



HIGH MACH

Serving the World's Premier Flight Simulation Test Complex



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Vector Prime establishes agreement with AEDC

By Chad Bacik
Vector Prime

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio – Vector Prime is currently leading an Air Force effort fueling the burgeoning commercial resurgence of high speed passenger travel. The effort aims to partner with commercial sector leaders to accelerate their development

and, as a byproduct, advance enabling technologies that could provide the Air Force options for executive, troop, UAV and cargo transport aircraft.

On Feb. 25, 2021, Brig. Gen. Ryan Britton, Program Executive Officer for the Presidential and Executive Airlift Directorate, established a sponsorship agreement with the Arnold Engi-

neering Development Complex (AEDC).

“Over the past few decades, the Air Force has amassed a powerful set of tools and developed the professionals needed to enable high speed aircraft technology development,” said Lance Baxter, Integrated Analysis Branch Chief for AEDC.

In the agreement with Vector Prime, AEDC will act as

a Lead Developmental Test Organization / Executing Test Organization, serving as lead integrator of Developmental Test and Evaluation activities for each Vector Prime partner.

Baxter’s team will help synergize the power of the Air Force Test Center with the innovation of the private sector by providing access to facilities and expertise.

“I am excited to solidify

this relationship today,” said Britton. “By providing access for our commercial partners, we are able to leverage the Air Force’s investment in world-leading test centers and expertise to turbocharge the high speed travel market. I look forward to continued partnership as we explore ways to leverage high speed transport aircraft for the future of Air Force missions.”

Arnold Air Force Base administers COVID-19 vaccines to employees

By Jill Pickett
AEDC Public Affairs

After a week of wintry weather in late February brought Middle Tennessee to a near halt, a new week brought with it sunshine, warm weather and COVID-19 vaccines for DOD employees at Arnold Air Force Base.

Vials of the two-dose Moderna vaccine arrived at base, and the first doses were administered Feb. 23 by members of a COVID Joint Task Force from the Tennessee Army and Air National Guards and Arnold AFB’s Medical Aid Station medical staff personnel.

Earlier in February, Col. Jeffrey Geraghty, commander of the Arnold Engineering Development Complex headquartered at Arnold AFB, announced the ordering of vaccines and encouraged members of the workforce eligible to receive the vaccine through the DOD to do so.

“Receiving this vaccine is voluntary, but I strongly encourage you to participate and do your part to help stop the spread of this deadly disease,” Geraghty said. “Your participation will help us return to full operational capacity as soon as possible so that we can more efficiently prove the superiority of systems required to



Sgt. Dillon Henderson with the Tennessee Army National Guard administers a COVID-19 vaccine to Master Sgt. Frank Mancino, an Arnold Engineering Development Complex team member, at Arnold Air Force Base, Feb. 23, at the Medical Aid Station on base. (U.S. Air Force photo by Jill Pickett)

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Phase 1 of AEDC restructuring now underway

By Deidre Moon
AEDC Public Affairs

In January of this year, Phase 1 of the Arnold Engineering Development Complex restructuring was approved through an Organization Change Request.

Plans for restructuring initially began when AEDC leadership met during a Strategic Planning Conference in late 2019 to consider how to meet the demands of the National Defense Strategy and create the “AEDC We Need.” From this stemmed the need to modify the organizational structure, roles, responsibilities and authorities of AEDC and its people.

Air Force leadership also received feedback from the workforce through “AEDC Climate” and “AEDC We Need” surveys. A majority of AEDC team members asked for a clearer or-

ganizational structure with well-defined roles and authorities and a clear chain of command for communication and information dissemination.

“In order to answer those survey comments and assist in accomplishing the strategic priorities developed by the AEDC leadership, the AEDC Commander decided that our Complex needed to pursue organizing in a standard Air Force structure,” said Sarah Beth Morgan, chief of Complex Support for AEDC.

In so doing, AEDC would be able to initiate the following strategic priorities:

- **Pursue Mission Excellence** – A standard Air Force structure will provide clear articulation of the missions to which we assign squadron-level power and will enable us to better develop,

articulate and defend resource requirements (both manpower and funding) toward those mission areas most consequential to the National Defense Strategy, enabling the pursuit of mission excellence at the wing level.

- **Invest in our People** – Standardization to a proper AF organizational structure will enhance our ability to properly invest in our people, offering clear career development paths and organizational levels congruent with standard developmental education milestones.

- **Improve and Sustain the Complex** – AEDC’s organizational structure will foster a unity of direction for effective and efficient operations across our diverse and dynamic

wing. A proper wing structure will allow wing level emphasis and priority to:

1. Improving and sustaining AEDC’s test and support capabilities through sound engineering practices
2. Reinvigorating technical rigor in our processes and practices
3. Building a world class technical workforce with a culture of solving the national defense research, development, and test and evaluation challenges

But what exactly is an Organization Change Request? An OCR is the

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HIGH MACH Arnold Air Force Base



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- Integrity first
- Service before self
- Excellence in all we do



Vision

"NAS delivers the best aerospace testing capabilities today and in the future."

Values

- Ethics. We are uncompromising in our integrity, honesty, and fairness.
- Safety & Health. We are relentless in keeping people safe from harm, and we provide a safe and healthy work environment.
- Security. We are disciplined and vigilant in protecting sensitive AEDC information and ensuring system integrity to support national security and our customers.
- Excellence. We thrive on challenge, accomplishment, and mission success.
- Quality. We are passionate about doing our work right the first time.
- People. We have a mission-focused, inclusive workforce who have a diverse skill set, are committed to success, demonstrate innovation and have a can do attitude.
- Culture. Our team is proud of our diversity, inclusiveness, and collaborative work environment. We are proud of what we do and how we do it.
- Relationships. We build positive, long-term business relationships through trust, respect, and collaboration.
- Innovation. We overcome challenges through creativity, perseverance, technology, and flexibility. We actively seek to continually improve.
- Sustainability. We plan and act for the long term benefit of our communities and our environment.



Winners of Arnold Engineering Development Complex annual awards and Air Force Test Center Contracting annual awards pose for a photo with AEDC leadership Feb. 24, after the awards ceremony at the Arnold Lakeside Complex at Arnold Air Force Base. (U.S. Air Force photo by Jill Pickett)

AEDC personnel honored at annual awards ceremony

By Jill Pickett
AEDC Public Affairs

Arnold Engineering Development Complex leadership honored military and civilian government annual award winners and nominees during a ceremony Feb. 21 at the Arnold Lakeside Complex at Arnold Air Force Base, Tenn.

The award recipients are:

- Maj. Wesly Anderson, *Field Grade Officer of the Year*
- Capt. Erin Alt, *Company Grade Officer of the Year*
- Master Sgt. James Buoy, *Senior Noncommissioned Officer of the Year*
- Tech. Sgt. Anthony Smith, *Noncommissioned Officer of the Year*
- Senior Airman Travis Russell, *Airman of the Year*
- Pamela Johnson, *Civilian Category I*
- Russell Loos, *Civilian Category II*
- Kristyn Nivins, *Civilian Category III*
- Diana Skordallos, *Non-appropriated Fund Civilian Category II*
- B-21 Test Team, 704th Test Group Operating Location-AC – *Annual Exceptional Innovator*

This team consists of: Jason Sawdy, Patrick O’Connell, Scott Ehman, Russell Loos and Jonathan Young.



Arnold Engineering Development Complex Commander Col. Jeffrey Geraghty honors annual awards winners Feb. 24, at the Arnold Lakeside Complex at Arnold Air Force Base. (U.S. Air Force photo by Jill Pickett)

- High-Temperature Materials Test Team, Test Division – *Annual AEDC Technical Achievement Award*

This team consists of: Ben Holton, team leader; John Hile; Christopher Lehto; and Richard Rushing.

- Maj. Simon Kassemi and Capt. Nicolas Arosemena – *Annual Safety Award*

Anderson also won 2020 Field Grade Officer of the Year for the Air Force Test Center and will compete at the Air Force Materiel Command level.

Members of the Contracting team that supports AEDC, known as AFTC/PZ Arnold, which won AFTC Contracting annual awards for fiscal year 2020, were also recognized during the event.

Those award recipients are:

- Edward Crenshaw, *Outstanding Civilian in Systems (Non-Supervisory)*
- Christopher Fanning, *Outstanding Civilian in Systems (Supervisory)*
- Mitchell Howard, *Outstanding Contracting Support Staff Award*

- Theresa Cates, *Outstanding Achievement in Contracting IT (Individual)*

- Stacey Lamb, *Outstanding Quality Assurance Program Coordinator*

- Test Operation and Sustainment Team, *Outstanding Systems Contracting Unit*

- Installation Contracting Arnold Team (PZI), *Outstanding Enterprise Contracting Unit*

Stacey Lamb also was named the Outstanding Quality Assurance Program Coordinator for AFMC.

Smoking Policy

- The following revised Arnold AFB smoking policy is effective immediately and applies to all individuals on Arnold AFB.
- Traditional Tobacco products (e.g. cigars and cigarettes):**
 - Smoking is permitted solely in Designated Tobacco Areas (DTAs) identified by designated signage. If no signage exists, smoking is not permitted in that area. It is the responsibility of all smokers to keep DTAs clean of cigarette butts.
 - Tobacco use on the Arnold AFB Golf Course is permitted, but discouraged based on the health hazards of tobacco use and secondhand smoke. No smoking is permitted within 50 feet of golf course buildings except in the approved DTA.
 - Smoking in government-owned/leased vehicles is strictly prohibited. Personnel are allowed to smoke in their personal vehicles at any time; however, at no time will personnel discard cigarette butts outside their vehicle.
 - For government employees, the fact that a person smokes has no bearing on the number of breaks they may take. Breaks should be taken in accordance with the current supervisory and personnel policies that afford all employees the same break opportunities consistent with good work practices and accomplishment of the mission.
- Smokeless tobacco products (e.g. snuff and dip):** Smokeless tobacco products are not to be used to DTAs. Smokeless tobacco use will be permitted in all workplace areas (inside and out) subject to reasonable safety and sanitary conditions. Specifically, containers of tobacco waste product, including sealed containers, must not be left unattended or disposed of in trash receptacles. Users of smokeless tobacco must flush tobacco waste down the toilet.
- Electronic Cigarettes (also known as "e-cigs"):** Pursuant to Air Force Instruction (AFI) 40-102, Tobacco Free Living, e-cigs are considered to be equivalent to tobacco products; however, e-cigs are not restricted to DTAs and are allowed to be used outdoors at a minimum distance of 25 feet from building entry/egress points. (This policy is dated July 27, 2016)

Action Line

Team AEDC,
I believe in free and open communications with our Team AEDC employees, and that's why we have the Action Line available. People can use the Action Line to clear up rumors, ask questions, suggest ideas on improvements, enter complaints or get other issues off their chests. The Action Line has been expanded to include an option for your ideas, comments, or suggestions on the AcqDemo personnel system. Simply call the normal x6000 commander's action line. You will then be prompted to select option 1 for the Commander's Action Line or Option 2 for the AcqDemo line. They can access the Action Line via the AEDC intranet home page and by calling 931-454-6000. Although the Action Line is always available, the best and fastest way to get things resolved is by using your chain of command or by contacting the organization directly involved. I encourage everyone to go that route first, then if the situation isn't made right, give us a chance.

Col. Jeffrey Geraghty
AEDC Commander



Waves of Woods Reservoir lap at sand in front of a newly-built wall for the beach area of the Arnold Lakeside Complex, Feb. 22, at Arnold Air Force Base. (U.S. Air Force photo by Jill Pickett)

Arnold Lakeside Complex beach wall reconstructed

By Jill Pickett
AEDC Public Affairs

Arnold Lakeside Complex patrons can once again enjoy the sand and surf of Woods Reservoir thanks to an Arnold Air Force Base Civil Engineering project to rebuild the beach wall.

The beach wall had failed in two separate places necessitating a temporary closure of the beach access at the ALC. Knowing the boost to quality of life that

the beach area provides, a plan was made to rebuild the wall before this summer.

After removing the old wall, a 6-foot high, 282-foot long wall was built to hold back the shoreline. Part of the wall is below grade, and the above-grade portion is mostly hidden by water when the depth of Woods Reservoir is at summer level. Six feet of rock was laid behind the wall for structural support with the wall tied into it at multiple levels, creating a stronger wall that is expected to last for years to come.

The hill around the beach area was also re-graded to route water around the beach. This will help prevent erosion of the beach and weakening of the wall. Several inches of sand were also added to the beach.

“It’s so awesome to be able to give this (the beach) back to the base,” said Oscar Portillo, project manager. “I’m really proud of the work done by Cody Howland (lead man for construction of the wall) and the Richland, LLC team.”

VACCINES from page 1

meet the demands of the National Defense Strategy and build an Air Force and Space Force second to none!”

Some of the members of Team AEDC that received the vaccine that day shared their reasons for doing so.

Master Sgt. Frank Mancino, Installation Deployment manager, said, “I’ve lived it. I had COVID previously. I had a very rough time and ended up in the hospital twice. I don’t want to go through that again.”

Lauren Arnold, recreation aid for Services, said, “I had the opportunity presented to me, and I wanted to get it to protect myself and others. I believe in science, so I’m just trying to do my part.”

Michael Glennon, senior engineer for AEDC Engineering Support Office, said, “My parents are elderly and my wife is semi-high risk.”

Maj. Wesly Anderson, director of Operations for Aerodynamics Test Branch, said, “I’m always in the control rooms and there is plenty of concern about it spreading in those environments. I want to help the community reach herd immunity.”

Angelia Garrard, Government Special Access Program Security officer, said, “I have elderly parents and in-laws. I also deal with test customers coming in, so it is a benefit all the way around.”

Capt. Christopher Fernandez, Rockets test engineer, said, “Why not? I get yearly vaccines. What is one more?”

Plans are being made for additional vaccine clinics, but dates are not yet available.

All members of the AEDC workforce are reminded that even after receiving the vaccination, adherence to all policies in place concerning mask wearing and social distancing is required.

Geraghty lauded the efforts of the Test Support Division and the Tennessee Guard, and highlighted, “We have come a long way together this past year. We focused on protecting the health of the workforce while we got as much of the mission done as possible, even when the only tools we had were to stay away from each other, wash our hands and wear face coverings. Now that we have the opportunity to get inoculated against the disease, I’m so grateful to see members of Team AEDC take this next logical step.”



Master Sgt. Marti Stanley with the Tennessee Air National Guard gives a COVID-19 vaccine to Lauren Arnold, an Arnold Engineering Development Complex team member, at Arnold Air Force Base, Feb. 23, at the Medical Aid Station on base. Stanley and Sgt. Dillon Henderson, back left, a member of the Tennessee Army National Guard, administered the vaccines as part of their duties on the COVID Joint Task Force. (U.S. Air Force photo by Jill Pickett)



Sgt. Dillon Henderson with the Tennessee Army National Guard administers a COVID-19 vaccine to Maj. Wesly Anderson, an Arnold Engineering Development Complex team member, Feb. 23, 2021. (U.S. Air Force photo by Jill Pickett)

RESTRUCTURING *from page 1*

process used to request changes to Air Force organizations that includes documents that articulate why the OCR is necessary, as well as modifying organizational charts as necessary to depict the current organization and the requested future organization.

“For the AEDC Organization Change Request, there was a working group established that included the Test Division Chief, the Test Support Division Chief, the Test Sustainment Division Chief, the 704th Test Group Commander and the Wing Staff Agency chiefs who met weekly for six months to hammer out the details of the requested organization,” Morgan said. “There were also organizations who spent significant man-hours working the details at lower levels within the Test Division, Support Division, Sustainment Division and the Wing Staff.

“This was a Herculean effort by the AEDC Manpower Office, with help from Terry Tucker, the workforce planning and manpower chief, which touched all levels of the AEDC workforce. It took Ms. Tucker working directly with the Air Force Test Center Manpower and Organization staff to get this approved by the Air Force Test Center Commander, Maj. Gen. Christopher Azzano, and the Air Force Materiel Command Commander, Gen. Arnold Bunch.”

Under the first phase, AEDC will go from having three divisions – the Test Division, Test Systems Sustainment Division and Test Support Division – and one group, the 704th Test Group at Holloman AFB, to two divisions and one group. The Test Operations and Test Systems Sustainment Divisions have been combined, and now AEDC is made up of the Test Division and Test Support Division, with the 704th TG remaining as the sole group. These divisions will continue to have branches, and the test group will have squadrons.

Air Force Instructions define organizational structures in terms of either Units or Major Non-units. The situation at AEDC demanded clarity, in that AEDC is comprised of both Units and Major

Non-units, and a sizable proportion of the workforce was not even familiar with the fundamental Air Force unit: the squadron. Below shows the Air Force Instruction (AFI 38-101) description of the organizations:

Unit Oriented Organizational Scheme	Major Non-Unit Organizational Scheme
Major Command	Major Command
Numbered Air Force	Center
Wing	Complex
Group	Division
Squadron	Branch
Flight	Section

According to Morgan, the situation of AEDC is a unique one in that the Complex was a hybrid organization with Unit and Major Non-unit aspects.

“We were a Complex, but we had an assigned test group at Holloman Air Force Base, so it was not surprising our workforce was confused when it came to our organization,” she said. “Something needed to be done to clarify our structure to the workforce and ensure we are organized in the best structure to conduct our mission.”

The end goal of the reorganization is for AEDC to have a wing staff that includes Information Protection, Advanced Programs, a robust Plans and Programs (XP) Office with an engineering support function, as well as a Wing Staff operating location at Holloman.

“Since AEDC encompasses not only the test capabilities resident on Arnold AFB, but also test capabilities in the 704th Test Group and other geographically separated facilities; we needed a wing-level Advanced Programs, or AP, office to ‘pull together’ all of the information, requirements and policies to support a myriad of Special Access Programs,” Morgan said.

Some of the major duties of the AP office are:

- Early Program Support to all SAP Offices
- Coordination of support to all SAP Programs across all wing test organizations, i.e. providing a coordinated AEDC effort to facilitate SAP Program’s to go faster to meet programmatic requirements.
- Special Programs Functional Lead
- SAP Future Testing Investments
- Overseeing all SAP logistics

The XP office engineering support role will provide wing-level support to the Senior Technical Director to ensure exceptional engineering and technical management functions across the entire Complex.

“The small team will facilitate improving the technical elements required for effective test and evaluation of aerospace systems; development and sustainment of AEDC test capabilities; implementation of sound technical policy and processes; foster technical integration and innovation, and promote the development of a world-class technical workforce,” said Ed Tucker, senior technical director for AEDC. “This will ensure that all AEDC organizations, at Arnold AFB and at all geographically separated units, have the appropriate technical support, tools and talent required for their mission.”

AEDC leadership and AFTC leadership are working with AFMC and Headquarters Air Force to pursue Phase 2 of the organization change. AEDC Commander Col. Jeffrey Geraghty’s goal in Phase 2 is to gain official Unit status within the Air Force: a wing comprised of groups and squadrons.

Geraghty stated he believes that, “AEDC’s contribution to the National Defense Strategy is significant enough to merit reorganization as a wing empowered with squadrons – the beating heart of the Air Force – to pursue mission excellence.”

New ‘Women in the Air Force’ exhibit opens with virtual event

By Rob Bardua

National Museum of the U.S. Air Force

DAYTON, Ohio (AFNS) – A new series of displays at the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force highlighting women’s achievements in their civilian and military careers, with an emphasis on the U.S. Air Force and its predecessors, officially opened during a live-streamed virtual event March 5.

The exhibit, titled “Women in the Air Force: From Yesterday into Tomorrow,” covers historical issues, changes in laws and attitudes, and women’s contributions to the Air Force mission. These displays, which are located throughout the museum, contain one of a kind artifacts used by women in the Air Force from many different eras.

In the “Early Years Gallery,” visitors can learn how British female pilots led the way beginning with Mary Wilkins-Ellis, who joined the Britain’s Air Transport Auxiliary, or ATA, and transported aircraft from factories to active service squadrons during World War II.

The story of Jacqueline Cochran, who was ranked among the top female pilots of her era by setting an incredible number of records, and breaking men’s distance, altitude and speed achievements can be seen in the Early Years and World War II Galleries, as well as throughout the museum. Cochran would go on to become the founder and director of the Women’s Airforce Service Pilots, or WASP, program, and was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal - the highest non-combat award - for her work in 1945.

New displays in the second building include one on the Women’s Armed Services Integration Act, which was signed into law by President Truman in 1948, and authorized women to serve permanently in all military branches. Among the stories featured in this building include that of Staff Sgt. Esther Blake, who became the first woman in the Air Force by enlisting on the first minute, of the first hour, of the first day that Air Force authorized women’s participation; and the heroic actions of Lt. Regina Aune and Lt. Harriet Goffinett, who carried many children to safety during Operation Babylift.

The drive to break down barriers is further illustrated by the Significant Women Silhouette - a uniquely designed display that introduces visitors to those who created new opportunities for women. The exhibit covers a diverse range of achievements such as the first American woman to fly solo in an airplane, Blanche Stuart Scott; the first woman to fly non-stop across the Atlantic Ocean, Amelia Earhart; the Air Force’s first female physician, Capt. Dorothy Elias; and the “Bouncing Bettys” award-winning munitions team.

Among the many “female firsts” on display in the third building are the first 10 graduates of the U.S. Air Force Undergraduate Pilot Training program, or UPT;



The National Museum of the U.S. Air Force, located on Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, is honoring women with a new exhibit titled “Women in the Air Force: From Yesterday into Tomorrow.” (U.S. Air Force courtesy graphic)

the first female fighter pilot, Jeannie Flynn Leavitt; the first female aerial gunner, Airman Vanessa Dobos; the first female to fly a fighter aircraft in combat, Capt. Martha McSally; and the first female F-35 Lightning II pilot, Lt. Col. Christine Mau.

The story of pilot Nichole Malachowski, who took her first solo flight at age 16, earning her pilot’s license before her driver’s license, and who later became the first female pilot on any U.S. military high performance jet team as a member of the U.S. Air Demonstration Squadron “Thunderbirds” in 2005, is also featured in this building.

Amazing stories of courage are highlighted including Air National Guard pilot Lt. Heather Penney of the 121st Fighter Squadron. On Sept. 11, 2001, Penney, along with another pilot, received one-way orders to stop hijacked United One-way Flight 93 as it headed towards Washington, D.C. Armed with shoot-to-kill orders, but no weapons, they were on a suicide mission with the full intention of ramming the Boeing 757 in order to protect national

security. After sweeping the D.C. airspace for over an hour, the pilots learned the passengers had forced the aircraft down in a Pennsylvania field.

Another ground-breaking display titled “Moving Towards Equality” highlights milestones in legislation that brought policy changes on issues such as automatic discharge for pregnancy or having custody of minor children; the expansion of women’s rights allowing women to have the ability to serve in any military occupation, and further opportunities for advancement. In addition, female leaders who have overcome roadblocks, defeated biases and led the way in recent years are featured in a display titled Women Leading the Way.

Finally, in the fourth building, visitors can learn about the first American female astronaut to go into space, Sally Ride; the first U.S. military woman in space who was also the first woman to work aboard the International Space Station, Maj. Susan Helms; the first female space shuttle pilot, Maj. Eileen Collins; the first women to serve as commanders in orbit at the same

time, Col. Pamela Melroy and Peggy Whitson; and some of the most important discoveries and inventions that female Air Force scientists, engineers, mathematicians, medical professionals and artists have developed over the years.

According to Christina Douglass, National Museum of the U.S. Air Force curator, telling the story of what women have overcome over many decades was an amazing experience and something she hopes future generations will come to appreciate.

“The ‘Women in the Air Force’ exhibit is packed with moving stories that exemplify the passion and dedication that women have had to have in order to overcome certain stereotypes - just to be able to serve our nation,” Douglass said. “My hope is that those who come to visit this exhibit will gain a better understanding about the sacrifices that were made by women in the past, never take what we have for granted and are inspired to continue to advocate for equality.”

Around Arnold Stay safe this spring

By AEDC Safety

March is the third month of the year and named after Mars, the Roman god of war. In the northern hemisphere, the first day of spring, March 20th, is on the vernal equinox. The vernal equinox is when the sun crosses over the plane of the earth's equator, making night and day approximately equal lengths all over the world. It can be a dramatic month with sometimes wild and shifting weather as Mother Nature tries to shed her winter coat as the seasons change from winter to spring.

This is the perfect time to start planning your garden. Be it general landscaping, a flower garden or a vegetable garden, it is very

rewarding to see things grow and produce flowers or food for your table whether you are an avid experienced gardener or new to the joys and challenges of gardening. Gardening may seem like a safe hobby — and for the most part it is — but it can lead to injury or illness. For instance, emergency room staff treat more than 400,000 injuries each year related to outdoor garden tools, according to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. Take advantage of the following guidelines to help keep you safe.

1. Wear gloves — garden gloves will help protect you from blisters, fertilizers, pesticides, bacteria, fungi and sharp tools.

2. Warm up — just like an athlete does before a game, you should warm up before digging in the garden. Walk around your garden for a few minutes and do some stretches.

3. Avoid repetitive motions — prolonged and repetitive motions, such as digging, raking, trimming, pruning and planting, might irritate your skin, tendons or nerves. To avoid this, switch up your tasks every 15 minutes and take between-task breaks.

4. Banish bending — kneeling instead of bending will put less strain on your back. For

extra comfort, consider using kneepads.

5. Check your lifting — when lifting objects, especially heavy ones, engage your legs and not your back, hold objects close to your body to reduce strain.

6. Block the sun — apply protective sunscreen and a wide-brimmed hat to keep the sun off your face, head, ears and neck. Wear protective shoes and lightweight comfortable clothes that cover exposed skin.

7. Look for pests — check your clothes and body for ticks,

which can cause several diseases. Better yet, prevent tick and mosquito bites by applying repellent.

8. Clear the air — wear a protective nose and mouth mask, sunglasses or protective eyewear to help prevent allergy and asthma attacks.

9. Stay hydrated — be sure you've got water, juice and sports drinks on hand so that you don't become dehydrated.

Daylight Savings Time began on the 14th and that gives us more daylight after work to enjoy working on projects.

Be careful and take care of each other.

Arnold AFB's spring prescribed fire season is approaching

By Brandon Bailey

Arnold AFB Natural Resources

The majority of Arnold Air Force Base's prescribed fire operations occur from March through May. During this timeframe both weather and fuel conditions are generally conducive to accomplishing Arnold AFB's prescribed fire management goals.

Prescribed fire is the most efficient and economical tool when managing our natural ecosystems.

It allows land managers to alter and improve the native ecosystems without using costly methods such as bush hogging, under brushing or herbicide applications, which can also have long term negative effects on soils and waterways.

All of Arnold AFB's ecosystems, from forests to grasslands, are perpetuated by disturbance regimes. Disturbances can be natural or manmade. Some examples of natural disturbances include major storm events, fires, floods, insect infestations or natural mortality, while manmade disturbances include timber harvesting, land clearing, mowing or herbicide applications. Prescribed fire allows land managers the ability to mimic a natural disturbance which our native ecosystems have adapted to over time.

Proper utilization of prescribed fire is both art and science, as it takes a combination of fuel conditions, weather conditions, smoke management, ignition techniques and timing to result in the appropriate fire

intensity to accomplish site specific management goals.

Arnold AFB has three primary management goals for which prescribed fire is the best tool: manipulating structure type, competition control and fuels reduction. Arnold AFB utilizes prescribed fire to improve, maintain or sometimes completely change the structure or composition of the landscape.

Arnold AFB currently uses prescribed fire to create and maintain habitat for rare, threatened, and endangered species, such as the Henslow's sparrow in grassland ecosystems. Prescribed fire is beneficial in many ecosystem types as there is normally a flush of regeneration on the forest floor in the following years that provides low browse, cover, nesting areas and other benefits for turkey, deer and a variety of other wildlife species. The use of prescribed fire promotes new growth by removing dead vegetation and suppressing undesirable woody species that could eventually dominate the forest in the absence of fire.

Prescribed fire is also useful for competition control on sites where the desired species is fire tolerant. It is used in Arnold AFB's pine plantations to control the encroachment of hardwoods and other undesirable species. For example, loblolly pines in Arnold AFB's pine plantations tolerate much higher fire intensity than the undesirable species. Burning through the pine plantations can reduce hardwood competition, reduce fuel loads and improve wildlife habitat, while not harming the pine



Prescribed fire is the most efficient and economical tool when managing natural ecosystems, allowing land managers to alter and improve the native ecosystems without utilizing more costly methods such as bush hogging, under brushing, and herbicide applications. Pictured is a prescribed fire, or controlled burn, at Arnold Air Force Base. (Courtesy photo by Brenton Berlin)

trees being grown for timber production.

Arnold AFB uses prescribed fire for fuels reduction for two main reasons. One is to reduce fuels to help lower the chances of a wildfire. The second is to reduce the intensity and rate of spread of a wildfire if it does occur. Low fire intensity and rate of spread make it easier for firefighters to contain a wildfire. Fuels reduction is accomplished by periodically using a low in-

tensity prescribed fire to consume dead fuels, such as leaves, broken branches, dead grasses and other timber litter. The goal of reducing fuels with prescribed fire is to not kill the forest overstory, but to burn up accumulated fuels on the forest floor to decrease the chances and severity of a future wildfire.

For more information contact the Natural Resources Manager at 931-454-3230.

Base Legal Assistance: Possible SCRA violations by Verizon Wireless

By Kelsi Pilcher

Arnold AFB Legal Office

The Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. §3901-4043, (SCRA) is a federal law that enables active duty members "to devote their entire energy to the defense needs of the nation and to provide for the temporary suspension of judicial and administrative

proceedings and transactions that may adversely affect the civil rights of service members during their military service."

These judicial and administrative proceedings and transactions include: rental agreements, security deposits, prepaid rent, evictions, installment contracts, credit card and mortgage interest rates, mortgage foreclosures, automobile lease,

life and health insurance, and income tax payments.

With regard to installment contracts, "a servicemember may terminate a contract (commercial mobile service, telephone exchange service, internet access service or multichannel video programming service contract) entered into by the servicemember before receiving military orders to re-

locate for a period of not less than 90 days to a location that does not support the contract."

The Department of Justice has notified the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate at Arnold Air Force Base that, in violation of SCRA, Verizon Wireless service has continued to charge some servicemembers while they were deployed. If you discover Verizon may have vio-

lated your SCRA rights, please contact the Civil Rights Unit of the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of New Jersey at 855-281-339 or USANJ.Civilrightscomplaint@usdoj.gov.

You are also welcome to contact our legal office with any further questions you may have regarding SCRA and the legal and financial protections the law provides.

Cop Corner: Lost, stolen or missing credentials

By Officer Bill Hernandez

Arnold DAF Civilian Police

This article is designed to give the reader insight into policies and procedures that the Department of the Air Force Civilian Police use on a day-to-day basis that the general public may or may not be aware of.

What would you do if your credentials were suddenly lost or stolen? Your first step should be to report it, regardless of the type of credential. Immediately report the loss of Defense Biometric Identification System (DBIDS), Common Access Card (CAC), AEDC badges or related credentials to your supervisor and the Security Services Contractor (SSC). The type of

credential affects what happens next.

Most personnel working on Arnold Air Force Base have two types of credentials. One is a machine-readable card or paper pass in the form of a CAC or DBIDS credential. This type of credential must be presented for entry into the mission area or Arnold Village. The second credential is the AEDC badge, and it is used as a circulation control credential within the mission area. This means you do not have to show it at the gate, but it must be worn in most buildings and areas within the mission area.

Temporary credentials may be issued for a period of up to 72 hours or three workdays. These credentials are in the

form of a paper DBIDS pass or temporary AEDC badge, as applicable. This is to allow adequate time to check work centers for missing credentials and/or do the required paperwork for reissuance. An exhaustive search must be conducted before lost credentials will be reissued.

What happens if you still can't find your credentials after the three days? No worries, it's not the end of the world, but there is a procedure that needs to be followed. The first thing is to report it to the Visitor Control Center (VCC) at 931-454-5453. You will be required to fill out a statement on the AF Form 1168. Prior to credentials being reissued, the statement must be completed and signed by the VCC supervisor.

If a credential is lost a third time, the incident will require division-level approval before reissue.

If the credentials are believed to be stolen, a report must be filed with the SSC. The report will then be taken back over to the VCC for processing. Afterward, the AF form 1168 will be signed by the supervisor or security manager, then signed by the VCC supervisor. All credentials are property of the U.S. Government. If the lost credential is later recovered, you must return it to the VCC immediately.

Please remember to immediately report lost or stolen credentials. Employees must also be aware that replacing credentials can be a lengthy process, so please be patient.

ADLS training transitions to “myLearning” in first step for new force development learning management system

By Dan Hawkins
Air Education and Training Command Public Affairs

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas – As part of Air Education and Training Command’s efforts to aggressively and cost-effectively modernize education and training, Airmen and Guardians can access the “myLearning” digital platform on the Air Force Portal beginning March 18.

The AETC Learning Services division is launching the new secure learning management system (LMS) that will enable student learning, automation and reporting for roughly 800,000 Total Force users in three phases, with the first phase consisting of a modernized and interactive training platform that allows Airmen to access training modules previously found on the Advanced Distributed Learning Service (ADLS).

“Our training systems that support Force Development must be relevant to today’s Airmen so we can accelerate the change we need to keep pace with the fast-paced virtual learning world,” said Maj. Gen. Jeanie Leavitt, AETC director of operations and communications. “To develop an Airman’s competencies to out-think and out-perform any adversary in complex operational environments, we need to leverage modern information technology...myLearning helps us modernize how we



As part of Air Education and Training Command’s efforts to aggressively and cost-effectively modernize education and training, Airmen and Guardians can access the “myLearning” digital platform on the Air Force Portal beginning March 18. Users are advised they should complete all training coursework in ADLS not later than March 10. The ADLS website will be inaccessible to users March 26. (U.S. Air Force graphic by Dan Hawkins)

train our force.”

Users are advised they should complete all training coursework in ADLS not later than March 10. The ADLS website will be inaccessible to users March 26.

“Users who log in to myLearning March 18 may not initially see their historical training transcripts reflected in the sys-

tem,” said Denise Padilla-Rorie, AETC myLearning program manager, said while emphasizing patience with the new system. “The transcript data is scheduled to migrate into myLearning.”

According to Padilla-Rorie, the platform’s vision is to centralize LMS platforms across the force and allows the student

to access multiple databases and training curriculum with a single login, which eliminates the need for Airmen to have multiple passwords for access.

“How and where Airmen learn continues to change and we must account not only for “learn-from-work,” but also “learn-from-anywhere,” said Floyd

A. McKinney, AETC chief of learning services. “If we are going to meet the challenges of an uncertain future, we need to bring learning to Airmen instead of sending Airmen to learning – there has never been a better time to innovate.”

Phase two of the rollout is slated to begin this spring when the Enterprise Blended Learning Service (EBLS) is migrated to the new system, Padilla-Rorie said. Phase three will begin later this year and involve added system capabilities and additional integration of other learning systems.

“By the end of phase III, the goal of myLearning is that the system will meet Airmen for training where they are, whether it’s on a network computer or a tablet in the comfort of their own home, giving them control over the time and place training can occur,” said Rotary Green, AETC myLearning product development program lead.

Currently, users must login with their Common Access Cards, but officials are working to add two-factor authentication protocols in the coming months. Additional features of myLearning will be announced over the next year as the site continues to build functionality and expand to other learning systems.

If you are experiencing technical difficulties with the site or have feedback for the development team, email aetc.scoh.asd-helpdesk@us.af.mil.

AFMC Connect March focus: Belonging

By Estella Holmes
Air Force Materiel Command Public Affairs

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio – Throughout 2021, Airmen and leaders have glimpsed the commitment of AFMC to cultivating a trusting environment where Airmen are valued for their contributions to the mission. Members have a sense of belonging and feel they are a part of something important.

The AFMC connect theme for March 2021 is belonging, which is a crucial component in building a productive and efficient workplace. Members who trust that they are valued and feel they add value to the organization have a sense of being part of a collective team.

Common experiences cement teams, and everyone benefits when members feel they are a part of tasks which are important to the whole team. Workers who develop relationships within an organization are less susceptible to the challenges and stressors which can rob organizations of productivity.

Leaders are provided tools through the AFMC Connect to facilitate discussions during group interactions. Open, genuine discussion about the sense of belonging might take the form of questions like:

1. What does belonging in the workplace mean to you?
2. What makes you feel that you belong?

3. What are the similarities/differences between your work relationships and your family/friend relationships?
4. What would improve your work relationships?
5. What is one thing you can do to contribute in your team’s success?

A sense of belonging is a critical starting point for the creation of a more supportive culture. Opportunities for discussing a member’s sense of belonging within an organization can occur during staff meetings and commander’s calls. Even two or three co-workers gathered around the water fountain could be the impetus to strengthen connections.

More information can be



(U.S. Air Force graphic)

found in the implementation guide for facilitating discussion on belonging along with local support sources at <https://www.afmc.af.mil/Portals/13/AFMC%20Connect%20-%20BELONGING%20%28MAR%29.pdf>

The objective of the AFMC Connect is to rein-

force the importance of Airmen remaining connected and to encourage getting help early when a problem arises.



The EAGIL has landed - Divested B-1B Lancer to become ground integration lab



A recently retired B-1B Lancer, tail number 86-0099, begins to off-load its crew at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif., Feb. 23. The aircraft will become the Edwards Aircraft Ground Integration Lab, or EAGIL, a non-flyable aircraft that will be used as an integration lab for future upgrades. (U.S. Air Force photo by Giancarlo Casem)

By Giancarlo Casem
412th Test Wing Public Affairs

EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. – A recently retired B-1B Lancer flew its final sortie and landed at Edwards Air Force Base, California, Feb. 23.

The aircraft, tail number 86-0099, was one of the 17 Lancers to be retired by the Air Force. However, this particular aircraft will continue to serve despite never flying again. 0099 is set to become the Edwards Aircraft Ground Integration Lab, or EAGIL.

“EAGIL will be a non-flyable aircraft that will be used as an integration lab for future upgrades,” said Stephen Salas, B-1 Platform Lead, Global Power Bombers Combined Test Force. “We plan to do avionics software, weapon and hardware testing, new equipment fit checks, prototyping efforts and EAGIL will be used to support weapon load training, egress training, as well as aircraft familiarization for new personnel.”

“EAGIL will save 100-200 days of scheduled downtime for our two flyable developmental test aircraft,” Salas explained.

A detailed review determined which aircraft systems needs to be maintained to allow aircraft use for ground testing and other training uses. This review was used to establish regular maintenance schedules and help determine annual support costs. The CTF intends to leave the 0099 “tow capable” so that the jet can be moved, based on test requirements.

Gen. Timothy Ray, commander Air Force Global Strike Command, recently said, “retiring aircraft with the least amount of usable life allows us to prioritize the health of the fleet and crew training. Our ability to balance these priorities will make us more capable and lethal overall.”

“The divestiture of the B-1 is necessary in order for the Air Force to create an even more lethal, agile and sustainable force with a greater competitive edge for tomorrow’s fight,” Ray added.

0099’s new role as the EAGIL will support planned testing needed to sustain and improve the B-1s warfighting capabilities for years to come.

PRACTICE SOCIAL DISTANCING

AIR FORCE MATERIEL COMMAND

OPEN Services activities are open! and may have limited hours and offerings
INFO UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE - SUBJECT TO CHANGE

KEEP YOUR DISTANCE
PLEASE WEAR A FACE MASK

Call to check and confirm availability. Other restrictions may apply.

GOLF COURSE: M, T, W, F, Sa, Su 7am-dusk
MULLIGAN'S GRILL: S-S only 7am-1pm 454-FOOD
Call @ upcoming tournaments 454-GOLF
May be closed due to inclement weather Closed every Thu Jan & Feb

OUTDOOR REC: M, T, Th, F, Sa 10am-5pm
RESERVATIONS REQUIRED 454-6084 Some rentals/inflatables not available

CAFÉ 100: CLOSED due to high telework/renovation project

FITNESS CENTER: M-F 5am-7:30pm Closed 1-1:30pm **Sa 8am-1pm**
BY APPT ONLY, 454-6440, FOR AUTHORIZED USERS
-Screening questions at entry -No lockers -Limited showers

ALC: Th-F 5-8pm dining (limited menu) & bar 454-3350
Check flyers/posters, SharePoint, Facebook, or SKN tvs for specials & events
Mar Pizza Special: Vegetarian
Mar 4 Curbside Pickup starts, call in your order and we'll bring it out to you!
Mar 5 Wing Night; No Jam Night (returns April 9)
Mar 12 Movie & Popcorn Night: showing "The Croods... A New Age"
Mar 12 Kid's Craft: Dr Seuss St Patrick's Day sign
Mar 19 St Patrick's Day Party
Mar 19-Apr 4 Fish Basket Special

WINGO INN: M-F 7am-6pm S-S 8am-4pm 454-3051

FOOD TRUCKS: M-F 10am-1pm, T/Th 6:30-8:30pm (1 truck-trial basis)

Arnold AFB SERVICES
As of 24 Feb 21

ALC March 2021
Social Distancing and Mask Wear required as needed 454-3350

14" with diced green peppers, onions, tomatoes, and black olives
Club Members receive \$1 off on specials
Thursday & Fridays 5-8pm
Vegetarian Pizza

March Pizza Special
.75 Wings Special 5-8pm
Drink Specials 5-10pm
First Friday Open Mic 5-8pm
Has been cancelled for March
in The Landing bar

Free bag of popcorn *while supplies last*
Movie 5:30pm
Movie & Popcorn Night 12

Dr. Seuss St. Patrick's Day kid's craft *while supplies last*
Decorate your St. Patrick's Day sign at the ALC or pick one up to take home!

Kid's Craft 12
5-8pm in The Landing
Dinner special \$6.95
Members \$5.95
Kids decorate your own shamrock glasses! *while supplies last*
Complimentary hats, tiaras, glasses, leis and party horns! *while supplies last*

St. Patrick's Day Party 19
March 19 - April 4 Thursday and Friday 5-8pm
Club members receive \$1 off on specials
In the landing bar *menu items available*

Fish Basket Special 19
Starting March 4
Thursday & Friday nights only 5-8pm
Call your order in and have us deliver to your car!
pay in advance for quicker service
454-3350
Fried Pollock, French fries, hush puppies and tartar sauce \$6.95

CURBSIDE PICKUP

Protecting our nation's sacred symbol

By Staff Sgt.
Chandler Baker
Joint Base
Langley-Eustis Public Affairs

JOINT BASE LANGLEY-EUSTIS, Va. – The bald eagle, or *Haliaeetus leucocapillus*, is one of the most well-known symbols of the United States of America. The bird of prey's features when fully grown include a wingspan of roughly six to seven and a half feet, bright yellow beak and famous white feathered head.

Recently, this living tribute to freedom has seen a population rebound and has made nests near the Joint Base Langley-Eustis (JBLE) flight line—not only putting the eagles in danger, but the F-22 Raptor pilots as well.

Bald eagles weigh between six and 14 pounds on average and fly at speeds in excess of 75 miles per hour when diving.

The F-22 Raptor, the United States Air Force's premier 5th generation fighter, has a takeoff speed of 120 knots, or 138 miles per hour according to the Air Force Operational Test and Evaluation Center.

If a Raptor and eagle collided, the eagle would disintegrate and the Raptor would have significant damage and could possibly crash. Lives could be lost.

The bald eagle, however, is a protected species by the 1918 Migratory Bird Treaty. This was later extended into the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act in 1940, signed by U.S. President Franklin Roosevelt. Remarkably, the bald eagle has exceeded population goals set in the Endangered Species Act of 1973. As of 2007, the bald eagle has been delisted as an endangered species and moved into the protected species category.

How do you balance the desire to protect a protected species while also reducing the risk for loss of life? Team JBLE partnered with the United States Department of Agriculture, the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources, the Air Force Safety Center and the non-profit Conservation Science Global to humanely move the bald eagles out of harm's way.

Using a net system activated by remote rockets, a wildlife biologist and ecologist safely captured the bald eagles after baiting them with fish and roadkill deer carcasses. To avoid removing mother eagles from their eggs, mothers are released back into the wild during their breeding period, and relocation attempts are made later in the year.

“By generating new science to help us address the conflict between eagles and airfield use, we can better protect the flying mission, prevent mishaps which can cost millions, and preserve the safety of both people and wildlife,” said Alicia Garcia, 633d Civil Engineer Squadron Natural Resources program manager. “That is a significant benefit to both our mission and wildlife. The eagles have become very numerous in recent years, which is a great environmental success story, but creates new challenges related to Bird/Wildlife Aircraft Strike Hazards (BASH).”

Ultimately, the project aims to re-



U.S. Air Force Capt. Will Boss, center, Air Force Safety Center wildlife ecologist, releases a two-year-old bald eagle in Hampton, Va., Jan. 13. According to the Air Force Safety Center, although this project focuses on Joint Base Langley-Eustis, the results have national implications, and will aid wildlife professionals across the country to make informed management decisions for reducing eagle-aviation conflicts to ensure the safety of aircrews and effective conservation of this valuable national treasure. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Chandler Baker)

locate the bald eagles to the Charlottesville, Virginia area due to its lower density of airfields. The project began in September, 2020 and will last until October, 2022.

Relocating isn't the only thing the U.S. Air Force does to prevent BASH issues.

“Everything from putting up fences to making sure the grass is a certain length are all mitigation techniques prescribed in Air Force Instruction 91-212,” said U.S. Air Force Capt. Will Boss, Air Force Safety Center, or AFSEC, wildlife ecologist. “Ultimately we want to make the flight line as unattractive as possible to birds and other wildlife.”

In these early phases of the relocation project, eagles are mounted with tracking beacons so the team can track the population's movements and set traps in different locations based on the data collected.

“The beacon can send us data as fast as each second to every 15 minutes on the eagle's location,” said Jeff Cooper, Virginia Department of Wildlife Resource wildlife biologist. “This way, we can see how they're using the landscape and airspace around [JBLE].”

The VDWR is providing their services at no cost to JBLE. AFSEC plans to utilize the information from this project at other installations in the future.

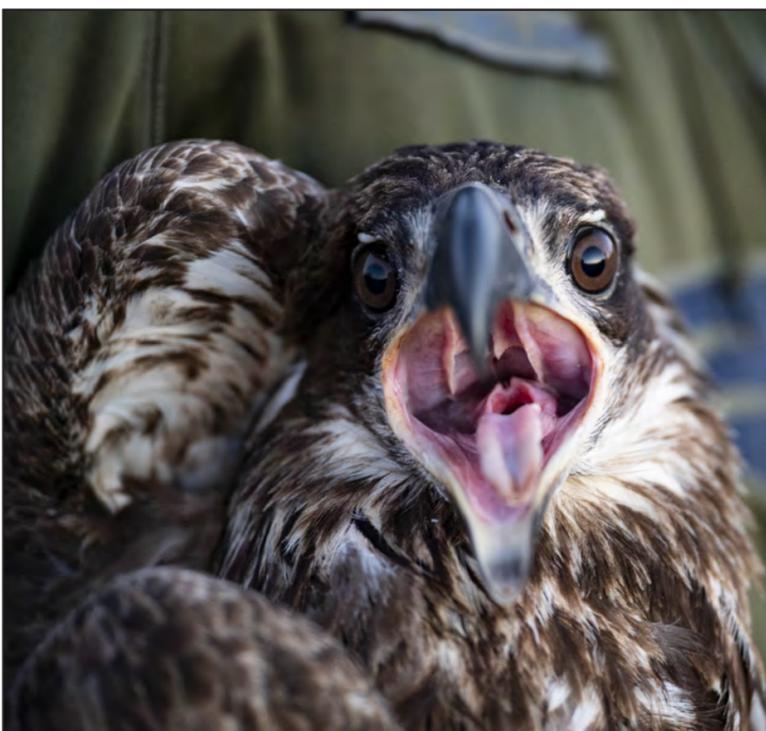
“Although this project focuses on [JBLE], the results have national implications,” said Kyle Russell, AFSEC BASH team deputy chief. “[This] will aid wildlife professionals across the country to make informed management decisions for reducing eagle-aviation

conflicts to ensure the safety of aircrews and effective conservation of this valuable national treasure.”

The project has a deep personal meaning to the team members involved.

“I am so proud to be part of a team that is driving management biology for this species forward,” said Garcia. “I am also proud to be able to help determine

how we can protect our service members from the hazards associated with a large bird strike. The people operating those aircraft are moms and dads. They are our nation's sons and daughters. When we do all we can to prevent both people and animals from a dangerous interaction, that is a win. It's the kind of effort that makes me love my job.”



A 2-year-old bald eagle opens its beak in Hampton, Va., Jan. 13. According to Eagles.org, bald eagles on average weigh between six and 14 pounds and fly at speeds in excess of 75 miles per hour when diving. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Chandler Baker)

AEDC quarterly award winners announced



Lt. Col. Michael Knauf
Propulsion Test Branch,
Arnold AFB
Field Grade Officer of
the Quarter



2nd Lt. Chase Bilyou
586th Flight Test
Squadron, Holloman AFB
Company Grade Officer of
the Quarter



Master Sgt. James Buoy
586th Flight Test
Squadron, Holloman AFB
Senior Non-Commissioned
Officer of the Quarter



Tech. Sgt. Nikita Williamson
586th Flight Test
Squadron, Holloman AFB
Non-Commissioned Officer of
the Quarter



Sr. Airman Dwayne Shields
704th Test Support
Squadron, Holloman AFB
Airman of the Quarter



Pamela Johnson
746th Test Squadron,
Holloman AFB
Civilian of the Quarter
Category I



Steven Todd
Propulsion Test Branch,
Arnold AFB
Civilian of the Quarter
Category II



Benjamin Holton
Space Test Branch,
Arnold AFB
Civilian of the Quarter
Category III

Photos unavailable for the following award winners:

Harry Schell Services, Arnold AFB
Non-appropriated Fund
Civilian of the Quarter
Category I

Ray Toye Services, Arnold AFB
Non-appropriated Fund
Civilian of the Quarter
Category II

Exceptional Innovator Award: U2 Navigation

Upgrade Test, 746th Test Squadron, Holloman AFB

Technical Achievement Award: 846th Test Squadron Instrumentation Team, Holloman AFB

Semi-Annual Gen. Gosick Team Excellence Award: Team 16T, Aerodynamics Test Branch, Arnold AFB

Semi-Annual Safety Award: Maj. Simon Kassemi and Capt. Nicolas Arosemena



Knauf promoted to lieutenant colonel

Brian Knauf, retired Air Force lieutenant colonel, left, administers the oath of office to his brother, newly-promoted Lt. Col. Michael Knauf during a promotion ceremony, March 1, at Arnold Air Force Base. (U.S. Air Force photo by Jill Pickett)

Kelly speaks on accelerating change at Air Force Association panel

By Air Combat Command Public Affairs

JOINT BASE LANGLEY-EUSTIS, Va. (AFNS) – During the 2021 Virtual Aerospace Warfare Symposium, Gen. Mark Kelly, commander of Air Combat Command, shared remarks during a panel on “Accelerating Change Across the Air Force,” Feb. 25.

Kelly discussed how ACC is working to accelerate change to remain relevant and credible for both today’s and tomorrow’s fight. In addition, he emphasized the Air Force should make significant changes to instill a warrior culture and harness the importance of the electromagnetic spectrum for the future of warfare.

“Neither air superiority nor victory are American birthrights,” Kelly said. “Both are at significant risk. And then of course, the required sustainment apparatus to ensure that our warrior culture, credibility, capacity and capability are resilient. Because fragility anywhere is going to be vulnerability everywhere.”

ACC is focused on five key requirements of a modern peer-war fight to execute Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Charles Q. Brown, Jr.’s “Accelerate Change or Lose” action orders. Four of them being warrior culture, credibility capacity, and capability.

To develop leaders who can build and articulate intent and feel comfortable enough to delegate down to the lowest competent level, the Air Force has to instill an expeditionary warrior culture, according to Kelly, referencing Brown’s Action Order A: Airmen.

“We cannot have fragile Airmen,” Kelly said. “They have to be resilient and adaptive. They must be afforded time to train together as a cohesive team before they are required to fight together as a cohesive team in any location.”

As Airmen entrusted with this nation’s security, implementing change in warrior culture and ensuring the credibility of recurring combat



U.S. Air Force Gen. Mark Kelly, commander of Air Combat Command, speaks during the 2021 Virtual Air Force Warfare Symposium along with six major command senior leaders, Feb. 24. The other six major command senior leaders who all participated in the discussion on the “Accelerating Change Across the Air Force” panel, are U.S. Air Force Gen. Timothy Ray, commander of Air Force Global Strike Command; U.S. Air Force Gen. Arnold Bunch, Jr., commander of Air Force Materiel Command; U.S. Air Force Gen. Kenneth Wilsbach, commander of Pacific Air Forces; U.S. Air Force Gen. Jacqueline Van Ovost, commander of Air Mobility Command; U.S. Air Force Lt. Gen. Marshall “Brad” Webb, commander of Air Education and Training Command; U.S. Air Force Lt. Gen. James Slife, commander of Air Force Special Operations Command; and U.S. Air Force Gen. Jeffrey Harrigan, commander of U.S. Air Forces in Europe & Air Forces Africa and commander, Allied Air Command. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech Sgt. Carlin Leslie)

skills has become imperative to the endurance of the Air Force.

“It requires changing agile combat employment from episodic to reoccurring and mainstream,” Kelly said. “It requires change where training against the contested electromagnetic spectrum isn’t a contingency, it’s actually the norm.”

The Air Force is not as powerful as what it owns on a spreadsheet. Rather, the service is only as powerful as what it can project forward, protect, sustain and credibly operate, Kelly continued.

“Our combat Air Force fleet is twice as old as the United States Navy’s,” Kelly said. “That means every day, we (ACC) are hemorrhaging readiness to care, feed and supply an older fleet.”

Chinese and Russian advances in stealth, weapons and precision navigation are all credible gains, but is not what keeps the general up at night.

“Our adversaries’ abil-

ity to operate across and jam across the EMS is significant,” Kelly said. “Their EMS advances, combined with 5G, quantum computing and artificial intelligence are what they will use to close their red kill chains and what they will use to break blue kill chains.”

Referencing a quote from Field Marshal Bernard Law Montgomery, a British military commander of World War II, “If we lose the war in the air, we lose the war and we lose it quickly.” Kelly contends “that if we lose the war in the electromagnetic spectrum, we are going to lose the war, and we are going to lose it quickly.”

Changing the understanding of the United States’ adversaries is essential to the progression and enhancement of agile combat airpower.

“I, for one, am confident that we will generate better solutions once we acknowledge the real possibility of losing a peer fight,” Kelly said. “Or to quote President

Biden last week when referring to China, ‘If we don’t get moving they’re going to eat our lunch.’ Our combat Air Force is strong, but when it comes to ‘Accelerate Change or Lose’, our theme for today, if you don’t like change, you’re going to dislike irrelevance even more, and you’re going to outright hate a kinetic defeat.”

In closing the general highlighted the Airmen that the Air Force has to help reinforce the mantra “Accelerate Change or Lose.”

“If we are committed to staying relevant, if we are committed to win, we have to change along with our adversaries,” Kelly said. “We have phenomenal Airmen that are ready to adapt expeditionary warfighting. Our training regimen can and will adapt to contested ops. We have great high-end capability, but it needs to stay cutting edge, it needs to thrive across a multi-spectral environment, and it needs to become more affordable.”

Other senior leaders on the panel included:

- Gen. Jeffrey L. Harrigan, commander, U.S. Forces Europe & Air Forces Africa
- Gen. Kenneth S. Wilsbach, commander, Pacific Air Forces
- Gen. Arnold W. Bunch, commander, Air Force Materiel Command
- Gen. Timothy M. Ray, commander, Air Force Global Strike Command
- Gen. Jacqueline D. Van Ovost, commander, Air Mobility Command
- Lt. Gen. Brad Webb, commander, Air Education and Training Command

To listen to Kelly’s full remarks, visit <https://vaws2021.us.chime.live/app/module?id=6> to find the Accelerating Change Across the Air Force panel.

