AEDC tunnel back online after $33 million upgrade

The AEDC wind tunnel 4T, known for store separation testing as well as conventional sting-mounted force and pressure model testing, is now back online after a $33 million facility upgrade effort. The work was funded by the Test Investment Planning and Programming (TIPP) and the Direct Budget Authority (DBA) programs.

The upgrade to the tunnel extends the range of testing capability for store separation testing to above 1000 psf (up to ~2000 psf), provides the ability for improved operational flexibility and control of the nozzle, and the new data system is now common to the Von Karman Facility tunnels at AEDC with post-processing capabilities both on- and offline, according to Greg Young, Air Force program manager and Jon Sauls, AEDC program manager.

The facility was down for two years as part of the upgrade and the tunnel was stripped down, new systems were installed, and extensive system and tunnel air-on checks were accomplished. New systems installed included nozzle control/actuators, new systems to control nozzle positions, new control systems and tunnel nozzle/actuators.

West said, “The intent of implementing CTFs is to push the integration and simulation of those three parts to a lower echelon, enabling quicker decisions, more timely action, and more efficient test execution. It also pushes decisions about balancing minor and major issues to the lower echelon, where they can be handled more efficiently within the test execution process.”

“It has always taken these three parts, plus the contractor, to successfully execute a test,” West said. “It’s not about fixing something that’s broken but about taking something that works and making it work better,” Col. Tim West, Senior Materiel Leader and Chief of Test Operations Division at AEDC, said regarding the transition to a team-centric Combined Test Force (CTF) structure with greater hands-on involvement by government engineers.

West defined a CTF as being “a cohesive unit at the mission level, comprised of government and contractor personnel from different organizations, aligned through one chain of command with the resources, authority, responsibility and accountability to accomplish its test mission.”

He explained that testing at the Complex has always consisted of three parts working together: the Test Operating Division, which is charged with planning, authorizing, and leading the test execution; the Test Support Division, which handles the instrumentation and data collection; and the Test Sustainment Division, which operates the facilities that make the test possible.

“Engineers announce National Engineers Week plans Preparing local students for new horizons

Engineers announce National Engineers Week plans Preparing local students for new horizons

Committee members with various professional engineer societies are completing arrangements for scheduled events that will prepare local students in “Engineering New Horizons,” which is the theme of the 2015 Engineers Week, Feb. 22-28.

Local events for the week include a MathCounts competition, a student design competition, an Engineer-for-a-Day program and a banquet.

The MathCounts competition is at 10 a.m. on Feb. 27 at the University of Tennessee Space Institute. The competition, which is open to local middle school students, challenges matheletes to solve problems, that if answered correctly, could advance them to the state competition. The winning team will be recognized at the Engineers Week Banquet.

High school teams will participate in the Student Design Competition at the Hands-On-Science Center in Tullahoma on Feb. 24. Tenth through 12th grade students design, build and compete their designs against other teams. The winners will be given kits with identical materials and will have one and a half hours to design, build and test.

Prizes will be awarded to the top three scoring teams. Engineer-for-a-day is Feb. 26. Engineer-oriented, junior and senior high school students will tour AEDC, have lunch and then go with a mentor to observe engineers at work. Some students will stay at AEDC, others will visit companies in the local area.

“Engineers announce National Engineers Week plans Preparing local students for new horizons

The AEDC African American Heritage Committee hosted a remembrance walk on Jan. 15 at AEDC, celebrating the sacrifices of civil rights leaders Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Medgar Evers. The event was also partly an acknowledgment of King’s birthday, which is observed on Jan. 15.

The theme for the event was “Remember! Celebrate! Act! ... A Day On, Not a Day Off,” which focuses on community service to all individuals. Scan the QR code with this photo using an android device to view a video from the walk or visit the Arnold AFB Facebook Page – http://on.fb.me/102XKLz. (Photo by Rick Goodfriend)

By Deidre Ortiz
ATA Public Affairs

By Kathy Gattis
ATA Public Affairs

By Raquel March
ATA Public Affairs

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Innovation Grant Program implemented at AEDC

By Col. Raymond Toth

AEDC was excited this past year to actively participate in the DoD’s 2013-2015 Innovation Grant Program. The purpose of the grant program is to support the development of innovative processes, tools, and techniques to improve the affordability, productivity, and capability of DoD’s complex programs.

The AEDC has been very proactive in participating in this program, and at this writing, we have two applications pending and one of the projects is moving forward for funding. AEDC’s late spring/early summer brainstorming session also produced many of our future grant proposals.

As a result, the AEDC’s Quality Assurance Office has created a webpage to share information about innovative projects at AEDC. This website can be accessed via the AEDC intranet home page, and by searching for “AEDC Innovation Grant Program.”

By AEDC Safety, Health and Environmental Office

Do you have an immediate concern about the safety of a product or workplace? Perhaps you’re looking for a little more information about the substance? The challenges of daily life can affect our work, our family life, and our health. To provide support during these times, AEDC offers employees a no-cost, around-the-clock, confidential hotline known as AEDC-EAP.

This hotline includes access to free, confidential counseling for employees, their eligible dependents and household members who are experiencing personal or work-related problems.

Don’t let minor concerns become major problems. Learn to control your anger before it goes beyond your control. Do you suffer from PTSD or one of many other mental health issues? AEDC offers counseling services, here’s how to contact EAP: You will be asked a series of questions to identify your best level of support. This may include self-help programs for substance-related problems, the products. There should be no Republican or Democrat in the process, tools, and technology we use to communicate for the long-term benefit of the nation’s best value ground support and asset stewardship. This is not a program that supports or encourages an opinion. The products. There should be no Republican or Democrat in the process, tools, and technology we use to communicate for the long-term benefit of the nation’s best value ground support and asset stewardship.

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The complex’s vision: Do the right thing; care deeply; excel; make it all better.

The Air Force issued a new list of tobacco use restrictions.

By Staff Sgt. Jakob Anthony

BASSETT AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. (AFNS) – A free drug and alcohol help line went online Jan. 19, 2015, for Airmen at a military installation here.

Lying in wait for the caller is a dedicated, professional guidance counselor who can provide the assistance and support needed to make positive changes in their lives.

This program was launched in response to a DoD initiative to reduce drug and alcohol misuse and to complement existing Airmen program efforts to help service members get the care they need.

This new service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and is free and confidential.

The confidential line is a toll-free number for Airmen and their families who are interested in making positive changes in their lives.

Confidentiality is a core value of the substance misuse intervention process. It is not simply a different set of programs with minimal impact. Existing programs could be eliminated even if they were removed. Thanks for continuing to help make AEDC and the USAF strong and the nation’s best value in the world at doin.
We display Gracious Practice. What we discover is more about communication of ideas and performance and quality improvements to develop suggestions within and beyond our company. The ATA suggestion program is designed to encourage employee participation in creative and allowing us to host the event the best. At the qualifying event held in Nashville, the winning team competed for a chance to attend the state competition. The top overall teams were chosen to compete in the Tennessee Championship at Tennessee Tech University (TTU) in Cookeville. 

The arena teams that will be moving on to the next round include the Champions of Slavichville; Warwood Middle School of Manchester; Thomas Magnet School of Shelbyville; the Comet Counties from Colville Street Elementary in Manch-ester and Cooper Robotics Team from Manchester; Brick Crafters from Murfreesboro; Challenge Academy from Central Middle School in Murfrees-boro; and the Lego Masters from Clarksville Middle School in Tullahoma. Brick Dynasty from Murfrees- 

The FIRST® LEGO® League (FLL™) of Middle Tennessee, which is sponsored by AEDC, recently held the Tennessee Regional Qualifying Tournament.

 Roughly 400 people were a Tullahoma High School tennis team watching, or participating in this year’s qualifying tournament, which was the official sanctioned by FLL and sponsored by the Tullahoma Chapter of the Tennessee Society of Professional Engineers (TSPB).

Brian Coate, a member of the Tullahoma High School local tournament director, stated, “The tournament has grown dramatically over the last few years. Our FLL event started seven years ago at Lipscomb University at West Middle School,” he said. “From there we moved to UTI for a year, then to East Middle School for about 4 years. Once we opened East Middle School, we have had a large turnout. I think the FLL and the tournament in general is beneficial to the person- nel who submit the sug- gestions as well as the company.”

“The Employee Sugges- tion Program in the area is des- ignated to encourage em- ployees to take a creative initiative within and beyond their basic job require- ments and suggest im- provements that improve the productivity and efficiency of the company’s work while achieving AEDC’s Mission and Objectives,” Vanzant said. “It also establishes open com- munication of ideas and maximizes employee tal-ents.”

Suggestions may qual- ify for monetary rewards. If tangible suggestions result in cost savings or avoiding expenses, that employee is eligible to receive 10 percent of the first year’s annualized sav- ings with a maximum of $3,000. Approved intangible suggestions, where cost of savings is involved, can result in employee rewards from $25 to $100. Suggestions should be submitted through the My AEDC Employee Sugges- tion Program from GC-1570, Cost savings or avoid- ing expenses, where no cost incurs, result in a monetary award from $25 to $100. Suggestions to develop these suggestions, where no cost incurs, result in a monetary award from $25 to $100. Suggestions to develop suggestions, where no cost incurs, result in an award from $25 to $100. Suggestions to develop suggestions, where no cost incurs, result in an award from $25 to $100. Suggestions to develop suggestions, where no cost incurs, result in an award from $25 to $100. Suggestions to develop suggestions, where no cost incurs, result in an award from $25 to $100. Suggestions to develop suggestions, where no cost incurs, result in an award from $25 to $100. Suggestions to develop suggestions, where no cost incurs, result in an award from $25 to $100. Suggestions to develop suggestions, where no cost incurs, result in an award from $25 to $100. Suggestions to develop suggestions, where no cost incurs, result in an award from $25 to $100. Suggestions to develop suggestions, where no cost incurs, result in an award from $25 to $100. Suggestions to develop suggestions, where no cost incurs, result in an award from $25 to $100.
AFRL engineers awarded for fostering innovation, teamwork

By Leslie Klein

Secretary of the Air Force Acquisition Excellence and Change Office

W R I G H T - P A T T E R S O N A I R F O R C E BASE, Ohio (AFNS) – Two Air Force electronics engineers received the 2014 National Security and International Affairs Medal for saving the lives of Soldiers in Afghanistan by creating and deploying a new aerial sensor system to help U.S. Army and special forces units detect and dispose of explosive devices.

Ben Tran and Sean Young, both from the Center for Rapid Innovation in the Air Force Research Laboratory at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, were honored recently by the Partnership for Public Service with one of the Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Medal (SAMMIES). The SAMMIES are presented annually to honor members of the federal workforce who have made significant contributions to the United States. Recipients are selected based on criteria including commitment, innovation and the impact of their work on the nation as a whole.

Tran and Young led the development, testing and deployment of sensors, which were placed on unmanned aerial vehicles. In the first fifteen months of their first deployment, with new unmanned aerial system (SUAS) technology in support of an Army division in Afghanistan, no Soldiers in the unit were killed by roadside bombs. The second implementation has been in place for the past year and has exposed many IEDs and other malicious acts against coalition forces.

“Miniature radio frequency sensors, which have increased sensing coverage over traditional SUAS technology, were inserted on the aircraft and enabled complete visibility on the range. This innovative technology was the first to use radio frequency sensors together with electro-optical and infrared sensors in this manner,” Tran said.

Tran and Young attribute much of their success to the relationships developed with their customers and integrated teams. By attending their customers’ exercises and mission briefings, they developed a foundational understanding of the missions and the tools currently in existence to address the missions and find the gaps.

“At the beginning, it’s difficult for anyone to establish a relationship with the customer,” Tran said. “But working with leadership and other senior engineers, we were able to make the initial connections and continue to develop relationships.”

Now, they receive phone calls from returning special forces who provide feedback on their systems and where they could make improvements.

“We’ll take that feedback and we’ll try to look back into our systems,” Tran said. “We’re using the customer feedback to develop the systems.”

Tran and Young attribute much of their success to the relationships developed with their customers and integrated teams. By attending their customers’ exercises and mission briefings, they developed a foundational understanding of the missions and the tools currently in existence to address the missions and find the gaps.

“It takes the right mindset,” Young added. “You have to appreciate the work that’s required and understand where you need to go and how you need to get there. We follow the same processes as everybody else. Just having these relationships help make our processes move faster.”

“Putting people together with unlike minds where they have different backgrounds, different experiences, and different appreciations really fuels innovation,” Young continued. “We’re taking engineers, and put them directly in the room with people who speak their days fighting wars, and ask how we can take their experience and our technology and provide them the tools they need to go and how you need to get there.”

“We make the team as inclusive as possible. It’s not just the engineers and program managers. It includes the finance folks and the contracting officers and the security team. We really try to include everybody in all aspects, even if we know they have no equity on a certain part of the program. We give them a briefing on exactly what the system is and why it’s important, which goes a long way in fostering a holistic team approach where everyone is motivated by the common purpose.”

The team knows that due to the nature of their rapid acquisition work, everything they do needs to be done “yesterday.”

AFRL makes a donation to Huntland High School

The ATA Employee and Community Activities Committee (E&CAC) recently made a $500 donation to Huntland High School to support their Math department, the Chromic technology initiative, Project Graduation and the baseball team.

Pictured left to right is the school’s Principal William Bishop II, baseball coach Michael Tippas, E&CAC representative Andrea Stephens, math teacher Rebecca Walker and guidance counselor Pam Joynt. (Photo by J.C. Stephens)

Cowan Football program receives ATA donation

The Cowan Lions Football program receives a $150 donation from the ATA Employee and Community Activities Committee (E&CAC). Pictured left to right are program volunteers Joshua and Amanda Kelly, E&CAC representative Andrea Stephens, Cowan Lions Football program President Sammy Shedd and the program treasurer Wayne Smith. (Photo by Kylee Stephens)
The 2014 Engineers Week Student Design Competition team members Grant Rigney (left) and Becca White (right) from Tullahoma High School prepare their vehicle to hit a target. They were awarded third place in the 2014 competition on Feb. 18 at the Hands on Science Center in Tullahoma. (Photo by Rick Goodfriend)

The transition was ‘right’ and ‘right’ and ‘right’ change; often, it has been more of a jump on, with the contractors playing an active role and the integrators playing a supporting role. West noted, “The success of the transition depends on the integrator when we go live. The integrator must work with the customer on test sequencing and real-time data analysis; in general, they have a more active leadership role. This role will grow as the number of support contracts grows in October.”

West added that although the Department of Defense and Air Force may be taking a more hands-on role in the testing at AEDC, “The contractors still have the same voice.”

“With the Air Force they will continue the lead in the CTF structure on Oct. 1 of last year. The CTEs are expected to be fully operational by the end of the fiscal year. We need to work the bugs out of the CTF concept now so that we will be ready to take on the integration role in nine months. Getting the CTF right today will save us from the transition right in October.”

AEDC’s bottom line, West said, “It’s really about taking a base that has done a tremendous job for the warfighter for the years, and making it better. I truly believe that five years from now when we look back at what we’ve accomplished, we’ll all agree that the growing pain we experienced during this transition was worthwhile, because we will deliver a better product to the warfighter.”

Turning to the future, West noted that AEDC is now focused on the 2015 Engineers Week Student Design Competition and the upcoming AEDC’s calendar of events.

Engineers Week begins on January 26, 2015.
Bomber force prepares for B-52 bomb bay upgrade testing

EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. (AFNS) – Since the Air Force’s decision in 2013 to increase the B-52H Stratofortress fleet’s effectiveness and versatility by increasing the aircraft’s smart weapon capacity by over 50 percent, teams from Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma, Boeing, and now Edwards AFB, have partnered up to begin developmental testing on the bombers newest upgrade.

This new upgrade comes in the form of a Conventional Rotary Launcher (CRL), which members from the 419th Flight Test Squadron, the Global Power Bomber Combined Test Force and Boeing installed on an Edwards AFB B-52H this past December.

The upgrade modifies the internal weapon bay of the B-52H by integrating a CRL that has the capability of carrying Military Standard 1760 “smart weapons.” Capt. Ryan Hefron, a B-52 test pilot at the 419th Flight Test Squadron, said the new CRL will be able to carry Joint Direct Attack Munitions with the first increment and with future increments we’ll be able to carry Joint Air-to-Surface Standoff Missiles and Miniature Air-Launched Decoy.

“One of the benefits of the 1760 upgrade is it brings a lot of capability to the B-52, we don’t currently have on the aircraft,” said Capt. Ryan Hefron, a B-52 test pilot at the 419th FLTS. “We weren’t able to carry smart weapons inside the bomb bay, but now with the new CRL, we’ll be able to carry Joint Direct Attack Munitions with the first increment and with future increments we’ll be able to carry Joint Air-to-Surface Standoff Missiles and Miniature Air-Launched Decoy.”

According to Lupton, the addition of smart weapons capability to the internal weapon bays allows the bomber to respond with accuracy and flexibility in real time to the warfighter’s needs.

“The upgrade adds capabilities while remaining affordable by adapting existing technology for use with the smart weapons bay,” Lupton said. “By providing smart weapons capability in the bay (the bomber can be employed in a clean wing configuration, (meaning) no weapons on the external pylons, thus increasing its range and loiter time.”

The increased carriage of smart weapons would allow the B-52 to engage more targets precisely compared to the unguided bombs currently approved for bay carriage, Hefron said.

“By being able to integrate smart weapons in the bay, we can prosecute more targets, more precisely, while minimizing collateral damage,” Hefron said. “It will allow us to perform direct attack, provide close air support for our Army brethren on the ground and be able to execute our overall mission more effectively and efficiently. With future increments, our strategic attack capability will be enhanced, which is the cornerstone of the B-52; by being able to perform long range strikes and carry smart weapons in the bay.”

At the conclusion of the upgrade, all B-52s will be modified with this unique capability and the aircraft will be available for employment by Air Force combatant commanders, Lupton said.

Begin with a new good habit

By AEDC Safety, Health and Environmental Office

When most of us hear the word “habit,” negative thoughts pop into our minds. But a habit is simply a practice we’ve adopted over time. Through repetition, it becomes a part of our lives – for better or for worse.

The problems with a bad habit is that once it takes hold, it won’t let go. It is usually harder to break a bad habit than it was to build it in the first place.

The best way to get rid of a bad habit is replace it with a good one.

Good habits, like any other skill, require practice; they’re gained one step at a time. Once acquired, a good habit becomes a kind of “autopilot,” keeping us on a steady course, moving us closer to our goals and improving our skills.

If the answer is “No,” we need to start change today – one step at a time.

Team members from the 419th Flight Test Squadron, the Global Power Bomber Combined Test Force and Boeing installed a Conventional Rotary Launcher (CRL) December 2014, on a B-52H Stratofortress from Edwards Air Force Base, Calif. The upgrade modifies the internal weapon bay of the B-52H by integrating a CRL that has the capability of carrying Military Standard 1760 “smart weapons.” (U.S. Air Force photo/Bobbi Zepke)
Explore ‘movie star’ C-17, on national museum of the U.S. Air Force app, virtual tour

DAYTON, Ohio – As you take a 360-degree tour inside the cockpit of the C-17 on display at the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force, you’ll notice items you’d see to many aircraft — cargo seats, a pullit, even a bumper sticker that says “I love flying.” But look closer and you’ll see something a little more unusual on the aircraft.

In addition to its unique role as a flight test aircraft, C-17 was also a Hollywood star. It appeared in several movies.

The aircraft is also available on the museum’s interactive 360-degree virtual tour, which allows users to explore the museum at their leisure through factsheets, supplemental information and educational tools based on the museum’s collection. The tour is available at www.museumformiltary.com. A list of links to the interior images is available at www.museumofaviation.mil/virtual-tour/cockpit猀ap.

The museum is home to the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force, located at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base near Dayton, Ohio, is the world’s largest military aviation museum. With free admission and parking, the museum features more than 360 aerospace vehicles and missiles and thousands of artifacts, facts and areas of indoor exhibit space. Each year about one million visitors from around the world come to the museum. For more information, visit www.nationalmuseum.af.mil.

Air Force app, virtual tour

By Anami Lyle
Air Force Media Activity

WASHINGTON (AP) – In their re- marks during the State of the Air Force address Jan. 13, Air Force Secretary Dr. Eric Fanning and the Air Force chief of staff, Gen. Mark Welsh, highlighted the service’s vision and strategy to bring the service’s research, science and technology ideas to the Defense Innovation Initiative – led by Deputy Secretary of Defense Mr. Christopher Wray.

Gen. Mark Welsh III, the air chief of staff, said the overall vision real- ized will help the Air Force and each of the service’s reduce costs, maintain technological edge and enhance the procurement process. Under the secret- ary’s guidance, the AFRL is now putting together a new strategic master plan that includes an enhanced approach that is purely sci- ence and technology ideas to the Defense Innovation Initiative – led by Deputy Secretary of Defense Dr. Christopher Wray.

Air Force brings ideas to Defense Innovation Initiative

By Barbara McGuire
AEDC Woman’s Club

The ladies of the AEDC Woman’s Club (WC) are seeking warmer weather and will soon bring spring fashion shows to the Feb. 3 meeting at the Arnold Lakeside Center. The social hour of the meeting starts at 9:30 a.m. with the business meeting and program beginning at 10 a.m. Reservations and can- cellations for the Feb. 3 meeting must be made by noon, Jan. 27. You may make reservations or cancellations by calling 931-362-4152.

Table donations at the January meeting were $150 which will be donated to the Good Samaritan of Franklin County. Table donations for the February meeting will go toward the Coffee County Anti-Drug Coali- tion and the Coffee County Children’s Advocacy Cen- ter (CAC). The CAC will use the funds for the 2015 Unit – Building Strong Families Conference on March 4-5 at the National Guard Readiness Center in Tullahoma. The social hour of the meeting starts at 9:30 a.m. with the business meeting and program beginning at 10 a.m. Reservations and can--cellations for the Feb. 3 meeting must be made by noon, Jan. 27. You may make reservations or cancellations by calling 931-362-4152.

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Tennessee Space Week, Jan. 25-31:
A 57-year review of testing space systems at AEDC

The Tennessee Education Association (TEA) created Tennessee Space Week (TSW) in 1986 to honor the life and teaching of National Education Association member Christa McAuliffe, who was aboard the Challenger as America’s first teacher in space, when it disintegrated 73 seconds into its flight. Activities are co-sponsored by the TEA, the Tennessee Space Grant Consortium, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). The TSW originated in 1986.

AEDC has played a key role in providing essential testing for the U.S. space program. Here is a list of major space projects AEDC has supported:

50s
- Atlas • Discover • Manned Orbiting Laboratory (MOL) • Gemini • Saturn V • Titan II • Vanguard

60s
- Apollo • DynaSoar • Gemini • Scout • Skylab • Titan III • Titan 34D • Transtage • Voyager • Viking

70s
- Erin • Fleet Satellite Communications System (FLTSATCOM) • Navigation System Timing and Ranging (NAVSTAR) Global Positioning Satellite • Space Transportation System (Space Shuttle) • Star 12-48
Tennessee Space Week, Jan. 25-31:
A 57-year review of testing space systems at AEDC

80s
- Interim Upper Stage (IUS) • Payload Assist Module (PAM) • Intelstat VI

00s
- Crew Exploration Vehicle (CEV) • Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite - M (GOES-M) • Mars Lander • Mars Science Laboratory • Orion

10s
- GOES-M
- HiFEX vehicle
- CASTOR® 30XL

90s
- Cassini Huygens
- International Space Station
- Pathfinder

International Space Station • Evolved Expendable Launch Vehicle (EELV) • Cassini Huygens • Pathfinder