

## 40th AS, 1st AD conduct Operation Night King exercise

by Senior Airman Mercedes Porter  
Dyess AFB, Texas

The 40th Airlift Squadron from Dyess AFB, Texas, and 1st Armored Division from Fort Bliss, Texas, conducted Operation Night King at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., March 26, 2023.

"The exercise scenario was a battalion of Abrams were in combat for a few days and were in need of a refuel and resupply," said Capt. Nathaniel Roberts, 40th AS chief of tactics. "The idea is to take off and land at an un-

conventional landing zone, like a road or dried lakebed."

Joint exercises allow Army and Air Force units to strengthen communication tactics across branches while enhancing familiarization with one another's mission sets.

"During Operation Night King, we refueled eight M1A2 Abrams tanks from the 1st Armored Division in conjunction with the Green Flag-West exercise and National Training Center," said Roberts. "We were able to simultaneously fuel two tanks at a



M1A2 Abrams tanks get refueled from a C-130J Super Hercules in the California desert during Operation Night King March 26, 2023. The 40th Airlift Squadron landed at a dry lakebed during the exercise to refuel eight M1A2 Abrams tanks, two at a time, while using their Emergency Response Refueling Equipment Kit.



Air Force photographs by Senior Airman Mercedes Porter

Staff Sgt. Chris Diggs-Goff, 40th Airlift Squadron loadmaster, wraps up a fuel hose during Operation Night King in the California desert March 26, 2023.

time with our engines running using the Robinson fuel kit within one hour while also simulating resupplying the division."

This new process will aid in refueling a higher number of M1A2 Abrams tanks faster while allowing multiple actions within a mission to be conducted at once. The C-130J aircrew can download supplies and take on wounded personnel simultaneously as the refuel occurs.

The Night King exercise demonstrated the 317th Airlift Wing's ability to work with joint forces to implement Agile Combat Employment capabilities to increase the Department of Defense's ability to generate combat power. The ability to fuel M1A2 tanks while delivering supplies and personnel within threat timeliness in a joint all-domain operation enables the Air Force and Army to maneuver efficiently around threats in a more innovative way.

"The 317th Airlift Wing has been implementing ACE in our exercises, such as Operation Night King, to hone in on our multi-capable Airmen concepts and align ACE concepts to complicate the enemy's targeting pro-

———— See **EXERCISE**, on Page 2



# Sexual violence prevention is everyone's responsibility

by Simone Hudson  
Whiteman AFB, Mo.

Anyone who has ever has to sit through annual sexual assault prevention training has likely heard that violence is preventable.

That may be hard for some to believe, given that according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention over half of women and nearly one in three men have experienced sexual violence in their lifetime.

Each of us plays a role in bringing an end to sexual violence and helping each of our wingmen live up to their full potential in a safe and healthy environment.

Sexual violence is not just a woman's issue, but a societal issue. As Airmen, we should be promoting

social norms surrounding sexual violence prevention.

So, how do we get after it?

We must first believe that everyone is worthy of dignity and respect. This starts with us and spreads to others via our relationships, friendships, community, and to society. We can create a ripple effect that shows how we should be treated and what we will accept from others.

We must then learn and teach the skills to prevent sexual violence. When we hone our emotional intelligence and learn healthy relationship skills, we empower ourselves and others. This allows our voice to be heard and instill a sense of community responsibility and a duty to protect our wingman.

One key to violence prevention is creating protective environments, because what we allow will continue. We

should be applying the things we learn in training to our workplace, our social circles, and our home lives. When we create those protective environments, we create a world where people feel safe and victims feel supported.

"Bystander intervention" is more than just a buzzword used in Air Force training. It is taught in schools and colleges across the United States. I believe intervening when we see something wrong is just being an honorable member of society. The earlier we learn and apply the bystander approach, the more successful we will be at preventing violence.

Every day, we as a community and society can prevent sexual violence through education and intervention. We can move closer to eradicating sexual assault by treating others with dignity and respect, speaking up, and speaking out.

**EXERCISE**, from Page 1 —

cess and create a space of flexibility for our friendly forces," said Col. Thomas Lankford, 317th AW commander. "This exercise allowed us to use a new and innovative process to expedite our

joint forces' capabilities to continue the fight and advance on enemy lines. Our Hazard Airmen did a phenomenal job of not only working with our Army partners but also implementing ACE tactics in a simulated deployed location on a moment's notice."



Air Force photographs by Senior Airman Mercedes Porter

U.S. Air Force pilots from the 40th Airlift Squadron prepare to take off from Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., during Operation Night King March 26, 2023. The 40th AS landed at a dry lakebed during the exercise to refuel eight M1A2 Abrams tanks, two at a time, while using their Emergency Response Refueling Equipment Kit. Not only will this process aid in refueling a higher number of M1A2 tanks faster, but it also allows for multiple actions within a mission to be made at once. The C-130J aircrew will be able to download supplies and take on the wounded simultaneously as the refuel occurs, decreasing the operation times needed and allowing joint forces to get back into the fight at a rapid pace.



Soldiers from the 1st Armored Division park a M1A2 Abrams tank next to a C-130J Super Hercules in the California desert during Operation Night King March 26, 2023.

LEFT: Tech. Sgt. Tristan Geray, 40th Airlift Squadron loadmaster, wraps up a fuel hose during Operation Night King in the California desert March 26, 2023.



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# Using Exercise Black Flag to validate Tactical C2 capabilities for ground, air forces

by 1st Lt. Lindsey Heflin  
Eglin AFB, Fla.

The 422nd Test and Evaluation Squadron Command and Control Division at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., built upon their previous work by expanding the use of a mobile C2 concept to include simultaneous operations from an airborne C-17 and a Mobile Tactical C2 vehicle during exercise Black Flag 23-1 in late February, 2023.

The 422nd TES C2 Division worked in conjunction with the 62nd Airlift Wing and Joint Communication Support Element to execute synchronized Tactical C2 operations between a ground team operating “on the move” and an air team on board a C-17 during the missions.

The ground team was integrated with Tactical Air Control Party and Pararescue Jumper forces to execute non-traditional Reconnaissance

and Personnel Recovery operations while the air team on the C-17 employed Weapons Directors and an Air Battle Manager, typically found in a ground-based Control and Reporting Center or Airborne Warning and Control System, to manage the air war with multiple Joint fighter aircraft.

“The current entities that perform these responsibilities were born from a Cold War mindset and use archaic technology, resulting in large footprints of people and equipment that are more of a liability than a force multiplier,” said Maj. Paden Allen, 422nd TES C2 Division commander. “We’re testing options to provide a Combatant Commander increased maneuver flexibility and communications resiliency without sacrificing Command and Control capabilities.”

Access to real-time data and resources is critical to making timely and accurate decisions



Air Force photographs by Airman 1st Class Josey Blades

Staff Sgt. Hannah Fisk, left and Tech. Sgt. Megan Wolfe, Weapons Directors with the 422nd Test and Evaluation Squadron, Command and Control (C2) Division, operate inside the cockpit of a C-17 Globemaster III during Black Flag 23-1 at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., Feb. 23, 2023. This operation was accomplished by the combined effort between the C2 teams both on the ground and on the C-17 as they shared data real time to facilitate live operations.

in combat. As the force continues advancing Agile Combat Employment training and tactics development, the ability to perform Tactical C2 in any environment is paramount to the success of the mission.

In the near term, Allen and his team are focusing on ensuring they capture information gained from this test event and share the results with the U.S. Air Force C2 community as well as Joint and Coalition partners. Future experimen-

tation will continue to focus on the ability to resiliently communicate and synchronize effects between aircraft and other friendly forces as well as inform the next generation of Tactical C2 and Battle Management.

“We’re already seeing a few changes occur in these lines of effort, all moving in the direction of multiple SecAF Operational Imperatives,” said Allen. “Our efforts inform what can be done to mitigate the delay

between retiring legacy airborne C2 and the arrival of the next generation platforms.”

This test event provided a unique opportunity to explore Air Combat Command and Air Mobility Command integration in an environment that yields increased capability for both major commands. The goal is to continue expanding that relationship and improve on what the team learned and demonstrated during Black Flag 23-1.



The 422nd Test and Evaluation Squadron Command and Control Division integrated with Tactical Air Control Party and Pararescue Jumper forces to execute non-traditional Reconnaissance and Personnel Recovery operations during Black Flag 23-1 at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., Feb. 23, 2023. The air team on the C-17 employed Weapons Directors and an Air Battle Manager, typically found in a ground-based Control and Reporting Center or Airborne Warning and Control System, to manage the air war with multiple Joint fighter aircraft.



U.S. Air Force and Army service members prepare for the Command and Control Element during Black Flag 23-1 at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., Feb. 23, 2023. Airmen and Soldiers executed mission sets that demonstrated the ability to provide integral communication through accessing Department of Defense computer networks, employing multiple tactical data links, and communicating with aircraft.



# Creech welcomes Polish delegation

by Senior Airman Kristal Munguia  
Creech AFB, Nev.

The 432nd Wing/432nd Air Expeditionary Wing Airmen hosted a Polish delegation visit to Creech Air Force Base, Nev., March 30, 2023, to provide insight into remotely piloted aircraft infrastructure requirements.

The Polish delegation met with Airmen to learn about RPA airfield and maintenance facilities, communications infrastructure, as well

as the base's munitions storage area, showcasing how they enable and support the mission.

"It was an honor hosting our visitors from Poland," said Col. Eric Schmidt, 432nd Wing/432nd Air Expeditionary Wing commander. "This visit served as an opportunity to improve our interoperability and our shared commitment to deter emerging threats and maintain operational capability."

——— See **DELEGATION**, on Page 7



Maj. Keil, 432nd Security Forces Squadron commander, gives a brief on the base's front gate security measures to Poland's Logistics Support and Infrastructure Program Office at Creech Air Force Base, Nev., March 30, 2023.



Air Force photographs by Senior Airman Kristal Munguia

U.S. Air Force Airmen assigned to the 432nd Aircraft Communications Maintenance Squadron give a brief on C-Band launch and recovery element (LRE) used during MQ-9 operations to Poland's Logistics Support and Infrastructure Program Office at Creech Air Force Base, Nev., March 30, 2023. The visit bolstered NATO's Eastern Flank by exchanging knowledge between both nations to expand remotely piloted aircraft airpower in Poland.

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# 53rd Wing completes operational testing of B-1B Sustainment Block-18 software

by 1st Lt. Lindsey Heflin  
Eglin AFB, Fla.

The 337th Test and Evaluation Squadron completed the Field Development Evaluation of Sustainment Block-18, a major software block upgrade providing new capabilities and improvements to the B-1B Lancer avionics suite, in late March, 2023, at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev.

This sustainment block upgrade is the largest in both cost and scope since the Integrated Battle Station (IBS) upgrade that occurred in 2014. The SB-18 upgrade includes updates to the Avionics Flight Software, Central Integrated Test System, Electrical Multiplexing System, Graphics Controller, Tactical Display Subsystem, and other requirements.

SB-18's simplified sensor targeting will enable a crew to target emerging targets of opportunity more expeditiously, bring legacy flight software functionality to the IBS interface, and improve the B-1's organic multi-target capability. It will also provide a more stable and functional storage capability for mission data and improve the Defensive Avionics Suite's processing and integration into the IBS framework.

"During FDE we go beyond the basic functionality testing and evaluate whether the new functions integrate to help or hinder operational execution of the aircraft throughout its tasked mission sets," said Maj. Joseph Wilkinson, 337th TES SB-18 Rated Project Officer. "We tested the software in a variety of mission sets



Air Force photographs by Senior Airman Shannon Hall

Three U.S. Air Force B-1B Lancers taxi down the runway at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev. Airmen assigned to the 337th Test and Evaluation Squadron spent time at Nellis AFB testing new software for Sustainment Block 17.

with multiple evaluation areas to ensure the systems performed in realistic employment scenarios."

The next step will be to train and equip the rest of the B-1B community to use the new software, which will include finalizing academics and teaching them to the combat units. In the near term, the 337th TES began testing the first iteration of a new agile software construct known as Agile Software Replacement-19, which will provide more rapid upgrade fielding timelines to outfit the combat units with the most up-to-date and advanced systems to meet combatant commander

needs. It will also streamline the acquisitions timeline to integrate new and emerging technologies into the weapons system, enabling the B-1B to provide the largest conventional payload and survive threats across all mission requirements.

The FDE was led by a collaborative effort between the 337th TES, and Air Force Global Strike Command's 7th Bomb Wing, 77th Weapons Squadron and 345th Bomb Squadron. This integration was crucial for mission success and provided diverse perspectives on the operational impacts of the software changes.

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# Nellis AFB Visits Duane D. Keller Middle School



Air Force photographs by Senior Airman Megan Estrada

Senior Master Sgt. Ruben Trejo Sanchez, 57th Maintenance Group weapons standardization superintendent, makes opening remarks during a Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) event on April 12, 2023 at Duane D. Keller Middle School in Las Vegas, Nev. The STEM event was part of the Project Quesada an initiative designed to inform, influence and inspire future Air Force leaders.



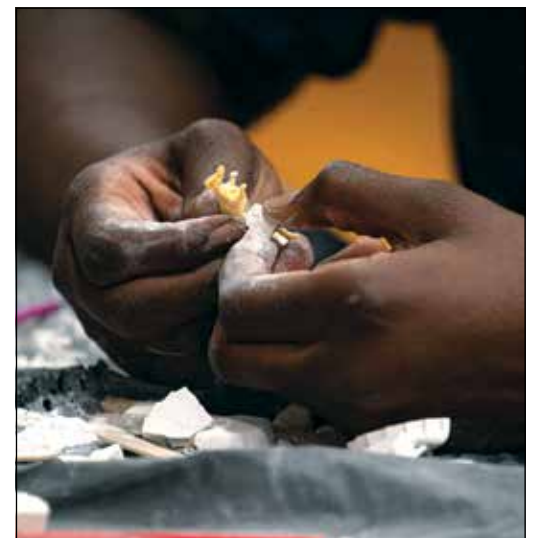
An Airman operates a robot during a Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) event at Duane D. Keller Middle School in Las Vegas, Nev., April 12, 2023. The STEM event was part of Project Quesada, an initiative to foster youth engagement by partnering with minority serving institutions and underrepresented groups to highlight the Air Force's education and career opportunities.



A teacher assists a student playing on a flight simulator during a Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) event at Duane D. Keller Middle School on April 12, 2023 in Las Vegas, Nev. The event consisted of a variety of STEM demonstrations including fossil digging, working with robots and a hands-on water surface tension display.



Maj. Mark Skinner, left, and Maj. Margot Wolfersberger, 328th Weapons Squadron instructors, inform students on global surveillance during a Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) event at Duane D. Keller Middle School in Las Vegas, Nev., April 12, 2023. The STEM event was part of Project Quesada.



A student excavates a fossil during a Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) event at Duane D. Keller Middle School in Las Vegas, Nev., April 12, 2023.



# USAF releases abbreviated accident report for MQ-9A crash in Nevada

On April 21, 2023, the U.S. Air Force's Air Combat Command released an Abbreviated Accident Investigation Board Report following an MQ-9A Reaper crash that occurred Sept. 28, 2022 at Creech Air Force Base, Nev.

Both the aircraft and crew were assigned to the 432nd Wing's 489th Attack Squadron at Creech. The mishap resulted in no damage to civilian property, nor injuries or fatalities. The aircraft, valued at approximately \$16.6 million, was destroyed.

A Launch and Recovery Element, comprised of the pilot, sensor operator and an instructor pilot and instructor sensor operator, was conducting training when the accident happened.

While on approach for a touch-and-go landing, the pilot was using the Multi-Spectral Targeting System for primary visual cues. When nearing the ground, the MTS

slewed rapidly downward from its original forward-looking position. The pilot initiated a go-around and increased the pitch angle, but became disoriented from the un-commanded MTS movement and incorrectly positioned the throttle to flight idle.

While the aircraft began to climb, the airspeed and positive climb rate bled off due to lack of thrust. Although the instructor pilot quickly identified the idle thrust and called out for a correction to throttle, the MQ-9A had already entered a stall and began to descend, resulting in the aircraft impacting the runway. Due to the force of impact, the right main landing gear failed, and the aircraft entered a decelerating spin on the runway. When the aircraft came to a stop, it caught fire and was destroyed.

The AAIB president found the mishap occurred due to the pilot

reducing the throttle to idle, instead of pushing forward to full throttle, while executing a low-altitude go-around procedure.

Furthermore, the AAIB president determined the following factors substantially contributed to the mishap: the MTS failure at a critical phase of flight caused disorientation and distraction for all four crewmembers; the pilot did not reference the sensor operator's heads-up display to regain visual references and confirm the aircraft was not flying in an unusual attitude; and the instructor pilot did not prioritize ensuring go-around procedures were properly performed over correcting video display to the pilot.

The AAIB report can be viewed here [https://www.afag.af.mil/Portals/77/AIB-Reports/2022/28%20Sept%2022%20ACC%20MQ-9%20432%20WG%20Creech%20AAIB%20Report.pdf]

## DELEGATION, from Page 4

The visit bolstered NATO's Eastern Flank by preparing Poland for future RPA operations with the knowledge they've obtained during this visit. As a crucial strategic U.S. Ally in Central Europe, exchanging information to expand RPA airpower strengthens regional security.

"This is a very unique base," said Polish Brig. Gen. Dariusz Mendrala, NATO Security Investment Program director. "This visit has been very informative for NATO's mission in safeguarding our Allies' freedom and security."

The visit was hosted in support of the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement, enacted on August 15, 2020. Within EDCA, two new programs were implemented — Poland Provided Infrastructure and Poland Provided Logistics Support.

The PPI program includes 113 military construction projects at 11 Agreed Facilities Areas across Poland to support interoperability and increase the capability of forces operating in Poland.

Under the PPLS program, Poland provides logistical support for U.S. forces at AFA locations. This support includes facility maintenance, fuel cost sharing, food service, lodging, storage, fire and emergency services, medical response, and telecommunications infrastructure services.

"Poland's commitment to the U.S. forces and RPA airpower expansion in Poland strengthens the partnership and cooperation between the U.S. and Poland, yielding security benefits for both nations in the years to come," said Schmidt.

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# NO POWER, N

## preparing for the UNEXPECTED

by Airman 1st Class Ariel O'Shea

Creech AFB, Nev.

As part of a Department of the Air Force initiative to ensure base operations remain smooth despite a power outage, an Energy Resilience Readiness Exercise (ERRE) took place at Creech Air Force Base, Nev., April 5, 2023.

An ERRE verifies backup generator preparedness and confirms the continued high performance of energy, water and communication capability during a power outage. The exercise intentionally cuts incoming commercial power for more than eight hours. The affected base is then expected to continue operations as it would in the event of an unexpected outage.

"The national security strategy talks about the People's Republic of China being our primary pacing challenge, and they have the capabilities for a cyber or kinetic attack," said Charlie Rimbach, Headquarters Air Force A4C ERRE co-lead. "Because of the mission set and its high value to the Department of Defense, Creech is one of the most critical facilities that protect the homeland."

There are four phases of execution in an ERRE: design, develop, conduct and evaluate. The date for the third phase was deliberately kept secret—base personnel were not aware that it was happening until they arrived at work.

"If everybody knew that there was going to be a power outage on a specific day, there could be some wargaming," Rimbach said. "Units could preplan things and practice how they would respond to the situation in advance. That's not what we want, because it wouldn't give us accurate information. This is not a pass-fail situation. We are gathering data."

In this age of reliance on technology, with Creech relying mainly on communications equipment to pilot aircraft remotely, the ERRE confirmed that cutting commercial power doesn't halt the mission.

"Over the last few years, the 432nd Support Squadron has worked with various Creech AFB mission partners, Department of Defense agencies and commercial utility providers to ensure our installation is resilient to as many infrastructure threats as possible," said Lt. Col. Eric Kellogg, 432nd Support Squadron commander.

With the help of those agencies, he said, Creech has been retrofitted with redundant power and HVAC technologies, communications network paths have been increased, and preventative maintenance actions have been adjusted to exceed Air Force standards. Off base, commercial utility providers have worked to harden their transmission lines and continue to increase redundancies to their delivery methods to the base.

"All of these efforts are to ensure the risk to mission impact from any outage is mitigated as best as possible," said Kellogg. "The ERRE was another great test of the resiliency efforts implemented across Creech to ensure we can continue to weather any issue."

Creech is one of only five Air Force bases that will conduct an ERRE for Fiscal Year 2023. The sixth will be at a joint base. Other branches of the military will also have ERREs, as mandated by the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021. The NDAA calls for each branch to schedule and execute ERREs through Fiscal Year 2027 as part of a total force initiative.



Staff Sgt. Tyler, left, and Staff Sgt. Cameron, right, are members of the Maintenance Squadron. They are working on the Maintenance Operations Training Flight, which provides instructors, attachable portable aircraft control station training control support of the new sensor communications sensor launch and recovery and automatic takeoff and landing capabilities at Creech Air Force Base. The exercise started March 28, 2023. PACS maintenance Airman start MQ-9 reaper transfer control to A launch.



# NO PROBLEM:



Air Force photographs by Senior Airman Kristal Munguia

Maj. Keil, 432nd Security Forces Squadron commander, gives a brief on the base's front gate security measures to Poland's Logistics Support and Infrastructure Program Office at Creech Air Force Base, Nev., March 30, 2023. The visit bolstered NATO's Eastern Flank by exchanging knowledge between both nations to expand remotely piloted aircraft airpower in Poland.

LEFT: Airman assigned to the 432nd Security Forces Squadron, checks IDs at a security checkpoint during an energy resilience readiness exercise (ERRE) at Creech Air Force Base, Nev., April 4, 2023. ERREs are part of a Department of the Air Force initiative to ensure base operations remain smooth despite a power outage by intentionally cutting incoming commercial power. The affected base is expected to continue operations as they would in the event of an unexpected outage.



Staff Sgt. Kendra Smith, left, and Staff Sgt. Aleff Gripp, 432nd Aircraft Communications Maintenance Squadron, inspect a C-Band launch and recovery element (LRE) used during MQ-9 operations at Creech Air Force Base, Nev., March 31, 2023. LREs control the aircraft during launch and recovery and transfer the control of the aircraft to the mission control element.



Airman 1st Class Thai, 432nd Aircraft Communications Maintenance Squadron fixed site satellite communication technician, operates on a satellite used for SATCOM satellite launch and recovery at Creech Air Force Base, Nev., March 31, 2023. SATCOM SLR is a new initiative supporting agile combat employment (ACE), ensuring Airmen and aircrew are postured to provide lethal combat power across the spectrum of military operations.



# Japan Self-Defense Force visit Nellis AFB



Air Force photographs by Senior Airman Cydnie Williams

Members from the Japan Air Self-Defense Force stand in front of an F-35 Lightning II during a tour of Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., March 30, 2023. The 65th Aggressor Squadron hosted the Japan Air Self-Defense Force to show how their unit works to organize, carry out, and maintain Nellis' mission sets.



Capt. Cale Llewellyn gives a mission brief to members from the Japan Air Self-Defense Force during a tour of Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., March 30, 2023. The 65th Aggressor Squadron hosted the Japan Air Self-Defense Force to show how their unit works to organize, carry out, and maintain Nellis' mission sets.



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# Big things happening at Nellis AFB DFAC

One of our very own, Airman Gary Quinata Ogo, created a signature burger recipe that was recently rolled out at 18 U.S. Air Force bases.

"This burger is supposed to transport you to the islands," said Ogo when asked to describe his burger. "Make you feel like you are on vacation even if you don't have enough leave saved up. The whole dish is a representation of my childhood and the foods I grew up eating. I hope people taste the love and dedication that went into this burger as soon as they take a bite."

Not only does this recipe have love and dedication as main ingredients but also features teriyaki sauce, grilled pineapple, bell pepper and onions alongside a scallion sauce.

We love seeing our Airmen use their creativity and passion to serve others!



# Power knees returns veteran upright

by Jaison Bloom

VA Southern Nevada Healthcare

Forrest Gump famously said to Lt. Dan "You got new legs."

But to see a veteran on new legs is something to behold. With April being limb-loss awareness month, it's prophetic that 61-year-old Army veteran Allen Doolin tried out his new Power Knee prosthetic legs and is learning to walk again.

Doolin, who says he rarely got sick, found his health going downhill quickly. He ultimately lost his legs through a progression of complications from diabetes.

"I'm looking forward to working with these things," said Doolin. After taking his first steps, Doolin was excited. "I'm still getting used to being able to stand up at full height," he said. "But I can take regular steps, now like people do". Doolin knows that it will take practice to get used to walking again.

The Power Knee is "new to the market," he said. It has a motor-powered microprocessor knee (MPK) that provides active assistance. They enable amputees to maintain and regain mobility and participate in the daily activities they enjoy.

"This is a night and day difference from what I had before," said Doolin. "The knees do all the work". After walking back and forth on parallel bars, Doolin said he felt comfortable wearing them and being able to stand and walk again. "I'm looking forward to all this," said Doolin. "I want to be able to walk around the block, go to the store, and shop. It truly is a momentous occasion."



VA photograph

Kristine Parker, VASNHS Chief of Prosthetics, said, "the amputee care team of Jessica Blackwell, Andrea Blin, and Dr. Eric Aguilar did a fabulous job getting him prepared for this moment." Doolin's kinesio-therapist, social worker, and physiatrist, respectively, had worked months to ensure he was ready for today. Along with composite worker Vincent Reeves who fabricated the socket and Ryan King, the prosthetist fitting Doolin's prosthesis, "it was, truly, and herculean team effort," said Parker.

The MPK added power gives you the opportunity for better symmetry and more natural motion according to the manufacturer's website. While the technical aspects of biomechanical systems, percentages of flexion, and specifications are impressive. Doolin recognizes that learning to walk freely

on new legs will be a process. "I'm sure it'll take days or weeks, 'till I'm comfortable," said Doolin. "I want to get to the point where I don't even need a walker anymore, and not be reliant on others."

This opportunity gives him freedom, again. "It's right in front of me," said Doolin. "It's not like a light at the end of the tunnel. It's here now". He displayed so much motivation as he, simply, walked back and forth.



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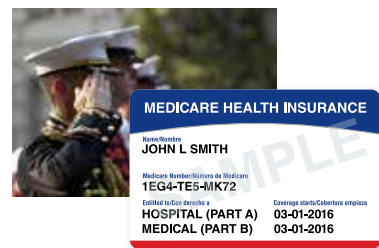
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