Team AEDC adjusting to ‘new normal’

By Bradley Hicks
AEDC Public Affairs

It has been more than two months since the start of the three-phase Return to Full Capacity took effect at Arnold Air Force Base, a point at which much of the workforce returned to the “new normal” brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic.

During this time, Arnold Engineering Development Complex Commander Col. Jeffrey Geraghty has kept a close watch to ensure members of Team AEDC are taking the appropriate actions to prevent the spread of COVID-19. He is pleased with what he has seen.

“Overall, I’m impressed with the purity of this workforce,” Geraghty said. “They are dedicated to getting the mission done, even if they have to undergo some personal discomfort by wearing a mask or refraining from shaking hands. Almost everybody has demonstrated the core value of ‘service before self’ by following the mask-making or mask protocols, and they correct the infractions immediately.” Geraghty said. “I haven’t found a soul on base who refuses to make those small personal sacrifices for ideological reason. I think Team AEDC recognizes their part in helping to thwart an invading enemy that has killed more Americans than the Korean War, Vietnam War and the multiple wars in Iraq and Afghanistan combined. Every American is in this fight now.”

“Thankfully, our country isn’t asking us to change an enemy position with bayonets fixed. We simply have to wear a mask and wash our hands, and everyone on base has proven strong enough and patriotic enough to do this duty.” To help reinforce the health of the Arnold workforce, several operational plans and postures have been effected during the pandemic. The implementation of Return to Full Capacity, or RtFC, Phase 2 in mid-June came two weeks after the initiation of RtFC Phase 1 on June 1. Prior to the effectuation of RtFC Phase 1, an Operationally Urgent posture was implemented at Arnold on April 6. During this latter posture, the personnel on base was significantly reduced and only test and support functions critical to national security were maintained.

An increased number of staff returned to the base for work with the implementation of RtFC Phase 2.

Local COVID-19 trend analysis tool developed provides significant time savings

By Jill Pickett
AEDC Public Affairs

As the Arnold Engineering Development Complex team worked to understand the impacts of COVID-19 at Arnold Air Force Base and the geographical spread of the virus at its offsite units, data analysis was, and continues to be, the key process.

Trend analysis charts were developed, but updating the data inputs was cumbersome, taking four to six months each time.

The team had developed informative charts to provide some of the data inputs that were lacking. The charts were being created, but issues prevented the team from being able to provide any information about the COVID-19 situation for surrounding counties. However, the daily update was cumbersome, taking four to six months each time.

Ann Clements, Base Network Enterprise Manager, takes it upon herself to contact his congressional representatives and senators, and to ensure that contractors access to their rightful pay while they are in a ready state. It’s the right thing to do.

As your senator, I will continue to fight hard to achieve the best possible outcomes relating to contractor pay, future projects and the overall success of the base.

Blackburn was instrumental in her support stance, “Our military contractors at Arnold Air Force Base are the life blood of the base, working daily to ensure essential testing and matters of national security are top priority. I fought for and secured a new policy determining access from the Air Force to allow those contractors access to their rightful pay while they were in a ready state. It’s the right thing to do.”

As aircraft contractor at Arnold, FEBA and the AEDC were able to allocate funding for reimbursement.

Several other hurdles had to be overcome due to varied interpretations and implementation policies. Throughout these challenges, Niederhauser and the ACC remained engaged and proactive to assist the local community and all the AEDC employees by making sure they received the benefits under the CARES Act.

As a result of this coordination, in early August it was determined that funds could be paid to the contractors. The Test Operations and Sustainment Center, National Aeronautics Solutions LLC, who had been determined to be an affected contractor under the CARES Act, immediately started putting systems in place to get its employees compensated for their time in a ready state.
By Kirk Velez

McKinley Climatic Laboratory home to world’s largest climatic base

Col. Jeffrey Geraghty
Commander
High Mach

The McKinley Climatic Laboratory (MCL) has been conducting climatic testing for the Department of Defense (DoD) for more than 73 years. It actually predates the Air Force and was a part of the Army Air Corps when it first opened. However, we only became part of the Air Force less than four years ago. So for those who are not familiar with this facility and its amazing capabilities, let me give you a synopsis of what we do. Testing weapons systems under extreme environmental conditions is a vital necessity for improving system reliability. The capabilities of the MCL help ensure maximum reliability and operational capability of over-math-complex weapons and weapon systems as our global operations continue.

Video and teleconferencing platforms were advanced to allow meetings to be more conductive to actual distancing, but it didn’t come without its set of problems. A list of users, some that are and some that aren’t tech-savvy, had problems learning and using these new platforms that weren’t previously established in their office set-ups. The force showed an amazing fortitude and overcame these tremendous obstacles allowing AEDC to keep on the path of success. As time passed, more avenues were needed to further our abilities.

LATER, a Return to Full Capacity (RTFC) team was set up so that the workforce could slowly be reintroduced to a safer and healthy work environment. The team worked through the pandemic, telework was maximized to sustain the mission. To accommodate the new telework status, all laptops on hand were issued and more were purchased.

The guidelines were there. It wasn’t etched in stone, but the key was transparency in our communication. The plan wasn’t set in stone, but it was well thought out and planned by our commanders, Col. Jeffrey Geraghty, and reinforced by his leadership team.

The pandemic has changed our work environment tremendously. When we set out to be “Second to None,” it came with some hurdles that we knew we were going to be challenging, but leadership was ready to take action.

COVID-19 hit, those challenges quickly became mountains. The way we conducted business changed and changed immediately. Over the course of several months, we went through a full-staffed installation to a ghost town. A Cross Action Team (CAT) was assembled to mitigate the spread of the disease across the complex. We quickly found out that communication was the utmost importance in order to maintain the success of AEDC. It was time to re-think our strategy to fit the “new normal.” Our focus had to shift and the key was transparency with our expectations in our direction.

There is no question that the MCL has had to change up the way we do business. As it progressed through this pandemic, our practices, policies and procedures will undeniably change but there is something that is for sure: we will continue to pursue mission excellence, we will continue to invest in our people and invest in and sustain our complies. Through clarity in direction and transparency in our leadership, we will strive to be “Second to None”.

Smoking Policy

1. The following revised AEDC AFR smoking policy is effective immediately and applies to all individuals on AEDC premises.
2. Traditionally, tobacco products in a drug and on-premises areas are identified by designated signage. If no signage exists, smoking is not permitted in that area. The responsibility of all smokers to keep CO2 levels below five percent (5%) is a stated policy.
3. Tobacco use at the McKinley AFR Office is permitted, but discouraged based on the health effects of tobacco use. Smoking in public areas is permitted as long as CO2 levels are below five percent (5%).
4. For government employees, the fact that a person smoking has no bearing on the number of people they may speak. There should be no reluctance in accordance with the current supervisory and personnel policies that affect all employees the same break opportunities consistent with good work practices and accomplishment of the mission.
5. Tobacco products are not used at AEDC. Smoking tobacco use will be permitted in all AEDC smoking and non-smoking areas. Specific quantities of tobacco products, including related equipment, must not be left under or delivered in shelter of trash. Status of tobacco products (e.g., tobacco smoke) are not considered.
6. Electronic Cigarettes (ECs) are considered a tobacco product, and are regulated by the Food and Drug Administration. Smoking tobacco products will be permitted in all AEDC smoking and non-smoking areas. Specific quantities of tobacco products, including related equipment, must not be left under or delivered in shelter of trash. Status of tobacco products (e.g., tobacco smoke) are not considered.

I believe in free and open communications and encourage our team AFR employees, and that’s why we have the Action Line available. People can use the Action Line to clear up rumors, ask questions or get other issues off their chests. We have the Action Line available. People can use the Action Line to clear up rumors, ask questions or get other issues off their chests.

Col. Jeffrey Geraghty
AEDC Commander

The Small Business Office performs the over of the AEDC contracting support for DOD contracting for expected to exceed 225,000. Some examples of the types of products AEDC acquire:

Large industrial equipment such as tractors, valves, motors

Instrumentation and laboratory equipment

Machine shop – general purpose, such as precision mills and lathes

Construction – Systems for building new construction, renovation and maintenance services and services such as power, painting and Vaughn.
Lt. Col. Alex Wolfard
586 FLTS Commander

Wolfard served as the director of operations for the 846th Flight Test Squadron before becoming commander of the 586 FLTS. With the 416 FLTS, Wolfard supervised a variety of flight operations for the Air Force, foreign military sales and the organic test force for the Air Force.

“I am humbled to be in this new role. I am incredibly excited to work at this level to support and enable the members of the 704th Test Group to carry out their missions. This position will challenge me – I’m looking forward in this opportunity to grow personally and professionally.”

Lt. Col. John Wisecup
746 TS Commander

Wisecup served as the director of operations for the 746 TS before taking command of the 746 TS. While there, he oversaw day-to-day operations of the 746 High Speed Test Track. During his command, the unit completed 53 test missions.

In his new role, he leads a team of more than 100 engineers, program managers, technicians and support personnel.

“Our mission is to ensure the transition has been a smooth one and we are teleworking our way to success,” Wisecup said.

Lt. Col. Paul Dolce
846 TS Commander

Dolce’s last assignment was also within the 704 TG, as commander of Detachment 1 of the 586 FLTS. During that time, he led a 12-member detachment including flight planning, scheduling and execution for over 35 test programs and the range and served as liaison to the Army for 42 customer across multiple Air Force organizations.

His new command, a squadron of more than 120 personnel, is responsible for operating the High-Speed Test Track to provide testing to the 25 customers across the DOD. Testing on the track enables customers to reduce risk prior to flight testing by subjecting test articles to their repre-
states. Arnold employees reside, across four counties where Arnold operates and surrounding the base, 43 to 60 people have tested positive for the virus.

Geraghty said leadership expected to see an increase in the number of positive cases among Arnold employees and that the pandemic continues its surge.

"Indeed, the case count on base has risen so as we continue to aim to infect our nearby counties," said Geraghty.

Chief and I have said before, people are going to get sick in our communities, and they won’t find out they’re sick until it’s too late for others to take action to protect themselves. Geraghty expressed the need for the workforce to continue working as diligently as before in order to minimize spreading the virus.

"We will fight the virus we have to shut down opera- tions as we did. When we shut down, we’ll have to shut down, head home and begin our own battle in the face of adversity."

Team AEDC’s mission is to keep Arnold personnel safe. Geraghty said he has seen and experienced the potential for some steps to solve problems.

“I want to thank Team AEDC for what each of you do to protect the health of the workforce, execute the mission and take care of each other,” Geraghty said. “I want to especially thank the leadership team with staff, division leaders and group commanders, branch chiefs and supervisory leaders, at every level for helping us find our footing and arrive at this new normal.”

The Arnold AFRF AEDC web page is available at https://www.afmc.af.mil/communities/.
Cyber threats against the United States and the Defense Department are very real, and efforts required to protect the department's cybersecurity must continue to expand and escalate. There is no time to waste. The Defense Department is working with the Department of Homeland Security, the National Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Center, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the National Security Agency, and other federal agencies to confront the threat.

The department is now focusing on implementing the Cyber Command's third-party vendor assessment program, which will be the department's main approach to assess and mitigate the risks posed by third-party vendors whose activities are critical to DoD missions. The program is a key component of the department's efforts to improve its cybersecurity posture and reduce risk.

The program will establish four levels of cybersecurity risk for third-party vendors to comply with, and assessors will be hired to evaluate and report on the vendors' risk posture. The DoD will also establish a database of vendors with different levels of risk, and will work with the private sector to develop a framework for regulating the cybersecurity of third-party vendors.

The program will be implemented on a phased basis, starting with high-risk vendors and expanding to other vendors. The DoD is working with the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) to develop a framework for the program.

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Staying safe while enjoying the outdoors

DOD focuses on minimizing cyber threats to department, contractors
AEDC team member gifts wood flag to Air Force

By Jill Pickett
AEDC Public Affairs

The COVID-19 pandemic has posed challenges for Arnold Engineering Development Complex, among them communicating with Team AEDC when many members were off base and out of reach of their work email.

During a time when there were so many unknowns, AEDC Commander Col. Jeffrey Geraghty took to Facebook Live, along with AEDC Superintendent Chief Master Sgt. Robert Heckman, to host virtual town halls accessible to members of Team AEDC both on and off base.

Recently one member of Team AEDC showed his gratitude for the communication efforts of the leadership team by gifting to the Air Force an artistic representation of a U.S. flag he made.

“It is a gift of appreciation for keeping us informed during the outbreak when there was more unknown than there is now,” Brandon Champion, said, an instrumentation technician at the J-5 Large Rocket Motor Test Facility.

Champion crafted the flag from pine and oak, carving stars and the Air Force symbol into the blue field with a rotary tool.

Geraghty and Heckman accepted the gift on behalf of the Air Force.

“What this symbolizes to me is that we have found a footing in a new normal,” Geraghty said. “We’ve figured out a way to fight this enemy, and we’re going to take it to victory.”

“It depends on every single one of you – supervisors, workforce, everybody. It’s a gift to you for the work you’ve been putting in and the work we still have ahead of us throughout the COVID pandemic.”

The flag will hang in the Arnold Lakeside Center for the enjoyment of patrons, with a plaque identifying Champion and why it was given.

Geraghty thanked Champion for the gift and sharing his skills with AEDC.

“It’s something we can hang here and everybody Geraghty said. “But we’re force and will get the mission doing it to take care of our come, the challenging period that we’ve been through.”

AEDC Public Affairs

Jill Pickett

This year, that cooperation continued to the internship programs run by DOD and contractor for AEDC.

“We need both workforce (DOD) and workforce (contractor) to provide world-class testing and analysis,” said Sarah Beth Morgan, Chief of Complex Support for AEDC. “Based on that premise, it made sense to join intern efforts to make sure all intern hires supported the AEDC mission under- stand as much as possible about the base, the mission, the DOD aerospace industry, and the way that both DOD and defense contractors work together to accomplish a common goal.”

The intern programs were encouraged to network across the two programs, but restrictions in place due to the COVID-19 pandemic limited the types of events that could be held. Leadership from the two organizations decided on holding a speaker series in the Arnold AFB Main Auditorium, where social distancing could be maintained while accommodating the number of intern attendees.

The speaker series covered the following topics: integration; re- liability, bounding an Over- view, the Saturn/Apollo moon landing, and a question and answer session with leadership from both organizations.

“I believe the joint presentations have been a great success,” said Maj. Craig Crumbliss, NAS Technical Director. “The feedback we have from the interns has been very positive.”

In their final presentations, all of the NAS interns mentioned the joint speaker series as one of the highlights of their experience. I think next year, assuming we aren’t under COVID restrictions, we will endeavor to do more things together.”

Interns in both programs worked in a variety of fields at AEDC, including engineering, human resources, information systems and technology, project controls, public affairs, and legal, among others.

“The end goal of any internship opportu- nity is to provide the student with real life experience and for the student to evaluate a potential career,” Crumbliss said. “In this ef- fort, both the Air Force and NAS are recruiting in order to preserve the excellent workforce we have at AEDC and ensure we do the best for the Air Force and our nation’s defense.”

Our joint efforts with the university and NAS partners to have a combined intern program because I think it just reinforces the fact that we need govern- ment employees and contractor employees working together to accomplish our mis- sion.”

Morgan agreed, calling the AEDC inter- nate program “irrele- vable to the future suc- cess of AEDC.”

She stated the bene- fits of the program are three-fold for AEDC serving as an ambassad- or to colleges and universities, providing outreach opportunities to showcase capabilities and mission to the public, and enhancing employee recruitment.

“I hope we can con- tinue to work with our NAS partners to have a combined intern pro- gram because I think it just reinforces the fact that we need govern- ment employees and contractor employees working together to accomplish our mis- sion,” Morgan said.

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Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force, Bass was direct, "We have much to get after."

"I never would have imagined I would be服务区ing as your 19th Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force."

"I have a long list of people who guided him throughout his career, including his wife, Tonya, his family and a broad array of Airmen."

"I have always been impressed with how much you appreciate as a boss and maybe more importantly, as a friend and as a brother."

"I have to be a servant leader and to acknowledge the teamwork of responsibility to honor two tremendous enlisted leaders and to give thanks to two phenomenal Airmen families," he said.

"In his remarks, Brown honored both Bass and Wright. "It is a privilege to be part of this special ceremony making the historic transfer of responsibility to honor two tremendous enlisted leaders and to give thanks to two phenomenal Airmen families," he said.

"Bass is that she is ready and the rest of the Air Force. Dawn and I and the rest of the Air Force Base family wish you clear skies and fair winds as we see our next chapter."
AFMC championing diversity, inclusion across the mission set

By Maria Aita-

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio (AFNS) — As part of the effort to advance within their diverse teams, both civilian and military leadership at Air Force Materiel Command (AFMC) are looking at how diversity and inclusion can be implemented across the command.

Gen. Arnold W. Bunch Jr., center, commander, Air Force Materiel Command, initiates a discussion about diversity and inclusion with Arnold Engineering Development Complex (AEDC) senior leadership July 8 at Arnold Air Force Base, headquarters of AEDC. Also pictured, Chief Master Sgt. Stanley Cadell, right, command chief, AEDC. Bunch and Cadell also held a diversity and inclusion discussion session with Arnold Engineering Development Complex (AEDC) senior leadership July 8 at Arnold Air Force Base, headquarters of AEDC. Also pictured, Chief Master Sgt. Stanley Cadell, right, command chief, AEDC. Bunch and Cadell also held a diversity and inclusion discussion session with Arnold Engineering Development Complex (AEDC) senior leadership July 8 at Arnold Air Force Base, headquarters of AEDC. Also pictured, Chief Master Sgt. Stanley Cadell, right, command chief, AEDC. Bunch and Cadell also held a diversity and inclusion discussion session with Arnold Engineering Development Complex (AEDC) senior leadership July 8 at Arnold Air Force Base, headquarters of AEDC. Also pictured, Chief Master Sgt. Stanley Cadell, right, command chief, AEDC. Bunch and Cadell also held a diversity and inclusion discussion session with Arnold Engineering Development Complex (AEDC) senior leadership July 8 at Arnold Air Force Base, headquarters of AEDC. Also pictured, Chief Master Sgt. Stanley Cadell, right, command chief, AEDC. Bunch and Cadell also held a diversity and inclusion discussion session with Arnold Engineering Development Complex (AEDC) senior leadership July 8 at Arnold Air Force Base, headquarters of AEDC. Also pictured, Chief Master Sgt. Stanley Cadell, right, command chief, AEDC. Bunch and Cadell also held a diversity and inclusion discussion session with Arnold Engineering Development Complex (AEDC) senior leadership July 8 at Arnold Air Force Base, headquarters of AEDC. Also pictured, Chief Master Sgt. Stanley Cadell, right, command chief, AEDC. Bunch(628,984),(746,999)

DEGREES

B.A., B.S., U.S. Air Force Academy

M.A., School of Public Administration

40 YEARS

Michael Barton, TOS
Ralph Jones III, TIMS

35 YEARS

Janet Fellor, TOS
Mickey Gipson, TOS
Michael Hamby, TOS
Cheryl Poisey, TOS
James Sheppard, TOS
James K. Thompson, TOS

30 YEARS

Josef Moreno, TOS
William Sudberry, TOS

25 YEARS

Belinda Alexander, TOS
Brian Baggett, TOS
Jorge Moreno, TOS

20 YEARS

Steven Bancroft, AF

15 YEARS

Troy Caldwell, TOS
Joseph Crewe, TOS
Paul Gallagher, TOS
Troy Jerigman, TOS
Ralph Lance, TOS

10 YEARS

W. Bunch Jr., AF
Joseph Caldwell, AF
Jonathan Coates, TOS
Brian Hall, TOS
Michael Lazzalier, AF
William Meredith, AF
Jonathan Parker, AF

5 YEARS

Kevin Sipe, AF
Sonja Smith, AF

3 YEARS

Austin Ellieber, TOS
Alex Hayes, TOS
Bryan Weedenfield, TOS

2 YEARS

James Sheppard, TOS

NEW HIRES

Patrick Baranek, AF
Brandon Beavell, AF
Laurne Burger, AF
Albiaj Hood, Jr., AF
Ryan Nast, AF
Oscar Portillo, AF
Ryan Regrutto, AF
Austin Stewart, AF
Tyker Swann, AF

PROMOTIONS

Cheryl Poise, TOS

33 YEARS

James Sheppard, TOS

30 YEARS
Air Force top leaders witness first Agility Prime “Flying Car” demo

By AFWERX Public Affairs

AUSTIN, Texas (AFNS) – Secretary of the Air Force Barbara Barrett, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Charles Q. Brown, Jr., and Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force JoAnne S. Bass came together to witness the advances in electric vertical takeoff and landing flight (eVTOL) at Camp Mabry, Aug. 20.

Exactly 112 years after the Wright Brothers delivered their first military aircraft, top Air Force leaders gathered with their Texas National Guard hosts and AFWERX personnel to watch the first Agility Prime ORB flight demonstration.

The demonstration was presented by LIFT Aircraft, a Texas-based Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) contract recipient, as one of the first companies of its size to join the Agility Prime “Air Race to Certification.”

“Agility Prime is a program with a vision of world impact,” Barrett said during the program’s launch in April 2020. “The thought of an electric vertical takeoff and landing vehicle – a flying car – might seem straight out of a Hollywood movie, but by partnering today with stakeholders across industries and agencies, we can set up the United States for this aerospace phenomenon.”

In the heat of the afternoon, Matthew Chasen, LIFT chief executive officer, piloted the Hexa over the Camp Mabry parade ground, just a few miles from downtown Austin.

“We now have over 15 of the leading air-craft manufacturers in the world applying to partner with Agility Prime, with many of them already on contract,” said Col. Nathan Diller, AFWERX director. “This flight today marks the first of many demonstrations and near-term flight tests designed to reduce the technical risk and prepare for Agility Prime fielding in 2023.”

Seek to Understand, Microaggressions

By Air Education and Training Command Public Affairs

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO, Texas (AFNS) – Air Education and Training Command launched the first installment of “Seek to Understand,” a series of educational videos featuring defined terms and personal accounts from Airmen across the command. The series seeks to address racial disparity and foster understanding of the unique experiences of Airmen from all walks of life.

Watch the video at www.af.mil/News/article-Display/Article/2314621/watch-seek-to-understand-microaggressions/. (U.S. Air Force video by Senior Airman Ryan Man- cuso)