‘The Bone’ returns to Arnold Air Force Base for store separation testing

By Bradley Hicks

Arnold Air Force Base

The Arnold Air Force Base Legal Office was recently recognized for its work supporting the basic mission. A member of the team was also recognized for her leadership role of paralegal specialist.

Leslie McGowan was recognized with the Harold E. Vague Award for AFMC Outstanding Service. To ensure compliance among the Air Force’s operating locations, the Arnold Fire and Emergency Services, move a firehose into position to battle a blaze during live fire training. The department took part in the training Feb. 26-28. The training was carried out using a simulator capable of replicating a group of Arnold firefighters on the roof braved a fire in the living room reignited. As this occurred, a pair of Arnold Air Force Base firefighters cut through the thick smoke to gain entry into the small living room just as the flames engulfing a couch through the thick smoke to gain entry into the small living room just as the flames engulfing a couch.

By Bradley Hicks

Fire and Emergency Services personnel participate in live fire training

Brandon Gunn, left, and Lee Braudfield, driver/operators with the Arnold Air Force Base Fire and Emergency Services, move a firehose into position to battle a blaze during live fire training. The department took part in the training Feb. 26-28. The training was carried out using a simulator capable of replicating the fire, smoke and heat conditions firefighters could encounter while responding to a residential structure fire.

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Arnold Air Force Base Legal Office earns MAJCOM-level recognition for team and individual efforts

By Bradley Hicks

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Computer and network performance improvements are on the way

By Dan Hall
APC Center Information Technology Office

You arrive at work, turn on your computer and login. Then it’s off to pour the first cup of coffee, maybe a restroom visit, put lunch in the fridge and greet a few coworkers. Then by now the computer is fusillading and you can hardly get your work done. You launch email and wait for that to load. In the meantime you maybe launch the web browser to see what’s going on in the world. That fails to load with a message that the site took too long to respond.

Back to Outlook and an important message from the boss needs your attention. You click and visit the PIN authorization to come up. You respond to the email and are prompted that the message must be encrypted because of PIN, even though you know there isn’t any. It won’t send without agreeing to the nonsecure PIN so your message is forever altered with an array of nonexecutable written contract with NAS Air Force in no way connected to the image 42x1378 to 148x1482. Everything advertised in this publication will be made available for purchase, no sign it. Outlook then freezes and by clicking anything from network and computer performance improve. Hopefully we will all begin to see the benefits of the efforts in the upcoming weeks and months.

To quote Col. Johns, “Providing our users an amazing cyber experience is job 1 at AEDC. AFMC (headquarters), we want to keep fighting to make the greatest cyber force in the world has the greatest network in the world.”

Main Gate upgrades to be completed soon

Work continues on modifications to the Main Gate at Arnold Air Force Base. “We expect to finish this project completely by the end of March,” said Josh Cooke, utility asset manager for the Test Support Division Operation Sections at the base. The active vehicle barriers at the Main Gate to the test area have barbed wire in mind.

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THE BONE

Very few of us can say we’ve met even one U.S. president, but Test Operations and Maintenance contractor John Washer has met two – President George W. Bush and President Barack Obama. He met them when he started working with the Air Force One team, the president’s airplane.

“As the team I was assigned to conducted all security since the president exited Air Force One and subsequently departed on Marine One,” Washer said.

While his interactions with the president and vice president were limited, he got to know the Security Force 3rd Class (E-4) Phoenix Raven program well. This was the greatest team he had with the president and his vice president. He has seen them, “through the people standing at the bottom of the stairs who wait patiently as the president’s stage board or depart the plane. “We were a very close group andimos those times just working with them,” Washer said.

“They became family, and we were all very close and would do anything for each other.”

Aerospace Solutions

It and think about it, something as simple as entering a complex, walking down the hall and seeing pictures of the president and vice president, some with historical significance in context and some that were just candid, it’s those experiences that I probably cherish the most.

The assignment of working for Air Force One didn’t happen instantly. Washer first applied for a special duty assignment to Andrews Air Force Base while stationed at Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota. He received orders and was assigned to the 86th Security Forces Squadron and deployed to Camp Shaheen, Iraq, where he learned that his clearance would increase, which would begin working for the Air Force One team, Maintenance and Support Complex.

His initial title was Security Force 3rd Class (E-4) Phoenix Raven. The mission was to secure the president and vice president’s time in the area supervisor for security of the Air Force One team, Maintenance and Support Complex for a specific shift. After completing the extensive training, Washer became one of the vindicator operators. As the group’s responsibility is to monitor the aircraft and the munitions, it is vital to ensure the safety of the president and vice president. Security Force members are responsible for the complex when activated in real

world incidents, the vindicator operators would be in direct communication with appropriate commanders and, if the situation warranted, the White House Military Office.

During his three years with the Air Force One team, Washer had many memorable experiences.

“My first night on duty at Andrews (AFB), we did a security detail for then-Prime Minister Tony Blair. It was one I remember particularly because it was my first security detail. Another one that stuck out to me was the return of Captain Richard Phillips, who had been held hostage by Somali pirates while he and his crew were on the Maersk Alabama. This one was memorable because the event was world news and it was a big deal when he was rescued and brought back to the U.S.

“I remember that prior to leaving office, President George W. Bush came to the Air Force One Maintenance and Support Complex to meet with each Airman that took direct part in supporting the U.S. government office. This included logistics, technical, security, food services and the flight crew. It was more than a quick five-second handshake and it was a humbling experience for so many of us.”

Another time Washer remembers providing a tour for Vice President Dick Cheney’s family. Washer was the area supervisor for security of the famed U-2 reconnaissance aircraft also known as Dragon Lady during the Joint Service Open House when the tour for the vice president’s family was requested.

“I truly enjoyed the people I got to work with, and, looking back now, being a part of history, I told them I truly appreciated it like I do now. I took on any job seriously and did it to the best of my abilities, but I never really took a deep breath and thought about how much of an honor it was,” he said.

In November of 2009, Washer was honorably discharged after serving six years on active duty, three with Air Force One. He then returned to Tennessee and began working in state government before landing at AEDC.

“This base (AEDC) offers me an opportunity to continue to serve my country and allows me to utilize some of my skills I acquired from the military. It’s also one of the most unique missions in all of the military. I don’t know if people truly appreciate it, the work everyone does so is so unique to work in the test areas do an absolutely amazing job. I’m still incredibly proud to work every day.”

The ongoing testing is expected to continue for security of the famed U-2 reconnaissance aircraft also known as Dragon Lady during the Joint Service Open House when the tour for the vice president’s family was requested. (Courtesy photo)

March 18, 2019

A store model positioned near one of three weapons bays on a 10 percent model of the B-1B Lancer. For the first time since 2000, the B-1B is involved in testing at Arnold Air Force Base. Tests are currently ongoing to determine the effects of a newly-introduced targeting pod for the B-1B would have on stores released from the aircraft. (U.S. Air Force photo by Bradley Hicks)

March 18, 2019

Working with Air Force One: AEDC’s John Washer shares his experience

By Kathy Gattis

The Captive Trajectory System, or CTS, is in use, he said, at Arnold Air Force

March 18, 2019

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John Washer, left, and his Air Force One teammates prepare then Vice President Dick Cheney’s family tour to watch, who now works as National Aerospace Solutions Industrial Security Specialist, was the area supervisor for the security of the famed U-2 reconnaissance aircraft also known as Dragon Lady during the Joint Service Open House when the tour for the vice president’s family was requested. (Courtesy photo)

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Sen. Bowling speaks to AEDC personnel as part of International Women’s Day celebration

By Deidre Ortiz

AEDC Public Affairs

On International Women’s Day, March 8, Tennessee State Sen. Janice Bowling was invited to Arnold Air Force Base to discuss how women can make a difference in Tennessee and her own role in government.

Bowling serves Tennessee District 16, which covers Coffee, Franklin, Grundy, Marion, Sequatchie, Van Buren and Warren counties. She is currently the Deputy Speaker of the Tennessee Senate. Prior to her involvement in state politics, she also served as the local level director for the City of Tullahoma from 2004 to 2005-2008. AEDC and Arnold Air Force Base special to Arnold Air Force Base March 8, Tennessee Sen. Janice Bowling speaks to a crowd at the Main Auditorium at Arnold Air Force Base on International Women’s Day, March 8. Bowling explained that in 1983, Van Hillery had asked her to help lead the Collier County Executive Committee for his campaign for congress. After he was elected, she served as the field representative for the next five years, Congress passed continued to pass joint resolutions designating a week in March as “Women’s History Week.”

The movement for a national day of recognition of International Women’s Day started in the 1960s, when Gloria Steinem, journalist and activist, once said, “The story of women’s struggle for equality belongs to no single feminist nor to any one organization but to the collective efforts of all who care about human rights.”

Between 1988 and 1994, Congress passed a series of annual proclamations designating the month of March as “Women’s History Month.” Since 1995, U.S. presidents have also issued a series of annual proclamations designating the month of March as “Women’s History Month.”

Sen. Bowling speaks to AEDC personnel as part of International Women’s Day celebration.
An accident in a warehouse can injure you or your coworkers, damage equipment, and run the plant. It has the potential to impact the entire company and common warehouse accidents involve forklifts. As a NAF employee, forklifts are the one of the most dangerous and difficult to handle equipment.

The fork lift is the one of the most mechanized devices. It can also be one of the most dangerous if not used properly. Statistic showed that in the last year about 1% of lost time accidents, yet they are the number one cause of the serious injuries. Some of those injuries occur when a forklift driver is driving a pedestrian. A forklift falls on a person when the driver is a fall off the forklift.

The key to forklift safety is your skill in operating the equipment, your ability to anticipate hazards in the warehouse setting, and your coordination at the job at hand.

You can prevent these incidents by following these simple step the same techniques and the same procedures, as many companies do. You are not alone in this. Often, you are not being able to jump clear. The impact of lift trucks can be catastrophic. You can, and you should, prevent these type of incidents.
Throughout the year, Gowen has twice been named AEDC Civilian of the Quarter. Barker described the Fire Department as an “outstanding performer” who has excelled in her duties.

“I was delighted that she won,” he said. “That’s because Leslie has been a top performer in the department for so many years who has been recognized many times by someone who has built good relationships with all the other organizations. She does a great job.”

Gowen competed against 12 other AFMC legal offices for the Harold Vague Award. Next month, she’ll be against other top paralegals across Air Force Materiel Command for the Air Force Judge Advocate General Federal law.

While McGowan said she was surprised by her individual award, she was not by the MACOM-level recognition earned by the Arnold Legal Office.

“We have a great office,” she said. “We work well together. I can’t say enough good things about what our office does, what the attorneys do.”

The office provides legal support for the Arnold AFB, and its efforts impact the lives of firefighters and emergency workers around base to community operations. Along with working as a legal paralegal with tax help programs, the office helps the firefighters with testing and legal review of contracts and agreements.

Working alongside McGowan and Barker in the Arnold Legal Office is Capt. Janet Ashley, deputy staff judge advocate; Greg Porter, senior attorney advisor; and Eric Norton, paralegal specialist. Not pictured in Capt. Janet Ashley, deputy staff judge advocate. (U.S. Air Force photo by Bradley Hicks)

Thomas Lombard, an assistant fire chief at Arnold AFB, said the training not only better prepares the department to respond to calls around the base and mutual aid emergencies, it also bolsters synergy among the members of the crew while giving departmental leaders an opportunity to see them in action.

“Building teamwork and camaraderie throughout the office is the job done,” he said.

The training began on Feb. 28 and concluded on March 18. During the exercises, Arnold firefighters formed teams of two, and each team was tasked with working its way through the simulation. The teams had to tackle the mock living room fire before progressing to the forward simulated kitchen. As they worked on the stove fire, the living room fire was rolling.

“They had to coordinate as a team to go back and extinguish the fire before they could be sure they had a safe area,” Lombard said.

Perspective is a key part of the simulator. As firefighters don their smoke and collaborated to get their fire hose into position to combat the flames before the blue smoke grade below grade blue.

The building scenario was provided to Arnold by the 460th Aerial Port Support Squadron, which is part of the Kentucky Community and Technical College System. Lombard said his crew has worked with the KCTCS for the past several years to complete the necessary training.

“They’ve performed with us the last several years, and they’ve done a great job designing,” he said.

The fires in the simulator are created via a computer-driven system. This provides administrators with greater control over the fires and training with improved safety when compared to other live fire training methods.

“Propane allows us to have continuous fires, which means I don’t need additional crews to actually stick the fire,” he said. “I don’t have to reset the burn scenario.”

This fire scenario is computerized and can be controlled remotely. Given the right -- and sometimes not the right -- conditions a fire can spread to other areas, Such as with materials like wood, a computer system can be used to control fires and, if something’s not working out, we can shut it down. That would be an advantage and a disadvantage. If a fire gets out of control, we can shut it down by remote control.

“Once a firefighter gets a fire going, it’s up to him to control it,” Lombard said. “It’s up to them to control the temperature, the burn rate, and what type of fire it is.”

Smoke that fills the training unit through controlled releases allows firefighters to practice dealing with smoke, making them better prepared to handle the effects of smoke.

The smoke test setup allows instructors to monitor the entire operation, so it has some set parameters. If the fire doesn’t burn high or it’s not put out aggressively enough, it’ll continue until the firefighter performs and gets water where they need it on those sensors.

“Even with the safety measures and controls, Lombard said getting through the simulation is no easy task as it trains firefighters to face many of the same challenges they would while responding to real-world situations.

“Once a firefighter gets their gear, they’re using an additional 85 pounds of equipment. Lombard said. “Once the smoke begins to flow, it completely loses visibility inside the structure, so they have to learn to work within that.

Barker said the Arnold AFB Fire and Emergency Services to complete the annually-required live fire training. (U.S. Air Force photo by Bradley Hicks)

The Arnold Air Force Base Legal Office was recently awarded Air Force Materiel Command Small Legal Office of the Quarter for the fourth quarter of 2018. Pictured from left are Ryan Mueller, attorney advisor; Lt. Col. Andrew Barker, staff judge advocate; Leslie McGowan, paralegal specialist; Greg Porter, senior attorney advisor; and Eric Norton, paralegal specialist. Not pictured in Capt. Janet Ashley, deputy staff judge advocate. (U.S. Air Force photo by Bradley Hicks)

The airman’s legal office is charged with providing to Arnold personnel legal advice and support for the command at Norton AFB firefighters as part of a great job doing so,” he said. “They’ve performed with us the last several years to complete the necessary training.

“The driving force behind our legal office award and also Leslie’s individual award is that we have great leadership here on the base and we have a very important mission, so we are all motivated to support our leadership and the mission of the office here,” Barker said. “They’re good examples, so we strive to make sure that we reach our goals and all that’s expected of us.”

**From page 1**

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Barker said the Arnold AFB Fire and Emergency Services to complete the annually-required live fire training. (U.S. Air Force photo by Bradley Hicks)
Professionals at Airman and Family Readiness Centers stand ready to support military spouses with achieving their short and long-term employment goals regardless of where they are stationed. Employment skills counselors, Air Force-wide understand military spouses face unique challenges in the workforce, and they must be prepared to create and maintain a portable career. "We can help spouses who are just starting out in the work force as well as those who have an established career path," said Javonika McCree, a community readiness analyst and employment specialist at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph. "As a military spouse, you have access to a number of unique resources that will help you achieve your education and career goals, whether it's finishing an undergraduate degree, pursuing a training certificate or landing a new job," McCree added.

Spouse Education and Career Opportunities, or SECO, is an initiative that seeks to strengthen education and career opportunities for military spouses by providing career exploration tools and resources. SECO offers military spouses comprehensive education and career support, including career coaches who can help with:

- Education, training and licensure – acquiring the right education, technical training, license or credential for your career goals.
- Employment readiness – resources that can help you brush up on current trends, write a resume, network and hone your interviewing skills.
- Career connections – opening the door to opportunities and connections through Military Spouse Employment Partnership, USAJOBS.gov, CareerOneStop and more.

To learn more about SECO, visit https://myseco.militaryonesource.mil/portal/.
2019 Engineers Week concludes with inspirational speech from special guest

By Paul Kelley
AECO - TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT

Engineers Week was brought to conclusion with the Engineers Week Banquet Feb. 21 at the University of Tennessee Space Institute Dining Hall.

Engineers Week activities were planned and hosted with help from the Tallahassee chapter of the Society of Professional Engineers and the Tennessee section of the AIAA, the Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, along with volunteers from AEDC, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Harlan Science Center and the Arnold Air Force Base STEM Program.

As part of the banquet, FIRST® Tech Challenge teams that participated in the 2019-2020 season, from September to February, were recognized as Region Awards Winners for the Southeast Region of the Stellar Xplorers. Participating teams from the Southeast Region are listed in this story.

Lt. Col. Tucker Hamilton, the guest speaker of the 2019 Engineers Week Banquet, tells the story of his grandmother Betty Robinson, an Olympic gold medalist. The banquet was Feb. 21 at UTSI for those who participated in the weeklong Engineers Week events. (Courtesy photo by Michael Moharney)

Local Stellar Xplorers teams place second and third in Southeast Region

By Kim Nelson
Local Stellar Xplorers teams place second and third in Southeast Region

Two of the three Stellar Xplorers teams from Coffee County Central High School recently placed in the top three positions in the Southeast Region of the Stellar Xplorers. Stellar Xplorers is an Air Force Association sponsored program designed to inspire and attract high school students to pursue studies and careers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics through a challenging space design competition involving all aspects of system development and operation with a spacecraft and payload focus.

Over 100 teams participated in competitions across the nation this year. The three teams from CCCHS competed throughout the 2018-2019 season, from September 2018 to February 2019, and participated in three Practice Rounds, two Qualifying Rounds and the Regional Competition.

This was the third year in a row that the CCCHS Air Force and Basic STEM program and the Tennessee Valley Women in Defense Chapter partnered together to support the Stellar Xplorers Program at Coffee County Central High School.

For the 2018-2019 school year, the CCCHS Air Force Junior ROTC Commander, Col. Mike Angle, U.S. Air Force retirée, former Director of Policy, Plans & Programs, Joint Forces Component Commander, served as the team coach. This is the third year the CCCHS Air Force and Basic STEM program and the Tennessee Valley Women in Defense Chapter partnered together to support the Stellar Xplorers Program at Coffee County Central High School.

Members of the Coffee County Central High School Stellar Xplorers teams celebrate their recent recognition as Region Award Winners for the Southeast Region of the Stellar Xplorers. CCCHS Air Force Junior ROTC Team #2 received second place and CCCHS Air Force Junior ROTC Team #4 received third place. These teams were part of over 100 teams to participate in Stellar Xplorers competitions across the nation this year. (Courtesy photo)

who can participate?
Teams can come from any high school (including homeschooled), BOYOS, CAP, Cadet Clubs, Boy Scouts, Girls & Cadet Clubs, or any organized youth organization. Teams consist of an adult team leader, usually a teacher, and two to six students. Teams mentors with space experience are available in-person or online. Participation is free until after March 17, 2019. Please register at the Stellar Xplorers website. stemchallenge.org. Teams will be asked for their solutions to a typical space design problem, such as orbit determination, satellite component selection, and launch vehicle planning, as outlined in a sample description document. Practice Rounds provide two Qualification Rounds with the QR scores determining which teams advance to either the Preston Round, or the higher scoring Semi-Finals in March. The top teams from the Semi-Finals will receive an all-expense-paid trip to the Finale in Alabama in April.

For further information on the Stellar Xplorers program visit: stellarxplorers.org.

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Members of the Coffee County Central High School Stellar Xplorers teams celebrate their recent recognition as Region Award Winners for the Southeast Region of the Stellar Xplorers. CCCHS Air Force Junior ROTC Team #2 received second place and CCCHS Air Force Junior ROTC Team #4 received third place. These teams were part of over 100 teams to participate in Stellar Xplorers competitions across the nation this year. (Courtesy photo)

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Teams can come from any high school (including homeschooled), BOYOS, CAP, Cadet Clubs, Boy Scouts, Girls & Cadet Clubs, or any organized youth organization. Teams consist of an adult team leader, usually a teacher, and two to six students. Teams mentors with space experience are available in-person or online. Participation is free until after March 17, 2019. Please register at the Stellar Xplorers website. stemchallenge.org. Teams will be asked for their solutions to a typical space design problem, such as orbit determination, satellite component selection, and launch vehicle planning, as outlined in a sample description document. Practice Rounds provide two Qualification Rounds with the QR scores determining which teams advance to either the Preston Round, or the higher scoring Semi-Finals in March. The top teams from the Semi-Finals will receive an all-expense-paid trip to the Finale in Alabama in April.

For further information on the Stellar Xplorers program visit: stellarxplorers.org.

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Tennessee Fisher House president to speak at AEDC Woman’s Club meeting

By Barbara McGuire

The AEDC Woman’s Club will hold their next meeting April 4 at the Arnold Lakeside Center and will be welcoming Don Wright from The Tennessee Fisher House in Murfreesboro as the special guest.

Wright is president of the Tennessee Fisher House Foundation, which enables family members of veterans to be close to a loved one during hospitalization. He will be talking about the Fisher House, the amenities guests receive, during many pictures and more.

Those attending will also be introduced to this year’s AEDCWC Scholarship recipients at this meeting. Table donations will be going to The Tennessee Fisher House in Murfreesboro.

The March program for the AEDC Woman’s Club was presented by Dorene Briggs of Dillard’s of Cool Springs with makeup specialists from Dior. Beautiful spring styles displayed by AEDCWC ladies walking around the club room. Donations from our members went to the AEDCWC Scholarship Foundation.

The social hour of the April 4 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 March 28. Make reservations by calling 931-393-2552 or 931-434-5415.

The AEDCWC meetings are open to the public and provides the opportunity to meet the 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 WC, call the membership chairman at 931-435-3369.

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.

AEDC Woman’s Club members display the latest spring fashions during their March meeting at the Arnold Lakeside Center. Pictured left to right are Joan Haugten, Stephanie Mittuch, Lisa Schroeder, Susan Schultz, Sande Hayes, Susan Harris and Barbie More. (Courtesy photo)
Emerging Technologies CTF conducts first autonomous flight test

By Kenji Thuloweit
412th Test Wing Public Affairs


The team collected data on the Testing of Autonomy in Complex Environments system, or TACE.

The TACE system is test middleware developed by Johns Hopkins University that sits between an autonomy/artificial intelligence computer and an aircraft’s autopilot, according to Capt. Riley Livermore, 412th Test Wing ET CTF autonomy lead.

It monitors the commands being sent from the autonomy to the autopilot and then sends back the aircraft state information such as position, speed and orientation to the autonomy.

“Today we had an autonomous algorithm commanding the aircraft without any direct human involvement; we call it human OFF the loop as opposed to most remotely piloted aircraft that are human IN the loop,” Riley said.

The flight test involved hand-launching a Lynx small unmanned aircraft system, or sUAS, made by Swift Radio Planes. The TACE payload itself is not designed for a specific aircraft, but can be used on different aircraft sizes for test, Riley said.

There are two primary functions for TACE. One is called “autonomy watching.”

“If a safety-of-flight parameter is violated due to an autonomously commanded maneuver — aka proximity to other test aircraft, flying out of an air space boundary, or losing communications with the ground unit — then TACE will stop the commands from the autonomy and alert a pre-determined safety location,” Riley said.

The second function, Live-Virtual-Constructive, is the ability for TACE to allow simulated entities to interact with live aircraft.

“TACE controls what the autonomy computer commands the aircraft without any direct human involvement; we call it human OFF the loop as opposed to most remotely piloted aircraft that are human IN the loop,” Riley said.

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