AEDC commander provides transparency in decision-making during coronavirus pandemic

By Jill Pickrell
AEDC Public Affairs

In the second of what he intends to make a weekly occurrence during the operational posture now in place, Arnold Engineering Development Complex Commander Col. Jeffrey Geraghty took to social media April 15 to update on the COVID-19 situation at Arnold Air Force Base.

During the virtual town hall, Geraghty answered questions submitted by base personnel across a wide range of topics, including pay for contractors not working under the current stay-at-home order, risk mitigation measures at Arnold and the return to normal mission execution.

An “Operationally Urgent” posture effect took effect at Arnold on April 6, just three days after the first positive case of COVID-19 was reported on the base. During this posture, some mission activities are curtailed and access to the installation is limited to those employees required to complete critical test missions and support functions. This posture also enhanced screening measures put in place at Arnold on March 21.

As he did during his April 8 town hall, Geraghty reiterated his April 15 updates that his three main priorities are to take care of the workforce, execute as much of the mission as possible, and ensure members of the workforce take care of each other.

Below are some of the questions from the April 15 Facebook Live session and Geraghty’s responses. The answers have been edited for length and clarity.

Q: What is AEDC’s risk assessment process for COVID-19? Geraghty stated a high or medium risk of loss of life is not acceptable to him, nor is a high risk of a lengthy hospital stay.

Geraghty said, “We consider taking a medium risk of a lengthy hospital stay unacceptable, if we can drive that unacceptability down.”

Risks with catastrophic or critical severity are only considered a low risk if the probability of occurrence is improbable, or less than one in one million likelihood. A risk with a critical severity would be a medium risk if the probability was remote or occasional, or likelihood of occurrence between less than one in one hundred and one in one million.

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Q: Does Section 3610 of the CARES Act apply to contractors here at Arnold? A: The CARES Act provides flexibility to government agencies to be able to pay contractors in situations where previously we have been unable to pay contractors, and the most striking example here is that we’ve always been very closely barred from paying contractors for work that was not performed. The CARES Act, although it’s not as simple as it sounds, seems to give some relief or some authority to the government for the ability to pay contractors under certain conditions when they were unable to perform that work purely due to this COVID-19 crisis. It’s not quite that simple, and my team is working through that very hand right now to figure out the exact mechanics of how that might be able to work, if we can make it work.
**First test cell installed at Aeropropulsion Systems Test Facility 40 years ago this month**

By Bradley Hicks

In 1980, the Aeropropulsion Systems Test Facility (ASTF) was intended to be the U.S. Air Force’s facilities for testing advanced jet engines. The first of two 550,000-pound thrust test cells was put into place at the facility that month. The second cell would be completed in 1984.

**The Aeropropulsion Systems Test Facility (ASTF) is pictured here at dusk. The first of two 550,000-pound thrust test cells was put into place on May 1980. (U.S. Air Force photo)**

**Money matters**

A man's word is his bond; to break his word is to lose it.

—Joseph Haydn

By Joseph Hes

**Chief, AEDC Financial Management/Controller Directorate**

The man and woman of AEDC’s Financial Management/Controller organization are an integral part of our mission; this fact contin-
ually drives them to provide cost-effective and respons-
sible services to AEDC’s customers.

Every employee involved in accomplishing work has a different role, contrib-
utes in their own manner, and is essential to the success of the business. By doing their part, they are one on a common goal. Understanding each play-
ner’s contributions is critical, it helps highlight the fact that it’s what we do in each capacity that ensures even though different rule-
s might be adhered to in setting there.

The following are many different facts that are necessary in understanding the AEDC mission; some areas impact personal finances more than others are focused on the proper use and execu-
tion of AEDC’s financial and physical assets.

These professionals work diligently to help move the mission forward; in this area, at least those areas that we can control; the more focused individuals can be on what needs to be done within their area of control. These talented 

People work closely with customers to help guide them through the process and minimize these external disa-

bilities. As a critical support entity, FM attempts to support all areas that is critical to the mission.

One facet of FM spe-
cifically designed to accom-
plish this is the customer service area. If individuals in FM are not properly trained, leave no 

unanswered for proper document processing, funds availability, customer-docu-
ments acceptance, financial analysis, validating proper procedures, funding 

coordinating, coordination with HQ, systems inte-

gration, financial analysis (I mention this already it’s an old storyline).

This doesn’t mean that every problem is solved, in doing so they like; there is never enough, unfortunately, FM works closely with all levels of leadership to understand the pri-

orities and help provide critical data and analysis to those decision makers so that potential redlines may be moved in creating or funding. A critical resource, and these decisions help everyone focus on the critical aspects of the mission. The trusted advisor role is not taken lightly by any involved.

Finally, as we all taxpay,

ers, FM plays a criti-

cal role in ensuring that all applicable laws and regula-

tions are adhered to while meeting Congress’ intent on the use of appropriated funding. We will get to the most of the dollars allocated to FM’s goal to provide flexibility within those parameters laid out by higher authorities.

The dedicated profession-
als in FM are invaluable support that en-

abled the mission to succeed (Second to None), and they do it well every day. They do. Money obviously matters, but the Airmen that help manage the financial opera-
tions are even more critical.

**First test cell installed at Aeropropulsion Systems Test Facility 40 years ago this month**

By Bradley Hicks

**AEDC Public Affairs**

Forty years ago this month, a significant hurdle in the modern multimillion dollar Aero-

propulsion Systems Test Facility construction project was completed.

The first test cell in the ASTF was put into place on May 1980.

This milestone occurred four years before the ASTF groundbreaking cere-

mony took place. The test cells were completed four years before the dedica-

tion.

The test cell was one of two, sitting 28-foot-wide and appro-

ximately 50-foot-long test cells.

The test cell brought into the Arnold Engineer-

ing Development Complex headquarters around this time the four ASTF test cells transported from one area to another on a specially-constructed truck. The test cell building was located specifically for the test cell.

According to the Joint Chiefs of Staff, six months of planning and preparation were necessary for the trans-

porting of the 550-pound test cell and its transport 

self. The test cell, however, remained in a completed state for months.

Prior to its move, the test cell was heated in the workshop on its stresses.

The power of the ASTF test cells would go on to be used in testing of advanced engines. The facility would be used to increase the jet engine testing capacity at Arnold.

AEDC Commander

Col. Jeffrey Geraghty

Commander

Jill Pickard

Air Force Base

Executive Editor

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Engine Testing Facility (ASTF) was intended for use in testing of advanced jet en-

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struction involved around 700 different companies. Construction of ASTF began in 1977; the seven 

years to complete and more than a half-bili-

on what end result is shared among the other arena that is critical to the success of AEDC’s mis-

sion is set on one common goal.

I believe that the best and fastest way to get things resolved is to give us a chance.

You will then be prompted to select the normal "x6000" commander's office. Simply click the normal "x6000" commander's office and then be prompted to select the first option if the Commander’s Action Line or Op-

ations Section is inactivated on AEDC’s action Line via the AEDC Action Line page. The first option is inactivated automatically, I do hope everyone to go that route first; then if the situation isn’t made right, give us a chance.

Col. Jeffrey Geraghty

AEDC Commander

**The first of two 550,000-pound test cells was put into place under the construction Aeropropulsion Systems Test Facility 40 years ago this month. (U.S. Air Force photo)**

**U.S. Air Force photo**

**Skeen, and cost averaging, coordination with HQ, systems inte-

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Virtual museums – You might not need to go to the Louvre, the British Museum, or the National Museum of China; virtual tours of these museums are available online.

Reading/studying – Testing for Staff Minimum. How can you stay away from home and personal interactions be kept to a minimum. How can you stay away from COVID-19, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention has encouraged that all social gatherings be reduced to the minimum. How can you stay away from COVID-19 and keep yourself from getting sick?

Here’s some things you and your family can do while practicing social distancing.

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2. Exercise – Maintaining your personal fitness is one of the values at the heart of any strong Airman. Home workouts like calisthenics, jump roping or rope going or run for a marathons are effective to improve your fitness without having access to a gym. Take the dog for a walk, take the car for a walk, take your kids for a walk basically just take a walk, a little.

3. Cooking – Putting together a nice, home-cooked meal could be just what the family ordered. There are endless options online to cook and ideas for fun things to try in the kitchen and get the kids involved. Try out a new recipe that you’ve had on the backburner or browse online for some creative culinary inspiration.

4. Cleaning – We all put this one off. Now is a great time to focus your time and attention on cleaning, organizing and decluttering your home. Use this time to get rid of everything you don’t need and buy everything you need, to be considerate of others also in this time. 

5. Staying Active Inside. Take these difficult times to make the most of your downtime. Maybe skip Twister if anyone has that. Take the dog for a walk, take the cat for a walk, take your kids for a walk basically just take a walk, a little.

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7. Board Games – Monopoly, Risk or Catan. Grab the pieces and stream your favorite show. Streaming services or even good old cable is your best friend when it comes to a night in with nothing better to do.

8. Virtual museums – You might not be able to go in person but virtual museums are an educational and fun resource that one to at least some of your curiosity. Between the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History, National Gallery of Art and the Metropolitan Museum, there are plenty of opportunities to see and experience the magic that museums have to offer. Google Arts & Culture also offers plenty of places to explore.

9. Take these difficult times to make the most of your day. Staying physically and mentally sound during isolation should be your number one priority and even though some of us might be spending more time at home, don’t have to compromise our mood. Now that you’ve seen some of the ways to keep your mind and body sharp while social distancing, get out there and do it, better yet, stay in and do it. For more military family resources go to militaryremonc.com.

Col. Brian Silkey, 419th Fighter Wing vice commander, shows off the F-35 Lightning II helmet to an online audience during a virtual “field trip” at Hill Air Force Base, Utah, April 2. With the closure of schools due to COVID-19, the wing posted a video to their social media sites so at-home students could get an up-close look at the F-35. (U.S. Air Force courtesy photo)

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419th Fighter Wing wing hosts F-35 virtual field trip

By AEDC Public Affairs

HILL AIR FORCE BASE, Utah (AFNS) — With closures at schools across the nation due to COVID-19, the 419th Fighter Wing invited students to use their computers to “visit” for a virtual field trip to see the Air Force’s newest fighter, the F-35.

Col. Brian Silkey, the wing’s vice commander, and longtime fighter pilot, recorded a video for the wing’s Facebook page (https://www.facebook.com/419fw/videos/1485332158408279/) and YouTube channel (https://youtu.be/eQfPQ-l-mU0).

“We wanted to do a little something for our students during this difficult and uncertain time,” Silkey said. “It was fun to think about fun to use the technology we have at our fingertips to bring the F-35 to them. Ultimately, we want to show the 419th FB that they’re not alone in this at all in this together and we hope that some are inspired to follow their dreams to serve in the U.S. military.”

During the virtual field trip, students heard an overview of the aircraft’s capabilities to combat COVID-19 with good nutrition

By Lt. Col. Kelly Caprino

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By AEDC Public Affairs

HILL AIR FORCE BASE, Utah (AFNS) — With closures at schools across the nation due to COVID-19, the 419th Fighter Wing invited students to use their computers to “visit” for a virtual field trip to see the Air Force’s newest fighter, the F-35. (Courtesy photo)
AEDC Commander discusses COVID-19 impact, looks ahead during third virtual town hall

AEDC Public Affairs

Arnold Engineering Development Center Commander Col. Jeffrey Geraghty hosted a third virtual town hall on April 14 to answer questions and discuss the continuing impact of COVID-19 at Arnold Air Force Base.

During the most-recent Q&A session, Geraghty explained that he intends to hold weekly discussions moving forward. Open Ugent posture now in place at Arnold, Geraghty did emphasize that a base might look a little bit different, but it could be brought back when the risks diminish, among other topics.

Q: What are we anticipating 14 days from now? When the risk diminishes, do you envision a return to our normal jobs?

A: I don’t anticipate the third virtual town hall 14 days from now featuring a return to being lifted. What I do anticipate is that our questions to determine a hotspot might come up again. We’ll be continuing the best practices that we got from regions and Air Force bases that had experienced something like this before. And I do anticipate that the British, the Dutch, the French, the Belgians have had this happen before, and we’re going to make sure that we maintain that posture, but they’re still going to evaluate our workforce and families, as well as the civilian workforce, to make sure that we have good criteria for how to add hotspots to the list and when to remove them.

Q: When do you anticipate a zero quarantine after visiting a hotspot being lifted?

A: I don’t anticipate that to be the first thing to happen, to be honest. Those are things that are going to be discussed when we get a situation where the threshold of what we thought was a hotspot, we’re going to get a question with the command question where we’re trying to answer with the right thing, but we’re in a situation where we’re looking for transmission of this disease on the base. It may still be across the road in our right now, and it will still be up to the states upon us at Arnold Air Force Base on that right now, but that doesn’t mean that we have to just kind of do what we started with a month ago and keep those established. One of the things I have the team looking into this is perhaps we start to look at thresholds for the number of positive cases from the number of total cases so far what we come up with is the number of active cases. We’ve seen a large percentage of total cases is going to continue to be a concern for us. In our testing for this, Manchester this weekend created the potential that a large number of cases in our workforce. We’re looking at our testing more.

A: We’re going to continue to work with public health and our medical experts here at AEDC, we’re going to continue to open up our test sites for the Surgeon General’s stuff to make sure that we have good criteria for how to add hotspots to the list and when to remove them.

Q: Will one of the key factors in a hotspot being lifted is that the infection rate starts to balloon?

A: I agree that there’s going to be a threshold at which we’re going to start to look at the increase in the infection rate. If the infection rate drives up and we can’t mitigate those severe cases and crises, we are going to look at the appropriate levels, what we’re going to have to do to tighten back up the risk mitigation posture and what we can’t do in the future. We may have to decrease the level of risk that we’re actually going to get.

Q: What kind of the impact that we think it could have in a negative sense.

A: I think the impact that we think it could have in a negative sense is going to be the impact to our workforce. If we don’t get it under control, and we’re not going to be able to get it under control, then you’re going to have a major impact on the economy, that particular sector.

Q: Could you ask the Governor of the State of Maryland and California to make the call when they are ready to lift the quarantine after visiting a hotspot being lifted?

A: I can ask the Governor of the State of Maryland and California to make the call when they are ready to lift the quarantine after visiting a hotspot being lifted. What I do anticipate, we hope, is that getting back to base is going to be safe and return to the mission for the long-term. One thing I definitely don’t want to happen is that we don’t get people back, we become a source of community transmission of COVID-19, and then we have to start to feel like, you know, we can’t do that. We’re not going to hesitate to take care of priority number one, and we are going to protect the health of our mission.

Q: If the infection rates continue to drive up and we can’t mitigate those severe cases and crises, we are going to look at the appropriate levels, what we’re going to have to do to tighten back up the risk mitigation posture and what we can’t do in the future. We may have to decrease the level of risk that we’re actually going to get.

A: I think that kind of the impact that we think it could have in a negative sense, we think it could have an impact to our workforce.

Q: What are our plans going to be when it comes to upcoming town hall?

A: I am thankful for this program, and I am really encouraged by the fact that we have a very positive workforce back on base. As he did during his April 8 and April 15 broad casts, Geraghty made clear that the priorities are to take care of each other. The responses have been tremendously important to get to know what the workforce feels like for you. It’s going to be different across the whole enterprise in terms of what missions might start to come back when.

I did attend some planning meetings with some of the teams who have urgent national security work so in May that they need to start preparing for. I am going to start feeling like it’s getting a little bit old, and I can find everybody’s anticipation for getting back and I appreciate the positive attitudes and your understanding that getting back to base depends first upon priority number one and taking care of the health of the workforce so that we can return to base safely and return to the mission for the long-term. One thing I definitely don’t want to happen is that we don’t get people back, we become a source of community transmission of COVID-19, and then we have to start to feel like, you know, we can’t do that. We’re not going to hesitate to take care of priority number one, and we are going to protect the health of our mission.

Q: What kind of the impact that we think it could have in a negative sense is going to be the impact to our workforce. If we don’t get it under control, and we’re not going to be able to get it under control, then you’re going to have a major impact on the economy, that particular sector.

A: The impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic have been far-reaching, and it’s likely that we’ll continue to see their effects in the coming months and years. However, our recovery efforts are moving forward, and we are taking steps to mitigate the risks and adapt to the changing circumstances.
Brian Andersen, an instrumentation specialist, operates the Arc Lamp System in the Aerothermal Calibration Laboratory Jan. 15 while demonstrating the use of the machine to provide heat to a test cell for use at Arnold Air Force Base, Tenn. The arc lamp is used in hypersonic testing equipment.

Q: Last week you spent a lot of time with the Test Operations Division, Q: Last week you spent a lot of time with the Test Operations Division, testing. How are you preparing for the longer term?

A: We're thinking through how we can get the data that we need. Did we find and collect the data to make sure that we do it with enough statistical rigor that we can get a verified and validated answer?

Evan Milligan, a journeyman wireman, connects cables to a F404 engine Jan. 10 in a sea level test cell at Arnold Air Force Base, Tenn. The engine is being prepared for use as a testbed for the Arnold Engineering Development Complex Technology, Analysis and Evaluation Branch. The F404 engine is used for military and commercial aircraft engines.

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Ron Wood, an instrument technician, uses an oscilloscope Jan. 13 in the Arnold Engineering Development Complex Laboratory at Arnold Air Force Base, Tenn. The oscilloscope measures the changing value of an electrical signal.

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If that’s the widget we are talking about, we can’t stay there any longer because what we sell, right now, is still COVID related. Right now, we do have an order for about 300 of those hotspots that is going to be delivered in May of this year, which is not too far away.

Q: Is AEDC actively developing a method of risk mitigation that that would be acceptable to everybody that could take hold of it from the customers?

A: We have a method of risk development that we think is pretty solid, and it’s been through our own work, and it’s been through our suppliers as well, and it’s been through our defense partners. We have a method of risk development that we think is pretty solid, and it’s been through our own work, and it’s been through our suppliers as well, and it’s been through our defense partners.

Q: Is there an official list of items that can or cannot be taken in this area?

A: Yes, there is an official list of items that can or cannot be taken in this area. That list is available on our website, and it is updated regularly.

Q: If we leave the widget that we are working on right now, what are the next steps for that project?

A: The next steps for that project are to get approval from the Department of Defense. Once we have approval, we will be able to start working on the actual product.

Q: When we get through this pandemic and we want to get back to normal operations, what’s the plan for that?

A: The plan is to have a new normal and to transition back to our old normal.

Q: What’s the difference between the old normal and the new normal?

A: The difference between the old normal and the new normal is that the new normal will include more health and safety measures to protect employees and customers.

Q: What are those health and safety measures?

A: Those health and safety measures include regular temperature checks, mask wearing, social distancing, and cleaning protocols.

Q: How will these measures affect the workforce?

A: These measures will affect the workforce by limiting in-person interactions and requiring the use of technology for some tasks.

Q: Will there be a change in the way we work?

A: Yes, there will be a change in the way we work. We will have to adapt to new ways of working, such as remote work and hybrid work models.

Q: What are the risks associated with this change?

A: The risks associated with this change include decreased productivity, increased stress, and decreased collaboration.

Q: What can we do to mitigate these risks?

A: We can mitigate these risks by implementing flexible working arrangements, providing mental health support, and encouraging open communication.

Q: When will we be able to return to a pre-COVID-19 environment?

A: We will be able to return to a pre-COVID-19 environment when the virus is under control and the threat of infection is low.

Q: What are the signs that the virus is under control?

A: The signs that the virus is under control include a significant decrease in new infections, hospitalizations, and deaths.

Q: What are the risks of continuing to operate under current conditions?

A: The risks of continuing to operate under current conditions include the potential for an increase in infections, hospitalizations, and deaths if we do not follow the health guidelines.

Q: What are the benefits of continuing to operate under current conditions?

A: The benefits of continuing to operate under current conditions include maintaining economic activity and providing essential services.

Q: What are the trade-offs between the benefits and risks?

A: The trade-offs between the benefits and risks include the need to balance economic activity and public health.

Q: How can we ensure that the recommended guidelines are followed?

A: We can ensure that the recommended guidelines are followed by enforcing them through policies and procedures, and by providing training and education.

Q: What are the consequences of not following the recommended guidelines?

A: The consequences of not following the recommended guidelines include a higher risk of infections, hospitalizations, and deaths.

Q: What can be done to address these consequences?

A: We can address these consequences by implementing stricter guidelines and by providing better health services.

Q: What are the long-term effects of this pandemic on individuals and society?

A: The long-term effects of this pandemic on individuals and society include changes in lifestyle, economic impacts, and health outcomes.

Q: How can we prepare for these long-term effects?

A: We can prepare for these long-term effects by investing in health services, economic support, and social programs.

Q: What are the costs of this pandemic on individuals and society?

A: The costs of this pandemic on individuals and society include lost income, lost jobs, and lost access to health services.

Q: How can we estimate these costs?

A: We can estimate these costs by using economic and health models that estimate the impact of the pandemic on individuals and society.

Q: What are the policy recommendations for preventing future pandemics?

A: The policy recommendations for preventing future pandemics include investing in health services, improving public health infrastructure, and increasing international cooperation.

Q: What are the challenges of implementing these policy recommendations?

A: The challenges of implementing these policy recommendations include funding, political will, and international cooperation.

Q: What are the potential benefits of implementing these policy recommendations?

A: The potential benefits of implementing these policy recommendations include reducing the impact of future pandemics and improving public health outcomes.

Q: How can we ensure that these recommendations are implemented?

A: We can ensure that these recommendations are implemented by establishing policy frameworks, providing financial incentives, and increasing awareness.

Q: What are the steps that should be taken to address the mental health impacts of this pandemic?

A: The steps that should be taken to address the mental health impacts of this pandemic include providing access to mental health services, implementing mental health training, and increasing public awareness.

Q: What are the potential long-term mental health impacts of this pandemic?

A: The potential long-term mental health impacts of this pandemic include anxiety, depression, and post-traumatic stress disorder.

Q: What can be done to address these long-term mental health impacts?

A: We can address these long-term mental health impacts by providing ongoing mental health services, increasing mental health awareness, and promoting mental health policies.

Q: What are the challenges of addressing these long-term mental health impacts?

A: The challenges of addressing these long-term mental health impacts include funding, staffing, and implementing mental health policies.
Arnold AFB Milestones

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Years</th>
<th>Milestone</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>Alecia Davis, TOS</td>
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<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Michael Williams, TOS</td>
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<td>25</td>
<td>William Burnette, TOS; Shannon Hidalgo, TOS; Larry Underwood, TOS</td>
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<td>Robert Bradford, TOS; Alvin Cleek, TOS; Michael Dingwall, TOS; Charles Ray, TOS; Jason Trussell, TOS; William Whitley, TOS; Craig Morrison, TOS; Shannon Medley, TOS; Larry Underwood, TOS; William Burnette, TOS; Michael Williams, TOS; Alecia Davis, TOS</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Robert Bradford, TOS; Alvin Cleek, TOS; Michael Dingwall, TOS; Charles Ray, TOS; Jason Trussell, TOS; William Whitley, TOS; Craig Morrison, TOS; Shannon Medley, TOS; Larry Underwood, TOS; William Burnette, TOS; Michael Williams, TOS; Alecia Davis, TOS</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Earl Barker, TOS; Travis Cuppinger, TOS; Joseph Tirado, TOS; Laura Bobo, TOS; Edward Sexton, TOS; William Bobo, TOS; Edward Sexton, TOS; William Whitley, TOS; Craig Morrison, TOS</td>
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RETIREMENTS

- Paul Buckner, TOS
- James Farley, TOS
- Randy Hill, TOS
- William Lynch, TOS
- George Myers, TOS
- Master Sgt. Joshua Suigg, AF

NEW HIRES

- Sarah Baker, TOS
- Leslie Cappama, TOS
- Wendy Carr, TOS
- Isaac Garner, TOS
- Tommy Heard, TOS
- Guillermo Hernandez, AF
- Michelle Hicks, TOS
- Derek Jones, TOS
- Seth Logue, TOS
- Austin Lynn, TOS
- Stephen Mattick, TOS
- Brett Moore, AF
- Kevin Nguyen, TOS
- Katie Price, TOS
- Godly Sikes, TOS
- Randy White, TOS

PROMOTIONS

- Nicolas Arosemena, AF, promoted to captain
- Kaitlin Berner, AF, promoted to captain
- Brian Gatzke, AF, promoted to captain
- Jeremy Swaw, AF, promoted to first lieutenant
- Nikita Williamson, AF, promoted to technical sergeant

DEGREES

- Misty Layne, AF, earned a Master of Science degree in engineering management

AEDC from page 1

Mitigation efforts to reduce the risk of hospitalization and allow team members to return to work is a focus of AEDC leadership for moving forward.

"As you might know from the Tennessee Department of Health, the hospitalization rate here in the state of Tennessee for those with the disease is about 14 percent," Geraghty said. "So, clearly, trying to drive that risk down to somewhere closer to one in a million is not terribly easy to do, but that’s why we have so many risk mitigations in place, to make sure that we’re taking care of priority number one.

Concerning reopening Arnold Air Force Base, headquarters of AEDC, Geraghty stated it would be a phased reopening, referencing the guidelines published by the White House.

He also shared a chart showing a rolling 14-day average of new cases comparing Tennessee and the Republic of Korea. Geraghty has been looking at the country’s response and that of a U.S. Air Force base in the country.

"This is what we’re looking for to start to reopen, in this rapid decrease," he said while pointing to a steep section of the line representing data for the Republic of Korea.

"Here in Tennessee, we have not suffered the amount of new cases per day as they have, thankfully, in part because we have seven times fewer people, but you can see we’re also not entering that nice steep decline," he said. "We’re kind of flattening out in our new cases per day, and we have a few blips where we add a lot of cases per day, but I would really like to see a good sharp decline in the Tennessee numbers."

Geraghty also spoke about the infection rate per 10,000 people, noting the importance of infection rate when making calculations to assess risk.

"How many people around you, in your communities, are infected with this disease?" he said. "In Tennessee we’re climbing through 10 people per 10,000, so about 1 in every 1,000 people has the infection." AEDC numbers for infection rate roughly mirror that of the community rate for Tennessee.

"This number of infections only reflects that about 1 percent of the population has been tested, so there’s still so many unknowns with this disease," Geraghty said. "And these numbers might not reflect the actual reality.

"Quite frankly, here at AEDC we do not do a test (ground flight testing) that is so important that anyone from AEDC needs to die or have a member of their family die because we came to base and did the test."

For more information on how to stay connected while social distancing, visit the AEDC Connect website at https://www.aecc.af/aeccconnect.