

## Arnold AFB cemeteries receive in-depth look through survey



Steve Martin, an archaeologist who specializes in geophysics, uses an electrical resistance meter to survey the Chapel Hill Cemetery at Arnold Air Force Base Nov. 10. In the background, Jacob Jepsen, also an archaeologist who specializes in geophysics, begins mapping the cemetery. (U.S. Air Force photo by Jill Pickett)

By Bradley Hicks  
AEDC Public Affairs

Much mystery surrounds the eight cemeteries contained within the 40,000 sprawling acres of Arnold Air Force Base.

For years, natural and cultural resources personnel at Arnold were left with the same questions concerning these graveyards:

“How old are they?”

“How many are interred within each?”

“Are there any unmarked plots?”

The search for answers began in early October with the initiation of a comprehensive cemetery survey.

Through this undertaking, a complete inventory of the cemeteries will be compiled. This will assist Arnold team members in the management, monitoring and preservation of the sites.

The cemeteries located on Arnold Air Force Base are: Anderson Cemetery, Chapel Hill Cemetery, Elder-Fagg Cemetery, Fieldstone Cemetery, Hickerson Cemetery, Hufar Cemetery, Price-Essmann Cemetery and Rutherford-Shipleigh Cemetery.

Information recorded at each of the cemeteries includes the number of graves, details present on the tombstones, and the conformation of individual gravesites and

See CEMETERIES, page 3



Jacob Jepsen, an archaeologist who specializes in geophysics, looks at one of the grave markers as he maps Chapel Hill Cemetery at Arnold Air Force Base Nov. 14. The map is then combined with electrical resistivity and ground penetrating radar data to form a more complete picture of the cemetery. (U.S. Air Force photo by Jill Pickett)



Arnold Engineering Development Complex team members Paul Ritter and Melissa Minter sort donated food items in the chapel Nov. 14 at Arnold Air Force Base. The food items were donated as part of the Junior Force Council Booster Club's Thanksgiving Food Basket Drive. (U.S. Air Force photo by Bradley Hicks)

## Junior Force Council Booster Club collects 82 food baskets for local families

By Deidre Moon  
AEDC Public Affairs

‘Tis the season of giving, and Arnold Engineering Development Complex team members at Arnold Air Force Base have shown their charitable nature by donating to the Junior Force Council Booster Club 2022 Thanksgiving Food Drive.

It was another successful drive, with 82 total baskets collected for Coffee County families in need of Thanksgiving meals. This surpasses the 62 food baskets collected last year, which had beat out the 2018 record of 51 baskets.

Collection boxes could be found at several buildings across base so those interested could bring in nonperishable food items to donate to the drive.

“The Junior Force Council Booster Club wants to thank everyone who donated to the food drive,” said Adam Moon, Arnold JFCBC president. “Every year, we hope we can help even more families, and every year our AEDC family shows up for the cause. I know this is something these local families look forward to each year.”

See FOOD BASKETS, page 4

## Arnold AFB Turkey Trot draws dozens looking for pre-holiday fun

By Bradley Hicks  
AEDC Public Affairs

At Arnold Air Force Base, the tightening of shoelaces comes before the stuffing of faces.

Cardio comes before the cranberry sauce. Sweat is broken before any wishbone. The finish line is crossed well before the holiday chow line is formed.

A longstanding pre-Thanksgiving tradition at Arnold drew dozens of Arnold personnel and members of their families together for a day of exercise, fun and camaraderie.

The 37th annual Arnold Air Force Base Turkey Trot was Nov. 9 at the Arnold Lakeside Complex. The event was hosted by the Company Grade

Officers' Council at Arnold.

“The tradition of the Turkey Trot is important because it has been going on for 37 years and it is something people look forward to,” said 1st Lt. Camden Dammeyer, a CGOC member who led the organization of the race. “We had people wearing their old Turkey Trot shirts from the early 2000s. We are glad to add to Arnold’s history with this event.”

The 5K race drew a flock of runners competing not only for the right to call themselves the AEDC Turkey Trot champion, but also to take home the top prize – a frozen turkey to serve as the centerpiece of a Thanksgiving feast.

See TURKEY, page 2



Anna Burger and 2nd Lt. Patrick Robbins display the frozen turkeys they won for being the first female and male runners to cross the finish line during the 37th annual Arnold Air Force Base Turkey Trot Nov. 9 at the Arnold Lakeside Complex on Arnold Air Force Base. The Turkey Trot drew dozens of members of the AEDC workforce and their families. (U.S. Air Force photo by Bradley Hicks)

### In This Issue....

**Safely celebrate the holiday season**

...Page 5

**Got an extra winter coat to donate?**

...Page 10

**Want to donate blood?**

...Page 11



CEMETERIES *from page 1*

**Jacob Jepsen, an archaeologist who specializes in geophysics, operates a ground penetrating radar machine in Rutherford-Shipley Cemetery at Arnold Air Force Base Nov. 10. The GPR data gives archaeologists information about what has occurred below the surface to help detect possible grave locations. (U.S. Air Force photo by Jill Pickett)**

styles of tombstones. Additionally, an analysis of the condition of each gravesite and cemetery, as well as notation of any vandalism, erosion and other damage or changes, was included in the survey.

The arrangement of gravesites in each of the cemeteries was also mapped as part of the effort.

Prior to the survey, Arnold personnel possessed a limited knowledge of the burial grounds, aware only of their locations and the rough dimensions of each.

"We've had archaeological projects in the past that have done the documentation showing the cemeteries are here and sort of a general size and that type of thing, but it's all been very general and not a lot of specific information is known," said base archaeologist Shawn Chapman.

Staff from WSP, an engineering, management and consulting company commissioned by Arnold to complete the survey, conducted fieldwork in each of the cemeteries, documenting information through both narrative and photographic means. This was not the first survey foray for WSP at Arnold. In fact, one of the cemeteries located on Arnold property was discovered in the late 2000s during work performed by the firm.

Along with gathering information on the number of gravesites and the particulars of each, WSP personnel also explored each cemetery to locate potential unmarked graves.

To unearth this information, WSP personnel utilized both an electric resistivity meter and ground-penetrating radar, or GPR. The resistivity meter consists of probes inserted into the ground. During the meticulous survey, rows of each cemetery were probed at intervals of only a few inches. Electricity emanates from these probes and flows through the ground. The meter measures the electrical resistance of the soil, mapping the flow patterns it detects. Data collected can further be used to produce a grayscale map depicting what lies beneath the surface of the cemeteries.

This work was followed by the GPR examination. Resembling a lawnmower, this device was pushed across each graveyard, emitting radar pulses along the way. The de-



**Steve Martin, an archaeologist who specializes in geophysics, uses an electrical resistance meter to survey the Chapel Hill Cemetery at Arnold Air Force Base Nov. 10. The survey can help the archaeologists assess what has happened below the surface in an area. This information can then be interpreted to identify possible graves that were never marked or the markers are no longer in place. (U.S. Air Force photo by Jill Pickett)**

vice detects objects underneath the surface by measuring how long it takes for the transmitted pulses to "bounce" back to the GPR. Use of these tools allows archaeologists to see under the ground surface in a general way without having to dig or disturb the graves.

Steve Martin, a WSP archaeologist who specializes in geophysics, said each of these nondestructive methods displays different characteristics, adding a multi-technique approach ensures a more thorough analysis of each cemetery.

"It's kind of looking at it with different lenses, and sometimes things will show really well in one and not show up well in another set of data," he said.

The data collected through these techniques will not only be compared and contrasted but also used for validation if both detect the same peculiarity.

"If both techniques show the same anomaly, then there's likely something there," Martin said. "If one technique shows something that the other doesn't, often you can figure out why or what's going on there. The more data, the better."

The information-gathering portion of the project was set to be finished by the end of November. With their fieldwork complete, WSP staff will now take the data and documentation amassed and begin producing a broad report to serve



**Several grave markers dot the landscape of Chapel Hill Cemetery at Arnold Air Force Base Nov. 10. (U.S. Air Force photo by Jill Pickett)**

as a complete inventory of the gravesites, including any unmarked graves found, in the eight cemeteries located within the boundaries of Arnold AFB.

Once complete, this report will be shared with Arnold personnel, providing them with an accurate gravesite database to bolster future cemetery management and maintenance. The findings will also be shared with the public.

"When we have that report, it will also have a good sort of public outreach benefit, as well, from the project for local historical societies and genealogical societies," Chapman said.

Chapman said the comple-

tion of the cemetery survey ensures Arnold is in compliance with local, state and federal laws.

"As part of being caretakers of the 40,000 acres, there are a lot of requirements that fall outside of that strict research and testing mission," Chapman said. "We're also responsible for caretaking of the property and everything that is on it which involves all of the natural resources and cultural resources. This is part of our stewardship of doing that."

Dr. Amy Turner, National Environmental Policy Act, natural and cultural resources planner at Arnold, added that not only is the base meeting its regulatory responsibility

through the gravesite inventory, but the effort will also aid in the preservation of cultural and historic resources. She said the project will prevent the sites from being impacted by the work that goes on at Arnold, assuring the descendants of those buried within that these artifacts of family history will remain protected for generations to come.

In that regard, Turner said surveying the cemeteries was simply the right thing to do.

"The gravesites that WSP potentially identified that we didn't know were here before the survey, that's an opportunity to ensure that we don't impact them in the future," she said.

**FOOD BASKETS** *from page 1*

The Thanksgiving Food Basket effort at Arnold has taken place for many years. The drive began when members of the Coffee County Backpack Program for Deerfield Elementary School reached out to the JFCBC about collecting food items for the holiday. The Backpack Program is a local charity providing food for students who may not have provisions during

tough economic times. Through this program, children in need of food receive a backpack with enough food to feed them through the weekend every weekend of the school year. As an extension of

the Backpack Program, the Thanksgiving Food Basket Drive is meant to provide enough food to prepare a Thanksgiving meal for the child's family. The Junior Force

Council Booster Club provides the junior workforce at Arnold with professional development opportunities and serves as a conduit between the junior workforce and senior leadership.

*Disclaimer: The Junior Force Council Booster Club is a private organization which is not part of the Department of Defense or any of its components and has no governmental status.*



Arnold Engineering Development Complex team member Daniel Epperson organizes a basket of donated food items Nov. 14 at Arnold Air Force Base. (U.S. Air Force photo by Bradley Hicks)



Arnold Engineering Development Complex team members, from left, Nicole Prieto and Rachel Garrard sort food items donated as part of the Thanksgiving Food Basket Drive organized by the Junior Force Council Booster Club Nov. 14 at Arnold Air Force Base. (U.S. Air Force photo by Bradley Hicks)



Arnold Engineering Development Complex team member Adam Moon checks one of the bags of food donated as part of the Junior Force Council Booster Club Thanksgiving Food Basket Drive at Arnold Air Force Base Nov. 14. (U.S. Air Force photo by Bradley Hicks)

# Around Arnold

## Safely celebrate the holiday season

### By AEDC Safety

The holidays are a time to reconnect with family and friends, but they also can present seasonal safety hazards. State Farm Insurance has compiled a list of things to help you stay safe, <https://www.statefarm.com/simple-insights/residence/simple-holiday-safety-tips>. Here are a few highlights:

#### Holiday Preparation Safety

Hospital emergency rooms treat thousands of people annually who are injured from falls involving holiday decorations.

- Never use furniture as a ladder – use the correct ladder for the task at hand.
- Inspect all ladders for any damage prior to use.
- Follow the 1-to-4 rule for extension ladders: for every four feet the ladder rises, move the base out one foot from the structure.
- Always keep three points of contact on the ladder: two hands and one foot, or two feet and one hand.
- Keep your belt buckle between the uprights, no leaning to the side.

#### Fire Safety

Between 2015 and 2019, the National Fire Protection Association indicates an average of 160 home fires, per year, were started by improper use of lights with Christmas trees.

- Keep your live tree watered so it doesn't become a tinderbox.
- Avoid electrical fires by purchasing lights from reputable retailers and only those approved by nationally recognized testing labs like UL, Intertek or CSA.
- Inspect all lights for broken sockets, frayed wired and loose connections.

- Don't overload outlets with too many electrical devices – this could also cause a fire
- Closely monitor the use of open flame candles – approximately 15,600 fires and 150 deaths caused by candles put too close to combustible material.
- When setting up a Christmas tree or other holiday display, make sure they don't obscure doors and passageways.
- Be sure your Christmas tree is mounted on a sturdy base so that children, elderly persons or family pets cannot pull it over on themselves.
- Small button batteries found in some toys, remotes and the like are very dangerous, so make sure children and pets don't have access to swallow them.
- Tiny magnets are also dangerous if swallowed.
- Install safe and certified carbon monoxide detectors – increased use of heaters and ovens increase the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning.
- Shop during daylight hours whenever possible. If you must shop at night, go with a friend or family member.

#### A few tips for the kitchen

- Always have a "cook" in the kitchen. Don't leave stove or the oven unattended.
- Keep prepared foods away from raw meat, poultry, seafood and eggs – food poisoning would ruin your holiday.
- Cook food thoroughly, using a food thermometer to determine doneness.
- Internal food temperature should be 140 degrees Fahrenheit or above.
- Check instructions to know the minimum for the dish you are cooking.
- Refrigerate food within two hours.
- Ditch leftovers after 4 days.
- Even though you are rushed and thinking about a thousand things, stay alert to your surroundings.
- Don't leave purchased gifts in plain view – lock them in your trunk.
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash.
- Avoid overloading yourself with packages. It is important to have clear visibility and freedom of motion to avoid mishaps.
- Don't display holiday gifts under the tree that are visible through your windows and doors.
- Keep a record of all your credit card numbers in a safe place at home.
- Check your statements regularly during the season to spot suspicious activity.
- Notify the credit card issuer immediately if your credit card is lost, stolen or misused.
- If you use an ATM, choose one that is located at a well-lit location.

#### General Holiday Safety Tips

- Be sure your child and pets don't have access to dangerous plants. Mistletoe, holly berries, poinsettia and Jerusalem cherries can be poisonous.

Withdraw only the amount of cash you need.

- Protect your PIN by shielding the ATM keypad from anyone who is standing near you.
- Do not throw your ATM receipt away at the ATM location.

#### Holiday Travel Safety

If you plan to hit the road this year, here are a few tips to keep your holiday plans on track:

- Indoor and outdoor lights for your home should be on an automatic timer.
- When leaving home for an extended time, have a neighbor or family member watch your house and pick up your newspapers and mail.
- Keep travel plans offline do not announce when or how long you will not be at home.
- Never drink and drive, but also be on the lookout for others operating their vehicles under the influence. The number of accidents and fatalities caused by drinking inevitably rises around the holiday season.
- A winter storm can leave you spending your holiday stuck in a drift or stranded in a blizzard. Stock your vehicle with other items that might be helpful in case of a problem: thick blankets, extra food and water, coats and jackets and a flashlight.
- Make sure your cellphone is charged and bring a car charger.

Be constantly aware of your surroundings and always be safe. If it feels wrong, it probably is. Don't let a bad choice interrupt your holidays. Remember to take the time to enjoy family, friends and festivities.

Merry Christmas from AEDC Safety. Take care of each other.

# 180-day wait over for retiring Airmen hoping for civil service employment at MRTFBs

### By AFTC Public Affairs

**EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE, Calif.** – Airmen retiring from military service no longer must wait 180 days before accepting a federal civilian position within Major Range and Test Facility Bases thanks to a recent temporary authority enacted to help fill jobs that has lacked sufficiently qualified candidate pools.

Immediately, Air Force Test Center is able to appoint retired members of the Armed Forces without a 180-day waiting period for "all" positions that are at or below the GS-13 (or equivalent); which covers a broad spectrum of equivalent pay systems to include Wage Grade, General Schedule, and Acquisition Demo positions for Air Force Test Center positions located at MRTFBs. AFTC has over 30 locations including Edwards Air Force Base, Calif., Eglin AFB, Fla., Arnold AFB, Tenn., Holloman AFB, N.M., Robins AFB, Ga., Nellis AFB, Nev., and Hill AFB, Utah.

"As some of our experienced civilians retire, we lose critical knowledge and expertise and must replace current talent with entry-level

experience. Hiring veterans with their experience saves on training, creates a more balanced workforce, and provides workers who often already have a security clearance," said Ms. Theresa Houston, AFTC Directorate of Personnel program manager.

Section 1108 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021, as amended by section 1103 of the NDAA for FY 2022, for certain ("covered") positions, waives application of 5 U.S.C. § 3326, which generally imposes a 180-day waiting period between the retirement of a Service member and appointment to a DoD civilian position.

This temporary authority expires January 1, 2024.

The waiting period has often been seen as a disadvantage to retirees who are interested in federal service, are not always willing to wait six months before finding other work. They often take their skillset to other companies before becoming eligible to work for the DOD.

AFTC is now able to recruit and appoint qualified persons immediately through Direct Hiring Authority for

Major Range and Test Facilities Bases without applying competitive rating and ranking procedures. No assessment or announcement required to bypass the traditional recruitment job announcement process via USA Jobs.

Active-duty members may now apply for these positions even before their official retirement date and be appointed while still on terminal leave, before being discharged or released from active duty.

"Hiring retiring military members is key to our vision of shaping AFTC organizations of today to confront the challenges of tomorrow," said Mr. Justin Anthony, AFTC Directorate of Personnel talent acquisition manager. "This temporary amendment allows AFTC to compete against the private sector for the extraordinary talent that our military members bring to our workforce."

The AFTC Personnel Directorate has created an online registration for interested applicants to submit their resumes and other supporting documents: <https://afcs.experience.crmforce.mil/s/events?eventId=a02t0000008fvdIAAA>

These hard-to-fill positions include:

- Engineers (all professional disciplines)
- Test Pilots
- Information Technology Specialists
- Aircraft Survival and Flight Equipment Repairer
- Air Traffic Control Specialist (Terminal)
- Meteorologists
- Non-Destructive Test Inspector
- Aircraft Mechanic
- Aircraft Avionics Mechanic
- Electronic Measurement Equipment Mechanic
- Aircraft Ordnance Systems Repair Inspector
- Munitions Maintenance Mechanic
- Composite/Plastic Fabricator
- Welder (Aircraft)
- Sheet Metal Worker (Aircraft)
- Aircraft Engine Mechanic
- Engineering Equipment Operator
- High Voltage Electrician

- Utility Systems Operator
- Facility Operations
- Emergency Management Specialist
- Housing Management Specialist
- Police Officers
- Security Forces – Operations, Training, and Staff Positions
- Firefighters
- Fire Chief, Deputy Fire Chief, Assistant Fire Chief
- Airfield Management
- Budget Analyst
- Logistics Management Specialist

Other positions not listed above are covered under this flexibility if owed by AFTC.

In addition, recent and future retirees are encouraged to visit the AFTC Job Board at <https://www.afc.af.mil/AboutUs/Jobs/> for additional job listings. Jobs can be filtered by location, and the board also contains a search function for more filtered results.

For more information or assistance in the AFTC hiring process, please reach out to [AFTC.Enterprise.Recruiting@us.af.mil](mailto:AFTC.Enterprise.Recruiting@us.af.mil).

# QRIP-equipped CAF F-35s set the stage for future Crowd-Sourced Flight Data platform integration



An F-35 Lightning II is equipped with Quick Reaction Instrumentation Package components March 23 Hill Air Force Base, Utah. The QRIP records all data and uploads into a knowledge management system, allowing for faster software development, better reprogramming, and expedited products out to the pilots. (U.S. Air Force photo by Todd Cromar)

By 1st Lt. Lindsey Heflin  
53rd Wing

**EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. (AFNS)** – In March 2022, the first set of U.S. Air Force operational aircraft were equipped with the Quick Reaction Instrumentation Package, or QRIP, enabling the first Combat Air Forces contribution to Crowd-Sourced Flight Data, or CSFD.

The 59th Test and Evaluation Squadron partnered with the Test Resource Management Center to leverage advances in technology and invent QRIP.

Instrumentation packages like QRIP are traditionally reserved for integration on test aircraft, designed to collect data

strictly for test and evaluation purposes. These devices have historically been too large, cumbersome and expensive to consider for operational aircraft integration until now.

The QRIP is roughly the size of a football with the capacity to record almost a terabyte of data per flight. Applying this technology to CAF aircraft significantly boosts the amount of CSFD available to developers within minutes versus the traditional weeks or months to access the data. Ultimately, the QRIP informs operational data sets while improving mission data reprogramming, data products and software development.

“QRIP captures data that is currently not being recorded, or being discarded

at the cutting room floor, and makes it available and accessible at the speed of relevance,” said Lt. Col. Nathan Malafa, 59th Test and Evaluation Squadron commander. “Big data analytics, machine learning, and artificial intelligence do the heavy lifting to sift through this data and highlight where action needs to be taken.”

Nineteen CAF jets have been modified with QRIP to date, with several taking part in exercises outside of the continental United States. The CSFD gathered thus far has accelerated reprogramming changes, highlighted software deficiencies, enabled rapid debriefs, and provided data products previously unavailable to pilots and intelligence officers.

“This is the power of edge-node computing, and we’ve now demonstrated it to great effect by watching video from OCONUS sorties minutes after the data is ingested over 6,000 miles away,” Malafa said. “The implications of this are only limited by our imagination.”

While this technology is currently only implemented within the F-35 fleet, the intent is to expand to all fielded U.S. Air Force fighter variants, as well as other platforms.

“The more data we can collect from the Air Force’s diverse portfolio puts the crowd in CSFD and amplifies data sets we can use to gain competitive advantage against our adversaries and competitors,” Malafa said.

## Combined defense capability

U.S. Air Force F-16 Fighting Falcons from the 51st Fighter Wing join with South Korea F-35A Lightning IIs to escort two U.S. B-1B strategic bombers entering the Korean Air Defense Identification Zone and conduct a combined flight in a formation over South Korea, Nov. 19. The training demonstrated the South Korea-U.S. combined defense capability and posture based on the alliance’s overwhelming power and the U.S. iron-clad commitment to providing extended deterrence in defense of the Korean Peninsula. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Megan Estrada)



# Air, Space Forces transition to AFWERX 3.0

By Katie Milligan and  
Tim Tresslar  
AFWERX

**WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio (AFNS)** – As an innovative learning organization driven to accelerate change in the Department of the Air Force, AFWERX will release a series of new initiatives in support of its 3.0 evolution. Air and Space Force leaders will detail new opportunities for stakeholder engagement during a live broadcast Dec. 14 from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. EDT.

AFWERX 3.0 will add five key lines of effort in executing its more than \$1 billion annual budget:

- 1) Increase funding opportunities aligned with the DAF Operational Imperatives.
- 2) Create a nexus between AFWERX capabilities that better align government resources with industry outreach, laboratory expertise, operator engagement and acquisition tools to improve speed and rigor across what some

acquisition experts call the “valley of death” -- where innovative ideas do not find the necessary support to survive.

- 3) Expand existing tools through open, specific and Strategic Funding Increase and Tactical Funding Increase, or STRATFI, topics with AFWERX AFVentures, increased end-user iteration through AFWERX Spark and opportunities for industry through AFWERX Prime.

- 4) Reduce barriers to conduct classified work for companies with novel concepts.

- 5) Improve the data architecture for rapid stakeholder feedback and process improvement.

As he prepares to take his new role Dec. 15, the incoming AFWERX Director Col. Elliott Leigh said, “I am thrilled to see the new ways that AFWERX 3.0 will support DAF priorities, Airman and Guardian innovation and industry commercialization by building on the amazing foundation created by the AFWERX team and ongoing senior leadership support.”

In 2017, AFWERX 1.0 launched as a means of connecting Airmen with innovative ideas in academia and industry through cultural transformation. This established a foundation for unprecedented collaboration that greatly expanded the networks of Airman innovation and their connectivity to external stakeholders to bring in new ideas and technology transition pathways.

In 2020, AFWERX moved to the Air Force Research Laboratory with the director of AFWERX reporting to the Air Force Service Acquisition Executive to execute more deliberate acquisition activities. During that first year, a single AFWERX 2.0 was created by combining AFWERX 1.0 with AFVentures, Agility Prime, U.S. Space Force innovation activities (later SpaceWERX), and the AFRL Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer, or SBIR/STTR, Center of Excellence. The move consolidated these innovation organizations to create efficiencies and focus on a more comprehensive acquisition tool.

AFWERX AFVentures provided improved access to exter-

nal technology, talent and capital. AFWERX Spark empowered innovation at the operational edge, and AFWERX Prime accelerated emerging technology markets using military missions and resources. The impact of AFWERX 2.0 cut across traditional and non-traditional measures of success, from enabling the first Airman flight of an electric aircraft, to accelerating 319 companies through Phase 3 transition to end-user funding after starting with a small business seed contract, to seeing follow-on funds to AFWERX companies increase 15-fold, to adding more than 1,500 new companies to the department’s portfolio.

Col. Nathan Diller, the outgoing AFWERX director who is retiring after 22 years with the Air Force, said, “It has been incredible to see so many Airman and Guardian innovation experiments evolve into institutionalized programs that are not only adding amazing new capabilities to the force, but maybe, more importantly, they are creating more agile structures for how we accelerate the development of the future force.”

Incoming director Leigh previously served as a materiel

leader at Space Systems Command prior to joining AFWERX as its military deputy. While integrating into his new role, Leigh said he has been impressed with the rapid advances in innovation made possible through AFWERX processes.

“I’m amazed at what we can achieve through the SBIR program, and we are doing this at scale,” Leigh said. “We are mobilizing a workforce of small businesses, tens of thousands of Americans, and a strategic war reserve of innovators in the private sector. We’re making rapid advances across every technology and mission area in the department, and in the process, we are changing a culture to propel innovation. This organization gets right after the Air Force chief of staff’s top priority of accelerating change and the secretary’s Operational Imperatives.”

To learn more about the AFWERX 3.0 transition and to hear directly from Diller and Leigh, attend the AFWERX 3.0, which will feature an ask anything session and a fireside chat. Learn more at <https://www.afwerx.com/> and register for the event at <https://www.eventsquid.com/event.cfm?id=18899>.



# Airmen innovate, ensure HH-60W's first deployment



Airmen assigned to the 41st Rescue Squadron and 38th RS conduct hoist training at Grand Bay Bombing and Gunnery Range, Moody Air Force Base, Georgia, March 17. Airmen from the 41st RS and 41st Rescue Generation Squadron identified a shortage of hoist cables for their HH-60W Jolly Green II helicopters, a critical component to conduct combat search and rescue operations. They resolved the shortfall by converting HH-60G Pave Hawk hoists to work in the new aircraft with slight modifications. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Devin Boyer)

By Airman 1st Class  
Deanna Muir  
23rd Wing Public Affairs

**MOODY AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. (AFNS)** – In preparation for the Air Force's newest rescue platform's first deployment, Airmen from the 41st Rescue and Rescue Generation Squadrons conducted extensive training to learn the intricacies of the new HH-60W Jolly Green II.

As a result of the increase in training, the 41st RQS expended more of the aircraft's hoist cables than anticipated, lending to a potential shortfall. A team of 41st RGS maintenance Airmen, however, quickly recognized the need to replace these cables and jumped at the chance to accelerate change and make an Air Force-wide impact.

"Our maintenance Airmen have a won't-fail mentality and are constantly working to make things better not only for the 23rd Maintenance Group but for the entire Air Force," said Col. Jason Purdy, 23rd MXG commander.

These hoists are critical to the success of combat search and rescue operations. They are used in high-stakes scenarios to rescue individuals in dangerous or remote areas that aren't accessible by ground transportation, or if the victim is trapped by fire or water.

Recognizing the need to adapt, the Airmen came together and discovered they could circumvent the supply shortage by using the HH-60G Pave Hawk cables in the HH-60W with only slight modifications.

"We used our subject matter expertise to troubleshoot the issue," said Staff Sgt. Nicholas Cellini, 41st RGS flying crew chief. "We improvised and adapted to overcome the supply shortage, by using a cable that we know is reliable and the Air Force has plenty of."

Cellini and his counterparts went to the field training detachment hoist trainer to test and write the operating procedures for converting the HH-60G cables for use in the HH-60W. The process ensured the safe use of the hoist cables by synchronizing the speed in which they extend at the appropriate points of the cable.

The 41st RGS submitted an engineer request and engineers from Warner Robins Air Force Base came to Moody AFB to provide safety checks and approve the process.

With the process approved and implemented, the rescue Airmen ensured the HH-60W was fully mission-capable and ready to deploy by Air Combat Command's initial operational capability deadline.

"Finding and testing this in-



Airmen assigned to the 41st Rescue Squadron and 38th RS conduct hoist training at Grand Bay Bombing and Gunnery Range, Moody Air Force Base, Georgia, March 17. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Devin Boyer)

formation and realizing it can work for us is going to make a huge difference knowing there will never be a shortage of cables," said Master Sgt. Jonathan Holford, 41st RGS production superintendent.

Discovering innovative solutions for unpredictable circumstances is a testament to the Airmen who feel empowered to do so. The Airmen with the 41st RGS said they feel confident in providing creative solutions to these shortfalls thanks to their leadership.

"People say aircraft main-

tenance is pretty black and white, but some of it's not," Cellini said. "Our leadership is open to ideas; as long as it's safe and we can effectively and efficiently accomplish it, our whole chain of command will back us."

Holford attributed the success of the organization to this leadership philosophy and the teamwork mentality fostered within the unit.

"We encourage Airmen to solve problems," Holford said. "We always want to afford them the opportunity to fail,

but we fail together; we learn from it and continue to grow on what we learned."

The mission relies on Airmen's ingenuity and initiative to succeed, and Moody AFB Airmen have exemplified these traits throughout the transition to the HH-60W.

"I'm very proud of our maintainers for leading the way on the HH-60W fleet," Purdy said. "Whether it's been a hoist, a gun system, or a lapse in technical data, our Airmen developed ways to make the entire program better."

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# Arnold AFB Milestones

## 35 YEARS

Andrew Denny, TOS  
Ronald Skipworth, TOS  
Joe Syler, TOS

## 30 YEARS

James Sirbaugh, TMAS

## 25 YEARS

Donald Rotach, TOS

## 20 YEARS

Jared Allen, AF  
Brian Anderson, TOS

## 15 YEARS

William Layne, TOS  
Charles Derek Patterson, TMAS  
Thomas Payne, TOS

## 10 YEARS

Ronnie Long, TOS

## 5 YEARS

William Cochran, TOS  
Joy Davis, TOS  
Tammy Marsh, TOS  
John Moorehead, TOS

## INBOUND MILITARY

Master Sgt. Laura Infante, AF  
Tech. Sgt. Nicki Moore, AF

## OUTBOUND MILITARY

Master Sgt. Don Wilson, AF

## RETIREMENTS

Arnold Collier, AF  
Vicky Colvin, AF

Dotty Davis, TOS

Jack Glasser, AF  
Robert Russ, TOS  
Master Sgt. Dennis Wright, AF

## NEW HIRES

Jake Banuelos, AF  
Joshua Bryant, TOS  
Ryan Edwards, TOS  
John Gibson, TOS  
Riaz Hussein, TOS  
Timothy Sanders, TOS  
Howard Sawyer, TOS  
Jacob Schmidt, AF  
Bruce Shaw, AF  
John Wagner, AF  
Brian Winn, TOS  
Mariusz Zarzecki, AF



Ronald Skipworth, TOS  
35 years

# Understanding, coping with seasonal affective disorder

By Misha King  
Defense Contract  
Management Agency

**FORT LEE, Va.** – For many people, the change in weather and season brings great joy and happiness. But for others, it makes them sad. Seasonal affective disorder, known as SAD, affects an estimated 10 million people and possibly includes someone you know.

According to the National Institute of Mental Health's SAD resource page, many people go through short periods of time where they feel sad or not like their usual selves during a SAD episode. They may start to feel down when the days get shorter in the fall and winter, and begin to feel better in the spring when the daylight hours are longer. In some cases, these mood changes can affect how a person feels, thinks, and handles daily activities.

There are different types of SAD. For winter-pattern SAD, or winter depression, the symptoms start in the late fall or early winter and go away during the spring and summer. This type applies to most SAD cases. Summer-pattern SAD is a less common type where some people may experience depressive episodes during the spring and summer months.

According to NIMH, SAD is not considered a separate disorder; it is a type of depression characterized by its recurrent seasonal patterns. The signs and symptoms include those associated with major depression as well as specific symptoms that differ for winter-pattern and summer-pattern SAD.

### Symptoms of major depression may include:

- Feeling depressed most of the day, nearly every day

- Losing interest in activities you once enjoyed
- Experiencing changes in appetite or weight
- Having problems with sleep
- Feeling sluggish or agitated
- Having low energy
- Feeling hopeless or worthless
- Having difficulty concentrating
- Having frequent thoughts of death or suicide

### Winter-pattern SAD specific symptoms may include:

- Oversleeping (hypersomnia)
- Overeating, particularly with a craving for carbohydrates
- Weight gain
- Social withdrawal (feeling like "hibernating")

### Summer-pattern SAD specific symptoms may include:

- Trouble sleeping (insomnia)
- Poor appetite, leading to

- weight loss
- Restlessness and agitation
- Anxiety
- Episodes of violent behavior

### Warning signs of SAD include:

- Talking about feelings of hopelessness or desire to hurt self
- Increased alcohol/drug use or abuse
- Withdrawal from activity/isolation
- Extreme mood swings (good or bad)
- Impulsive behavior
- Depression/constant anxiety
- Saying goodbye to loved ones
- Giving away possessions
- Self-harm or injury

### Tips that can help prevent SAD:

- Create a comfortable work environment that reduces

stress (both physical and mental).

- Remain active and prioritize physical movement.
- Get organized through planning work and maintaining a tidy work place to avoid becoming overwhelmed.
- Maintain connections with friends and colleagues by deliberately reaching out and creating a habit of connection.
- Ask others how they are feeling or if they are contemplating suicide or hurting themselves.
- Encourage colleagues to seek professional help or use the Employee Assistance Program (EAP)
- Provide a support system to let others know they are not alone.
- Stay connected and check in regularly.
- Provide a listening ear.

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ALL PETS HAVE SECRETS, THEIRS ARE SUPER  
December 2  
5:30 P.M. Showtime  
ALC  
Rated PG 1 HR 43 MIN  
DC LEAGUE OF SUPER PETS

**GOAT YOGA**  
December 3  
2 P.M.  
Fitness Center  
\$10 per person  
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Sign up Now - November 12  
DoD Civilians & Retirees  
Sign up October 31 - November 12  
For more information & to sign up call 454-6084

**ALC PRESENTS TRIVIA NIGHT**  
DECEMBER 16  
6 P.M.  
\$25 SERVICES GIFT CARD PRIZE  
MUST HAVE 3 TEAMS MINIMUM TO AWARD PRIZE

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There is a little s'more to celebrate in December!  
Tall \$6  
Grande \$6.25  
Venti \$6.50

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## DECEMBER 2022

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### Arnold Services December & January Holiday Hours

<p><b>Arnold Lakeside Complex</b></p> <p>Dec 9: Closed Dec 19 - Jan 5: Closed</p>	<p><b>Café 100</b></p> <p>Dec 23 - Jan 2: Closed</p>	<p><b>Fitness Center</b></p> <p>Dec 23-24: 8am - 1pm Dec 25-26: Closed Jan 1-2: Closed</p>
<p><b>Golf Course</b></p> <p>Dec 25: Closed</p>	<p><b>Outdoor Recreation</b></p> <p>Dec 24 - 26: Closed Jan 1-2: Closed</p>	<p><b>Wingo Inn</b></p> <p>Dec 25-26: Closed Jan 1-2: Closed On-Call Phone Available 24/7</p>

### ARNOLD SERVICES PRESENTS FAMILY HOLIDAY BAZAAR

family - friendly outdoor event

**December 10**  
11 A.M. - 3 P.M.  
**ARNOLD LAKESIDE COMPLEX**

VENDORS, FOOD TRUCKS, SANTA & MRS. CLAUS, SANTA'S WORKSHOP, TOYS FOR TOTS, PETTING ZOO, CARNIVAL GAMES, MULLED WINE & APPLE CIDER, KIDS PRESENTS, & MORE

PARKING & BUS SHUTTLE AT UTSP/CAMPUS  
PARKING NOT AUTHORIZED AT EVENT LOCATION

Call 454-7530 for more information

# A beacon of hope: How one Air Force chaplain remains hopeful amid Russian-Ukraine conflict

By Senior Airman Cydney Lee  
436th Public Affairs

**DOVER AIR FORCE BASE, Del. (AFNS)** – A middle-aged man in dark pastor robes sits on the edge of a wooden pew, hands clasped. Overwhelming sad-

ness and worry washes over him as he reflects on those who have lost their lives since Russia invaded Ukraine.

His heart is pained as he wonders: “How many people have to die before this stops?”

After a long, shaky breath, the man

dips his head in prayer and speaks.

“Lord, be with the suffering people of Ukraine. Keep my family safe and stop this wicked war. Comfort them in the way that only You can. In Your holy name I pray, amen.”

For Chaplain (Capt.) Yury Volkovinsky, a reservist assigned to the 512th Airlift Wing at Dover Air Force Base, praying for his family in Ukraine has become a daily occurrence.

Volkovinsky grew up in Belarus under the reign of the Soviet Union and experienced firsthand a totalitarian system with no freedom of speech, assembly or religion. He came to the U.S. in 2012, and eventually joined the U.S. Air Force to protect the very freedoms he was once deprived of.

“I joined [the U.S. Air Force] because I see the U.S. military as a global force for good and I wanted to play my part in the fight for freedom,” Volkovinsky said. “Being a part of the Air Force gives my life a greater purpose.”

Volkovinsky was at an airport in Texas when he first heard news of Russian forces invading Ukraine. The attack did not come as a total shock to him due to the long-rising tensions between the countries, he said.

“[It’s comparable to] having a terminally ill family member. You know they’re going to die, but when they [do] it’s still a surprise,” Volkovinsky said. “[The Russian invasion] was a similar situation. We knew it was going to happen, but no one knew when.”

Despite anticipating the attack, Volkovinsky still fears for his family and the people of Ukraine.

“[I’m] worried about [my] family in Ukraine, as the Russians cannot defeat the Ukrainian military and instead attack the civilian infrastructure in retaliation,” Volkovinsky said.

Two of his relatives were forced to relocate from their apartment complex, which was no longer safe due to its proximity to a Ukrainian military base.

His other relatives are only able to communicate through messengers, as they have limited electrical power. Russian forces destroyed the local power grid, forcing Volkovinsky’s relatives to heat their house by burning wood.

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights estimates over 16,000 civilians have been injured or killed since the beginning of the invasion. These grim conditions are enough to cause someone to lose hope, but as a chaplain, Volkovinsky holds tight to his faith.

“In every circumstance of my life I keep asking myself, ‘Where is God in this situation?’” Volkovinsky said. “And I can say that I see His presence in so many



**Chaplain (Capt.) Yury Volkovinsky, 512th Airlift Wing chaplain, prays at Dover Air Force Base, Delaware, Nov. 4. Volkovinsky has prayed for his family in Ukraine every day since the beginning of the Russian invasion of Ukraine and holds strong to his belief that better days are to come for the Ukrainian people. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Cydney Lee)**

Americans who are helping the suffering people of Ukraine.”

Since the beginning of the Russian invasion, the U.S. has supplied \$17.6 billion worth of security assistance to Ukraine. Dover AFB specifically has risen to the occasion by supporting over 200 security assistance missions. Dover Airmen have seen an increase in workload and hours in order to meet mission requirements, and their support has not gone unnoticed.

“Some time ago, the [Dover AFB Facebook page] posted pictures of the support team Dover has sent to Ukraine,” Volkovinsky said. “Some of my friends from Ukraine reposted those pictures on their social media, commenting [on] how happy they were seeing all this help coming their way.”

Volkovinsky expressed his gratitude for all of the support the U.S. has contributed and for his teammates who have worked tirelessly to make it happen.

“Every piece of equipment that is sent to Ukraine from the U.S. translates into saved lives of innocent civilians and brave Ukrainian defenders,” Volkovinsky said.

Volkovinsky said he is proud to be a part of a mission that directly supports his loved ones and the Ukrainian people. He remains a beacon of hope and holds strong to his belief that brighter days are to come for his loved ones.

“Evil cannot prevail in the long run, but it takes effort, grit and determination on our part to stop it,” Volkovinsky said. “Each and every one of us needs to be willing to play our part to make it happen.”

## COAT DRIVE

Hosted by Upper Cumberland Foster Closet and Arnold Air Force Base (AAFB) Medical Aid Station

**14 November - 16 December**

Bring your slightly used or new coats, hoodies, hats, or gloves  
(anything warm, any size, child or adult)

### Donation Box Locations:

**A&E (Building 100):**

In front of the Chapel Room or in front of the Arnold Room (Rm 123)

**Medical Aid Station (Bldg 225):**

Waiting Room

**Carroll Building (Bldg 1103):**

Main Entrance

The coats will benefit as follows:

Children’s coats will be distributed to: Upper Cumberland Foster Closet – 259 S Willow Ave, Cookeville, TN. Meets the needs of foster families providing clothing and other necessities for children in the foster system.

Men and Women’s coats will be donated to local homeless shelters.

All POCs can be reached at the Medical Aid Station - 931-454-5351

Upper Cumberland Foster Closet is a non-profit organization and is not a part of the Department of Defense or any of its components and it has no governmental status.



# Missile Mishap Response Team train, focus on future



Members of the Missile Mishap Response Team work on a Minuteman III inert guidance system during a training event at Hill Air Force Base, Utah, Oct. 4. The highly-specialized team responds to any number of situations involving an ICBM (except the warhead) where technical procedures do not exist, or the loss of life is possible. (U.S. Air Force photo by R. Nial Bradshaw)



Members of the Missile Mishap Response Team move a Minuteman III component container into a containment barrier during a training event at Hill Air Force Base, Utah, Oct. 4. (U.S. Air Force photo by R. Nial Bradshaw)

By R. Nial Bradshaw  
75th Air Base Wing  
Public Affairs

**HILL AIR FORCE BASE, Utah** – When it comes to mishap response and preparedness, training exercises are important, especially in the military, where the phrase “train like you fight” is routinely put into practice.

This is why a highly specialized team of military members and civilians with the Minuteman III Systems Directorate and 309th Missile Maintenance Group here with a contracted support team recently conducted a Missile Maintenance Response Team, or MMRT, exercise.

The training covered safely and effectively responding to a hypothetical situation involving the containment of a hazardous liquid inside an ICBM missile guidance system.

Tech. Sgt. Ryan Martin, Minuteman III Systems Directorate NCO in charge of field support and requirements, said it’s important to train for such “unlikely” scenarios.

The MMRT is on-call 24/7, 365 days a year, to respond to any number of situations involving an ICBM (except the warhead) where techni-

cal procedures do not exist, or the loss of life is possible.

“There are a lot of safety procedures involved with what we do, and we try to get the most realistic training possible for the team,” Martin said. “The team responds to what is essentially an industrial accident, but because it’s a weapon system, you can’t have just anyone respond.”

The Minuteman III Systems Directorate along with the 309th Missile Maintenance Group are responsible for maintaining and sustaining the Air Force’s Minuteman III weapon system.

The units regularly hold MMRT response exercises, including one this spring simulating

a response to an emergency involving a solid booster and transporter, which is a mobile vehicle used to move rockets and other launch systems.

The exercises give the MMRT the opportunity to train in a safe and realistic environment, while refining different communication processes and procedures, and includes involving geographically separated members of the team.

“These exercises give us the opportunity to identify and address constraints and are critical to building relationships with our mission partners,” said Paul Sears, 582nd Missile Maintenance Squadron liquid propulsion flight chief. “They also serve as an opportunity for the team

to work in the protective gear they would wear in a real-world response.”

The MMRT has an integral role in supporting the Minuteman III weapons system and will eventually transition to the new LGM-35A Sentinel, as the Air Force works to replace the 50-year-old Minuteman III.

The Minuteman III is fielded at Air Force Global Strike Command bases located in Montana, Wyoming and North Dakota, but officials said the team can respond anywhere they are needed.

## Blood Drive

American Red Cross (ARC) and Arnold Air Force Base (AAFB)

**8 December 2022**

**10:00 am - 3:00 pm**

**Arnold AFB**

**Building 100, First Floor, Room 125**

CALL: 931-454-5351 or 931-454-5635 to set up an appointment time or if you have any questions.

The AAFB Medical Aid Station is teaming up with the ARC to Save Lives! Blood Drives are events that you can participate in and truly make a difference. As you know the Holidays are crucial times and your donation is priceless!

Individuals that donate blood will be entered in a drawing being held at the conclusion of the Blood Drive. You do not have to be present to win, but you do have to donate to enter!

We wish to thank the following for their contributions to our drawing:  
AAFES Commissary, Crazy Daises, 1520 Bakery, Mike & Betsy's BBQ, AAFB Services

The ARC is a non-profit organization and is not a part of the Department of Defense or any of its components and it has no governmental status.

