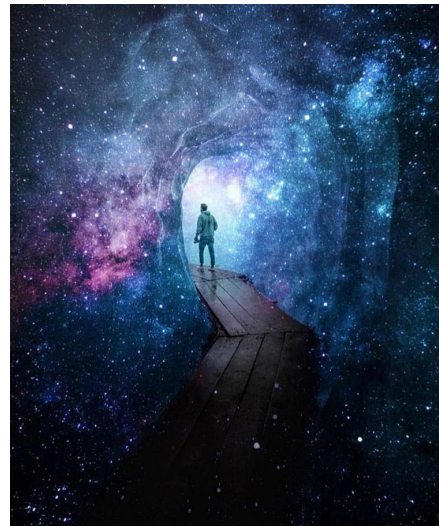




## Reality

Once upon a time, “real” things were only things you could touch, and things “imagined” were only things of dreams. Today so much has changed, reality has become an adjective to television programs (which are not very real), and sometimes “real” is qualified with new common phrases such as “virtual reality” or “augmented reality”. Lines are being blurred every day in movies, gaming, and even in real-world industrial applications. Today’s realities are changing in many ways.

It is exciting to live in a world of changing possibilities. It is what makes our jobs in the field of technology so rewarding. TekSynap’s credo of “Technology at the Speed of Thought” lends itself to our posture on technology adoption. We want to lean forward and bring new ideas. Collectively, as a company, we work with our customers to look at how technology can improve the ability to achieve mission objectives. Each customer works at a different pace, has differing security requirements, and risk tolerances. In each instance, we should work to strike the right balance between operational necessity and technology adoption.



I hope as you read this article that you will be enjoying your gift from TekSynap, the Oculus Quest V2. The Oculus is cool! Not to give away my inner-geekiness, but it is the closest thing to a holo-deck that you will find this side of a starship. It is immersive in a way that previous gaming/computing systems just did not match. Personal favorites:

- Moss – Who wouldn’t want to be a heroic mouse?
- Down the Rabbit Hole – A new take on an Alice in Wonderland theme with interesting game dynamics.
- Wander – Not a game but an ability to VR “visit” anywhere in the world using google earth data.
- Beat Saber – A must have adrenaline pumping game (if you are playing sitting down, you are missing the point).
- Tetris – It is just Tetris – but if you are a fan of the genre the Oculus version makes it an immersive experience. It surprised me.

These are just a few of the growing library of games. There are also interesting experiments in social interactions. Major streaming platforms (Netflix, Amazon Prime, and others) have put forward virtual theaters. It is a brave new world. In today’s COVID environment where physical interaction in our communities is so limited, it is easy to see how virtual reality

interactions could become a meaningful part of our lives. The technology is not quite there, but I can envision a time when you can visit family across the country and across the world in virtual spaces – not only with animated avatars but with virtual versions of ourselves. The Oculus hand tracking (e.g. Elixir demo) is a limited demonstration of how we can be rendered in real-time.

Despite all the challenges that the year 2020 has brought, may the Oculus bring a little holiday cheer. I hope you enjoy our gift with your family and friends – because ultimately that is what is most “real”.

May you have a very blessed holiday!

**-Dave Gauldfeldt**

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TekSynap has been awarded the NOAA NMITS Blanket Purchase Agreement (BPA). The NMITS contract provides NOAA-wide coverage for IT Core Management Components and Service Areas as well as Cross-cutting services that support the government through system design, development, fielding, and sustainment of global NOAA IT needs vital to the oceanic and atmospheric observing needs of the United States (US). The services and capabilities supported by the NMITS contract provide adaptive and timely solutions for NOAA organizations to satisfy current and future IT requirements. This contract will add new career opportunities and growth in Maryland, Virginia, Mississippi, North Carolina, and Colorado.



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## Monthly Affirmation

*I am taking steps forward to achieve my goals*



## Caught in the Act

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The Air Force Financial Management team would like to thank **Rob Kennett - AFNCR** for pulling together several disparate teams to solve a complicated issue.

The DTRA customer would like to thank **Kay Stephens** and **Tim Clarke** for going above and beyond.

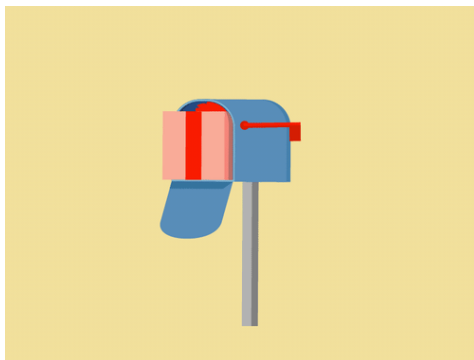


Alex Boston would like to shoutout **Jake Withers** for doing an outstanding job with the Wireless project.

Kimberly Snyder would like to recognize **Will Smith** at DTRA. A huge shout out for going above and beyond to help the proposals team with facilitating PPQ requests and answering data calls in amazing detail.

Tiffany Bean would like to thank **Ruben Hormostay** for all his guidance and support during her first year at TekSynap.

Thanks to **Spencer Ellingsen** and **Christopher Chall** who made special deliveries to our Kirtland AFB employees supporting C4, AFRL, and 58<sup>th</sup> SOW. We appreciate your support to our customers.



## Watch your Mail!

We have sent out holiday gifts to all active employees. They have been shipped to your address on file in ADP. You should have received some edible goodies and a gift that will take you away from 2020.

## PHISHING SEASON

On an average day, the TekSynap network is subject to countless cyberattacks with the intent to disrupt operations and cause harm to the company. The COVID-19 pandemic has made the need to maintain a strong cyber presence more important than ever.

A series of cyberattacks have occurred at companies and government organizations around the world. In an effort to mitigate our risk, TekSynap users should be on the lookout for the following:



- COVID text message scams, which may falsely advertise a cure or offer bogus tests.
- Malicious sign in attempts to their work account.
- Emails pretending to be Microsoft notifications.
- Robocalls which focus on health and financial concerns connected to COVID-19.
- Delivery notification scam calls and texts, especially with the increase in online holiday shopping.
- Attempts (online or by phone) to steal insurance information, money, or both.

Here are some tips to protect yourself and help stop criminal activity:

- Do not open attachments or click links within emails from senders you don't recognize.
- Do not provide your username, password, date of birth, social security number, financial data, or other personal information in response to an email or robocall.



- Always verify the web address of legitimate websites and manually type them into your browser.
- Check for misspellings or modified domains within a link.
- Do not overshare job role or location on social media.

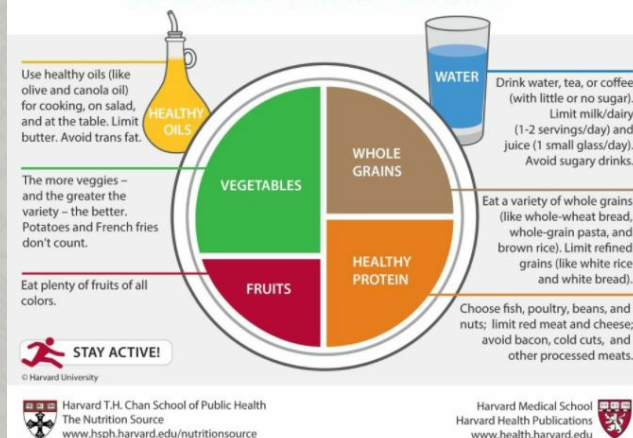
If you receive a suspicious email at work, please refer the email to [support@teksynap.com](mailto:support@teksynap.com).

## Healthy Habits to End the Year

**Drink more water.** Your body is composed of about 60% of water. Juice and soft drinks are high in sugar and can have negative effects on the body. If you need flavor in your water, try squeezing in a lemon or lime over a little bit of ice. If you are having digestive issues, try drinking hot water. It was determined that an adequate daily fluid intake is: About 15.5 cups (3.7 liters) of fluids a day for men and about 11.5 cups (2.7 liters) of fluids a day for women. For more information [click here](#).



### HEALTHY EATING PLATE



**Not all calories are created equal.** A handful of almonds versus the same amount of calories of potato chips has a different effect on your body. Treat yourself every now and then so you do not over splurge, but ultimately you want to have a well balanced plate.

### Get More Vitamin D

About 42% of the U.S. population is Vitamin D deficient. An easy way to get it is to go for a walk outside when it is sunny for at least 15 minutes or take Vitamin D in the form of pills or gummies.

For more healthy habits, [click here](#).



## Certification Corner

### Leonard Newman

Microsoft Teams Administrator Associate

### William Tubman

Cisco Certified Network Associate

### Kaitlyn Eber

We encourage you to use your Employee Learning Program Benefit. [Click Here](#) to access the form. Please send the filled out form to your manager for approval and [hr@teksynap.com](mailto:hr@teksynap.com).

If you have received a new certification or certificate please add it into ADP with an **effective date** to be added to the newsletter

Myself > My Information > Profile

Also send the certification to [HR@teksynap.com](mailto:HR@teksynap.com)



## TREAT YO SELF

- To get to the store head to the **employee portal**
  - Click on the TekSynap Store **button**
  - Click Login and use the single sign-on to access your account
- To check your TekSynap Dollars amount continue to My Account at the top
  - Under the Dashboard, click on TekDollars
- To shop for items click the Shop button at the top of the screen

## Tiny Team TekSynap!



**Pierre Collins** adorable daughter, Stella Rose Collins (born July 2020) ready to take on her first winter.

## TekPets





**Jeff Golden (ITES)** has shared these two cuties with us! Brady Chewbacca Golden (top left), loves camping, popcorn, and picking on his sister Peppermint. His neighbor's dog Crush (top right) playing poker with them.

To the right is Yeti. This pretty pit mix was recently adopted by **Shane Rivers (DLA)**.



We want to feature your pets in the next newsletter! Send pictures of your companions to [news@teksynap.com](mailto:news@teksynap.com)

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## Open Positions

Please email your referral resumes to:  
[careers@teksynap.com](mailto:careers@teksynap.com)

**DTRA - Fort Belvoir, VA**  
Senior Systems Engineer  
Systems Engineer  
IT Technical Manager

**Central LAN, Oklahoma City, OK**  
Senior Network Engineer

**Central LAN, Texarkana, TX**  
Network Engineer



**ESD, Corpus Christi, TX**  
Computer Operator

**ESD, Oklahoma City, OK - 9 Days**  
Computer Operator

**NE LAN, New Cumberland, PA - 9 Days**  
Network Engineer

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### Referral Program

TekSynap offers \$3,000 for candidates that fill a cleared position and \$1,000 for non-cleared positions.

Please visit the employee portal [here](#) to learn more.



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TekSynap is excited to report that we are now a member of the AWS Partner Network (APN)! As an APN Partner, TekSynap employees have access to a partner only section of the AWS site called the APN Partner Central.



The APN Partner Central is a valuable resource containing a wide range of partner focused content and features.

To gain access to the APN Partner Central, just go to the APN Partner Central registration page, [click here](#), and register using your work email (i.e. you cannot use yahoo.com, gmail.com, etc.).

Thanks for your interest in AWS and feel free to contact the TekSynap Support team at [support@teksynap.com](mailto:support@teksynap.com) or the APN Support team ([click here](#)) with any questions or issues related to APN Partner Central Registration.

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***Tell us what you think...***

An employee survey will be sent to your TekSynap email before the end of the year. We appreciate your sharing your feedback and suggestions.



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### ADP

Please verify that your **address** and **emergency**



**contacts** are up to date in ADP.

The address in ADP will be used for mailing benefit items, W-2's, and other tax related documents.  
A digital copy of your W2 will be accessible in ADP starting in late January.

To verify these items:

Continue to the ***employee portal***

Click the "**ADP employee & managers**" button

Once logged into ADP:

**Myself > My Information > Profile**



## Anniversaries

### Eight Years

Thomas Wulff

### Three Years

Jonathan Lee

John Delossantos

Ryan Hagan

### Two Years

Steven Thomson

TeShayla-RaShawn Pierce-Jackson

William Anderson

James Baldrighi

Mercedes Mason

Tim Le

Ryan Leland

Adam Thomas

### One Year

Cornell Williams

Randall Garber

Rocco Schultheis

Wayne Chan

Alexander Hentges

David Lopez

Christopher Gibson

## Welcome New Employees!

John Boakye

Victoria Diaz

Timothy Hudson

Margaret Manders

Keith Moser

Rupi Stephniczka

Rashaun Long

Jaja Henderson

Titus Prunty

Michael Rogers

Jason Stocum

James Bankston

Medjean Charles

Emily Perna

David Jones

Alex Ferrell

Kristopher Martin

Emily Smid

Jeff Brooks

Joneil Garcia

Syed Huda



Tiera Smith  
Tiffany Bean  
Robert Woodard  
Teagan Pacheco  
Crystal Sylla  
Carmen Loggins  
David Bordelon  
Heather Davis  
Lesley Quezergue  
Lester Dunn  
Margo Rinehart  
Patrick Pocock  
Rachel Holliday  
Sara Thompson  
Sharon Soniat  
Tami Devitt  
Toby Wraye  
Toni Roman  
Veronica Webb-Burke

