



HIGH MACH

Serving the World's Premier Flight Simulation Test Complex



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February 8, 2016

Environmental stewardship a top priority to AEDC

By Deidre Ortiz
ATA Public Affairs

AEDC has a commitment to environmental stewardship, and whether at work or at home, personnel are encouraged to do their part to lessen their carbon footprint by recycling.

The recycling program assists the Complex in meeting the recent Make Every Dollar Count (MEDC) effort, a top-priority of the Secretary of the Air Force. MEDC is aimed at minimizing cost, harnessing efficiencies and redefining legacy Air Force business paradigms.

According to information provided by AEDC Test Support Division, if everyone at Arnold recycled, it would prevent more than 550 pounds of trash per person a year from ending up in the landfill. This amounts to

more than 1.2 million pounds of trash annually, which is equivalent to \$110,000 in landfill costs.

To ensure all military installations are doing their part, the Department of Defense has put in place a Strategic Sustainability Performance Plan goal of diverting 55 percent of non-hazardous solid waste and 100 percent of electronics waste.

AEDC is also limited on the amount of garbage that can be sent to landfill and is penalized \$210 per ton for disposal of trash collected in dumpsters above that limit. Recycling assists in keeping the Complex within limits.

Jerry Rice, AEDC Recycling Center manager, said that Arnold has been meeting, and even exceeding, the SSPP diversion

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Jerry Rice, manager of the AEDC Recycling Center, starts the baler used for condensing the recyclables collected on base. Through the recycling program at AEDC, 68 tons of cardboard, 25 tons of mixed paper, approximately 20 tons of plastics, types 1 and 2, and 1000 pounds of toner cartridges were collected during Fiscal Year 2015. In an effort to meet the Department of Defense Strategic Sustainability Performance Plan goal of diverting 55 percent of non-hazardous solid waste and 100 percent of electronics waste, Recycling Center staff encourages all AEDC employees to recycle. (U.S. Air Force photo/Deidre Ortiz)

AEDC team members reap multiple Air Force awards

By Raquel March
and Deidre Ortiz
ATA Public Affairs

Following a year of ongoing transitions to six test and support contracts and a Combined Test Force structure, AEDC team members have achieved excellence in performance. That excellence has paved the way for members to earn several Air Force awards.

AEDC Annual Awards

During the AEDC Annual Awards Banquet Jan. 29, leadership recognized military and civilian government award winners and nominees. The banquet was at the Arnold Lakeside Center where Maj. Gen. David A. Harris, the commander of the Air Force Test Center, was the guest speaker.

The award recipients are:

1st Lt. Christopher Handy, Company Grade Officer

Master Sgt. James Key, Senior Non-Commissioned Officer

Tech. Sgt. Rodney Clemmons, Non-Commissioned Officer

See AWARDS, page 3



Above, AEDC military and civilian government award winners and nominees pictured here were recently recognized for their outstanding contributions to the Complex's mission at the AEDC Annual Awards Banquet held at the Arnold Lakeside Center Jan. 29. See annual award winners on page 4. (U.S. Air Force photo/Holly Fowler)

Maj. Gen. David A. Harris, the commander of the Air Force Test Center, addresses the audience at the AEDC Annual Awards Banquet Jan. 29. Military and civilian government award winners and nominees were recognized for their outstanding contributions to the Complex's mission at the banquet held at the Arnold Lakeside Center. (U.S. Air Force photo/Holly Fowler)

AEDC 2016 Fellows nominations needed by March 25

By Raquel March
ATA Public Affairs

AEDC is currently accepting nominations for the 2016 Fellows Program with submissions due no later than March 25.

Established in 1989, the Fellows program recognizes AEDC individuals who have made substantial and exceptionally distinguished technical contributions to the nation's aerospace ground testing capability at AEDC.

Since the inception of the

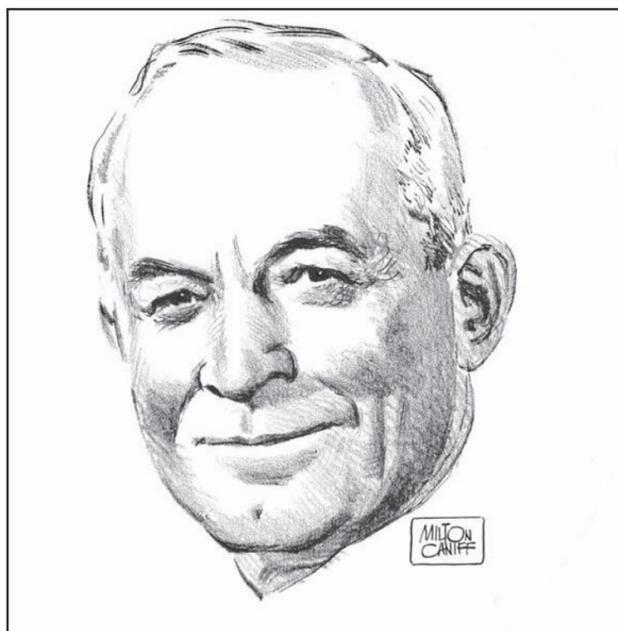
program, AEDC has bestowed the complex's highest honor to a total of 87 individuals (Fellows, Craftsmen Fellow, Lifetime Achievement Fellows and Honorary Fellows).

AEDC Fellow nominations may be submitted by any present or former AEDC government or operating contractor/subcontractor employee. All current or retired military, civilian and operating contractor and subcontractor personnel assigned or previously assigned to AEDC can be con-

sidered candidates for selection as an AEDC Fellow. Candidates qualified for consideration as an AEDC Fellow must personally have made sustained, notable and valuable contributions in aerospace ground testing at AEDC.

AEDC Craftsmen Fellow nominations may also be submitted in the same manner as the AEDC Fellow nominations. All current or retired military, civilian and operating contractor/subcontractor

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HIGH MACH

Arnold Engineering Development Complex
An Air Force Test Center Test Complex

Col. Rodney Todaro
Commander

Jason Austin
Chief,
Public Affairs



Steve Pearson
General Manager,
Aerospace Testing Alliance

High Mach Staff:
Kathy Gattis, ATA Public Affairs Manager & Executive Editor
Raquel March, Editor

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For general information about *High Mach*, call (931) 454-5655 or visit www.arnold.af.mil.



Core Values

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



Vision

"ATA will be a trusted partner in delivering best value warfighter support and assert stewardship to AEDC"

Core Values

- Be accountable for our own actions
- Ensure the safety of individuals and equipment
- Demonstrate the highest integrity and ethical standards
- Communicate clearly and openly
- Deliver professional and technical excellence
- Nurture, enable and treat people fairly
- Align with customer goals and objectives
- Use disciplined and innovative processes
- Continually improve in all that we do

Wattendorf, South Hap Arnold Road intersection reconfigured

By AEDC Safety

Recently, the Air Force reconfigured the intersection of South Hap Arnold Road and Wattendorf Memorial Highway.

Please be aware and cautious of the intersection configuration, new pavement marking and recently installed curve delineator arrows that were recently installed, in particular turning left off of Wattendorf Hwy. on to South Hap Arnold Road and turning right off of South Hap Arnold Road onto Wattendorf Hwy.

According to the American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials and the Federal Highway Administration, there is broad agreement that right-angle intersections are the preferred design. Decreasing the angle of the intersection makes detection of and judgments about potential conflicting vehicles on crossing roadways much more difficult. In addition, the amount of time required to maneuver through the intersection increases, for vehicles and pedestrians, due to the increased pavement area.

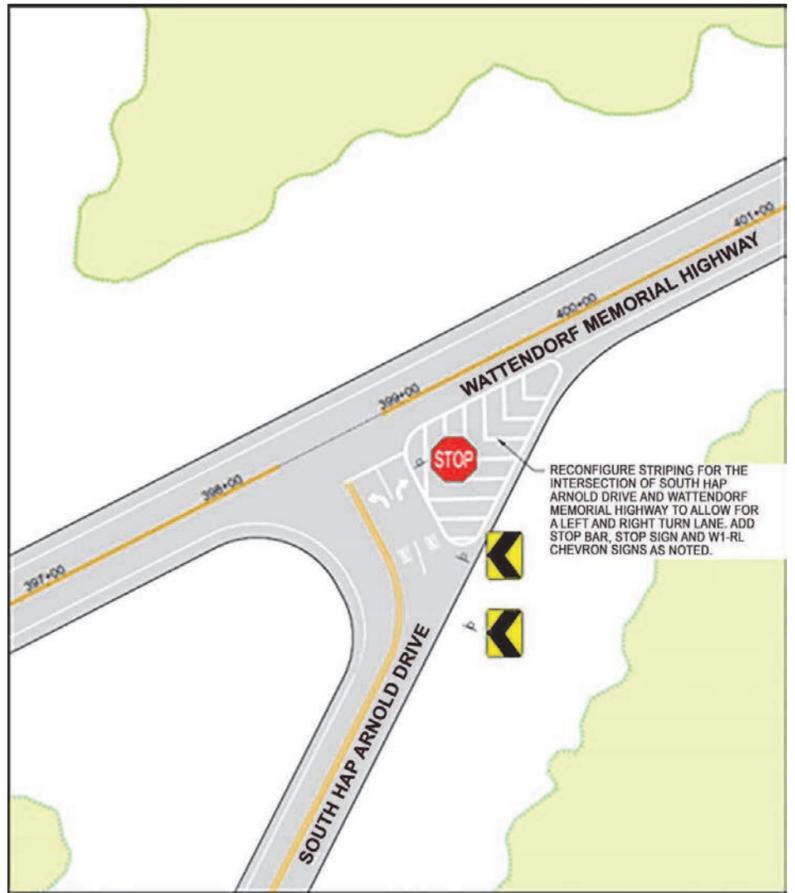
The angle complicates the vision triangle for the stopped vehicle; increases the time to cross the through road; and results in a larger, more potentially confusing

intersection.

Skewed intersections pose particular problems for older drivers. Many older drivers experience a decline in head and neck mobility, which accompanies advancing age and may contribute to the slowing of psychomotor responses. Joint flexibility, an essential component of driving skill, has been estimated to decline by almost 25 percent in older adults due to arthritis, calcification of cartilage, and joint deterioration (Smith and Sethi, 1975).

A restricted range of motion reduces an older driver's ability to effectively scan to the rear and sides of his or her vehicle to observe blind spots, and similarly may be expected to hinder the timely recognition of conflicts during turning and merging maneuvers at intersections (Ostrow, Shaffron, and McPherson, 1992).

For older drivers, diminished physical capabilities may affect their performance at intersections designed with acute angles by requiring them to turn their heads further than would be required at a right-angle intersection. This obviously creates more of a problem in determining appropriate gaps. For older pedestrians, the longer exposure time within the intersection becomes a major concern.



FELLOWS from page 1

personnel assigned, or previously assigned, to AEDC can be considered candidates for selection as an AEDC Craftsmen Fellow. The Craftsmen Fellow category recognizes exceptional craftsmen who possess the ability to identify customer requirements and respond with sustained technical innovations, working effectively and efficiently as part of technical teams and have dedicated their careers to the success of AEDC's mission. They must have personally made notable and valuable lifetime contributions to AEDC in any area relevant to the AEDC mission.

AEDC Lifetime Achievement Fellow nominations may be submitted by any present or former AEDC government or operating contractor/subcontractor employee. AEDC Lifetime Achievement Fellows are reserved for exceptional candidates and are not necessarily selected each year. All current or retired military, civilian and operating contractor/subcontractor personnel assigned or previously assigned to AEDC can be considered candidates for selection as an AEDC Lifetime Achievement Fellow.

Candidates qualified for consideration as an AEDC Lifetime Achievement Fellow must personally have made notable and valuable lifetime contributions to AEDC in any area relevant to the AEDC mission.

Only AEDC Fellows may submit a nomination for an AEDC Honorary Fellow. AEDC Honorary Fellows are reserved for exceptional candidates and are not necessarily selected each year. Candidates qualified for consideration as an AEDC Honorary Fellow must have made sustained, notable, valuable and significant contributions to AEDC. These eminent individuals need not have worked at Arnold AFB.

Newly selected AEDC Fellows are honored annually during a banquet on or about June 25, the birthday of General of the Air Force Gen. Henry "Hap" Arnold.

For more information including the format for AEDC Fellows nomination submissions, contact the AEDC Chief Technologist office at (931) 454-6505. Nominations must be submitted in written form with supporting materials to: AEDC/CZ, 100 Kindel Drive, Suite A327, Arnold AFB, TN 37389-1327.

ENGINEERS

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2016 Engineers Week Activities

www.DiscoverE.org
#Eweek2016



Student Design Competition
Feb. 22, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Hands on Science Center - Tullahoma

Engineer-for-a-Day
Feb. 24, 7 a.m.-3 p.m., AEDC & local companies

Engineers Banquet
Feb. 25, 5:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m., Manchester/Coffee County Conference Center
Speaker: Les Johnson
Deputy Manager for NASA's Advanced Concepts Office
Marshall Space Flight Center, Huntsville



Les Johnson

Smoking Policy

1. The following revised AEDC smoking policy is effective immediately. Smoking is permitted solely in designated areas identified by a plastic "smoke genie." This receptacle is for the sole purpose of cigarette butt disposal. If there is no receptacle, smoking is not permitted in that area. It is the responsibility of all smokers to clean up the area surrounding the receptacles for any cigarette butts on the ground. Smoking in government-owned vehicles is strictly prohibited. Personnel are allowed to smoke in their personal vehicles at any time. Smoking areas will be held to the absolute minimum and will be located in low traffic, low visibility areas away from points of building ingress/egress and air intakes. A map of all authorized smoking areas is available on the Team AEDC SharePoint site. Smoking near a facility in an area not designated on the map is prohibited and any smoking receptacles located in areas not shown on the map will be removed. All "smoking permitted" and "no smoking" signs will be removed unless specifically required by OSHA.

The fact a person smokes has no bearing on the number of breaks they may take. Breaks should be taken in accordance with the company/agency personnel policies that apply to all employees.

Smoking, including the use of electronic cigarettes and smokeless tobacco, is prohibited in any area, at times when official business is being conducted with government clients, test customers, outside visitors and dignitaries, and where official business is being conducted including conference rooms, auditorium settings, business meetings, or in any other area where Air Force regulations specifically prohibit use. 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. Due to the nature, appearance, and safety concerns of electronic cigarettes (also known as "e-cigs"), the use of said products will abide by the same rules for tobacco products stated above and governed by AFI 40-102, *Tobacco Use in the Air Force*.

2. Supervisors at every level will ensure this policy is followed. Disciplinary action is appropriate for repeated violations.

3. Updates to this policy will be made in the future to further align with Air Force guidelines.

4. This policy remains effective until rescinded. (This policy is dated December 20, 2013)

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. They can access the Action Line in one of two ways: via the AEDC intranet home page, and by calling 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. Rodney Todaro
AEDC Commander

Agreement signed between ATA and OBXtek, Inc.



OBXtek, Inc. Program Manager Theresa Cates (right) and ATA General Manager Steve Pearson sign the ATA/OBXtek, Inc. Associate Contractor Agreement on Jan. 29 at AEDC. This agreement outlines how ATA and OBXtek will coordinate work activities. OBXtek was awarded the Base Communications and Information Technology Services (BCITS) contract for Arnold Air Force Base June 19. OBXtek began contracting operations on Feb. 1 which include performing base communication and information technology services at Arnold Air Force Base and its two geographically separated units in Maryland and California. (U.S. Air Force photo/Jacqueline Cowan)

AWARDS from page 1

1st Lt. Roy Fisher, CPAF and four Firm Fixed Price contracts.

Sharon Arnold, Civilian of the Year Clerical/Technical Support

Charles Jenkins, Civilian of the Year Administrative

David Yoder, Civilian of the Year Scientist/Engineer

Corey Rice, William M. Dunne People's Choice Recognition

Joel Nalin, Technical Achievement Recognition

Dennis Timmons, Safety Achievement Recognition

AEDC von Kármán Gas Dynamics Facility Hypersonic Analysis and Evaluation Team, General Lee Gossick Team Excellence Recognition. Team members include: Sarah Adams, Christopher Chinske, Joe Giuffrida, John Hopf, Andrew Hughes, Ben Mills, 1st Lt. Kyle Monsma, Rebecca Rought, Calain Schuman and Joshua Webb.

Air Force Test Center Contracting Awards

AEDC Commander Col. Rodney Todaro recently announced that an AEDC team member and two contract organizations received three Air Force Test Center annual awards in contracting.

Miriam Harris, a contract specialist in the AFTC Contracting Execution Division at AEDC, received the Outstanding Contracting Civilian award. The award criterion included emphasis on mission accomplishment, management of resources and professional development.

The nomination cited her for developing a new process which reduced the time to award contracts for small business innovation research. The nomination also noted her advisement on research and development requirements and her support in developing new contracting processes.

The Air Force Test Center Contracting Execution Division at AEDC received the Outstanding Contracting Unit Award recognizing accomplishments involved in transitioning Arnold Air Force Base from one Cost-Plus Award Fee contract to one

CPAF and four Firm Fixed Price contracts.

The division, under the direction of Amy Foster, is responsible for managing the contracting function to support the AEDC mission including acquisition issues, industrial labor relations, Complex contracts competition, business matters and award fee evaluation.

The criteria for the award included mission accomplishment, innovation and process improvement results, and management of resources.

The nomination cited more than 30 percent of contracting personnel were involved in the transition of the base operations and expertly administered Operations, Management, Information Management and Support contract final period of performance with no degradation of service.

The division team members who received the award are Lyndsey Amacher, Whitney Blevins, Karen Buckner, Tony Clayborne, Eddie Crenshaw, Henry Daniels, Chris Fanning, Amy Foster, Rebecca Gardner, Robert Greene, Miriam Harris, Karen Hillstead, Seth King, John Lominac, Robert Mosley, Tyler Payne, Kelly Pitts, Richard Schleicher, Richard Schueren, Kathy Swanson, Joe Warren, Erik Wine-land, Deanna Wright, Larry Wyche and Eric Yatsko.

The Test Operations and Support Teams received the Outstanding Source Selection Team award. The TOST consists of several Source Selection organizations: Test Operations and Sustainment; Facility Support Services; Base Communication and Information Technology Services, and Technical and Management Advisory Services.

Criterion set for the award focused on integrity and equity, process efficiency and best value decision making. The nomination cited the team for complete transparency and open communication and is known for its professionalism by multiple industry partners. The team was also recognized

for utilizing extensive market research to develop market intelligence. In addition, TOST was recognized by Air Force Leadership in setting the mark for U.S. Air Force Industry Days.

The TOST members are Lindsey Amacher, Jason Austin, Lance Baxter, Clark Brandon Jr., Robert Brock, Brian Carnley, 1st Lt. Stuart Coston, Larry Davis, April Demery, Anthony Durante, Erik Wine-land, Mark Echols, Chris Fanning, Neil Felver, Amy Foster, Rebecca Gardner, Jack Glasser, Michael Glennon, David Granniss, Karen Hillstead, Gwendolyn Hinson, Kristopher Hughes, Charles Jenkins, Joshua Johns, Thomas Klingelhoets, John Laviolette, Daniel Lee, Cameron Linder, Brandon Lucy, Stephen Maccarino, Leo Marple Jr., Dan Marren, Maurice May, Gena McDonald, Andrea McElroy, Randal Miller, Robert Nelson, Roger Newton, Donna Paredez, Tyler Payne, George Pierce Jr., Vincent Pitts, Gregory Porter, James Raabe, Kenneth Robinson, Jeffrey Ross, Capt. Michael Saltzman, Michael Schleider, Robert Stanze, Brandon Stiles, Tech. Sgt. Joshua Suggs, 1st Lt. Julie Sung, Kathy Swanson, Nicole Tracey, Maj. Scott Vanhoogen, Charles Vining, Susan Vining, Scott Waltermire, John Walters, Joe Warren, Maj. Daniel Watson, Lt. Col. Aaron Woodward and David Young.

2015 Air Force Organizational Excellence Award

Air Force officials recently announced AEDC was selected as the recipient of the Air Force Organizational Excellence Award for 2015 for exceptionally meritorious service from June 1, 2013 to May 31, 2015.

Maj. Gen. David Harris, commander of the Air Force Test Center, presented the award Jan. 29 to AEDC Commander Col. Rodney Todaro during Commander's Call.

In an announcement Jan. 14, Col. Todaro congratulated all AEDC per-

sonnel for their efforts in upholding the Complex mission.

"I'm very proud to announce AEDC has won the Air Force Organizational Excellence Award for 2015," he said. "Your hard work and accomplishments truly stand out among the best in the Air Force. Congratulations to

everyone on this award and thank you for what you do for AEDC and for the nation every day!"

AEDC last received this notable award in 2012 for accomplishments during the Jan. 1, 2010 – Dec. 31, 2011, timeframe.

The Air Force Organizational Excellence Award is awarded to recognize the achievements and accomplishments of U.S. Air Force organizations or activities. The acts or services of the un-

numbered unit must place them above other units of similar composition and mission and be of such importance that they cannot be appropriately recognized in any other way.

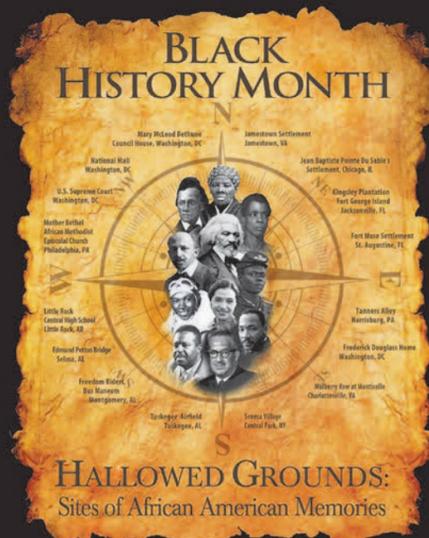


Maj. Gen. David Harris, commander of the Air Force Test Center (left), presents the Air Force Organization Excellence Award for 2015 for the exceptionally meritorious service performed at AEDC from June 1, 2013, to May 31, 2015, to AEDC Commander Col. Rodney Todaro. (U.S. Air Force Photo/Holly Fowler)

African-American Heritage Luncheon February 12 at 12:00 P.M. Arnold Lakeside Center



Speaker:
The Honorable
Lonnie J. Norman
Mayor, Manchester
City



HALLOWED GROUNDS:
Sites of African American Memories

Reservations are available through Feb. 6 by calling 454-5494, 454-7661 or 454-7096
\$11 - Services members,
\$12 - non-Services members
Payments by Cash or Checks only, payable to ALC

AEDC Annual Award winners announced



1st Lt. Christopher Handy
Company Grade Officer of the Quarter



Tech. Sgt. Rodney Clemmons
Non-Commissioned Officer of the Quarter



Master Sgt. James Key
Senior Non-Commissioned Officer of the Quarter



1st Lt. Roy Fisher
Honor Guard of the Quarter



Charles Jenkins
Civilian of the Quarter Administrative



David Yoder
Civilian of the Quarter Scientist/Engineer



Sharon Arnold
Civilian of the Quarter Clerical/Technical Support



Corey Rice
William M. Dunne People's Choice Recognition



AEDC von Kármán Gas Dynamics Facility Hypersonic Analysis and Evaluation Team, General Lee Gossick Team Excellence Recognition

Team members pictured with AEDC Commander Col. Rodney Todaro (far left) and Maj. Gen. David A. Harris, commander of the Air Force Test Center (far right) are: (l-r) Calain Schuman, Ben Mills, Sarah Adams, Joe Giuffrida, Andrew Hughes and 1st Lt. Kyle Monsma. Team members not present were: Christopher Chinske, Edwards AFB; John Hopf, Rebecca Rought and Joshua Webb. (Courtesy Photo)



Joel Nalin
Technical Achievement Recognition



Dennis Timmons
Safety Achievement Recognition

STEWARDSHIP from page 1

goal and is working to continue this trend. “We divert an average of 65 percent of non-hazardous solid waste from being sent to area landfills,” he said. For Fiscal Year 2015, 68 tons of cardboard, 25 tons of mixed paper, ap-

proximately 20 tons of types 1 and 2 plastics, and 1,000 pounds of toner cartridges were collected. While Recycling Cen-

ter personnel are diligent in their efforts, decreasing the amount of recyclables being thrown away requires the diligence and participation from everyone on base.

“We try to make recycling easy,” Rice said. “Bins are at every building and if there’s a full bin or large items needing pick up, people can feel free to call us and let us know. We’re happy to help.”

Through the AEDC Recycling Program, recycle containers for mixed paper, cardboard, aluminum cans and certain plastics are provided at

most facilities. The bins for paper, cans and plastics are typically collected on a once-weekly basis with cardboard containers being emptied twice a week. Wooden pallets are also taken to the Recycling Center, with broken pallets scrapped and the useable ones saved and returned to Warehouse 1. Rice asks base personnel to assist him and his crew by making sure only what is listed on the recycling containers gets tossed in there.

“This helps out tremendously by saving time sorting so that we can spend more of our time

collecting the bins,” he said.

In addition to the recycling bins, there are two multi-purpose recycling locations at AEDC – one behind the Administrative and Engineering Building (A&E, building 100) and the other at Arnold Village, near the ball field and Services Outdoor Recreation and Marketing (building 3055), Westover Road. Glass may be brought to the bins outside the Recycle Center (building 1426).

For other questions about recycling at AEDC, call the Recycling Center at 454-6068.



Brandon Berridge, one of the AEDC Recycling Center staff, loads aluminum cans into the crusher at the AEDC Recycling Center. Containers for aluminum cans and plastic are located in each building on base, with cardboard bins located outside. The recyclables are typically collected one to two times a week. (U.S. Air Force photo/Deidre Ortiz)

Perspectives from Space

Dr. Sandra Magnus

Tuesday, February 9th
1:00 PM
UTSI Auditorium

Dr. Sandra Magnus served 16 years in the NASA Astronaut Corps. She flew two shuttle missions to the International Space Station and served on the ISS as a member of Expedition 18 for 4.5 months. “Perspectives in Space” encompasses stories, experiences and perspectives gained over her years as an Astronaut.

This special seminar is part of the UTSI Arnold seminar series. Please contact Dr. John Schmiss for additional information – jschmiss@utsi.edu

AFMC promotes National Cancer Prevention Month

By Greg Chadwick

HQ Air Force Materiel
Command Health &
Wellness Team

WRIGHT-PATERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio – During the month of February, Air Force Materiel Command will promote its Cancer Prevention Awareness Campaign. The goal of the campaign is to inform the AFMC workforce on ways to reduce their risk of developing lung cancer and colorectal cancer. Among cancers that affect both men and women, lung cancer and colorectal cancer are the two leading causes of cancer-related death in the United States.

Lung cancer is by far the leading cause of cancer-related death for both men and women. Each year, more people die of lung cancer than of colorectal, breast, and prostate cancers combined. Overall, the lifetime probability for a man to develop lung cancer is 1 in 13; for a woman, the risk is 1 in 16. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, you can lower your risk for developing lung cancer in

the following ways:

- Don't smoke and avoid secondhand smoke. Cigarette smoking is linked to about 90 percent of lung cancers.
- Get your home tested for radon. Radon is a naturally occurring gas that comes from rocks and dirt and can be trapped in houses and buildings. Radon is the leading cause of lung cancer among non-smokers.
- Take precautions to protect yourself from exposure to airborne hazards such as diesel exhaust and chemicals. Follow health and safety guidelines in the workplace to reduce or eliminate the hazard.

Colorectal cancer is the second leading cause of cancer-related deaths in the United States, when men and women are combined. Colorectal cancer occurs in the colon or rectum. Sometimes it is called colon cancer. The lifetime probability of someone developing colorectal cancer is about 1 in 20.



The CDC lists the following ways to lower your risk of developing colorectal cancer:

- Get screened for colorectal cancer if you are age 50 or older. Screening tests help prevent colorectal cancer by finding precancerous polyps (abnormal growths) so they can be removed. Screening also finds this cancer early, when treatment can be most effective.

ive.

- Maintain a healthy weight according to the Body Mass Index. Healthy weight range is 18.5 to 24.9 on the BMI height & weight chart.
- Be physically active with 150 minutes of moderate-intensity aerobic activity weekly.
- Don't smoke.
- Limit alcoholic bev-

erage consumption to 1 drink per day for women and no more than 2 drinks a day for men.

Research is ongoing to find out if changes to diet can reduce your risk for colorectal cancer. Recent studies conducted by the World Health Organization suggest that regular consumption of processed meat such as bacon, hot dogs and sausages, can increase colorectal cancer risk.

Civilian Health Promotion Services will be offering educational briefings on cancer prevention throughout February. For more information regarding CHPS activities for National Cancer Prevention Month, visit AFMCwellness.com or contact your local CHPS team. Comprehensive cancer information can be found at the National Cancer Institute website at www.cancer.gov.

AcqDemo team offers information about transition

By Ted Singer

Air Force Materiel
Command AcqDemo
Team Lead

WRIGHT-PATERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio – In June 2016, some 13,000 Air Force Materiel Command employees will transition to the Department of Defense Civilian Acquisition Workforce Demonstration Project (AcqDemo) pay system.

Employees whose positions have been identified for conversion are being notified through their respective Centers. AcqDemo will cover mainly non-bargaining, supervisory and professional series employees. Exceptions to conversion include the following:

- Personnel in ranks above GS-15, such as SES
- Non-General Schedule (GS) employees; for example, Federal Wage System (FWS) employees (WG), leaders (WL), and supervisors (WS).
- Employees in organizations already participating in another personnel system, including their respective GS employees. Examples are the Air Force Research Laboratory's Air Force Laboratory Personnel Demonstration (Lab Demo) Project and intelligence personnel participating in the Defense Civilian Intelligence Personnel System (DCIPS).
- Employees covered by a collective bargaining agreement.

Employees who convert into AcqDemo will have no loss of pay. GS employees who have accrued time toward their next Within Grade Increase (WGI) or Step Increase will receive a one-time "WGI buy-in" pay adjustment to compensate them for their time served under the GS pay system.

The buy-in is calcu-

lated based on the number of calendar weeks between the effective date of the employee's last equivalent increase, i.e. WGI or promotion, and the date of the conversion into AcqDemo. Employees whose performance ratings are "acceptable" are generally eligible for a WGI buy-in. Exceptions to WGI eligibility are under the following situations:

- Employees who are at the 10th step of their grade
- Employees on retained pay
- Employees on retained grade who would not have received a WGI prior to expiration of their retained grade

The General Schedule to AcqDemo conversion calculator link at <http://acqdemo.hci.mil/AcqDemoBIC.html> explains the AcqDemo buy-in process and provides a demo career path, broadband, and estimated WGI buy-in calculation. It is not intended to determine official conversion information. Official conversion information, including actual WGI buy-in amount, will be communicated to employees at the time of their conversion, through receipt of an SF-50, Notification of

Personnel Action.

The employee notification letters also provide information about local and on-line training opportunities. The DoD AcqDemo Program Office has pledged support for the initial pre-conversion training of affected AFMC personnel and is providing on-site training at a number of AFMC locations with a high concentration of employees converting to AcqDemo. The training provided by the DoD AcqDemo Program Office consists of:

- AcqDemo Employee Orientation (3 hours) provided to all employees converting to the AcqDemo system (also available on-line as AcqDemo 101)
- Contribution-based Compensation System (CCAS) for supervisors course (8 hours) provided to supervisors of employees converting to AcqDemo (also available on-line)

Online courses can be found at <http://acqdemo.hci.mil/training.html>. Many AFMC installations are using MyETMS to schedule on-site AcqDemo courses. Training information may also be posted on Center AcqDemo sites, or

can be found by contacting your Center's AcqDemo team. During training, employees will be introduced to CAS2NET (Contribution-based Compensation and Appraisal System Software) which is an online reporting system of the Contribution-based Compensation and Appraisal System (CCAS).

It is important to note that CAS2NET accounts will automatically be generated after conversion so there is no need to initiate the request for an account.

For additional information on AcqDemo:

- Within AFMC, contact HQ AFMC/A1KA, (937) 257-0112, DSN 787-0112

- DoD Civilian Acquisition Workforce Personnel Demonstration Project website <http://acqdemo.hci.mil/>

Editor's note: This is the second feature in a series of Acquisition Demonstration Project articles.

Project Management Institute hosts 'Conversational Leadership' luncheon

By Douglas Brown
ATA Performance
Management

The Project Management Institute Southern Middle Tennessee Branch is holding a luncheon at the University of Tennessee Space Institute Feb. 18 at 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

The luncheon guest speaker will be Karla

Byrd, former president of the Chattanooga Association for Talent Development and owner of Karla's Computer Café.

Byrd will discuss Conversational Leadership and teach how it provides the space and infrastructure for knowledge sharing to take place; for employees, stakeholders, and the community to be involved in

discussing big, important questions; and to generate solutions that people within the organization can take action on. Her instruction will also provide an understanding of the wisdom inherent in encouraging conversational leadership, while learning about the Four-I model of organizational conversation and the importance of develop-



Anthony Childs

ing a common language.

Call 454-5407 to make a reservation for the luncheon.

The Project Management Institute is the world's leading not-for-profit professional membership association for the project, program and portfolio management profession. PMI advances careers, improves organizational suc-

cess and further matures the profession of project management through its globally recognized standards, certifications, resources, tools, academic research, publications, professional development courses and networking opportunities. Call 454-5407 for additional information about joining the local branch.

Astronaut rescue exercise proves Airmen ready to support space mission



An Air Force Reserve pararescueman descends into the Atlantic Ocean from a C-17 Globemaster III in an effort to recover a NASA astronaut as part of an exercise Jan. 14 off the shore of Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Fla. The 45th Operations Group's Detachment 3 joined NASA's Commercial Crew Program; Air Force pararescuemen; combat rescue officers; and survival, evasion, resistance and escape specialists to practice recovering astronauts quickly and safely in the event they would need to abort their spacecraft. (U.S. Air Force photo/Matthew Jurgens)

By Chrissy Cuttita
45th Space Wing Public
Affairs

PATRICK AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. (AFNS) – It's not common an astronaut must be rescued out of rough open waters after descending home to Earth in a crewed capsule. But when those space race-era days of human space flight return, a small Air Force detachment knows they will be ready.

The 45th Operations Group's Detachment 3 joined NASA's Commercial Crew Program; Air Force pararescuemen; combat rescue officers; and survival, evasion, resistance and escape specialists in a simulated astronaut rescue at Patrick Air Force Base Jan. 14.

"At the strategic and operational levels of this exercise, we flawlessly met our objectives of effective command and control between our Joint Space Operations Center operating location and the combined Department of Defense and NASA landing support officers for the aircraft launch, relay of mission execution status, relay of astronaut medical status, and systems matter expertise to all players," said Lt. Col. Jason Havel of Det. 3, which is also known as the Human Space Flight Support Office. "The command and control was exercised in accordance with U.S. Strategic Command and Det. 3's concept of operations previously developed during their 2015 war game scenarios."

It was a total force effort involving Air Force active duty, Reserve and Guard personnel alongside NASA. The 308th Rescue Squadron, a Reserve unit known as the Guardian Angel Squadron based at Patrick AFB, provided a majority of the jumpers, and the Alaska Air National Guard's 249th Airlift Squadron coordinated the rescue jumpmaster training.

The Air Force and NASA teams boarded two Alaska ANG C-17 Globemaster III's with pararescue teams rigged for an open water jump mission on a course set for 10 miles offshore at a designated drop zone in the Atlantic Ocean. There, they met up with the life raft representing the space capsule where a simulated downed astronaut would be found after splash down. Four survivors were immediately recovered using life-saving medical care.

The ability to abort from any phase of a mission and safely remove astronauts from harm's way is a critical element for next generation of commercial crew spacecraft, according to NASA. Although very unlikely, aborts can occur during all phases of flight and a capsule could land almost anywhere in the world. So, the Ground and Mission Operations Office of NASA's Commercial Crew Program is working with the DOD to ensure rescue and medical personnel can recover astronauts quickly and safely in the event of such an abort.

"Exercises like this are extremely important to the development of tactics, techniques and procedures for the DOD forces as well as practicing and refining communication protocols between the flight crew and ground support teams, both NASA and DOD," said Tim O'Brien, who works for NASA's GMO Office.

"While Air Force Reserve pararescuemen jumped from the C-17 aircraft and practiced their hands-on skills, real-time coordination took place between those rescue forces, a simulated flight crew, the aircraft, and NASA/DOD command centers in order to execute a safe rescue scenario. Every time we conduct an exercise like this, we learn and improve of our processes."

See **MISSION**, page 9

Final GPS IIF satellite moves to next processing phase toward launch



The Air Force's 12th GPS IIF satellite is encapsulated inside an Atlas V 4-meter payload fairing before being transported to a United Launch Alliance facility for hoist and mate at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Fla. The mission is set to lift off from Space Launch Complex 41 on Feb. 5, culminating a 27-year legacy of processing GPS satellites for the 45th Space Wing. (Courtesy photo/United Launch Alliance)

By Chissy Cuttita
45th Space Wing Public Affairs

PATRICK AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. (AFNS) – When a space vehicle is loaded with 320 pounds of hydrazine, the 45th Space Wing's Airmen-led GPS processing team knows they are in their final stages toward launching a premier capability to the warfighter.

All of the intricate processing steps from delivery of the satellite to launching into orbit are part of their standard operations at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Florida. But, it's a bitter sweet moment when the team reflects on the extensive years of history they have processing GPS systems for the Air Force.

"GPS II processing at the Cape started while the Shuttle program was here, when the Air Force was still launching Delta IIs and the Cold War was still going on," said Capt. Trung Nguyen, the field program manager for GPS IIF at the 45th Launch Support Squadron. "The GPS processing program has been a staple at the Cape. There are engineers and technicians here who worked on the first GPS II block satellite. Some have launched over 20 satellites. Some have been with the program since 1989."

The 45th LCSS processing team received its 12th and final Air Force GPS IIF model on Oct. 8 and unpackaged it in the NAVSTAR Processing Facility, where successful functional tests of the system made sure the satellite operates as expected when it is in orbit next month. The team is currently in the next phase of preparation for launch at the DSCS Processing Facility where major milestones occur, such as fueling.

"The NPF portion of the campaign lets the customer know that the satellite they paid for works," Nguyen said. "For this final mission, we executed the functional testing like we've always done."

Before they began tests, the team unpackaged the satellite and watched Air Force contracted partners give it a good shake down to ensure the satellite didn't suffer any inadvertent deviations during its transportation from the factory, delivery and transition into the NPF. A team carrying flashlights inspect every nut and bolt to make sure things are in order.

"Just because it looks like the final one, it is not exactly the same; each spacecraft is built by hand and thus is a little different from every previous unit," said Scott Chappie, the lead Air Force responsible engineer for GPS IIF-12, who has processed the previous four satellites

that launched.

The Air Force team mounts the satellite to a test stand where an extensive suite of electronic tests are performed to verify the functionality and performance of each unique space vehicle. This process in the spacecraft control room can take up to 10 days with an Air Force mission responsible on station 24/7 to monitor the data received from a variety of cables plugged into the satellite. They don't install batteries until they know everything is operating as expected.

During this functional testing, proper operation of the subsystems is demonstrated, and the test procedure is designed to detect any malfunctions or failures that may have an impact on the satellite while in orbit.

"We also take a photo of every inch of the spacecraft in case we need to refer to it to trouble shoot something while it is in orbit," said Chappie, who has worked in military space for 20 years before coming to the Cape Canaveral AFS last year. "This forces us to look at every piece again. It is an extremely detailed procedure designed by the contractor - what to do, in what order and what tools are needed."

The closer the team gets to launch day, the higher the value of the satellite. This means there is less room for risk as they move forward. The Air Force team provides independent mission assurance to constantly monitor all launch site processing and assess the risk of those operations on spacecraft mission success.

In the final processing phase at the NPF, the space vehicle propulsion system is pressurized to the maximum expected operating pressure using gaseous nitrogen, which verifies that the reaction control system is working properly without any leaks in a simulated fueling test before it is transported and unpackaged at the DSCS Processing Facility.

Although the GPS moved to another location to continue processing, the control room remained at the NPF and is in contact with the satellite through every other phase of processing until the moment the rocket lifts off from Cape Canaveral AFS.

The DSCS Processing Facility is configured to handle fueling operations safely with minimum personnel in the trench-lined hangar bays. Once fueled up and ready, the satellite can be mated to United Launch Alliance's Ground Transport Vehicle and encapsulated in the payload fairing. During this time, multiple electrical tests occur to ensure that all electrical paths are still operating nominally. Then the satellite will be

transported to the Vertical Integration Facility, where it is mated to the top of an Atlas V rocket.

"We are here to protect the interests of the warfighter in this critical national asset," Chappie said. "We verify the satellites functionality and performance before we commit to launch."

T-minus two days from launch the integrated team is on console ready for power configuration to launch. Using fiber optic cables they can test their ability to communicate with the satellite. On the day of launch, they are ready to assist with any situation that may come up with close eyes on the telemetry data.

Following the completion of the processing and launch of the last of the GPS IIF Block spacecraft, the Air Force team looks forward to launching the GPS III spacecraft, which are already being built at a contractor factory.

Compared to other spacecraft, GPS IIF-12 is a modest size platform weighing in at 3,600 pounds, Chappie said. Although the design is impressive, the engineer said the impact it has is astonishing.

"That space craft is going to touch the lives of hundreds of millions if not billions of people on a daily basis," he said. "It not only vastly increases our military's position, navigation and timing capabilities all over the world, but so many people and business activities have also come to depend on GPS. This is a stunningly, successful program -- the way the Air Force conceived it and the way they continue to manage and implement the program."

Members of the mission assurance team, ranging from young military officers to career enlisted troops to seasoned civilians, look forward to the Atlas V's scheduled launch with GPS IIF-12 on board Feb. 5.

Once the satellite is on orbit, it communicates with the GPS Master Control Station, operated by the 50th Space Wing's 2nd Space Operations Squadron at Schriever Air Force Base, Colorado. This squadron is responsible for monitoring and controlling the GPS as a 24-satellite system, consisting of six orbital planes, with a minimum of four satellites per plane. There are currently 40 vehicles in the GPS constellation.

GPS satellites serve and protect U.S. warfighters by providing navigational assistance and timing standards for military operations on land, at sea, and in the air. Civilian users around the world also use and depend on GPS for highly accurate time, location, and velocity information.



1st Lt. Julie Sung
Company Grade Officer
of the Quarter

AEDC quarterly award winners announced

Photo unavailable: Anna Ballard, Non-Appropriated Fund employee of the Quarter, Category I



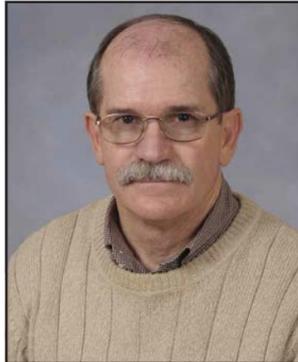
Staff Sgt. Oscar Samame Cabellos
Non-Commissioned Officer of the Quarter and Honor Guard of the Quarter



Master Sgt. Jason Nelson
Senior Non-Commissioned Officer of the Quarter



Dee Wolfe
Civilian of the Quarter
Administrative



Ozey Young
Civilian of the Quarter
Scientist/Engineer



Judy Mohler
Civilian of the Quarter
Clerical/Technical Support



Megan Saltzman
Non-Appropriated Fund
employee of the Quarter
Category II

MISSION from page 6

NASA recovery engineers and members of Det. 3 were aboard the life raft acting as astronauts communicating with the aircraft and the 308th RQS with a PRC-112G radio. One of the objectives of the rescue mission was to test the range of an essential line of communication between all parties.

At the heart of this vital line was the Det. 3 operations center located at Patrick AFB, thousands of feet below and 40 miles to shore. Members of the unique detachment proved their capability to transmit messages to and from the boat and the C-17.

The detachment specifically wanted to test their

text and data transmission capability.

“Together with exercise participants, we developed tactics, techniques and procedures that incorporate the DOD-standard Quickdraw radio interrogator onto C-17A operations when used as a rescue platform,” Havel said. “The Quickdraw (aircraft) and PRC-112G (survivor) radio combination gave us immediate position and identification more quickly and accurately than traditional voice relay.”

Prior to the execution of the mission, Det. 3 developed a nine-line medevac checklist with the NASA Health and Medical Division specific to the

simulated astronaut rescue operation. They anticipate the checklist will become a standard item astronauts will train to use during contingencies. It has already been submitted to NASA’s Flight Operations Directorate in hopes of becoming the benchmark for human spaceflight scheduled to return to America in 2017.

The small Air Force detachment has served as the liaison between NASA’s Johnson Space Center in Houston, the Air Force and DOD for more than 55 years of training men and women of those organizations for launch contingencies and astronaut recovery.



Maj. Chris Slauson, of the 45th Operations Group’s Detachment 3, discusses radio operations with Master Sgt. Jesse Stoda, of the 308th Rescue Squadron, aboard an Alaska Air National Guard C-17 Globemaster III Jan. 14 at Patrick Air Force Base, Fla. The Airmen worked together during a training event to exercise the capability of pararescuemen jumping out of C-17s to rescue distressed astronauts in the Atlantic Ocean. Their goal was to verify radio transmission and reception distances between the airborne aircraft and the astronaut in the water. (U.S. Air Force photo/Chrissy Cuttita)

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Comms program hits 100,000 hours of warfighter connectivity



An Airman pulls a set of chocks while escorting a RQ-4 Global Hawk back to a hangar during ground operations at an undisclosed location in Southwest Asia Sept. 18, 2015. The Global Hawk block 20 aircraft carry the Battlefield Airborne Communication Node payload, which ensures connectivity for warfighters. The BACN system, managed out of Hanscom Air Force Base, Mass., recently achieved 100,000 combat flight hours. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Christopher Boitz)

By Patty Welsh
66th Air Base Group Public Affairs

HANSCOM AIR FORCE BASE, Mass. (AFNS) – A program managed here to ensure warfighters can stay connected despite differing networks and austere environments recently reached a significant milestone and is also on a path to keep moving forward.

The Battlefield Airborne Communications Node (BACN) program reached 100,000 combat flight hours Jan. 30. The system, which provides coalition interoperability among air, space and surface systems by forward-

ing and translating voice and data across disparate networks, began operating in theater in 2008.

In 2015 alone, the system flew on more than 1,500 combat missions and 21,000 combat flight hours.

“For more than seven years now, BACN has been deployed supporting warfighter critical communication needs,” said Maj. Gen. Craig Olson, the Command, Communications, Intelligence and Networks program executive officer. “This capability has revolutionized the way we think about communications, providing strategic agility to DOD and coalition partners

through increased interoperability and range extension for ground, air and space forces.”

BACN began as an Advanced Concept Technology Demonstration in 2006 to meet the challenges associated with operating in mountainous regions with limited line-of-sight, and in 2009 became a Joint Urgent Operational Need program to support Operation Enduring Freedom. It currently operates on two airborne platforms: one manned, the E-11A aircraft; and one remotely piloted, the Global Hawk Block 20s.

According to program officials, BACN provides

the warfighter a high-altitude relay, providing reliable, dynamic communication links. Its myriad abilities include: an extended range of voice and tactical data networks; data exchange and translation across TDNs using various message standards and systems; voice communications interoperability between disparate radio systems; and unification of separate TDNs into a seamless, larger network.

The group operating the system in theater realizes the benefits BACN provides.

“BACN has been instru-

mental in extending communications and enhancing situational awareness throughout Afghanistan,” said the contracting officer’s representative for the 430th Expeditionary Electronic Combat Squadron. “The missions range from support for troops in contact to enabling strikes against key targets. BACN is a key part of the C2 backbone.”

They also realize the significance of the milestone.

“The entire team in country is proud to have contributed to passing the 100,000-hour milestone

for the BACN program,” said the 430th EECSC commander. “Having the E-11As overhead on a 24/7 basis has provided important radio bridges and datalink extensions to the warfighters on the ground and in the air. We are happy that we can support the ongoing efforts of the entire Freedom’s Sentinel and Resolute Support missions.”

And the program office is working to ensure this support can continue. In December, they released a notice of contract action. They intend to award a sole source follow-on contract for operations and support to Northrop Grumman Corp. for operating and maintaining the BACN system payloads. The work is expected to begin in January 2017 and may continue through January 2021 in optioned intervals of no more than 12 months each. Work will include continued payload operations and maintenance, periodic software upgrades and providing spares and repair parts.

“Achieving 100,000 combat flight hours for a program with JUON origins is an incredible milestone which highlights the importance of this capability,” Olson said. “BACN has become a true force multiplier, and it is laying the foundation for the future of aerial layer networking. The BACN team and I are excited about the future of the program and we are ready to support this warfighter requirement for as long as it’s needed.”

(Editor’s note: Names from expeditionary units were not included for security reasons.)

\$20,000 in scholarships up for grabs in Exchange’s Rewards of Caring essay contest

By Julie Mitchell
Army & Air Force Exchange Service Public Affairs

DALLAS – Military students who excel at serving their communities can earn cash for college by telling their stories in an essay contest sponsored by the Army & Air Force Exchange Service and Unilever.

Through the worldwide Rewards of Caring scholarship contest, four winners will each be awarded

a \$5,000 scholarship. To enter, authorized students in grades six through 12 with a 2.5 or higher grade-point average can submit an essay in English of 500 words or less explaining their involvement in community service projects and why their community is important to them.

“The Exchange is excited to reward young scholars who are making a difference in their community,” said Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Sean Applegate, Exchange senior

enlisted advisor. “Giving back can start at any age, and the winners of this scholarship contest will serve as role models for all of us.”

From Feb. 5 through March 3, students should submit essays to: AAFES Rewards of Caring Scholarship Contest, P.O. Box 7837, Melville, NY 11775-7837.

No purchase is necessary. Rewards of Caring scholarship contest winners will be notified on or about May 1.

Milestones

35 YEARS

Bingham Bragg, ATA
Keith Osborne, ATA
Edward Simmons, ATA

30 YEARS

Debra Richards, ATA
Melissa Wilhoite, ATA

25 YEARS

Cletus Pew, ATA
Mark Sain, ATA

20 YEARS

Mark Sisk, ATA

15 YEARS

Shannon Tibbals, ATA
Richard Schueren, AF

10 YEARS

Kerrie Lyn Adams, ATA
Andrew Alexander, ATA
Brandon Wiley, ATA

5 YEARS

Robert Nelson, AF

Glenda Terrill, ATA

INBOUND MILITARY

1st Lt. Hedison Doe, AF
2nd Lt. Thomas Julian, AF
Master Sgt. Jason Kanipe, AF

OUTBOUND MILITARY

1st Lt. Joseph Achenbach, AF
1ST Lt. Julie Sung, AF

RETIREMENTS

Paul Girata Jr., ATA
John Jordan, ATA
Julie Lance, AF
Robert Nelson, AF
R.B. Ray, ATA
Janet Reese, ATA

NEW HIRES

Brandon Anderson, ATA
Wesley Brueland, ATA
Conner Cooper, ATA

Derrick Davis, ATA
William Layne, ATA
Christopher Limbaugh, ATA
Lehium McDonald, ATA
Gerald Montgomery, AF
Jacob Rymer, ATA
Jeff Staines, AF
Jamie Szmodis, AF
Dylan Welch, AF
Leslie Wilson, AF

PROMOTIONS

Roy Fisher, to 1st lieutenant

CERTIFICATES/DEGREES

Jonathan Carroll, Master of Business Administration with a Specialization in Project Management, AF

Paul Wright, Master of Science of Mechanical Engineering, AF

Airman keeps serving after overcoming rare cancer



Tech. Sgt. LaPaul Williams, a 5th Air Support Operations Squadron fighter duty technician from Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., stands with his friends and fellow Airmen behind him. These are the Airmen who were there for Williams during his treatment and surgeries while battling a rare cancer, dermatofibrosarcoma protuberans. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Timothy Chacon)

By Airman 1st Class
Cassandra Whitman
354th Fighter Wing Public
Affairs

EIELSON AIR FORCE BASE, Alaska (AFNS) – “Death smiles at us all. All a man can do is smile back.” – Maximus

This quote from the movie “Gladiator” rings powerful and true to Tech. Sgt. LaPaul Williams, who said, “I don’t believe death is to be feared.”

Williams, a 5th Air Support Operations Squadron fighter duty technician stationed at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington, was diagnosed with a rare type of cancer. Dermatofibrosarcoma protuberans affects the lower back and is typically seen in people under the age of 18 and over the age of 45. Williams was 29.

Dermatofibrosarcoma protuberans looks like a bump on the back, then it grows and starts to get taller and pink at the top, Williams explained.

“I thought it was not-

ing,” he said. “I thought it was just a bump.”

Williams returned from a TDY to Hawaii and went to the doctor to check on the growing bump. The doctor informed him there was nothing he could do and sent him to a dermatologist. The dermatologist decided that surgery to remove the bump would be best.

On Oct. 17, 2014, Williams headed in for surgery. His wife, Chineka, was with him the entire time. Everything was going as planned. He was making light of the situation, joking with the intern who was learning how to cut a person’s back open, commenting on the giant needle they used to numb his back.

Williams said once they cut most of it out, the doctor stopped and made a statement that there was something wrong.

“Its tumors,” the doctor said. “I don’t know what kind, but there are tumors deeper in your back.”

They had to have the tu-

mors X-rayed and looked at, so they sewed Williams up and went from there.

Once they confirmed the dermatofibrosarcoma protuberans, Williams told his family.

“The afternoon I told my parents, as most mothers would be, she was freaked out,” Williams said. “We’re a very close-knit Christian family. They asked if I was alright, if I needed them here.”

Williams’ wife was there supporting him every step of the way.

“I don’t sit down,” Williams said. “She would tell me to rest, but I was a pain in the butt.”

Williams said he wasn’t scared with his diagnosis. He was a little shocked, but he wanted to know what he did to cause it and how he could fix it. The doctor told Williams there was nothing he could have done to prevent it. Williams was extremely hopeful during the entire ordeal.

In November, Williams said they needed to re-

move more of the tumors. They cut a diamond shape out of his back to remove them.

For six weeks, he had a tube from his back to his chest as his back was healing from the fluid that was being drained. He healed quicker than normal.

Because of the nature of Williams’ job, he was immediately moved off duty and sent to see if he was allowed to stay in the Air Force. But, Williams said he had an extremely supportive Air Force family.

His supervisor, peers and commander were all hopeful for him, offering their support through it all. They let him know if there was anything he needed, he just had to ask.

“They didn’t bother me or limit me,” Williams said of his chain of command. “They watched my back and let me take care of myself.”

During his diagnosis, Williams said his family helped him most. They never looked at Williams with sad eyes, or blamed

anything or anyone for what happened. They told him they would help him get through it, if he needed anything to call and they would stop and make time for him.

“There are a lot of things you can buy and replace,” Williams said. “But time spent with a person is something you can’t. When people decide to use some of their time for you, it’s humbling.”

Williams also said a positive attitude was key to facing this type of diagnosis.

“Positive thoughts have absolute results when it comes to healing,” Williams said. “Those who are hopeful and have positive thoughts regardless of the situation, they turn out the best.”

In December, Williams was in remission.

He said there is always a chance for the cancer to come back, and if it does, it will be worse and more aggressive. He still goes to the doctor every six months to make sure it

hasn’t returned, and that will continue for the rest of his life.

“I understand I am playing on borrowed time,” Williams said. “I’m still able to serve, and I’m thankful for that. I’m still ranking up and making friends. Anything that’s worth it is worth the effort.”

Williams’ advice to those who are still battling is to do whatever it takes to get positive, because it can change your reality.

“I have your back,” he said. “If you need to call me, call me. We’ll talk about life. Even if that means talking at 1, 2 or 3 in the morning, I’ll be up. I’ll make some tea and we’ll sit down and talk about it.”

Williams said to those who are supporting someone fighting this battle, encourage them. Encouragement will make the difference.

“The most important thing is it’s not about the condition, it’s about the people around you,” he said.

