or non-VA facility for up to 30 days of inpatient care and 90 days of outpatient care.
- Make appropriate referrals for care following the period of emergency suicide care.
- Determine eligibility for other VA services and benefits.
- Refer eligible individuals for appropriate VA programs and benefits following the pe-

riod of emergency suicide care.

Eligible individuals, regardless of VA enrollment status, are:

- Veterans who were discharged or released from active duty after more than 24 months of active service under conditions other than dishonorable.
- Former members of the armed forces, including reserve service members, who served more than 100 days under a combat exclusion or in support of a contingency operation either directly or by operating an unmanned aerial vehicle from another location who were discharged under conditions other than dishonorable.
- Former members of the armed forces who were the victim of a physical assault of

a sexual nature, a battery of a sexual nature, or sexual harassment while serving in the armed forces.

Over the past year, VA has announced or continued several additional efforts to end Veteran suicide, including establishing 988 (then press 1) as a way for Veterans to quickly connect with caring, qualified crisis support 24/7; proposing a new rule that would reduce or eliminate copayments for Veterans at risk of suicide; conducting an ongoing public outreach effort on firearm suicide prevention and lethal means safety; and leveraging a national Veteran suicide prevention awareness campaign, "Don't Wait. Reach

#### **CHPS recognizes civilian ambassadors**

#### By 355th WING

**Public Affairs** 

**DAVIS MONTHAN AIR FORCE BASE, Ariz.** — CHPS formally recognized five Davis-Monthan CHPS ambassadors on Jan. 4, 2023 with awards for 2022 Outstanding points of contact and coining by U.S. Air Force Col. Scott Mills, 355th Wing commander.

The Air Force Civilian Health Promotion Services (CHPS), established in 2006, at Air Force Material Command installations, is now available at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base. As a mobile employee wellness program, CHPS offers health and wellness screenings, health education, wellness campaigns, a comprehensive wellness portal, and one-on-one consultations, to federal civilians.

As with any new program launch, the dedicated individuals involved in the implementation process are essential for success. CHPS appreciates the individuals who made the CHPS introduction to Davis-Monthan possible by providing resources, time, contacts, and guidance without hesitation.

These individuals aided CHPS promotion through spreading awareness, coordinating events, and being health and wellness advocates within their workspace. Beginning a program from the ground up is a big undertaking, setting up a new office space and establishing connectivity were imperative to the program launch and were made possible through our POCs.

#### **Recipients:**

Lt. Col. Oneeka Maynard (Award accepted by Lt Centeno on her behalf)

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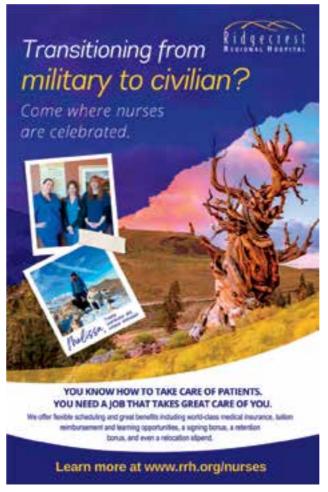
\*To contact Davis-Monthan CHPS to learn more about or schedule services, email chpssupport@us.af.mil or call 520-228-5123.



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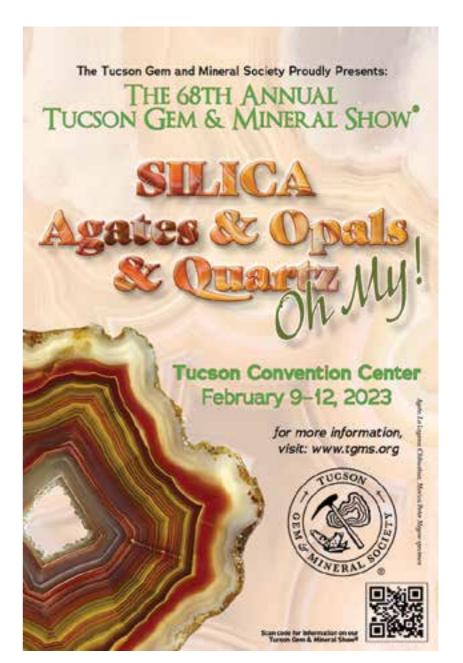
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### Wing Historian tracks changes, achievements

By Senior Airman WILLIAM TURNBULL

355th Wing Public Affairs

DAVIS-MONTHAN AIR FORCE BASE, Ariz. — Historians are subject matter experts or writers of particular or specific time periods—military historians record and manage historical events, providing references and combat documentation for future generations of the U.S. military.

Military historians were established during World War II to accurately record the outcomes of battles and unit history. Modern day historians will also deploy with a unit to document their interactions in real-time.

"Gen. Henry Arnold instituted a program in 1942 where service members with historian backgrounds were gathered and distributed across the European and Pacific Theaters," said George Tinseth, 355th Wing historian. "These historians would track campaigns, aerial credits and changes in unit designation among several other things."

Once something is recorded, it is then archived and then sent to the major command as well as to the Air Force Historical Research Agency (AFHRA) for additional archiving. Any unit personnel may request historical documentation of their unit's



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman William Turnbull

achievements or changes by contacting their installation's historian.

"What we do is record real-time history," Tinseth said. "We'll document all sorts of things. From command changes, operations, changes in doctrine, maintenance, and anything else the wing does."

Historians and public affairs work handin-hand to document and archive any historical event which takes place at the installation level and beyond.

"Our shop works frequently with the historian because we have a lot to gain from each other," said U.S. Air Force Staff

Sgt. Jacob Stephens, 355th Wing Public Affairs noncommissioned officer in charge of command information. "Anytime we need information on the history of the base, wing or any squadron here we know we can reach out to Mr. Tinseth and get those details, and vice-versa when we cover an important event, we archive it ourselves and share our documentation with him." Archiving events is important not only

for historical accuracy, but as a reference for future issues that may arise to understand what works and what doesn't.

#### NOTICE

On Dec. 24, 2022, Davis-Monthan Air Force Base lost a true wingman when U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Mark Anthony Smith passed away. Anyone who may have a claim of indebtedness to (his/ her) estate may contact the Summary Courts Officer (SCO) U.S. Air Force 1st Lt. Andrew Perez, 914-787-0187.

On Nov. 21, 2022, the Davis-Monthan team lost a friend and teammate, U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Andrew Malmgren. Anyone who may have a claim of indebtedness to his estate may contact the Summary Courts Officer, U.S. Air Force 1st Lt. Ryan Huck, at 520-228-9625.

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zona, Jan. 24,

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established

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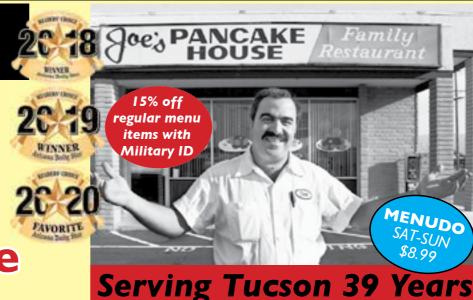
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