As part of the Hypersonic Test and Evaluation Investment Program (HTCI), the AEDC engineering team is heading up the Hypersonic Test Capability Improvement (HTCI) project which will totally transform the former J-5 Large Rocket Motor Test Facility at Arnold Air Force Base.

Nicknamed, “Project Phoenix,” this effort is structured in three phases that will produce a large-scale clean air variable Mach test facility with a longer runtime than any facility of its kind.

According to Jonathan Osbourne, HTCI project manager and technical lead, the creation of this facility will support future hypersonic system weapon acquisition and research and development programs for generations to come.

“The HTCI project will progressively transform the state-of-the-art hypersonic ground test and evaluation for both air breathing propulsion and boost glide systems,” he said.

“The fundamental approach to the development of the HTCI facility is to deliver a complete, operational test capability for hypersonic missions,” Osbourne added.

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. (J-5 Air Force photo/Rick Goodfriend)
Integrity

For government employees, the fact that a person smokes has no bearing on the number of breaks they receive. Good leaders recognize that people for the hard work and effort they put to ensure the mission succeeds. Especially important are the people and teams who go above and beyond in a particular area. Many times the most exceptional performer or team includes a DOD contractor, who carefully plans and acts for the overall mission.

It may seem counterintuitive, but DOD rules sometimes constrain government leaders’ ability to recognize exceptional performance by those contractor team members. Department of Defense Instructions (DDO) generally apply to all Air Force organizations. An exception to DOD 4495.25 states that “DDO Compartments may not permit any persons, organizations or companies having a commercial or profit-making relationship with the DOD to participate in DOD’s civilian awards programs and must not create awards or programs to recognize such persons, organizations or companies.”

Although this seems to hamper Air Force leadership’s ability to recognize top performers, the DOD explains that the prohibition is meant to avoid “issues in connection with contractual relationships and obligations, actual or perceived conflicts of interest, and actual or perceived acts of favoritism.”

The exception to this primary rule includes a very high standard. A DOD award can be considered for a contractor employee if his or her contribution is not related to and outside the DOD contractual relationship, and the recognition is clearly in the public interest. In that instance, the contractor must submit a letter of appreciation to the individual or the group by the closest DOD supervisor involved.

An Air Force Instruction adds to what is contained in the DDD 4495.25. The Air Force Civilian Recognition Program, 29 August 2016, paragraph 2.14 states that DOD rules sometimes constrain government leadership in recognizing contractors or people or organizations involved in contractual relationships with DOD are not eligible for awards created for the general public. The lone exception is when their contributions are “unambiguously above and beyond the contract terms, and is clearly in the public interest.” The Instruction further explains that to explain why DOD policy is to “not recognize private citizens or private entities that have a commercial or profit-making relationship with DOD, unless the contribution is substantially beyond that specified or implied in the terms of the contract establishing the relationship, or the recognition is in the public interest.”

Although the rules appear to limit Air Force leadership’s ability to provide for contractor participation in government awards programs actually protect both sides of the contractual relationship. Abiding by these rules helps support the Air Force’s evaluation of contractor performance when the contract ends. It also helps the contractor avoid the appearance of favoritism either during performance or when a new contract is available for bid. Additionally, there is certainly no prohibition of contractors creating their own awards programs. An alternative program to presenting awards to deserving contractor personnel is to contact his or her supervisor in support of directly our organization.

Contractor team members are essential to accomplishing the Air Force mission, and their contribution can be extremely valuable. As the award season approaches, protect both sides of the contractual relationship by remembering the DOD rules for awards and recognition programs.

Direct questions to the Arnold Air Force Base Legal Office, (931) 454-7814.
The Textron Scorpion experimental aircraft conducts handling and flying quality maneuvers above White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico, Aug. 4. Scorpion is participating in the U.S. Air Force Light Attack Experiment (OA-X), a series of trials to determine the feasibility of using light aircraft in attack roles. (U.S. Air Force photo by Christopher Okule)
Suicide prevention month: stopping suicide is everyone’s battle

By Peter Holstein

Air Force Surgeon General
Office of Public Affairs

FALLS CHURCH, Va. (AFNS) – September is Suicide Prevention Month, a time for Americans to build awareness and help understand suicide in our culture. More than 40,000 Americans lose their life due to suicide each year and research shows that suicide is the third leading cause of death for those ages 15 to 24. The loss of someone to suicide is as tragic as it is complicated, and that is why the Air Force is committed to the goal of zero suicides.

Making progress towards this goal requires buy-in from everyone in the Air Force, from its most senior leaders to junior Airmen. Everyone has a role to play in prevention. The most basic, and often most effective, way to prevent suicide is to make sure that our family members, friends, coworkers and anyone else in our life feel connected and have a sense of belonging in the world. “To combat something as complicated as suicide, we need leaders at every level involved,” said Lt. Col. Alicia Matson, the Air Force suicide prevention program manager. “We need the front line supervisors, all the way up to squadron, group and wing commanders involved and being connected to their Airmen.”

Risks for suicide include people with substance abuse problems, those experiencing loss or grief, feelings of isolation, or those under stress, both professionally or in their personal life. This is why AEDC suspends the Air Force’s adoption of the ACE method, which stands for “Ask, Care, Escort.” These three steps can guide Airmen when confronted with someone contemplating suicide. The Air Force Suicide Prevention website has more information on ACE and other resources to help prevent and respond to suicide.

“If you, or someone you know, needs immediate help, call the Military Crisis Line and speak to a counselor by dialing 800-273-TALK and pressing 1. Every life lost to a suicide is tragic, but to be able to make a real difference. Building bonds with the people around us, by even simple gestures and friendly comments are important, and can sustain people in the face of adversity.”

Air Force’s recent suicide prevention efforts, the global response – anger, fear, anxiety, sadness or anything. That’s normal. This commitment to connection is backed by the Air Force’s adoption of the ACE method, which stands for “Ask, Care, Escort.” These three steps can guide Airmen when confronted with someone contemplating suicide. The Air Force Suicide Prevention website has more information on ACE and other resources to help prevent and respond to suicide. If you, or someone you know, needs immediate help, call the Military Crisis Line and speak to a counselor by dialing 800-273-TALK and pressing 1. Every life lost to a suicide is tragic, but to be able to make a real difference. Building bonds with the people around us, by even simple gestures and friendly comments are important, and can sustain people in the face of adversity.”

“Every Airmen’s job is to look out for each other,” said Matteson. “That’s what it means to be a wingman, and it’s the culture change we need to prevent the tragedy of suicide.”

Suicide prevention month: stopping suicide is everyone’s battle

By AEDC Safety

For the month of September the focus remains on safety while working from aerial work platforms. Aerial Work Platforms (AWPs) include self-propelled elevating work platforms, such as those with articulating or extendable booms, scissors lift, and those with rotating or non-rotating basic instructions for using them can be found in the AEDC Safety, Health and Environmental (SHE) Standard SD-6 on Aerial Work Platforms. This standard outlines the minimum requirements for safety while working from aerial work platforms (AWPs). The standard is applicable to all AEDC employees, contractors and sub-contractors.

Air Force work platforms range from complex articulating devices to manually propelled vehicles and lifts. Regardless of complexity, they are typically used to provide the worker a safe, elevated platform from which to work. Improper use and operation can result in fatality or property damage.

Operators must read and be familiar with the operating and safety manual, control functions, safety devices, placards, and warnings specific to each AWP operated.

Prior to operation, inspect the work area for hazards such as overhead and ground level obstructions, electrical hazards, overhead crane operations, other AWPs and vehicles, conflicting work operations, overhead and ground level obstructions, vehicles, parked vehicles, etc.

Only trained and certified operators shall operate an Aerial Work Platform (AWP) on AEDC. Operators shall be certified by the employer and must have valid certification documentation available.

Operators must read and be familiar with the operating and safety manual, control functions, safety devices, placards, and warnings specific to each AWP operated.

The monthly Safety Condition Campaign will continue throughout the remainder of the year. Focus areas that have already been completed include: fall protection, barricades and signs, lookouts/lagout, certified operators, electrical hot work, lifting and rigging and scaffolds. SHE Standards on each of these topics can be found on the AEDC Team site via the AEDC Safety Site link.

The August’s focus on scaffolds recently concluded, and all who ensure scaffolds are being used safely are commended for their efforts. Overall, 790 issues have been identified through the Safety Condition Campaign so far this year. Of those, 355 fixes are complete. The issues will continue to be worked to closure.

Working together we can continue to prevent injuries.
Many folks played crucial roles and those involved in my career are too numerous for me to list here. Those memories – so not many names.

I arrived at AEDC in the early days of the Civil War and the Space Race, and the Russians were clearly ahead in both. The biggest firework displays of those times were our rockets on the launch pad which put our Team AEDC into a cut

AEDC Memories: From the boondocks to AEDC

By Glenn Norfleet

I was born and raised in Oakwood, Tennessee; population never exceeded 500 and sometimes I want to that I was born in a country for an „olde country boy.“ Then I remember my buddy Loren Jordan, from the adjoining farm, is out at the farm doing his chores in East Tennessee. His brother had just graduated from an appointment to the Naval Academy following a disarming and brutal fight with the Navy. And recently I discovered the Community College of the Rosemont the First Division. For someone raised up in miles further into the boondocks than my farm. In this a three-hour drive from here.

AeroQuad grade school had six grades, it was on to Woodmore for the seventh and eighth grade. They had indoor plumbing and I also added the idea of seeing the big city. I remembered my dorm at Vanderbilt that I was supposed to be in a dorm – although we did bath and we generally didn’t use the dorm. My senior year. But in high school I wanted to the top 10 grades in the nation.

My fraternal brother, Al Rechel, was the porch. He was a star basketball player. He averaged 10 points per game. On a double date I introduced him to my high school sweetheart, Joann Combs. Two years later Combs and I were married. No one ever accessed my grades. I guess they were a particular in that category.

At Vandy, my buddy Bill Wills and I decided to work on helicopters and be the firsts to push the wave of the future for private and that is what we did. We planned to note that wave to fame and fortune, together, after our military service. My first job was with McDonnell Aircraft Corporation in the Helicopter Division. I learned that helicopters were not the wave of the future but that I really liked the atmosphere of the world. So I decided to go to the Naval Aviation School, where I completed my six-month stint as a green-bean second lieutenant in the Army.

After military service, it was to Princeton’s Fluid Dynamics Lab in pursuit of a master’s in Aeronautical Engineering. At Princeton, a very important thing that I did was marrying Carolyn – then I was an engineer. I learned that I really liked research and I was doing it in the Fluid Dynamics Lab considered AEDC to be the premier R&D center in their world. Their high-end scientists were the mot-

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TEAM AEDC

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Choice Personal Loans

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TECH Support

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LARRY'S BAR-B-QUE

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NUNLEY'S AUTO REPAIR & TRANSMISSION

NUNLEY'S AUTO REPAIR & TRANSMISSION

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CLASSIFIEDS

The Classified Crossword Puzzle

CLUES ACROSS
1. Sugar, gum
6. Int禀s with
10. Orginal poems
15. Apparitions of
20. Italian mountains
25. Salted nosh
30. Drink of
35. Took without
40. Change a rale
45. In short
50. Where skaters ply
55. Not yet purchased
60. Backs out
65. Of the membrane
70. Of the weasel family
75. south and east
80. Of the abdominal lining
85. Center
90. From what was
95. Of the wind family
100. Of sand and gravel

CLUES DOWN
1. Storage device
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4. Disagree with
5. Diplomacy
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Increasing the proportion of older adults who are up-to-date on a core set of clinical preventive services, increasing the proportion of the health care work-force with geriatric certification, and other goals are Health People 2020’s initiative.

"Feeling, looking, and performing the age that you actually are is aging gracefully," said Staff Sgt. Michael Maze, 786th Civil Engineer Squadron structural craftsman. "You don’t want to be 30 and feel 80. You want to look 30 and feel 30."

Improving the health, function, and quality of life of older adults is specifically Health People 2020 goals, but it’s one that everyone should be aware of, according to Capt. Michael Rettig, 86th Medical Support Squadron medical laboratory technician and frequent gym-goer. “A healthy metabolism, immune system, energy levels and even your mood really can be enhanced by exercise, which aims to extend one’s healthy life expectancy. What makes it so important is, if you don’t listen to your body and ignore signs and symptoms, it can cost you your life,” said Capt. Michael Rettig, 86th Medical Support Squadron medical laboratory technician and frequent gym-goer. “A healthy metabolism, immune system, energy levels and even your mood really can be enhanced by exercise, which aims to extend one’s healthy life expectancy. What makes it so important is, if you don’t listen to your body and ignore signs and symptoms, it can cost you your life.”

As Americans live longer, growth in the number of older adults is unprecedented. As Americans live longer, growth in the number of older adults is unprecedented. In 2014, 14.5 percent (46.3 million) of the U.S. population was aged 65 or older and is projected to reach 23.5 percent (95 million) by 2060. The most important cause for the growth in the number of older adults is the Baby Boom generation’s aging, according to Suzy Rantala, Hoper-Leandry, 86th Logistics Readiness Squadron

As Americans live longer, growth in the number of older adults is unprecedented. In 2014, 14.5 percent (46.3 million) of the U.S. population was aged 65 or older and is projected to reach 23.5 percent (95 million) by 2060. The most important cause for the growth in the number of older adults is the Baby Boom generation’s aging, according to Suzy Rantala, Hoper-Leandry, 86th Logistics Readiness Squadron

Healthy Aging Awareness Month: Improving the health of older adults

As Americans live longer, growth in the number of older adults is unprecedented. In 2014, 14.5 percent (46.3 million) of the U.S. population was aged 65 or older and is projected to reach 23.5 percent (95 million) by 2060. The most important cause for the growth in the number of older adults is the Baby Boom generation’s aging, according to Suzy Rantala, Hoper-Leandry, 86th Logistics Readiness Squadron.
Arnold AFB Family Appreciation Day 2017

Arnold Air Force Base Airmen, DOD civilians and their family members took part in a day set aside to appreciate their families Sept. 8 at the Base. The day included a welcome from AEDC Commander Col. Scott Cain, a tour of the test facilities, lunch, and recreational games and events. (This image was manipulated by obscuring badges for security purposes) (U.S. Air Force photo/Chris Warner)

(U.S. Air Force photo/Rick Goodfriend)

(U.S. Air Force photo/Rick Goodfriend)

(U.S. Air Force photo/Rick Goodfriend)

(U.S. Air Force photo/Rick Goodfriend)
The AEDC Woman’s Club is scheduled to host another meeting Oct. 5 at the Arnold Lakeside Center.

Have you ever wanted to ride a bicycle across America? Well, Julie Willeming, of Oklahoma and now Tennessee, rode from the Pacific Ocean near San Diego, California, to the Atlantic Ocean at St. Augustine, Florida.

While on her three thousand mile journey, Willeming learned much about the people and cultures of the United States. Attendees will listen to her story and see pictures of this journey.

The social hour of the meeting starts at 9:30 a.m., with the business meeting and program beginning at 10 a.m.

Reservations must be made no later than noon Sept. 28 and are required to gain access to the ALC. Make reservations by calling (931) 393-2552 or (931) 636-4152.

Table donations at the October meeting will go to Shepherd’s House of Tullahoma.

The Sept. 7 meeting started off a new year with Jimmy Gentry, of Williamson County, who talked about growing up during the depression, joining the Army at age 18, being in Germany during World War II, helping liberate a prison camp, and then coming home and teaching and coaching in Williamson County. Gentry coached football for 66 years.

Table donations collected at the meeting amounted to $100 and was given to the fellow Ladies Philanthropic Society.

The AEDC Woman’s Club meetings are open to the public and provides the opportunity to meet the AEDCWC members and become a member. You don’t need to have military connections or be involved with Arnold Air Force Base to visit and become a member.

For information about the AEDC Woman’s Club call the membership chairman at (931) 455-3569.

Disclaimer: This is a private organization which is not part of the Department of Defense or any of its components and has no governmental status.

The AEDC Woman’s Club began Sept. 7, with guest speaker Jimmy Gentry sharing stories about his life and achievements. Pictured left to right are AEDCWC members Barb McGuire and Anne Wonder with Gentry. (Courtesy photo)