Take a ‘Year-In-Review’ look at AEDC in 2017

Armed AFB Angel Tree supporters bring Christmas joy to 143 children

By Bradley Hicks

When the call for help went out, personnel across Arnold Air Force Base promptly responded, and due to their efforts, Christmas will be a little brighter for 143 area children.

Arnold teams members, local counselors and volunteers joined together recently to collect all of the toys and clothing provided by active duty military, DOD and contractors through the annual Arnold AFB Angel Tree program.

Each year, team members sponsor angels from a list and purchase gifts based on the angel’s needs and wants as identified in the list. The angels are local children who may not otherwise receive Christmas gifts from family members due to their financial situations.

Every child on the Angel Tree list received sponsorship.

“All 143 we got assigned, got sponsored fairly quickly,” said Sgt. Matthew Alfreno, who headed up the Arnold AFB Angel Tree effort. “It was amazing, the response from base personnel.”

The Angel Tree list was provided by the Center for Family Development in Shelbyville. The center has worked with the base on the Angel Tree program since 1999. That first year, the angel list was made up of around 30 children. Center Manager Benita Caldwell said as the number of people seeking support through the Center for Family Development has grown, so has the number of children on the base Angel Tree list.

“It’s humongous. It’s so big,” Caldwell said of base response to the Angel Tree program. “There’s no way we could give to all these families without the help of all these folks at the base. Every year, when we send more, they respond the same way.”

Caldwell said the need in this part of the state is great. According to 2016 KIDS COUNT data, more than 9,500 of the approximately 12,200 children in Bedford County alone were classified as “economically disadvantaged.” Caldwell added that many of the children in the Center for Family Development’s Relative Caregiver program live with grand-parents who are often on fixed incomes.

“The folks at AEDC are actually providing some of these children their entire Christmas,” Caldwell said.

Arnold AFB representatives contact the organization early each October to request an Angel Tree list. Case workers with the Center for Family Development begin meeting with children and families in need and compile a list of gifts children would want, such as movies and action figures, and gifts they would need, such as winter clothing, shoes and beds.

According to Alfreno, folks across the base were eager to help as soon as the list was posted.

“People were calling me up and were like, ‘Hey, I wanted some angels but I’ve got some questions,’” he said. “They were just wonderful and just filled up the list really quickly.”

Caldwell expressed appreciation to Arnold personnel for being especially attentive to the items listed as “needs.”

“Every single child got something they wanted to see under the Christmas tree, but they also got those warm pajamas, warm coats, hats and things like that,” Caldwell said.

“What really stood out to me was the fact that not only were needs purchased by our sponsors, but the ‘wants’ as well,” Alfreno said. “The necessities that were provided are much needed and will go to great use. But adding to that, the things that the kids are passionate about were really exciting for me, too. The generosity of our sponsors here at AEDC seemed beyond compare.”

Armed AFB Angel Tree program

By Bradley Hicks

April 2017 marked 60 years of operation for the AEDC Propulsion Wind Tunnel, a one-of-a-kind test facility where the nation’s defense systems have benefited from test capabilities critical to development.

The first test run in 1957 in the 16-foot Transonic Tunnel, or 1T, was documented by Phil Tarver, then an AEDC staff photographer. However, public photos were never taken of the test article nor was there a mention of the name of the test article. The facility has a total of three tunnels that are operational: 1T, a 16-foot Supersonic Tunnel and a 4-foot Transonic Tunnel.

Pictured are AEDC workers inspecting tiles in the Propulsion Wind Tunnel 16S in 2014. (U.S. Air Force photo/Rick Goodfriend) See additional reviews on pages 2-4, 6 and 8.
The following revised Arnold AFB smoking policy is effective immediately and applies to all individuals on Arnold AFB.

- Smoking in government-owned/leased vehicles is strictly prohibited. Personnel are allowed to smoke in their personal vehicles at any time; however, at no time will personnel discard cigarette butts outside their vehicle.
- Smokeless tobacco products are not to be restricted to DTAs. Smokeless tobacco use will be permitted in all facilities, while applying the highest safety standard, properly disposing of tobacco waste.
- Pursuant to Air Force Instruction (AFI) 40-102, Tobacco Free Living, e-cigs are considered to be equivalent to tobacco products; however, e-cigs are not restricted to DTAs and are allowed to be used outdoors at a minimum distance of 25 feet from building entry/egress points. (This policy is dated July 27, 2016)
- Tobacco use on the Arnold AFB Golf Course is permitted, but discouraged based on the health hazards of tobacco use and secondhand smoke. No smoking is permitted within 50 feet of golf course buildings, facilities, while applying the highest safety standard, properly disposing of tobacco waste.
- Smoking in government-owned/leased vehicles is strictly prohibited. Personnel are allowed to smoke in their personal vehicles at any time; however, at no time will personnel discard cigarette butts outside their vehicle.
- For government employees, the fact that a person smokes does no bearing on the number of breaks they may take. Breaks should be taken in accordance with the current supervisor and personnel policies that affect all employees the same break opportunities consistent with good work practices and accomplishment of the mission.
- Employees working with, or in close proximity to, hazardous substances should not smoke. Tobacco smoke is a recognized contaminant in certain chemical processes, and exposure to tobacco smoke may cause health problems.

AEDC engineers tested the Towed Airborne Plume Simulator (TAPS), a missile simulator that can be towed 500 to 1500 meters behind an aircraft to test early warning sensors on military aircraft and allow for either offensive or defensive action. The TAPS system is tested at the AEDC High Speed Fan Facility prior to a flight mission. There the TAPS plume is controlled to mimic the behavior of a surface-to-air missile plume. In February 2017, the AEDC TAPS team was named the recipient of the Outstanding Scientific Team Award, one of the AEDC Science, Engineering and Technical Management Awards presented for outstanding performance in management. (U.S. Air Force photo/ Rick Goodfriend)

The Roll-Out Solar Array (ROSA) is an innovative prototype of a solar panel that rolls open in space like a tape measure and is more compact than current rigid panel designs. Testing in an AEDC space chamber at Arnold Air Force Base helped in preparing ROSA for its successful deployment from the ISS on June 26. (NASA photo)

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On Jan. 1, 2018, there are a number of changes coming to your TRICARE benefit. This includes a change to the current TRICARE regions. The current three regions (North, South and West) will become two regions (East and West). There will be new regional contractors for the new East and West regions. Humana Military will manage the East Region and Health Net Federal Services, LLC will manage the West Region. In preparation for this change, enrollments in TRICARE health plans will be delayed while beneficiary files are transferred to the incoming regional contractors. The delay period, or an enrollment freeze, will begin on Dec. 1, 2017 and last approximately three weeks, or until the data transfer is complete.

“You will have access to care during the enrollment freeze. However, if you wish to make changes to your TRICARE coverage, I encourage you to do so as soon as possible,” said Tech. Sgt. Beverly Spade, non-commissioned officer in charge of Medical Administration at Arnold Air Force Base.

If you would like to switch to a different TRICARE health plan, or enroll in a plan in a first time, take action before Nov. 20, 2017. You can enroll in certain TRICARE plans online, by phone or by mail. Learn about how to enroll in or purchase a health plan on the TRICARE website.

You don’t have to enroll in TRICARE: Select if you’re a TRICARE Standard beneficiary as of Nov. 30, 2017. You’ll be automatically converted to TRICARE Select on Jan. 1, 2018, as long as you’re registered in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) and are eligible for TRICARE. Learn more about TRICARE Select, which replaces TRICARE Standard and TRICARE Extra next year.

Beginning Nov. 20, 2017, you will not be able to use the Beneficiary Web Enrollment (BWE) website to enroll in or disenroll from TRICARE Prime options and select or change primary care managers. Additionally, eligible beneficiaries will not be able to use BWE to enroll in TRICARE Young Adult (TYA) or TRICARE dental options. While the BWE website is unavailable, regional contractors will accept enrollment applications through other communications channels (for example, phone and mail). Regional contractors will still process these applications once the freeze is complete.

Visit www.tricare.mil/changes/enroll to find instructions on how to submit TRICARE enrollment forms during the enrollment freeze.

You will have access to care during the enrollment freeze. Save your pharmacy and other health care receipts while your enrollment is pending, so that you can get reimbursed for TRICARE-covered expenses once the freeze is complete and your enrollment is processed. If you have a problem accessing care while your enrollment is pending, contact your regional contractor.

“If you have a problem getting your medications while your enrollment is pending, contact Express Scripts.”

#TakeCommand #enroll

For more information, visit www.tricare.mil/changes.

And follow TRICARE on Facebook and Twitter.
You may be wondering what action you need to take, if any, to ensure you continue TRICARE coverage in 2018. If you're currently enrolled in or eligible for TRICARE coverage on Dec. 31, 2017, you'll transition to your respective TRICARE plan on Jan. 1, 2018. If you want to enroll in a TRICARE plan or change coverage after Jan. 1, 2018, you'll need to take action to enroll in the plan of your choice.

“[All beneficiaries] should take action by making sure their information is current in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System.”

AEDC test teams successfully completed testing an adaptive three-stream fan in the J2 Engine Test Facility at Arnold Air Force Base. The testing for Pratt & Whitney was conducted as part of the U.S. Air Force Research Laboratory’s Adaptive Engine Technology Development program. (Courtesy photo/Pratt & Whitney)

The existing J-5 Large Rocket Motor Test Facility at Arnold Air Force Base is undergoing removal of antiquated components in preparation for facility renovations. A team of AEDC engineers is heading up the Hypersonic Test Capability Improvement project which will totally transform J-5 into a large-scale clean air variable Mach test facility with a longer runtime than any facility of its kind. (U.S Air Force photo/Rick Goodfriend)

The new Mach 18 nozzle design at the AEDC Hypervelocity Wind Tunnel 9 in White Oak, Maryland, near Silver Spring, has been successfully verified using computational fluid dynamic codes. This image shows computed contours of Mach number within the new Mach 18 nozzle design. (AEDC image)

AEDC 2017 Year in Review

Take Command to Make a Smooth Transition with TRICARE in 2018

AEDC test team and members of the U.S. Air Force Academy (USAFA) combined efforts in applying swirl distortion to determine engine response using the Academy’s F109 facility. In recognition of this successful project, the F109 test team was awarded the General Gossick Team Award in July 2017. Pictured are AEDC test team members Dr. Milton Davis, Tom Tibballs, Eric Hansen, Josh Osborne, Sara Rhoades and Dave Beale with U.S. Air Force Academy staff Jerry Stermer, and Lt. Col. Devin O’Dowd. (AEDC photo)

The existing J-5 Large Rocket Motor Test Facility at Arnold Air Force Base is undergoing removal of antiquated components in preparation for facility renovations. A team of AEDC engineers is heading up the Hypersonic Test Capability Improvement project which will totally transform J-5 into a large-scale clean air variable Mach test facility with a longer runtime than any facility of its kind. (U.S Air Force photo/Rick Goodfriend)

The existing J-5 Large Rocket Motor Test Facility at Arnold Air Force Base is undergoing removal of antiquated components in preparation for facility renovations. A team of AEDC engineers is heading up the Hypersonic Test Capability Improvement project which will totally transform J-5 into a large-scale clean air variable Mach test facility with a longer runtime than any facility of its kind. (U.S Air Force photo/Rick Goodfriend)
Take Command to Make a Smooth Transition with TRICARE in 2018

By Arnold AFB Medical Affairs

“Take command of your future by taking, if you choose, to ensure continued health care coverage in 2018. If you’re currently enrolled in a premium-based plan or TRICARE Select, you’ll need to take action to keep your health plan of your choice.”

“All beneficiaries should take action by making sure their information is current in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS),” said “If you’ve experienced any changes (for example, marriage, birth, divorce, or death), update DEERS as soon as possible to ensure continuous TRICARE coverage.”

Beneficiaries enrolled in TRICARE Prime or TRICARE Extra as of Dec. 31, 2017 will remain enrolled in TRICARE Prime on Jan. 1, 2018. If you have TRICARE Standard or TRICARE Extra as of Dec. 31, 2017, you will transition to TRICARE Select on Jan. 1, 2018. If you’re enrolled in any TRICARE premium-based plan on Dec. 31, 2017, you’ll remain enrolled in your plan on Jan. 1, 2018 as long as you continue to make your premium payments. These premium-based plans include:

- TRICARE Young Adult
- TRICARE Reserve Select
- TRICARE Prime Reserve

On Jan. 1, 2018, TRICARE will transition its state-wide regional contractors from three to two. Beneficiaries who transition to TRICARE Select will transition to electronic funds transfer or recurring debit card payments will be contacted to update their payment information. If you currently pay by check, a Defense Finance and Accounting Service allotment, your payments will automatically transition to auto-pay.

If your current TRICARE health plan coverage doesn’t automatically transition, contact your TRICARE contractor for your region. The are no changes to the TRICARE For Life (TFL) benefits. TFL beneficiaries will not have to take any action.

New active duty service members are automatically enrolled in TRICARE Prime or TRICARE Prime Reserve if they live in remote areas in the U.S. Statewide active duty family members (ADFMs) who become eligible for TRICARE or after Jan. 1, 2018 will also be automatically enrolled in TRICARE Prime. Premiums or enrollment deposit will be contacted to update their information. If you currently pay by check, a Defense Finance and Accounting Service allotment, your payments will automatically transition to auto-pay.

By Nov. 20, 2017, beneficiaries should complete any and all enrollment actions. During December 2017, there will be an enrollment freeze for TRICARE Prime enrollments, and a delay for primary care manager changes. You’ll still be able to receive care during the enrollment freeze. If you have a problem accessing care, contact your regional contractor.

For all other state-side beneficiaries, you’ll need to complete any and all enrollment actions by Nov. 20, 2017 to ensure continued health care coverage in 2018. As long as your regional contractor receives your completed enrollment application by the 20th of the month, your coverage will begin on the first day of the next month. The 20th of the month rule does not apply to beneficiaries overseas, and will go away for everyone starting in 2018.

Enrolling is easy. You can enroll in certain TRICARE plans over the phone, email, or mail. Check out how to enroll or purchase a plan. Visit the TRICARE Changes page to stay informed with the latest information. You can also sign up for email alerts to get an email anytime new updates are available. Staying informed will help you take command of your health care and prepare for changes in 2018.
The last topic of the 2017 Safety Condition Campaign is defeating safety devices. For this topic, there is no Safety, Health and Environment Campaign doesn’t address Kirk Keys (already been permanently addressed). In each case, a short term solution was implemented. By the end of the year over 400 of the identified conditions have been permanently addressed.800 conditions that need to be improved. The result can lead to vision problems up to result can lead to vision problems up to 23 at the Arnold Lakeside Center. Col. Scott A. Cain, during a change of command ceremony July 14, 2017, inside the AEDC Large Rocket Motor Test Facility, at Arnold Air Force Base, Tennessee. Col. Timothy West, left, becomes director of the Hypersonic Systems Combined Test Force during a Change of Directorship Ceremony Oct. 20, in the J-5 Large Rocket Motor Test Facility at Arnold Air Force Base. Col. Timothy West, left, becomes director of the Hypersonic Systems Combined Test Force during a Change of Directorship Ceremony Oct. 20, in the J-5 Large Rocket Motor Test Facility at Arnold Air Force Base. Col. Timothy West, left, becomes director of the Hypersonic Systems Combined Test Force during a Change of Directorship Ceremony Oct. 20, in the J-5 Large Rocket Motor Test Facility at Arnold Air Force Base. Col. Timothy West, left, becomes director of the Hypersonic Systems Combined Test Force during a Change of Directorship Ceremony Oct. 20, in the J-5 Large Rocket Motor Test Facility at Arnold Air Force Base. ©U.S. Air Force photo/Bradley Hicks)

See the January calen-dar on page 11.

Arnold AFB hosts Children’s Christmas Party

Special Events

The Arnold Air Force Base Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Coordinator, Jere Matty, announces winners at the 2017 Area 13 Special Olympics April 20 in Tullahoma. AEDC team members volunteered to assist in the events for the day. (U.S. Air Force Photo/Rick Goodfriend)

From the replacement of electrical switchgear for safety and reliability enhancement to significant office space renovations, the Civil Engineering Branch at Arnold Air Force Base has its hands full this fiscal year with a spate of projects supporting each of the Combined Test Forces and general base infrastructure. The ceremonial ribbon, pictured, is cut to mark the completion of renovations to the von Kármán Gas Dynamics Facility Main Test & Laboratory Building. The two-phased project consisted of HVAC replacement, fire suppression system upgrades, and improvements to facility lighting, flooring and walls. The renovation also included both mold and asbestos abatement. Pictured from left are: Col. Timothy West, chief of AEDC Test Operations Division; Col. Scott Cain, AEDC commander; Tony Pennington, Test Support Division Engineering Section project manager; Glenn Liston, chief of the High Speed Experimentation Branch; Barry Banks, NAS Construction superintendent; Lance Baxter, director of the Hypersonics Combined Test Force; and Lt. Col. Daniel Hoffmann, director of the Flight Systems CTF. (U.S. Air Force photo/Rick Goodfriend)
Arnold AFB hosts Children’s Christmas Party

The Arnold Air Force Base Services Branch hosted a Children’s Christmas Party Dec. 2 at the Arnold Lakeside Center. The event was open to all Base team members, Reserve and Guard members, retirees and their immediate families. Activities included indoor and outdoor activities, a petting zoo, and Santa and Mrs. Claus. (Courtesy photos)
Children’s author to speak at first AEDCWC meeting of the new year

By Barbara McGuire

TULLAHOMA, Tenn. – The ladies of the AEDC Woman’s Club will be welcoming Franklin preschool teacher and author Laura Joy Hewett to its Jan. 4 meeting.

Laura is the author of the children’s book “Wally, the Wayward Sea Turtle: A story about Choices, Mistakes, and Saving Grace.” Her book contains lessons which can apply to everyone’s life.

Laura is from Belvidere, Tennessee, and she now resides in Shelbyville with her husband, Brent.

Table donations Jan. 4 will go to the non-profit organization Life Choice of Manchester.

The Dec. 7 AEDCWC meeting featured Carson Hill, singing many different songs and sing-a-long Christmas songs.

The Social Hour of the meeting starts at 9:30 a.m. at the Arnold Lakeside Center, with the business meeting and program at 10 a.m. Reservations for the Jan. 4 meeting must be made no later than noon Dec. 20. Make reservations by calling (931) 393-2552 or (931) 636-4152.

Swanson appreciative of Arnold experience

By Bradley Hicks

Fearing that she would become too emotional, Kathy Swanson did not plan on giving a big speech during her retire- ment party. Instead, Swanson put her thoughts in a letter handed out to coworkers and colleagues in attend- ance. One of the things she emphasized in this letter was her appreciation to her friends and family who have been so good to her.

“Whatever they’re involved in, I want to be there to watch and encourage them,” she said.

Swanson’s retirement is effective Dec. 31. Her last day at AEDC was Dec. 15.

Disclaimer: This is a private orga-nization which is not part of the Depart- ment of Defense nor any of its components and has no governmental status.
First Lt. Stephen Baker, 352nd Cyber Operations Squadron, watches as one of the Hack the Air Force 2.0 participants attempts to breach the security on a military website Dec. 9, 2017. HtAF2.0 is a Defense Digital Service sponsored event where civilian cyber security experts were invited to identify and report vulnerabilities in more than 300 Air Force sites. (Courtesy photo by HackerOne)

December 18, 2017 • 11