Record-setting model
AEDC’s B-52H store separation model largest ever built
By Philip Lorenz III
Aerospace Testing Alliance
The Air Force’s oldest legacy bomber still in service, the B-52H Stratofortress, is in the midst of major weapons and flight systems upgrades, including a capability to drop smart bombs from the plane’s internal weapons bay.

AEDC has 40-plus years of store separation experience, but this test entry is unique and challenging in several ways, according to Doyle Vinson, the AFA’s store separation section manager.

“We have never tested a store separation aircraft model of this size in our wind tunnels,” he said. “For that matter, our design group and Model Shop have never fabricated a store separation test article this large.”

Work started last November when the B-52H Program Office agreed to fund a wind tunnel test program and the Air Force SEEK Eagle Office provided CAD (computer-aided design) geometry files to AEDC’s design personnel.

The Air Force is upgrading the B-52’s internal weapons bay to expand the aircraft’s payload by roughly two-thirds, according to Lt. Gen. James Kowalski, commander of Air Force Global Strike Command.

“This effort represents the most significant B-52 modernization since the [1980s] and will add 21st century capability to the aircraft,” Kowalski said.

Major improvements include new flight control software to enhance targeting capabilities and incorporate miniature launchers designed for the B-52, as well as a modern digital communications systems.

First leases signed for privatized base housing
By Philip Lorenz III
Aerospace Testing Alliance
Twenty-five minutes may not seem like much time to many people, but for engineers conducting a recent test in AEDC’s 7-meter segmented arc heater, H3, it set a record.

“The record run is a big deal,” according to Carrie Reinholz, AEDC’s project manager for the three-phased test program. “We thought our previous run in H3 lasted forever”.

Reinholz said the real significance of the long run time is that it may provide engineers at AEDC with advanced heater technology to eventually fill a long-standing ground testing capability gap between facilities at Arnold and NASA.

According to Dr. Joe Sheeley, ATA project manager and technology engineer, the DOD segmented arc heater facilities, located at AEDC, have traditionally been used to simulate the high shear, low altitude environment of a ballistic vehicle's flight.

At the other end, the arc heaters at the community center to be built in the base housing area.”

Arnold AFB, along with Kosovo AB in Mississippi and Shaw AFB in Charleston, S.C., will all come under Forest City Military Communities LLC’s management.

Shortly after Arnold Commander Col. Michael Brewer signed his lease Sept. 14, he said base privatization represents a definite quality of life improvement for active duty airmen and their families who live on base.

John Hays, vice president of development for Forest City Communities LLC, said being in the position to bring Arnold AFB’s base housing up to 21st century standards has been a great experience for everyone he represents.

“People want this as an opportunity,” he said. “I can’t tell you how excited we are to kick-off our housing there — we’re re-

Enlisted graduates honored...
First POW/MIA event a success...
First leases signed for privatized base housing
Be prepared during Fire Prevention Week ...

In this Issue...
Future of AEDC workforce is in our hands

By Col. Michael Brewer

AEDC Commander

Last week, in response to a question from one of several valued team members, I was asked if I was ready to announce that the future of the AEDC workforce is in our hands.

In the military, we do not publicize plans until they are ready to be executed. The decision to make this announcement is based on the fact that we have the resources and the people to deliver the future.

The future of the AEDC workforce is a result of the collaborative efforts of all our employees. It is the result of our commitment to excellence and our dedication to providing the highest quality services to our customers.

As we continue to grow and evolve, we must ensure that our employees have the tools, resources, and support they need to succeed. We must also continue to invest in our people, both individually and as a team.

In the future, we will face new challenges and opportunities. We must be prepared to adapt and innovate to meet these challenges and抓住 opportunities.

This is not just a call to action for management, but for everyone who works here. Whether you are an engineer, a technician, a support staff member, or a business office employee, your actions and decisions will have an impact on our future.

To ensure that our future is a bright one, we must continue to work together as a team, to support each other, and to strive for excellence in all we do.

Thank you for your hard work and dedication. Together, we can make a difference in the future of the AEDC workforce.
By Shawn Jacobs

Aerospace Testing Alliance

After being at AEDC for almost a year, AEDC’s Chief of the Test Division, Col. William Bailey, has been honored with a promotion.

Col. Bailey’s well-earned new rank of Brigadier General was held by him and he was to report no later than September 15 to AEDC Headquarters to take command of the Technical Excellence Office (RTO) at Boeing AFB in Washington, D.C. Bailey is a native of Mahomet, Ill., and former Test Operations Branch chief Tom Fetterhoff will serve as interim AEDC Test Division commander until Bailey assumes his new duties. Col. Michael Brown, current AEDC Chief of Staff, Commanding General, will be up for this promotion.

Col. Bailey – who arrived at AEDC less than slightly more than a year, joined AEDC Commander Col. Michael Brewer in welcoming the graduating test technicians that comprised the AEDC’s second technical excellence poster session. Bailey stated that the Technical Excellence Office (RTO) at AEDC was formed to recognize and provide visibility for their work, “They’re a combination of a world-class ground testing center, it is not immune to constant budgetary scrutiny, which will only likely increase in the future,” Col. Bailey said. He also said the Department of Defense (DOD) and Air Force are both under budgetary scrutiny, so high-profile programs like the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter and the F-35 Raptor are being soldiered out and, if Congress does not get translated into cuts in cost and evaluation, he said, “It’s a very tough story [and] explaining the value to the acquisition community and the Air Force is something we can never do enough.”

Col. Bailey said, “I’ve been assigned to headquarter before and, in watching these things battle the only way to lose is to quit. ‘The only way to lose is to quit.’

In addition to the technical excellence program, Col. Bailey was recognized as a first place winner of the 2011 Technical Excellence Poster Session.

The Arnold Association of Scientists and Engineers (AASE) held a graduation ceremony for six enlisted personnel who received degrees this year.

The ceremony took place at Bolling AFB in Washington, D.C. and was attended by more than 100 people, including Tech. Sgt. Dennis Wolfe, education program manager, and was led by Maj. Gen. John D. Hert, Command, Associate of Applied Technical Sciences, Community College of the Air Force; and Senior Airman Eric Ball, financial services technician, Associate of Science in Financial Management, Community College of the Air Force; and Senior Airman Tara Roberson, technical technician, Associate of Applied Technical Sciences, Community College of the Air Force; and Master Sgt. Maj. S. Lawrence (Larry) Johnson, Jr., chief of the Education Leadership Center, Middle Tennessee State University; and Senior Master Sgt. Michael Allen, transportation specialist, Master of Business Administration, Middle Tennessee State University; and Tech. Sgt. David Wolborsky, weapons safety manager, Associate of Science in Munitions Systems Technology, Community College of the Air Force; Senior Airman Eric Ball, financial services technician, Associate of Applied Technical Sciences, Community College of the Air Force; and Senior Airman Nicole Wolfe, education program manager.

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**Right on target**

An A-10 Thunderbolt II from the U.S. Air Force Weapons School at Nellis AFB, Nev., drops a AGM-65 Maverick during a support training mission range, U.S. Air Force academics participate in many combat training missions over the NORTHERN GULF, 4 October 2011.

**NEAP 8-12 from page 1**

**AFCEA – Engineers at the Air Force**

AFCEA – Engineers at the Air Force, 1400 Wilson Blvd, Arlington, VA 22209, is on a mission to help save federal money and reduce energy use. One target is central heat plants, which have an efficiency that ruins what we call an efficiency "shameful," said Airman Kindermann, who has already signed her lease for the new housing. "I live in base housing. [Since] my first assignment I don’t really know what to expect, and that capability is required before treaties and test range availability issues," Sheehan said. "They are also very visible, with a failure possibility, resulting in the cancelation of a program. It is worth a significant investment in ground test infrastructure if it will al low for better down-select materials and improve material models in ground test programs rather than in hundreds of thousands.

Regarding H2’s trans formation into a segmented arc heater is far removed from the reality of what we’ve been working on a range of arc heater technologies which in turn, increases test efficiency. The "long term vision of this project is to be able to take the H2 segmented heater technology and replace the H2 facility with that same technology," she said. "The upgrade to the H2 facility will then provide the long run times in the mid-persistent run times."

"That capability is required for re-entry and boost glider vehicles. Provisions for ground testing will help to reduce the overall program risk.”

Reinholtz added, “This is a great day for both AFCESA and V&T Division and the Secretary of Defense Test and Technology [Advanced Propulsion Test Technology (APT)] Program. This funding is not ‘internal’ to AFCESA. It also shows worth- ing the goal of AFCESA is not to perform the H2 upgrade. That upgrade, if selected, would be funded by a CTST (Central Test and Evaluation Investment Program) project.”

Hypersonic flight test programs can easily cost $500 million per flight and are becoming more difficult to perform due to statutes and test range availability issues," Sheehan said. "They are also very visible, with a failure possibility, resulting in the cancelation of a program. It is worth a significant investment in ground test infrastructure if it will allow for better down-select materials and improve material models in ground test programs rather than in hundreds of thousands.”

All rights reserved. Heat plants for energy savings by Jennifer Elmore

Housing from page 4

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Amber Wolfe stands by the posters she created for a community awareness campaign about the dangers of texting while driving as part of her Girl Scout Gold Award project. Amber is the daughter of Shawn and Dee Wolfe, both of whom are AEDC employees. (Photo by Andrea Stump/SN)

The Girl Scout for Gold, crusades against texting while driving

By Shawn Jacobs
Aerospace Testing Alliance

The Gold Award, the equivalent of the Boy Scouts’ Eagle Scout award, is the highest honor a Girl Scout can achieve. The Girl Scout for Gold is made up of various components, which Amber is continuing to expand. She is especially focused on making her message available to the public and making the world a better place.

Amber Wolfe, 11-year-old Will and 10-year-old Katie, will miss AEDC and the community.

"They love it here and there were some long fac-

4ce – when orders came through because they had, in that short amount of time, made great friends both on and off base," he said. "They got involved in local soccer and school activities and have been doing well in the local schools."

Colleen Bailey said his family lived living on base and the nearby outdoor amenities.

"Having the lake right there was fantastic, whether hanging out on the beach or going up to the marina and checking out a boat," he said. "The Services guys have been wonderful. We loved their attitude and tried to take as much advantage of what they had to offer as much as we could."

Colleen Bailey said his departure is certainly bittersweet, but he is looking forward to his new assignment.

"My head’s still swim-

ming a little," he said. "It’s a bit of a letdown to have them no longer drive within the AEDC fenced area is prohibited. In addition, ATA, AEDC’s operating contractor, forbids the use of hands-free devices while driving on base. That prohibition extends to off base if employees are driving on company business. Amber said she’s always known it was dangerous, and research for her Girl Scout project has served to reinforce that danger in her mind. "Studies have proven that it’s as bad as having a blood alcohol content of 0.08," she said. "It reduces your brain activity by 37 percent when you’re texting while driving behind the wheel, so you’re distracted constantly."

"Even if you don’t look at the phone you still have to take your mind off of what you’re doing. You still have to look at the phone to read the text. "In the video it asks if you would close your eyes for six seconds going down the road. Reading a text is basically doing the same thing."

Amber’s parents are Shawn Wolfe, who works in executive support for AEDC’s Maintenance Division, and Dee Wolfe, AEDC education training specialist. Dee said she’s pleased that her daughter has embarked on the project.

"The fact that she learned how dangerous this makes all the difference in the world. If she doesn’t change the opinion of anybody else in the world, she changed her own opinion. That’s all that matters to me – that she is a safe driver and she comes home safe every night." Dee said she and Shawn

Amber is expected to complete her Girl Scout project in the spring in Nashville. Amber said they’ll give me either a ‘yes’ or a ‘no.’ If they say, ‘yes,’ there is an awards ceremony, probably in the spring in Nash-

ville. "I’ve been a Girl Scout for 15 years and I’ve gotten my Bronze and Silver Awards. I want to receive the highest award that a Girl Scout can get, which is the Gold Award.

"The Girl Scouts pro-
mote community service and making the world a better place and this Gold Award project is the epitome of it."
Milestones

INBOUND MILITARY
Capt. Peter Shore, AF

RETIRED
Larry Campbell, ATA
Curt Campbell, ATA

30 YEARS
Mark Ellis, ATA
Charles Mangino, ATA
Ray Schlegel, AF

25 YEARS
Richard Cox, ATA
Robert Grees, ATA
Troy Haywood, ATA
Sam McKeevy, ATA
Hugh Parris, ATA
Luther Rose, ATA
Bonnie Sherrill, ATA
Michael Shoran, ATA

20 YEARS
Thomas Cromer, ATA
Donald Curty, ATA
Thomas Engorno, ATA
Bobbie Hodge, ATA
James Massengill, ATA
Glenda Partin, ATA

15 YEARS
John Bowen

20 YEARS
Larry O’Neal, ATA
Jack Walters, AF

15 YEARS
Myra Kline, AF
Timothy Mastfield, ATA

5 YEARS
Peter Montgomery, ATA
Ronald Polce, AF

5 YEARS
Rickey Bruce, ATA
Michael Tyler, ATA

NEW HIRES
Marcus Conner, AF
Eric Marineau, AF
Peggy Proffitt, NAF
Jeffrey Waldo, ATA
Artious Walker, AF

Larry Campbell
35 years

October 7, 2011 • 7
B-2 model brought to life by machine programmers

By Patricia Arky & Shain Jacobson Aerospace Testing Alliance

To hear Paul Denton and Joel Gregory talk about it, the most important aspect of the one-tenth scale model of a B-2 was the skill of the guys who cut it. That’s why they consider most of what they do.

“Sometimes it’s not even getting real involved,” Gregory said. “But basically what we did was a simple process. We used the original models of the aircraft and we would take the parts that we had to cut and combine that with the ongoing optimization at using during the course of planning, design, fabrication, testing, computations and analysis. Combining that with the people that worked with the B-2 with the COTS (commercial off-the-shelf) software is used to produce the images and processes that we needed.

“From the B-2, the B-2 state-”

Joe Gregory, an ATA numerical control programmer in AEDC’s Model Shop, explains how he programmed more than a dozen different machines to cut chunks of metal into parts that made up the B-2 model used in store separation testing at AEDC. (Photo by Philip Lowry)

Model shop machines to determine the best position to cut the blocks of metal into the final product. After developing a game plan, Denton and Gregory started generating programs that would trace the path an aerodynamicist used to make rough initial cuts of the metal and eventually finish cuts.

Denton and Gregory’s programs generate coordinates on a three-dimensional plane. Those coordinates tell the cutting tools where paths to cut into the metal.

If it’s a text article, it’s too tight, it can block enough of the airplane to the wind tunnel to adversely affect the test.

“The total blockage of the model is one of the things we were concerned about,” said TF Thompson, AFA project engineer.

“Very, very tight,” said another engineer.

“We have done this before, but there isn’t a lot of simple optical set-up consistency, pseudo-freestream testing means that we can get results that we’re looking for in an aerodynamicist’s perspective,” said TF Thompson.

“We’re doing the aerodynamic testing of a complex structure to support that engineering judgment.”

The guys did a great job in making any errant cuts that could affect the test.

“Once it came through, from the AFMC to the organizations and their contractors makes it something the public might not be totally aware of,” Harvey said. “We’re here almost 25 years and I have been involved in the project.”

“They’re kind of the unnoticed heroes,” Bishop said. “The work that we did, what came out of Scott Wieland, making them put the numbers in, putting them in, checking and double-checking, making any errant cuts that could affect the test.”

“I feel like I have very, very committed to it and then just had to work out the schedule to make everything work out right,” Harvey said. “They say they weren’t worried about getting the part finished on time, but they had enough to keep them busy.”

“The fact that they wanted it to be this specific material, and the fact that it’s made mainly of aluminum was helpful to the guys.”

“There isn’t a lot of simplicity with it, it’s that helped out a lot, too,” he said. “The job was enormous and to show it here, that short of a time frame that we had come together correctly took a lot of work.

And the fact that the model is a legacy aircraft like the B-2, Harvey said, “Well, that just made the project more exciting.

“I think everybody’s impressed by the B-2,” Harvey said. “I think that there’s not a real concern.”

“The Global Strike Command has a requirement to put weapons on the B-2. This is a requirement that the B-2 that historically has not been flown and has historically had a completely Global Positioning System (GPS)weapons package. We have flown the (Miniature Air Launch De-

“After developing a game plan, Denton and Gregory started generating programs that would trace the path an aerodynamicist used to make rough initial cuts of the metal and eventually finish cuts.

Denton and Gregory’s programs generate coordinates on a three-dimensional plane. Those coordinates tell the cutting tools where paths to cut into the metal.

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Joe Gregory, an ATA numerical control programmer in AEDC’s Model Shop, explains how he programmed more than a dozen different machines to cut chunks of metal into parts that made up the B-2 model used in store separation testing at AEDC. (Photo by Philip Lowry)
AEDC POW/MIA event raises nearly $2,000

It was one of the first cool, wet days of fall.

The first day of AEDC workers from springing Sept. 15 recognizing those who have been left behind in the nation’s conflicts.

Members of the AEDC Honor Guard presented the POW/MIA flag at the recognition ceremony on base. The flag was carried around the base running track throughout the day in honor of Americans who took part in the nation’s conflicts and are still missing.

Senior Airman Tara Kindermann stands ready to take POW/MIA fund donations from AEDC workers during lunch time Sept. 15. The food, T-shirt sales and individual donations totaled nearly $2,000 for the local POW/MIA chapter and the National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia.

AEDC Commander Col. Michael Brewer and 1st Lt. Jamie Gurganus take the POW/MIA flag on its first lap around the base running track. Throughout the day, other supporters took turns carrying the flag around the track to raise awareness and funds for POW/MIA efforts.

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AEDC Commander Col. Michael Brewer speaks to AEDC employees during a POW/MIA recognition ceremony held on Sept. 15. More than 100 employees walked around the base running track and made donations totaling close to $2,000 for the local POW/MIA chapter and the National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia.
Last Friday Trivia Contest
4:30 – 6:30 p.m. on October 20. Teams of five are encouraged to try for some of the biggest prizes in the Arnold AFB Golf Course. Cell phones are permitted during the contest, but a maximum of one cell phone per cell is allowed. A group of five can purchase for $15.00. A trivia question will be asked every 15 minutes and a group of five will be disqualified if they do not respond to the question. A maximum of two groups of five can participate in this event. Each group of five will be allowed to participate in the contest. At the end of the contest, the group of five will be given prizes for top finishers.

Movie nights are every Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. and dinner available from the Express Pizza or from 5-8 p.m. on October 13, 20 – 21, and 27. Call 454-3350 to reserve a seat for an event. Check out the movie list and see what’s coming up.

On October 13, Captain America: The First Avenger will be shown. Typically, we think of Captain America as being defined only for military service. Steve Rogers volunteers for the military and turns into Captain America, an agent of the government and protector of America’s ideals. The look of the First Avenger is a big-hearted comedy about the worst and the funniest in people. Funerals bring out the best, the worst, and the x-factor. The people who are in attendance cannot help but cry. The Mourners are the most interesting people. The living have to be so good for you? Dewey Frye and his family have to learn about healthy living. We’ll learn about healthy living. We’ll learn about healthy living. We’ll learn about healthy living. We’ll learn about healthy living. We’ll learn about healthy living. We’ll learn about healthy living. We’ll learn about healthy living. We’ll learn about healthy living. We’ll learn about healthy living. We’ll learn about healthy living. 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Fire Prevention Week is Oct. 9-15

AEDC Fire Prevention Office Reinforces Newer Smoke Alarm Recommendations

By Daryl VanCise

What’s the best way to protect your family from fire? Be ahead of the game, according to the nonprofit National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), your best defense is a good offense.

This year’s campaign, “It’s Fire Prevention Week. Protect your Family from Fire!” focuses on preventing the leading causes of home fires; cooking, heating and electrical equipment, as well as candles and smoking materials.

Additionally, it urges people to protect their homes and families with life-saving technology and planning.

In 2009, 2,565 people died in home fires. Nearly all of these deaths could have been prevented by taking a few simple precautions like having working smoke alarms and a home fire escape plan, keeping things that can burn away from the stove and always turning off space heaters before going to bed.

Fire is a dangerous opponent, but by anticipating the hazards, you are much less likely to be one of the nearly 1,000 Americans injured in home fires each year.

The AEDC Fire Prevention Office offers the following tips for protecting your home and family from fire:

• Stay in the kitchen while you’re frying, grilling, or broiling food. If you leave the kitchen for even a short period of time, turn off the stove.

• Install smoke alarms inside each bathroom, outside each sleeping area, and on every level of the home (including the basement).

• To disconnect all smoke alarms in the home when one sounds, they all sound. Test smoke alarms at least monthly and replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old or sooner if they do not respond when tested.

• Make sure everyone in your household knows how to respond if the smoke alarm sounds.

• Pull together everyone in your household and make a plan. Walk through your home and inspect all possible ways out.

• Blow out all candles when you leave the room or go to bed. Avoid the use of candles in the bedroom and other areas where people may fall asleep.

While preventing home fires is always the number one priority, it is not always easy, that’s why it is so important to provide the best protection to keep fires and property safe in the event of a fire.

This can be achieved by developing an escape plan which you practice regularly and equipping homes with life-saving technologies like smoke alarms and home fire sprinklers.

The following tips will help keep your family safe if there is a fire in your home:

• Install smoke alarms inside each bathroom, outside each sleeping area, and on every level of the home (including the basement).

• Interconnect all smoke alarms in the home so when one sounds, they all sound. Test smoke alarms at least monthly and replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old or sooner if they do not respond when tested.

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WASHINGTON (AFNS) - It’s a wonder-ful thing that people that he’s worked with that have made 43 years in the Air Force such a great experience, said Wil-liam Davidson.

Davidson, the admin-istrative assistant to the secretary of the Air Force, will retire in a ceremony here Sept. 30.

"They always say you’ll look back to say ‘I wish I did that,” said Davidson. “I want to know when I’m going to die so I can make the transition as smooth as possible. My goal is to be able to fit the air school sweethearts, and my calls are to go to to the to the family by looking at my grandchildren’s games.

Looking back Davidson said his love of the Air Force, and of the skies, began an early age. His father was a veteran World War II flyer and a commercial pilot. Davidson said he also wanted to be a pilot in the Air Force, but his eyesight was too poor.

The backup plan was to keep the Air Force in his future and integrate another of his interests law enforce-ment.

"A position with (Air Force Office of Special Investigations) seemed to be the best of both worlds,” he said.

Just seven days after graduating from Florida State University’s ROTC program, he was offered a position as a polygrapher with AFOSI.

At AFOSI, Davidson worked his way into lead-ership positions, eventu-ally becoming the chief of the Air Force Polygraph Program. He also in-ducted into the AFOSI Hall of Fame.

Pewter-bright as a colo-nel in 1990, he served as the deputy for security and investigative programs with the Office of the Administra-tive Assistant. Entering the civilian service im-mEDIATELY after his military retirement, he first served as the deputy administrative assistant until 1994 when he assumed the administrative assistant position.

Among a multitude of reponsibilites, the admin-istrative assistant is also the senior career civilian advisor to the secretary of the Air Force.

A mentor

Throughout his career, 22 years in uniform and 21 as a senior executive service civilian, Davidson said he has worked hard to follow the examples of those who helped him find his way to success.

"When I was coming into the service there were a lot of the World War II veterans who were still in the service who showed me the ropes, mentoring me,” he said. “Mentorship has always been a part of my Air Force experience."

Davidson grew from mentor to mentor.

"He’s the person people constantly seek out for ad-vice,” said Doug Thomas, the former National Counter-terroism intelligence principal deputy director, one of Da-vinson’s mentors.

Tim Beyland, the Air Force Office of Special Investigations Assistant Director of Staff for manpower and personnel, said he is still learning from Davidson in preparation for taking over Davidson’s duties. Beyland has been selected to be the next administrative assis-tant to the secretary.

Adaptation

Davidson has said he not only helped his mentees and co-workers deal with security-related issues throughout his career, he also witnessed many social, technological and political changes that have caused the Air Force to evolve.

In the beginning of my career, I saw the breaking down of racial barriers, then came the introduction of women into the service, and more recently the some-what daunting task to integra-te all." "The Air Force needs to adjust to the new social and technological changes that other branches of service do, and we adjust well.”

Davidson helped senior leaders in the Air Force and the Defense Department deal with the biggest secu-rity adjustments in recent history – security issues in a post-9/11 world.

"(Davidson) has funda-mentally changed the way the Defense Department looks at a security issue," Beyland said. "He has changed it from dealing with an indi-vidual security incident to coming up with a concept that prevents the incident from happening." "You watch how he navigates through so many technical areas and comes up with an ideal solution for whatever scenario you think of,” said Robert Core, David-son’s deputy. "He just has the ability to understand the dynamics of a situation and is able to assimilate all that information and navigate a way ahead, no matter how complicated the issue," said Core. Davidson’s testament to the Air Force is that his complete assimilation of all that he does provides the ability to understand the Air Force of the future and integrate another of his interests law enforce-ment.

"A position with (Air Force Office of Special Investigations) seemed to be the best of both worlds,” he said. "As I look up and down these halls, I see people who I’ve mentioned are now leading the Air Force, and who hap-pen to be good friends. The Airman is coming in at really bright and smart.”

Retirement

William Davidson, the administrative assistant to the secretary of the Air Force, prepares for an incentive retirement at an F-16 Fighting Falcon from the 555th Fighter Squadron at Aviano Air Base, Italy. Davidson retires Sept. 30 after more than 17 years as the administrative assistant. (Secretary of the Air Force)
ROBINS AFB, Ga. — Robins AFB is testing a smarter data-tracking system, which if fully implemented, could help the base reach its energy reduction goals and save fuel.

The Automotive Information Module 2, or AIM2, is an upgrade to the current way the military issues fuel and tracks fuel costs in government vehicles. With the new system, once a driver inserts the gas nozzle in the vehicle’s fuel tank, the vehicle and fuel pump exchange information through wireless communication and the pump starts to distribute the fuel.

In January the system was approved for testing in 13 to 17 of the more than 100 vehicles at Robins, and should improve the accuracy of tracking the information, said 1st Lt. Mohamed Savage, 78th Logistics Readiness Squadron Fuels Flight officer in charge. “AIM2 removes human error from the data collection process,” he said. “For instance, when refueling, drivers would sometimes improperly use one fuel key to refuel multiple vehicles, or would input the incorrect mileage resulting in inaccurate mileage-per-gallon data.”

But AIM2 will do more than track fuel cost. The upgrade will capture data on fuel use, improve asset visibility and help monitor maintenance. Further, with a tie to sensors installed at each gate, the system can better track a government vehicle’s off-base use, which is important for federal excise taxes. According to Savage, due to the base’s inability to document accurate off-base use in the past, the installation had to pay more in taxes than necessary. “If a vehicle was driven off base just once, the installation had to pay excise tax for the entire quarter,” Savage said.

New tracking system helps cut gas cost at Robins

By Geoff Janes

78th Air Base Wing