



HIGH MACH

Serving the World's Premier Flight Simulation Test Complex



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Air Force, small business partner develops a 'big data' bridge between past and future designs

By Timothy Anderl
Air Force Small Business Innovation Research

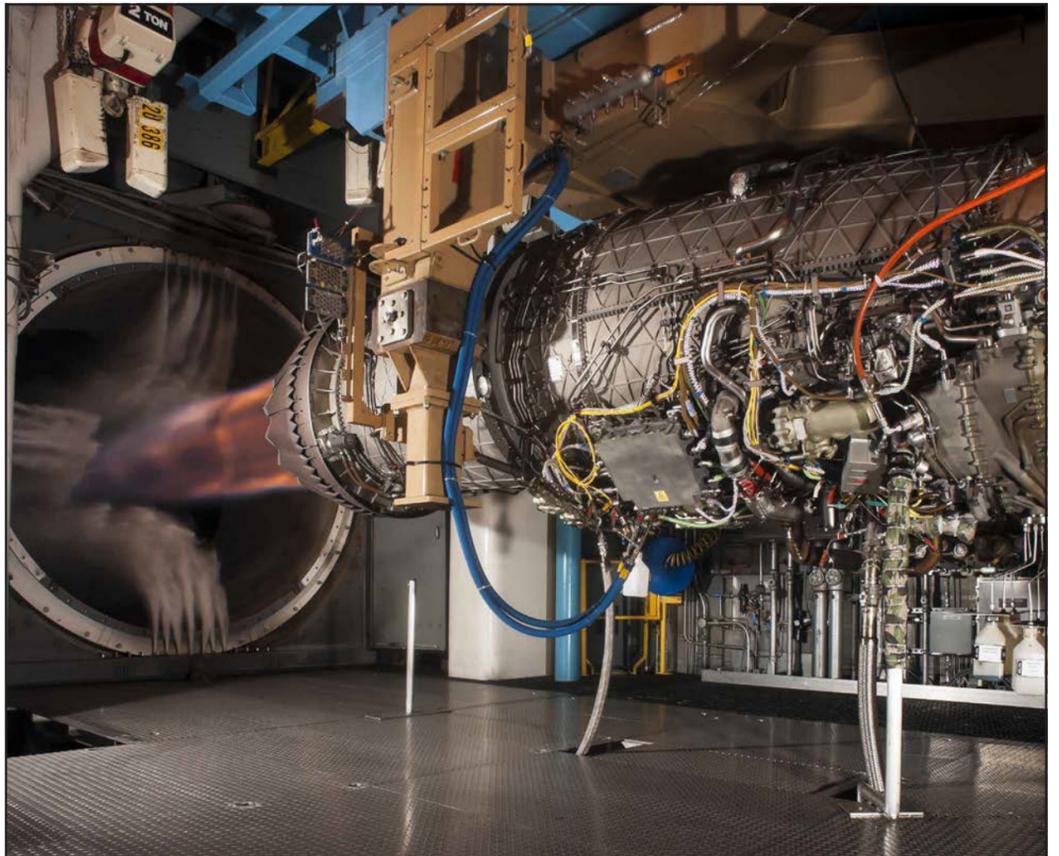
The mission of the United States Air Force is "to fly, fight and win in air, space and cyberspace." Perhaps more than any other time in history, the United States is faced with much more varied and much less predictable sources of conflict, as well as greater uncertainty in the amount of defense spending available to mitigate these conflicts. In response to these challenges, it is critical to find ways to provide an effective, efficient and reduced acquisition lifecycle.

To this end, validation of aerospace components is critical since the failure of a component in the field can result in the loss of our warfighters or their aircraft. Engine and flight stakeholders need to be able to quickly and reliably make accurate assessments related to specific

component behavior. To do this they need "real decision enabling information" rather than just volumes of data.

To help transform acquisition programs that benefit the movement of research and development projects to operational assets, RJ Lee Group (RJLG) developed the Test Data Aggregation and Analytical System (TDAAS) with funding provided by the Air Force Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer (SBIR/STTR) program. The technology makes vast, disparate archives of scientific and engineering information readily available to drive real-time, knowledgeable decisions. With Google-like speed, TDAAS quickly locates the data needed to answer difficult questions driving design, development and deployment of defense systems.

See **BIG DATA**, page 3



TDAAS enables engineers to quickly gather test data, current and historical, that allows them to evaluate design and engineering processes for next-generation aerospace technologies (like the F135 engine pictured) more efficiently. (U.S. Air Force photo/Rick Goodfriend)

ACC meets with Pentagon officials, lawmakers



A group of Arnold Community Council members met with officials at the Pentagon on the first day of the ACC trip. From left: ACC Vice President Brian Skelton; ACC Legislative Affairs Chairperson Mike Niederauser; ATA Deputy General Manager Jeff Haars; ACC President for the trip Mike Wiedemer; Ace Burch, staffer for Congressman Diane Black, - 6th District, Tenn.; Craig Shimizu, staffer for Congressman Tulsi Gabbard, - 2nd District, Hawaii; ATA's Integrated Test and Evaluation Director Dr. Rob McAmis; U.S. Air Force Chief of Staff Civic Leader Walt Wood; and ACC Past President Ben Craig. (Courtesy photo/Arnold Community Council)

By Kathy Gattis
ATA Public Affairs

The Arnold Community Council made their annual trip to meet with lawmakers and Pentagon officials last month to discuss AEDC.

Retired Air Force Major Gen. Mike Wiedemer, ACC president during the trip, said, "The ACC visits the Pentagon each year to ensure the most senior military leadership in the country is aware of AEDC's enduring importance to the nation; maintain dialogue on the needs and issues affecting the Department of Defense;

and keep the needs and issues affecting AEDC on the minds of Pentagon leaders."

The trip began with visits to the Pentagon and some key appointments with the director of Air Force Test and Evaluation; assistant secretary of Air Force Acquisition; the principal deputy director of the Test Resource Management Center and the principal deputy assistant secretary for Installations, Environment and Energy.

"As with members of the U.S. Congress, the leadership of the Pentagon must be informed, stay informed and act in-

formed in order to be effective," said Wiedemer. "The ACC takes advantage of our visits to Washington, D.C., each year by providing the latest information on aerospace and defense matters from an AEDC perspective and providing suggested policy guidance."

After the meetings at the Pentagon, the team gathered for an evening meeting to plan their strategy for the next few days. Sixteen people divided into four teams would visit 30 offices of elected officials during a three-day timeframe.

Each team included

an ATA expert along with an ACC member who had previously gone on this trip and a couple of new members.

ATA Deputy General Manager Jeff Haars has participated in the last two. The trip costs are not reimbursed by the government, and the company sends between five and seven team members each year.

"ATA sponsored several members of our leadership team to support the ACC trip because we feel it is important for AEDC," said Haars.

See **ACC**, page 4

NAS Transition hits the one-month mark

By Bob Pullen
NAS Transition Public Affairs

The transition of National Aerospace Solutions assuming responsibility of the operations at Arnold Engineering Development Complex hit the one-month mark last week, with an end date of July 1 when NAS officially becomes the Test Operations and Sustainment contractor.

"We have learned a lot about the people, the mission and the operations at AEDC this first month," said Cynthia Rivera, NAS general manager. "Our goal is to keep the workforce at AEDC informed as we move through this transition process, and to ensure the important work supporting the AEDC mission continues."

Rivera and members of the NAS management team travelled to the Hypervelocity Wind Tunnel 9 in White Oak, Md., and the National Full-Scale Aerodynamics

Complex at the Ames Research Center at Mountain View, Calif., to meet with employees, provide all hands briefings on the transition, and to better understand the work performed at those facilities.

In April, NAS held all-hands meetings at the Manchester-Coffee County Conference Center and the Complex auditorium to introduce NAS to Team AEDC, and to inform people about the hiring process, benefits and how NAS will be structured. NAS established a website (www.nas-llc.us) where people can stay informed about the transition, view current job postings, sign up for updates and ask questions of the NAS transition team.

"We understand that change can be difficult," Rivera said, "but change is also necessary to keep AEDC a vital part of the aerospace landscape for years to come."

See **NAS**, page 3

In This Issue....

Veterans receive unique opportunity to watch rocket motor test at AEDC

...Page 2

Air Force Safety Center sponsors Fall Protection Focus weeks

...Page 3

AEDC Quarterly Awards

...Page 9

HIGH MACH

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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

David Duma set to speak at AEDC Fellows Banquet

By Raquel March
ATA Public Affairs

The 2016 AEDC Fellows Banquet will be at the Arnold Lakeside Center on June 24 at 5:30 p.m. where David Duma, the principal deputy director of Operational Test and Evaluation (DOT&E) Department of Defense, will be the speaker.

The event is an opportunity to recognize AEDC individuals, past and present, who have made exceptional, substantial contributions to the nation's aerospace ground testing capability at

the Complex.

Duma assumed his position in January 2002. Prior to returning to government service, he worked in private industry managing a variety of projects involving test and evaluation; requirements generation; command, control, communications, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance; modeling and simulation; and software development. He was acting director, Operational Test and Evaluation from February 2005 to July 2007.

Duma completed 30

years of naval service which included serving as the acting deputy director for Conventional Systems in The Office of the Director, Operational Test and Evaluation and the director of Test and Evaluation Warfare Systems for the Chief of Naval Operations. His naval career also included service as the deputy commander, Submarine Squadron TEN and commanding officer of the nuclear powered submarine USS SCAMP (SSN 588).

He is a member of the International Test and Eval-

uation Association and the National Defense Industrial Association.

Since the inception of the Fellow program, AEDC has bestowed the Complex's highest honor to a total of 87 individuals. The categories for AEDC Fellow include Fellow, Craftsmen Fellow, Lifetime Achievement Fellow and Honorary Fellow.

The AEDC Fellows Banquet is open to the public. For more information, call the Air Force Test Center, AEDC Chief Technologist office at (931) 454-6505.



David W. Duma,
Principal Deputy
Director, Operational
Test and Evaluation
Department of Defense

Veterans receive unique opportunity to watch rocket motor test at AEDC

By Deidre Ortiz
ATA Public Affairs

Three Korean War era veterans from the Garden Plaza retirement community in Cleveland, Tenn., had the chance to watch a live firing of the Minuteman Stage II rocket motor from an AEDC control room.

On April 13, Army veterans Donald Brodes and Leonard Ohlsson, and Navy veteran Charles Bolick, were first-time visitors of AEDC.

David Dailey, Garden Plaza's activities coordinator who accompanied the men during the visit, explained they received the invitation to visit from Butch Welch, ATA outside machinist for the J-6 Large Rocket Motor Test Facility and a former employee of Garden Plaza.

"Butch contacted us two months ago and asked if any of the residents might be interested in visiting," he said. "These guys were all for it."

Welch had worked at AEDC for 20 years and then in 2002 moved out of state. When he later returned to Tennessee, he accepted a position as maintenance director at the retirement community and worked there two years before returning to AEDC in May of 2014.

"Having worked there, I know that they're always looking for activities and outings for the residents," Welch said. "Many of the folks at Garden Plaza are veterans, and I thought they would be interested in what we do at AEDC."

The group stated they are grateful for the opportunity and had never experienced anything like it.

"It sure takes a lot of people to work an operation like this," Brodes said.

"The preparation for the test was much more complex than I thought it would be," Ohlsson added. "It's a large culmination of work and then with the test you get to



Butch Welch, second from right, outside machinist for the J-6 Large Rocket Motor Test Facility, shows his visitors the infrastructure used in running some of the test facilities at AEDC April 13. Welch invited the men to the base to see the firing of a Minuteman Stage II rocket motor. Pictured left to right are Donald Brodes, Charles Bolick, Leonard Ohlsson, Butch Welch and David Dailey. (U.S. Air Force photo/Deidre Ortiz)

see whether or not it was successful."

Though the test lasted only a minute, it's a mo-

ment these gentlemen won't soon forget.

"They really enjoyed it, they thought it was

one of the best things they've had a chance to be a part of," Welch said.

Dailey said he hopes

to have the opportunity to bring other residents to visit AEDC in the future.

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THIS POSTER IS PUBLISHED BY THE HOUSE OF SIAGRAM AS PART OF ITS CONTRIBUTION TO THE NATIONAL VICTORY EFFORT

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.
2. 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.
3. 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*.
4. Supervisors at every level will ensure this policy is followed. Disciplinary action is appropriate for repeated violations.
5. Updates to this policy will be made in the future to further align with Air Force guidelines.
6. 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

Air Force Safety Center sponsors Fall Protection Focus weeks

By AEDC Safety Office

Air Force Ground Safety will sponsor Fall Protection Focus weeks from May 4-15. This initiative is a partnership with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration and National Institute for Occu-

pational Safety and Health campaign, "National Safety Stand-Down."

During fiscal years 2010-2014, the Air Force had three fatalities and 7,671 injuries from falls resulting in 44,000 lost work days at a cost of more than

\$30 million.

According to OSHA, over the last 10 years, more than 3,500 workers have died from falls, the leading cause of death in construction, accounting for more than a third of workplace deaths.

Throughout the two-week focus, Air Force ground safety professionals will remind all active duty, Guard, Reserve, civilians, and family members of the dangers of preventable falls.

"Fall protection or prevention is not only for ac-

tivities related to heights that are encountered every day on-the-job, but also includes, for example, falls that can happen because of wet floors or obstacles on a walkway," said Bill Parsons, Air Force chief of ground safety. "We want everyone

to remember that preventable falls are inexcusable and that we must continue to do all we can to protect ourselves and each other."

More details and materials will be provided in the Safety Toolbox Topics May 2-6.

Many AFMC employees to convert to AcqDemo Pay and Appraisal System

By Air Force Materiel Command Public Affairs

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio – Some 13,000 Air Force Materiel Command personnel have been notified they will transition to the Department of Defense Civilian Acquisition Workforce Demonstration Project (AcqDemo) pay system on June 12, 2016.

For those converting to AcqDemo, their current GS performance period will end on June 11, 2016, and they will enter into the

AcqDemo Contribution-Based Compensation and Appraisal System (CCAS) effective June 12, said command officials.

Until June 11, 2016, transitioning employees will remain under the current GS civilian performance program. Supervisors will continue to use incentive awards to recognize these employees' significant achievements and are also encouraged to provide performance feedbacks during this timeframe.

The first CCAS cycle

for new AcqDemo employees will end on September 30, 2016. During this cycle, only the contributions that occurred during this timeframe will be evaluated. Guidance on AcqDemo contribution planning for the first CCAS appraisal cycle will be forthcoming. After the initial cycle into AcqDemo, the standard CCAS period will be October 1 through September 30.

Only employees who have acceptable performance ratings will be eligible for AcqDemo conver-

sion. Those who are on a Performance Improvement Plan (PIP) at the time of conversion will not convert until a successful PIP has been completed. Supervisors of employees who are assigned to a PIP or who are performing at an unacceptable level will need to work with their servicing Civilian Personnel Section's Employee Relations Office to address these issues and to determine when or if conversion to AcqDemo will occur.

Online CCAS training for employees and

supervisors can be found at <http://acqdemo.hci.mil/training.html>. In the training, employees and supervisors are introduced to the CCAS software CAS2NET, which is an online reporting system for 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, said command officials.

For additional information on AcqDemo:

- Within AFMC, contact

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

- Department of Defense Civilian Acquisition Workforce Demonstration Project: <http://acqdemo.hci.mil/>
- AFMC AcqDemo Public Affairs Link: www.afmc.af.mil/library/featuredtopicalibrary/acqdemo.asp

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

NAS from page 1

During the all-hands meetings attendees were given the opportunity to ask questions of Rivera and other members of the NAS management staff. The majority of the questions centered on hiring processes, pay and benefits. According to Rivera the NAS Human Resources team is working hard to make the hiring process as smooth as possible. NAS is also in negotiations with the same insurance and 401K providers that are currently in place at AEDC to keep these benefits as close as possible to what the workforce currently has.

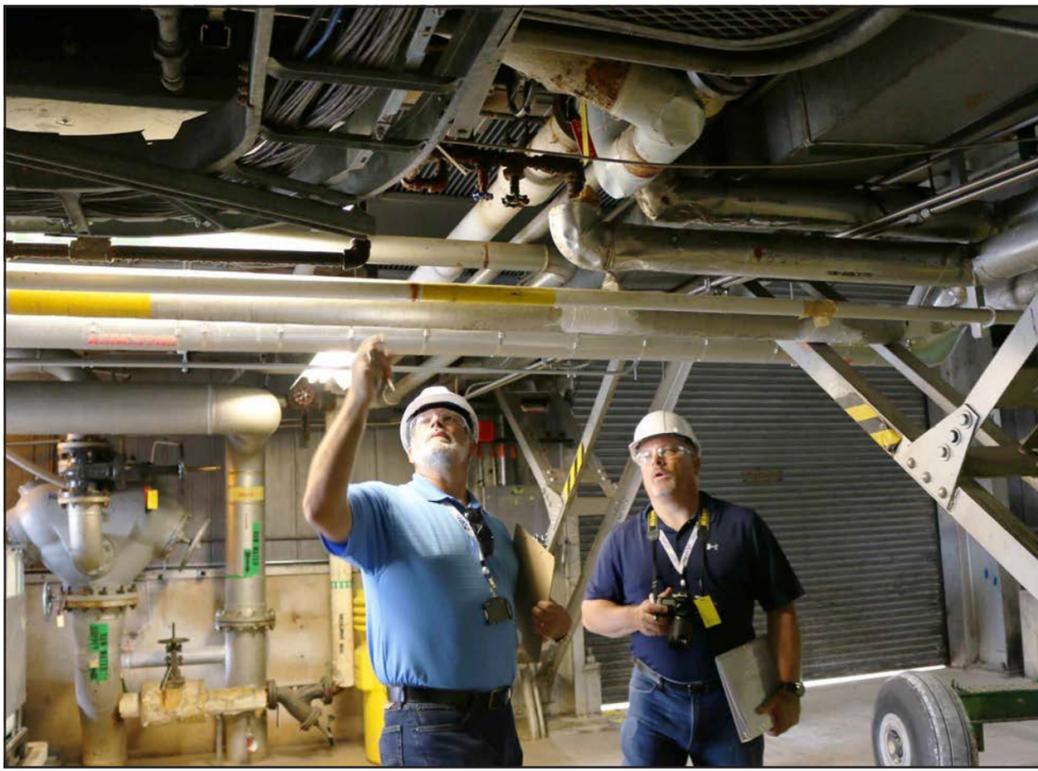
The NAS transition team is working on mapping the current AEDC positions to the NAS organizational chart. As those positions are mapped over to NAS, the job postings will be added to the NAS website for a minimum of five days. Current Aerospace Testing Alliance employees will be given first consideration for posted positions. The majority of NAS jobs will be posted by a mid-May timeframe, with interviews scheduled to begin May 16 and run through June 1. Most of the interviews will take place at the Manchester-Coffee County Conference Center.

NAS will also be con-

ducting more all-hands meetings this week at the base auditorium to further explain the interview process and to discuss finalized benefits plans. The times for these meetings will be sent to all employees and posted around the Complex. Because the Manchester-Coffee County Conference Center is unavailable during that time, the all-hands meetings will be held at the Complex main auditorium over a two or three-day period. Accommodations will be made for shift workers so everyone will have the opportunity to attend. For day-shift workers an alphabetical system will be used for attendance due to the smaller venue size.

With less than two months remaining in the transition, Rivera stressed the need to work together to accomplish the Air Force's mission and vision, and make the transition a smooth process.

"We are working to get to know the people at AEDC and what their roles are in accomplishing the mission," she said. "With all of these great facilities here, in Maryland and California, it's still the people who make AEDC the best ground test facilities in the world, and we are proud to be a part of that team."



Jeffrey Vincoli (left) and Kevin Gokmer with the National Aerospace Solutions transition team, visit the von Karman Gas Dynamics Test Facility and other AEDC facilities as part of a procedure called a walk-through April 28. The procedure provides the opportunity for NAS transition team members to assess the maintenance status of each building prior to the transfer of operations. NAS will begin operating the Test Operations and Sustainment contract at AEDC July 1. (U.S. Air Force photo/Holly Peterson)

NAS All-Hands Meetings

The next series of NAS all-hands meetings will take place May 10, 11 and 12. The meetings with day-shift workers will be held at 4 p.m., each day to accommodate work schedules and to keep people from taking personal time off. These sessions will be done alphabetically.

The UTSI all-hands meetings al-

phabetical breakdown: If your last name begins with:

- A-F** Tuesday, May 10, at 4 p.m.
- G-M** Wednesday, May 11 at 4 p.m.
- Mu-Z** Thursday, May 12 at 4:30 p.m. (Due to a scheduling conflict this session will begin at 4:30 p.m.) (Seating is limited so please at-

tend the session associated with your last name)

There will be two sessions for shift-workers at the base auditorium: 1:30 p.m. on May 10, for the second shift. 9 a.m. May 11 for the third shift workers when the third shift ends.

BIG DATA from page 1

Additionally, with continual increases in analytical capabilities from more data and more analyst interaction results, TDAAS provides the opportunity to perhaps completely eliminate re-engineering costs. TDAAS has effectively reduced finding test data and related documents from months to minutes and allows for hundreds more analysis iterations due to its speed of finding new information.

"With more than 50 years of systems and component test data, Arnold Engineering Development Complex (AEDC) leadership recognized the uniqueness and amount of data and meaningful research at their fingertips. Data on multiple iterations of weapons systems of all types, if data-mined in real-time with ever im-

proving data algorithms, could lead to significant reductions in the re-engineering costs of current and future weapons programs," said program manager Brandon Hoffman. "This is pure gold in terms of providing better human understanding and decision making for test processes."

With test data at AEDC test facilities exceeding a petabyte in size and spread across countless unrelated databases, engineers are increasingly challenged to provide accurate and insightful analysis in a timely manner. Improved searching and data correlation capabilities and processes are needed to better identify and discover meaningful information about turbine engine propulsion, aerodynamics of systems and

ordinances, and space systems.

"Every day, scientist, engineers, and analysts have to rely on human memory and are often not able to find the information from a similar test or are unable to trust the prior test result do to a lack of complete documentation and this leads to them doing new testing and analysis which increases sustainment costs," Hoffman said. "It is no secret that across the DOD there is a great need to collect, index and link this type of information together in a way that provides meaning to future or derived works as currently the DOD has very limited ability to share much less discover data across multiple locations and sources. TDAAS enables the ability to connect to

these multiple locations and sources making all of the information searchable without changing the data's original location or owner."

Dr. Klaus Schug, a chief architect at Arnold AFB, said, "TDAAS has increased the amount of information accessible by allowing individuals to add their own data and analysis results directly into TDAAS for access to all analysts. The potential for the elimination of billions of dollars of re-engineering costs through the application of past lessons learned is one of the best value propositions for the value of AEDC to the DOD."

The success of the SBIR led to additional funding through a Rapid Innovation Fund (RIF) program contract

for RJLG to mature the TDAAS prototype to an operational production system. At completion of the RIF contract in early 2016, RJLG will have helped transition TDAAS to production at AEDC, providing users with the best and most complete understanding ever of weapon systems cost, design and performance, and the optimum tradeoffs of these three.

Dr. Edward Kraft, chief technologist and scientist at Arnold AFB, Tennessee, said, "The successful use of RIF funds to fully implement and demonstrate TDAAS at AEDC is a precursor to more expansive applications of the TDAAS capabilities. It will be evaluated as a potential search capability for an Air Force Test Center knowledge

management capability under initial development. TDAAS also has potential as a tool for managing technical data in the Air Force Digital Thread in support of the broader Air Force Engineering Knowledge Management system."

Based on technology achievements and demonstrations during the TDAAS development, RJLG was also able to secure additional funding to expand the technologies to help the Air Force create a 21st Century Digital Thread Infrastructure. This separate initiative is focused on identifying and expanding technologies that can help capture and maintain material and other scientific data along the entire cradle-to-grave (or cradle-to-cradle) lifecycle of a component.

ACC from page 1

“This trip is a unique opportunity for ATA subject matter experts to help the ACC promote the Complex,” said Haars. “Supporting the ACC community leaders with our technical experts enables the team to address the full breadth of issues important to the work force at AEDC. While our folks assist the ACC, they also learn a great deal on this trip. I sincerely appreciate all of the community leaders who put so much time and effort into this trip; they keep our elected officials and their staffers reminded of the vital role AEDC and its people play in developing the nation’s weapons systems.”

The teams were also armed with an information packet detailing several initiatives (available at www.arnoldcommunitycouncil.com).

The three-day event requires much coordination and planning. Mike Niederhauser, who chairs the ACC Legislative Affairs Committee, is in charge of pulling all those details for the visits together.

“We could not have done this trip without the assistance we received from Congressman Diane Black’s staff,” said Niederhauser. “Charles Snyder and Jon Toomey reviewed our white papers (ACC booklet) and made sure our visits were focused and on point. Representative Black’s staff also helped us secure a joint letter of introduction for our visits with Representative Tulsi Gabbard, a co-chair with Black on the Congressional Range and Test Center Caucus (<https://rangeandtestingcaucus-black.house.gov/>).



ACC Membership Chairperson Claude Morse, left, explains ACC initiatives to Tennessee Sen. Bob Corker while ACC President Mike Wiedemer listens April 12. (Courtesy photo/Arnold Community Council)

This was the first time the Manchester Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Terri Hudson worked with the ACC on this trip, and she said she was impressed.

“I was honored to accompany some of the best engineering minds in the country to meet with legislators about the uniqueness of Arnold Engineering Development Complex,” she said. “Our message was well-received and every congressman we met with was very supportive.”

ACC President Jim Herron was unable to make the trip, but he traveled with Eglin’s support council, the Defense Support Initiative, the month prior.

“The ACC makes a difference when we educate about the critical importance of testing,” said Herron. “I have noticed how easy it is to be misinformed about various research and development components. Testing needs to be a priority for both the safety and the effectiveness of our



Pictured here April 12 is the Arnold Community Council group with Tennessee Senators Lamar Alexander and Bob Corker during a break at Tennessee Tuesday, a weekly event held by the senators and their staff members. The ACC team also met with the Senators in private meetings later in the day during their Washington, D.C. Trip. (Courtesy photo/Arnold Community Council)

warfighters. We all know someone who serves, and the ACC wants to make sure they have the best tools, so they have a greater opportunity to come home.”

“These visits are good because ACC also has the opportunity to learn from those visited about the needs of the nation and how AEDC initiatives can be synergized with those needs,” said Wiedemer.

ACC members made their first visit to D.C. in 2005.

AFMC’s Wingman Intervention program going strong

By Air Force Materiel Command Public Affairs

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio – Across Air Force Materiel Command, Airmen continue to embrace the command’s culture of respect and resiliency. This is especially evident in their behavior as wingmen.

AFMC has been consciously building the concept of wingman intervention for nearly three years. The goals are to raise awareness of help-seeking behaviors, increase the motivation to assist others, develop the skills and confidence to safely intervene when necessary, and ensure the well-being of self and others.

“In AFMC, and across the Air Force, we accomplish our mission as a dedicated team committed to our core values and to each other,” said Jennifer

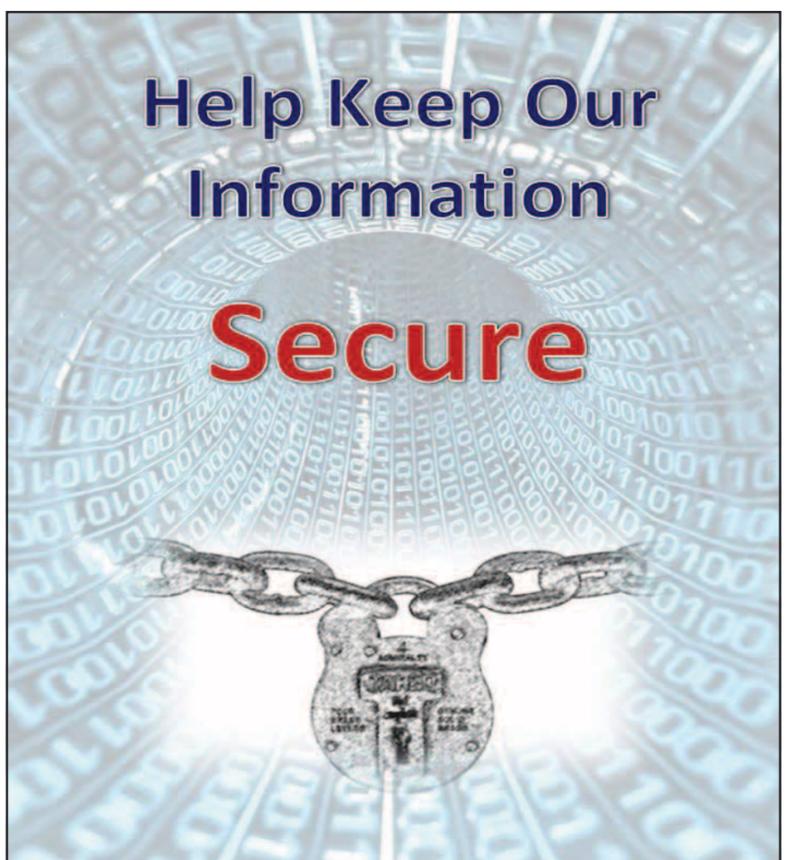
Treat, AFMC Community Support Coordinator. “A good wingman stays alert for signs of danger from whatever source – whether suicide, safety mishaps, alcohol abuse, sexual assault, bullying, medical issues or other difficulties; gets involved by knowing their fellow Airmen; and takes action when necessary to protect their wingman, on and off duty. We’re proud to have so many true wingmen in our command who look out for the welfare of their colleagues and community.”

In a recent example of successful wingman intervention, a distressed Airman exhibited risk factors of suicide and expressed possible suicide intentions. The wingman listened to the situation and notified the Airman’s chain of command. By being concerned about a coworker, the wingman ensured the Air-

man received the necessary assistance.

In another situation, two wingmen identified an unsafe driver when he swerved into their lane. They slowed down to create a distance between their vehicle and the unsafe driver. Shortly after that, the unsafe driver lost control, went into the median and overcorrected, resulting in a crash. The wingmen stopped immediately and provided assistance – one called 911 and the other ran to the overturned vehicle and pulled the driver out. The vigilance and quick actions of the wingmen ensured the driver received care until first responders could arrive.

If you become aware of situations in which personnel have recognized at-risk behaviors and proactively intervened, please contact your local Community Support Coordinator.



Area students invited to participate in AIAA Rocketday! event

By Deidre Ortiz
ATA Public Affairs

The Tennessee Section of the American Institute of Aeronautics is hosting a Rocketday! event for area students May 14 at the Hands-On Science Center in Tullahoma.

The event will be held 10 a.m.-2 p.m. and will include three rocket competitions and speakers on rocketry, with information on how to get started in model rocketry and a presentation from a member of the Music City Mis-

sile Club on high powered model rocketry.

The competitions are:

- Soda bottle rockets, 3rd grade – 8th grade
- Match head rockets, 3rd grade – 8th grade
- 2-liter rocket design/build/fly, 7th grade – 12th grade

“We are having several competitions for grade school and high school students,” said Joe Sheeley, AIAA section chairman and senior technology engineer at AEDC.

“For the younger children, we have two competitions where they can build and fly simple rockets for accuracy and distance. For the older kids, we’re having the ‘Two-Cool’ rocket competition.”

For the highly anticipated “Two-Cool” 2-liter rocket competition, at home the students will build unique rockets using any recyclable materials, paint, stickers, rubber bands, string and glue to bring to the competition. The basic rocket structure must be made using a 2-li-

ter bottle, and the nozzle or bottle mouth must be unchanged, so that it will fit a #3 rubber stopper and can be launched.

Judging will be based on look of the rocket, engineering/design, flight and style. Students are encouraged to make a replica of the Saturn 5, the Star Wars Death Star, Space Shuttle, or make their own, “out-of-this-world” creation.

There will be prizes for first and second place winners. The first prize in the “Two-Cool” com-

petition is a quad-copter drone and second prize is a gift certificate.

“This is the first year for what I hope will grow into a local festival celebrating aerospace,” Sheeley said. “We have a great deal of aerospace heritage in the region, including Redstone and Marshall Flight Center to our south, the construction of the X-43A flight vehicle in downtown Tullahoma, and of course the world’s largest aerospace ground test Complex. We even have a prime contributor

to the Voyager ‘Tour of Planets’ teaching at UTSI. It is only fitting that we have a festival celebrating aerospace.”

Volunteers are also needed and donations for supplies are welcomed. Anyone interested in helping, call 454-7627.

Details and rules for the rocket competitions will be posted at the Hands-On Science Center website www.HOSC.org and the Tennessee AIAA section website at <http://info.aiaa.org/Regions/SE/Tennessee>.

AFMC command chief reflects on 30-year career

By Kim Bowden
Air Force Materiel Command Public Affairs

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio – Air Force Materiel Command’s top enlisted member will end his military career May 6, 2016, closing out what he calls a “wonderful journey” around the world.

Chief Master Sgt. Michael Warner, AFMC’s command chief, will retire in a ceremony at the National Museum of the United States Air Force. Gen. (ret.) Janet Wolfenbarger, former AFMC commander, will preside over the ceremony.

Warner joined the U.S. Army Reserve on his 17th birthday, hoping to pay for college and pursue law. After a couple of years, he couldn’t quite afford to go to school, but he had met the girl of his dreams.

“I knew I would need to have a job that could support us,” he said. “That is where the Air Force started to become a serious option. I had grown up near an Air Force base and talked to some of the Airmen. I joined the Air Force as a security specialist in 1987, and my journey in this great Air Force began.”

Aside from serving as a security specialist, Warner spent nine years as a first sergeant, followed by a stint as an NCO Academy commandant, before becoming a command chief in 2006. In what he describes as a truly wonderful career, Warner says he

has enjoyed every assignment.

“I have had great experiences and great missions, and I have been able to travel the world,” he said. “But as cool as that has been, what I have enjoyed most about my time in the Air Force is the people I have met and served with. I have made many, many friends that will be my friends for life. I won’t tell you I had the intention of serving for 30 years when I first joined, but I will tell you that I decided to continue serving each time because of the people I worked with, my first line supervisors and the senior NCOs that were my leadership – I loved coming to work every day.”

Of course, any 30-year journey is bound to include change. During his time in the Air Force, Warner said he’s witnessed changes to

uniforms, fitness standards, assignment systems, education among the enlisted force, the way we care for Airmen and their families, and operations tempo based on changes in the world, just to scratch the surface.

“The great thing about all of that is our Air Force is good at change,” he said. “The changes we have made were needed, and they have created the truly powerful Air Force that exists today.”

One change in particular has been a bit more personal for Warner.

“I am very proud that I was part of the Air Force Enlisted Board of Directors and was a key member of the enlisted team that designed and developed the structure for our new Enlisted Evaluation System, the changes to our Weight-

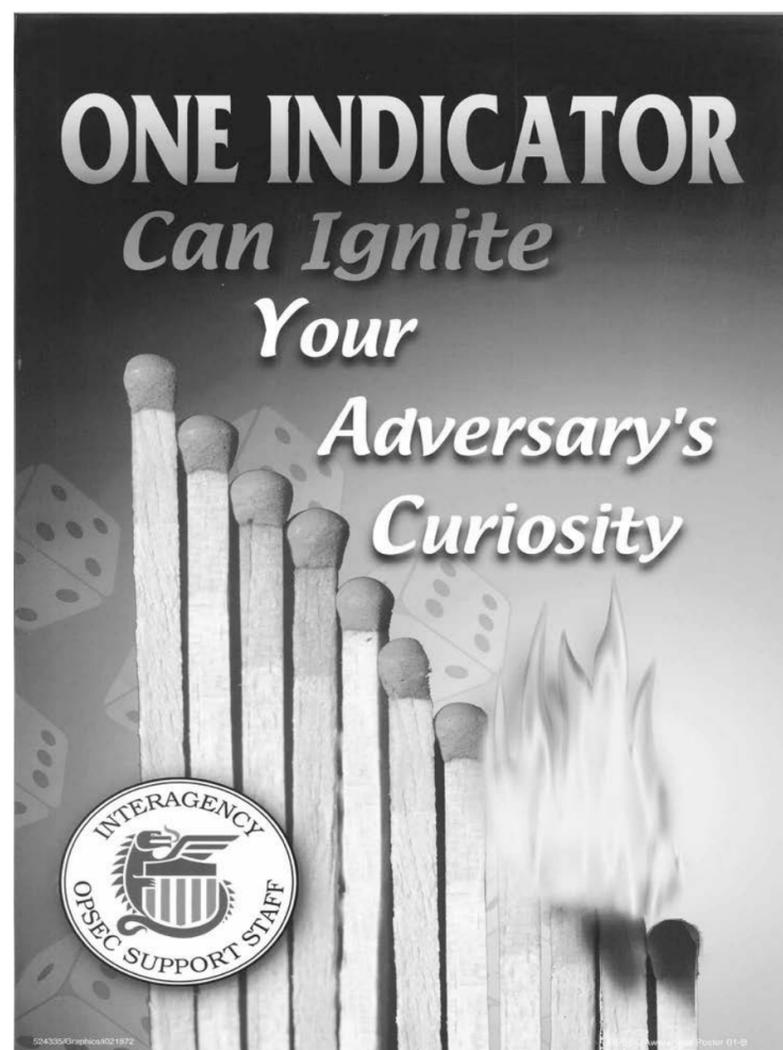
ed Airmen Promotion System, and our Enlisted Professional Military Education path,” he said. “This process started when I first arrived at AFMC four years ago, and to sit here and see us in the actual implementation of a change that will serve our Airmen in a better fashion makes me very proud that I got to be a part of what I consider to be the most significant change to enlisted force development that I have seen in my 30 years in our great Air Force.”

Although his work in that arena has implications Air Force-wide, Warner says he’s also proud to have closed out his career at AFMC.

“When I came here as the command chief, I didn’t have any other AFMC experience,” Warner said. “I knew that AFMC had the three large depots, but I wasn’t fully aware of everything this command does to ensure our Air Force is ready to

fly, fight and win. I am proud of the fact that I got to represent the truly phenomenal Airmen of this command, as our Air Force cannot do anything without AFMC. Every single tool, uniform, platform and piece of equipment is AFMC’s responsibility.

Every weapon system in our Air Force is thought of, researched, tested, acquired, supported, sustained and retired by this command. It is the AFMC Airmen that make this happen, and that makes me proud to have been a part of it.”



New urgent care pilot program for prime beneficiaries

By the Office of the
U.S. Air Force Surgeon
General

WASHINGTON, DC – To increase access to care, the Department of Defense is launching an Urgent Care Pilot Program for TRICARE Prime beneficiaries. This program allows Prime enrollees two visits to a network or TRICARE authorized provider without a referral or prior

authorization.

The Urgent Care Pilot Program, scheduled to begin May 23 covers:

- Active Duty Family Members enrolled in TRICARE Prime or TRICARE Prime Remote
- Retirees and their family members who are enrolled in Prime within the 50 United States or the District of Columbia

- Active duty service members enrolled in TRICARE Prime Remote or stationed overseas but traveling stateside

Active Duty Service Members enrolled in TRICARE Prime are not eligible for this program as their care is managed by their Service. This pilot also excludes Uniformed Services Family Health Plan enrollees. TRICARE

Overseas Program enrollees can receive an unlimited number of urgent care visits, but only when they are traveling stateside and seeking care.

There are no Point of Service deductibles or cost shares for these two urgent care visits, but network co-payments still apply.

Following a visit to an urgent care facility, you must notify your PCM of that care within 24 hours or

the first business day after the urgent care visit. Authorization requirements have not changed for follow up care, specialty care or inpatient care.

When you are not sure of the type of care you need, or you require care outside of standard business hours, call the Nurse Advice Line (NAL). If the NAL recommends an urgent care visit, and a referral is submitted, that

visit will not count against the two visits allowed under the Urgent Care Pilot. However, if you call the NAL and get a referral to a military hospital or clinic and you go elsewhere for care, that visit will count against your two preauthorized visits.

If you need more information, please visit the Urgent Care Pilot Program web page on the TRICARE website.

F-35 program making progress, program chief tells Congress

By Jim Garamone
DOD News, Defense
Media Activity

WASHINGTON (AFNS) – The chief of the F-35 program detailed “the good, the bad and the ugly” aspects of the Joint Strike Fighter during testimony March 22 before the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Tactical Air and Land Forces.

Air Force Lt. Gen. Christopher C. Bogdan said that overall the once-troubled fighter is “executing fairly well across the entire spectrum of acquisition to include development and design, flight test, production, fielding, base stand-up, maintenance and support and building a global sustainment enterprise.”

The F-35 program is at a pivot point and is changing and accelerating, the general said. The development portion of the aircraft will end late

next year and will transition to a modernization program.

Anticipated production amps up

Production will grow from 45 aircraft in 2015 to more than 100 aircraft in 2018 and up to 145 aircraft per year by 2020, Bogdan said. The program office will continue standing up 17 operating bases globally and developing the supply system to keep them all flying, he said.

Still, it is a complex program, not without its troubles, Bogdan said. “I’ve often said that the mark of a good program is not that it has no problems, but that it discovers problems, implements solutions, improves the weapon system and at the same time keeps the program on track,” he said.

The Air Force is now receiving F-35As at Hill Air Force Base, Utah.

Training is underway and the service should have its first combat-coded squadron this year, the general said.

The Marine Corps is flying the F-35B from austere air bases and is dropping and shooting live weapons, the general said.

To date, he said, 172 aircraft have been delivered to test, operational and training sites.

“On the cost front, the cost of an F-35 continues to decline steadily lot over lot,” Bogdan said. “This is a trend that will continue for many years. I expect the cost of an F-35 with an engine to decrease from about \$108 million this year to about \$85 million in 2019.”

He added, “The program is moving forward – sometimes slower than I’d like – but moving forward and making progress nonetheless.”

Passion vs. priorities

By Airman 1st Class Travis Beihl
81st Training Wing Public
Affairs

KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE, Miss. (AFNS) – Physical fitness doesn’t come easy for everyone – sometimes the drive to finish one more repetition or set a new personal best just doesn’t cut it. For 1st Lt. Christian Torres, having the spirit to stay mentally and physically strong when going through adversity is not just found in the gym, it’s a way of life.

From a young age, Torres’ affinity for gym activities turned out to be a bit more hands-on. A native of Puerto Rico, he started boxing at the age of 15 when a friend talked him into it.

“When I’d go to the gym, I’d put my mind into boxing and it helped me forget about everything else,” said Torres, an 81st Comptroller Squadron deputy project officer. “The economy in Puerto Rico wasn’t good

and I was struggling with the dilemma of whether I’d be able to attend college and get a job after graduation.”

Boxing was initially just a way for him to escape life’s stress, but Torres had a knack for it and soon that led to opportunity.

After only a couple years, Torres became so proficient he had a chance to throw his hat into the ring of professional boxing

“I had a chance to make my debut in professional boxing but I had to turn it down,” Torres said. “I had to take care of my family. ... At age 9 my brother was diagnosed with muscular dystrophy and I had to shift my priorities; my mom couldn’t work because she was taking care of him so I had to make a change to help out.”

Watching his older peers graduate college and end up in dead-end jobs pushed Torres even harder. With the welfare of his family on the line, he knew he had to make

a life-changing decision. Not just for him, but for his family. Torres gave up the possibility of a potentially lucrative career in boxing for college and the Air Force ROTC program.

“I didn’t want to fail my mom or brother,” Torres said. “I chose college and ROTC because I wanted to help my family.”

He pursued his degree in accounting at the University of Puerto Rico and it proved to be challenging, however, the ROTC program didn’t seem as difficult to him.

“I didn’t have any problems with ROTC because my father was very structured with me when I was young,” he said. “As for the physical training program, I was a boxer almost turning pro so that was a piece of cake.”

In addition to his academics, there was another bump along his road to becoming an U.S. Air Force officer – the English language.

See **PASSION**, page 9

AEDC quarterly award winners announced



1st Lt. Andrew Spurgeon
Company Grade
Officer of the Quarter



Tech. Sgt. Joshua Suggs
Non-Commissioned
Officer of the Quarter



**Senior Master
Sgt. Charles Hoyt**
Senior Non-Commissioned
Officer of the Quarter



2nd Lt. Karlie Madden
Honor Guard of the Quarter



Daniel Lee
Civilian of the Quarter
Administrative



Dustin Boss
Civilian of the Quarter
Scientist/Engineer



Carol Evans
Civilian of the Quarter
Clerical/Technical Support

Sydney Pearson
Non-Appropriated Fund
employee of the Quarter
Category I
(PHOTO NOT AVAILABLE)

PASSION from page 8

"I didn't know English before attending college and joining ROTC," he said. "If English isn't your primary language, you have to take a test called the oral proficiency interview to show you are proficient in English before you can become an officer."

With hard work and dedication, Torres was able to improve his skill in English thanks to his fellow ROTC cadets.

"In ROTC, there were cadets who were very smart but had never done consistent physical training before so I helped them out," Torres said. "I traded my knowledge of physical fitness to the cadets and they in turn helped me with my English because at the time I was really bad at it."

Torres gave up his chance in the ring for the reliability and benefits of the Air Force that better suited his family's needs, but he didn't give up boxing entirely. After passing the English OPI, graduating from the University of Puerto Rico and commissioning as a second lieutenant, Torres decided to share his love of boxing with others after arriving at his first duty station, Keesler Air Force Base,

Mississippi.

"After I commissioned, I followed the coaching route," he said. "I had clients ranging from 7 to 28 years old and one of my fighters even made it to a well-known televised event."

Even with one of his fighters making it to such a high-profile fight, the possibility of training a professional fighter wasn't his only drive.

"I enjoyed coaching the kids and people who wanted to learn how to box," Torres said. "It felt rewarding to help kids who are underprivileged. Boxing is a low-cost sport, which opens up the possibilities for these kids to learn the fundamentals of boxing, release stress, build mental toughness and gain some friends along the way."

Training local boxers wasn't the only way Torres used what he learned through years of training. He is also the lead physical training leader for the 81st CPTS.

"Lt. Torres is an exceptional leader," said Senior Airman Chigozie Nwachukwu, a 81st CPTS customer service technician. "He restructured the entire PT program to look at each person's weakness then structures the PT to ben-

efit everyone at the same time."

It's been a long time since Torres hung up the gloves. Since then, the fundamentals of fitness and staggering mental toughness he gained as a boxer still help him as a PT leader and Air Force officer.

"Being a past boxer helps me not only physically but also mentally," Torres said. "In boxing, sometimes you are in the ring and you are getting beaten up and want to quit, but you have to keep fighting through that feeling and persevere through the adversity."

When it comes to work, working out and caring for his family, Torres' fighter's mentality shines. He attributes his can-do attitude to his athletic training and the way his parents raised him.

Today, Torres continues to support his family in Puerto Rico and plans to one day bring them to the U.S.

"I'm not going to quit," Torres said, affirming that no matter what, he's in their corner.

(This feature is part of the "Through Airmen's Eyes" series. These stories focus on individual Airmen, highlighting their Air Force story.)



Future engineers get an idea of opportunities at AEDC

Students with Tau Beta Pi, the Engineering Honor Society, of Tennessee Technological University visited AEDC on April 8 to tour the test areas and learn from engineers about what goes into running one of world's largest, most complex collection of flight simulation test facilities. Pictured is John Kelly, left, the AEDC Pratt & Whitney F135 engine test manager, talking to the group in the Sea Level engine test cell. (U.S. Air Force photo/Holly Peterson)



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MILITARY	Military One Source www.militaryonesource.com AFMC Wellness Support Center Health and Wellness Center (931) 454-6440 Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (931) 581-7494 Airman and Family Readiness Center (931) 454-4574	
DOD CIVILIAN	AFMC Wellness Support Center www.afmcwellness.com Civilian Health Promotion Services (931) 454-6440 Employee Assistance Program (800) 222-0364 www.foh4you.com Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (931) 581-7494 Victim Witness Assistance Program (931) 454-4567	
ATA EMPLOYEES	Work, personal or family issues Employee Assistance Program (866) 828-6049	



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David Rollins, ATA
Dale West, ATA

30 YEARS
Wilbert Eppenger Sr., ATA
Donald Hart, ATA
Joel Kennerly, ATA
Richard Martin, ATA



David Rollins

Karl Nation, ATA
Sharon Pegram, ATA
Michael Smith, ATA

20 YEARS
Bryan Jones, ATA
Stacy Jones, AF
Michael Riddle, ATA

15 YEARS
Daniel Ayers, ATA



Dale West

Frank Logan, ATA
Clint Shettters, ATA

10 YEARS
Chris Bidmead, ATA
Jackey Gates, AF
Angela Teesdale, AF
Jerald Walls, ATA

5 YEARS
Matthew Ashby, ATA

INBOUND MILITARY
2nd Lt. Charles Boyd, AF
Capt. Michael Davault, AF

OUTBOUND MILITARY
1st Lt. Michael Parmentier, AF

INBOUND CIVILIAN
Patricia Henderson, AF
Fred Kasper, AF
Robert Mitchell, AF
Becky Morris, AF
Ezra Owens, AF
Michael Wilson, AF

RETIREMENTS
Gerald Echerd, ATA
Cmdr. Chris Lewis, Navy
Thomas Parrish Jr., ATA
Katie Tedford, AF

NEW HIRES
Rachel Berridge, NAF

Peyton Booth, NAF
Eric Clem, ASO
Julian Elliot, NAF
Jordan Ferrell, NAF
Zachary Hedrick, ASO
Michael Hurley, ASO
Bob McKeown Jr., NAF
Beth Meverden, NAF
Scott Stacy, ASO
Vicki Swauger, NAF
Jacob Wood, ATA

PROMOTIONS
Maj. Daniel Watson to lieutenant colonel, AF
Andrew Alexander, ATA
Austin Bonds, ATA
Them Bui, ATA
Tracie Burnett, ATA
Jerry Burrows, ATA
Wesley Cobb, ATA
Jon Cox, ATA
Dustin Crider, ATA
Joshua Diller, ATA
Cherise Dockery, ATA
Yeshiemebet Dohrmann, ATA
Jonathon Duke, ATA

David Faucett, ATA
Nickolas Galyen, ATA
Ethan Jobe, ATA
Inna Kurits, ATA
Jeremy Morris, ATA
William Nelson, ATA
Jonathan Parks, ATA
Vanessa Perez, ATA
John Prebola Jr., ATA
Wallace Pruitt, ATA
Christopher Robinson, ATA
Christopher Rogers, ATA
Brant Seay, ATA
Matthew Stiggins, ATA
Nathan Tendick, ATA
Jonathan Thompson, ATA
Austin Voorhes, ATA
Wesley Williams, ATA
John Wohleber III, ATA

CERTIFICATES/DEGREES
Richelene Yglesias, AF
Bachelors Degree in Management and Human Relations

Hill depot facility becomes first to work on all F-35 variants

By **Alex R. Lloyd**
Ogden Air Logistics Complex

HILL AIR FORCE BASE, Utah (AFNS) – The Ogden Air Logistics Complex here became the first depot facility to perform modifications on all three F-35 Lightning II variants after it inducted a Navy F-35C carrier version April 15.

The F-35C was flown in from Eglin Air Force Base, Florida, by Navy Capt. Mark Weisgerber, the 33rd Fighter Wing vice commander.

“Hill has the capacity to accomplish the needed modifications and it is important to optimize the workflow within the Air

Logistics Complex,” Weisgerber said.

The first F-35 arrived at Hill AFB for modifications in September 2013. Since then, the depot has performed modifications on the Air Force’s fleet of conventional takeoff and landing F-35As. It also has completed work on four Marine Corps F-35B short takeoff/vertical landing aircraft, helping the Marine Corps reach initial operational capability.

For the Navy’s carrier variant, the complex’s 570th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, along with Lockheed Martin, will perform structural upgrades, low-observable restoration and system modifications

See **F-35**, page 11



An F-35C Lightning II arrives April 15 at Hill Air Force Base, Utah. The aircraft is the first Navy variant to arrive at the base where it will undergo depot modifications through this summer. The aircraft is assigned to the Navy’s Strike Fighter Squadron 101 at Eglin AFB, Florida. (U.S. Air Force photo/R. Nial Bradshaw)

F-35 from page 10

that will enhance performance across the aircraft's service life.

"The men and women of the 570th (AMXS) have

risen to the challenges of supporting the dynamic changes in this program and take great pride in being the first depot to work on all

three variants of the F-35," said Greg Hoffman, the 570th AMXS director.

With the program's ever-evolving requirements,

exact numbers of how many aircraft will be worked on this year is not yet available. The squad-ron's main focus will cen-ter on complet-ing work on the Air Force fleet of F-35A models and Navy's F-35C models, and re-turning the aircraft to the warfighter better than they arrived.

"We were able to sup-

port the U.S. Marine Corps with critical modi-fications on the F-35B to meet their initial opera-tional capabil-ity (IOC) milestone," Hoff-man said. "Today, we are working closely with the 388th Fighter Wing to pro-vide modifications that will ensure they are able to meet their IOC target with the F-35A and are proud to sup-

port the Navy with work on the F-35C."

The complex had been planning for the arrival of the C-model for months and expects work on the fighter jet to last through early Sep-tember as work-ers train with the aircraft and per-form verification and vali-dation on the new modifica-tions.



Navy Capt. Mark Weisgerber, the 33rd Fighter Wing vice commander, is greeted by Greg Hoffman, the 570th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron director, at Hill Air Force Base, Utah, April 15. Weisgerber flew an F-35C Lightning II to the base where it will be modified at the Ogden Air Logistics Complex. The complex is the first to work on the entire fleet of F-35 variants, which also includes the Air Force's F-35A model and the Marine Corps' F-35B model. (U.S. Air Force photo/Alex R. Lloyd)

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Acosta merchandisers will be in the stores and in communication with store management to place coupons on the items.

<p>Patrick S. Jourdan STORE DIRECTOR Patrick.Jourdan@deca.mil 931.454.3546 DSN: 340.3546</p>	<p>STORE HOURS SUN - Closed MON - Closed TUE 9 AM - 5:30 PM WED 9 AM - 5:30 PM THU 9 AM - 6:30 PM FRI 9 AM - 5:30 PM SAT 8 AM - 4:30 PM</p>	<p>OTHER IMPORTANT NUMBERS (931) 454- PLUS EXT. DSN: 340- PLUS EXT.</p> <table border="0" style="font-size: 0.8em;"> <tr> <td style="border-right: 1px solid black; padding-right: 5px;">DEPT.</td> <td style="border-right: 1px solid black; padding-right: 5px;">EXT.</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border-right: 1px solid black; padding-right: 5px;">CUSTOMER SERVICE</td> <td style="border-right: 1px solid black; padding-right: 5px;">5921</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border-right: 1px solid black; padding-right: 5px;">ASST. STORE DIR.</td> <td style="border-right: 1px solid black; padding-right: 5px;">3546</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border-right: 1px solid black; padding-right: 5px;">GROCERY</td> <td style="border-right: 1px solid black; padding-right: 5px;">5921</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border-right: 1px solid black; padding-right: 5px;">PRODUCE/MEAT</td> <td style="border-right: 1px solid black; padding-right: 5px;">5923</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border-right: 1px solid black; padding-right: 5px;">SECRETARY</td> <td style="border-right: 1px solid black; padding-right: 5px;">7710</td> </tr> </table>	DEPT.	EXT.	CUSTOMER SERVICE	5921	ASST. STORE DIR.	3546	GROCERY	5921	PRODUCE/MEAT	5923	SECRETARY	7710
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