On Feb. 2 in Etty, Aria, engineers performed air drop testing on sub-scale parachutes for the NASA Orion spacecraft. The test was meant to determine which parachute configuration will ensure the Orion lands safely after missions. (Photo credit: NASA)

ATRA Public Affairs

By Raquel March

Engineers helped students reach new horizons in various activities and competitions during National Engineers Week, Feb. 22-28.

Local engineering societies joined in hosting a MathCounts competition and a student design competition where students used their engineering skills to solve math problems and design problems. Student teams were awarded for their results and recognized for outstanding rankings in the competition. (Photo provided)

By Deidre Ortiz

AEDC engineers were part of a team that performed wind tunnel testing on the parachutes for NASA Orion spacecraft in January. The test team also consisted of NASA, Airborne Systems, Jacobs Engineering and NFAC personnel. Pictured here is a parachute being tested in a NFAC wind tunnel. (AEDC photo)
Mark March Brains

Injury Awareness Month

By Karen S. Guica, M.D., M.P.H.
Aerospace Testing Alliance

March is Brain Injury Awareness Month. It is one of the “invisible wounds” of traumatic brain injury (TBI). This is the result of a blow or jolt to the head that disrupts normal function and the ability to think. The injury can happen to anyone, anywhere, at any age, and at any income level. We all have the responsibility to educate service members, their families, roommates and Defense Department civilians about the signs, symptoms and treatment of TBI, while both in the laboratory and on the field, research and break through. TBI is different. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, approximately 1.7 million people are diagnosed with a TBI each year. The most common form of TBI, even for military personnel, is a mild TBI (also referred to as a concussion) most often occurs in a majority occur at home. The Defense and Veterans Affairs (DVA) announced that from 2001-2014 most of the service members were diagnosed with TBI, and most of these were mild. MHS has produced programs and initiatives that improve the health of our active duty, veteran, and service beneficiaries, and all Americans who support TBIs. Our work is even as we take as we back to college to examine the impact of TBIs on athletes. The NCAA and the DOD are currently sponsoring the “Mind Matters Challenge,” a landmark initiative to enhance the safety of student athletes and service members. Research is the most comprehensive study of concussion and head injury exposure ever conducted. For TBI patients, TRI-CARE-provided services provided by physicians, psychologists, physical therapists, occupational therapists, and speech-language pathologists. The DOD offers a variety of products such as clinical recommendations, tool kits, and mobile applications to assist health care providers in the diagnosis, treatment, and evaluation of patients with mild TBI. One of the most important steps in TBI is treatment at the right cost, which allows the brain to physiologically and mentally recover, and removes the risk of suffering another con- tusion or a brain injury. Early diagnosis is vital. Early diagnosis is even more vital in eva- luation, and treatment can occur at any time to keep the lead to the best possible outcome for those entrusted to our care. Along with our partners and cutting-edge research, MHS is making great progress in improving and prolonging the quality of life for those living with TBI.
Take care of your personal protective equipment

By Air Force Material Command Wellness Support Center

"Quick Start Walking" DVD at this visit. Perform physical activity to be sure it is safe. Attend check-in with CHPS staff at this visit. Attend "Exercise Across the Lifespan" class from CHPS staff.

AMFC promotes ’Spring Into Shape’ physical activity challenge

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio (April 1 and May, Air Force Materiel Command is promoting its Spring Into Shape physical activity challenge. Spring Into Shape is a command-wide initiative designed to promote physical activity for the AFMC workforce. Participants that complete the challenge will receive a free copy of the "Quick Start Walking" DVD at the official check-in, Civilian Health Promotion Services (CHPS) will check-in the challenge. How to Participate in Spring Into Shape (SIS) online at www.433AFW.com. See "Spring Into Shape" page. To be eligible for the completion award, you must:

a) Attend both enrollment check-in and completion award check-out with CHPS.

b) Complete and log at least 600 total minutes (10 hours) of physical activity

c) Attend "Exercise Across the Lifespan" class from CHPS staff.

AFMC supports Spring Into Shape challenge requirements will receive a free copy of the "Quick Start Walking" DVD at the check-in, Civilian Health Promotion Services (CHPS) will check-in the challenge. For more information, visit www.AFMC-wellness.com or contact your local CHPS staff.

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African American general shatters both gender, racial barriers

By Martha Lockwood
Air Force News Service

FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, Md. (AFNS) – Born about the time the Tuskegee Airmen were earning their reputation over the skies of North Africa and Italy, Marcelite Harris would go on to break a number of racial and gender barriers during her illustrious Air Force career. Harris was born Jan. 16, 1943, in Houston and attended Spelman College in Atlanta, where she earned a bachelor’s degree in speech and drama in 1964. She then attended Officer Training School at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, where she was commissioned a second lieutenant in 1965.

During the early days of her career, Harris held assignments as an administrative officer in California and West Germany, before transitioning into the maintenance field by attending the aircraft maintenance officer’s course at Chanute Air Force Base, Illinois, and graduating as the first female aircraft maintenance officer. Her first assignment as a maintenance officer was support the Vietnam War as a maintenance supervisor with the 49th Tactical Fighter Squadron at Korat Royal Thai Air Base, Thailand. After stints back in California and Washington, D.C., Harris broke another barrier as one of the first women to be an air officer commanding at the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado. After commanding an avionics maintenance squadron and a field maintenance squadron, both in Kansas, and a director of maintenance in Okinawa, Japan, Harris would make another first - this time as the first female deputy commander for maintenance.

But her biggest accomplishment lay ahead, when in 1991, Harris became the first female African-American general, when she pinned on her first star as the vice commander of the Oklahoma Center Air Logistics Center.

Harris retired from the Air Force in early 1997, where she had been serving as the director of maintenance, deputy chief of staff for logistics, Headquarters Air Force. At that time, she was the highest ranking female officer in the Air Force and the highest ranking African-American female within the Defense Department. Harris continues to contribute to the Air Force even after her retirement. In 2010, President Barack Obama appointed her a member of the Board of Visitors for the U.S. Air Force Academy. As a board member, she inquires into the morale, discipline, curriculum and other matters deemed appropriate. The board submits reports to the secretary of the Air Force and the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate and Congress via the secretary of Defense and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives.

She is a member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. For her works, she was nationally recognized by the Black Girls Rock Foundation with the Trailblazer Award.

Data from the air drop and wind tunnel tests will provide guidance as to which parachute configuration will be most reliable for future Orion missions.

BEWARE OF CREATIVE DATA THEFT METHODS

FOREIGN MILITARY: NO BYLINE, USE WITH PERMISSION

OORAH from page 7

measuring aerodynamic forces. The parachute was also allowed to fly freely in the tunnel, during which photogrammetry, measurement taken by photography, was used to gather data on aerodynamic characteristics of the parachute. In completing this test, parachutes were deployed last month in Eloy, Ariz.
The new Proteckt high-temperature abrasion-resistant coating to improve reliability and maintainability. AEDC has conducted multiple weapon systems tests for the F-35 and tested the Pratt & Whitney F135 engine for the Conventional Take-Off and Landing version of the F-35 Lightning II. An F-35 sits under a sun shade on the flightline at Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada. The Air Force Small Business Innovation Research/Small Business Technology Transfer program office and a small business partner have developed high-temperature, abrasion-resistant coating that powers the aircraft. (U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Mikaelye Towsley)

By 88th Air Base Wing Office of Public Affairs

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio (AFNS) – The Air Force and a small business partner developed an innovative, high-temperature, abrasion-resistant coating product that could directly improve the reliability and maintainability of weapon systems across the Air Force, including the F-35 Lightning II.

With funding from the Air Force Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) Program, Texas Research Institute (TRI), in Austin, Texas, the Protekkt high-temperature coating has demonstrated significant improvements in abrasion resistance at operational temperatures during laboratory testing.

This represents a 2,000 percent improvement in the average time between coating failures and directly addresses a need for frequent repair and recoating.

Abrasives and coatings are thin and usually spray-applied. Existing products experience some degradation in performance and color over time, especially when exposed to high temperatures, and can cause extensive damage to the underlying composite material.

When a coating wears prematurely, it also causes an unscheduled maintenance burden to repair or strip and recoat the area. Woodworth said, “If the degradation is not discovered in time, damage to the underlying aircraft section occurs.”

In the current design, the F-35F has four distinct camouflage coatings that can withstand high temperatures for longer durations and match the existing camouflage paint schemes of aircraft parts. TRI evaluated a variety of raw materials, developed numerous coating formulations in conjunction with the experimental design development process and then identified the best formulation.

The new Proteckt camouflage coating offers greatly improved high-temperature abrasion resistance for aerospace composite applications. The coating cures faster, is resistant to standard aircraft fluids, meets color and gloss requirements and exhibits good adherence even after accelerated fluid exposure. It can be applied using traditional procedures, including brush, roller and high-volume low-pressure spray.

Due to high interest in the product, the firm received a $1.3 million Rapid Innovation Funding award to further advance the technology. TRI has an excellent record of SBIR transition success with a commercialization portfolio of over $30 million.

(Information courtesy of the Air Force Small Business Innovation Research/Small Business Technology Transfer program office, Air Force Research Laboratory, AEDC Security Area)

2015 AEDC Security Area spring turkey hunting regulations

AEDC SECURITY AREA SPRING TURKEY HUNT DATES

By 88th Air Base Wing Office of Public Affairs

Young Sportsman: 28-29 March

Turkey: 4-5 April 11-12 April 18-19 April 25-26 April 2-3 May 9-10 May 16-17 May

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(Information courtesy of the Air Force Small Business Innovation Research/Small Business Technology Transfer program office, Air Force Research Laboratory, AEDC Security Area)
By Justin Oakes

HANSCOM AIR FORCE BASE, Mass. (AFPN) -- It’s not often that the public gets to hear about the Air Force’s inner workings when pertaining to highly classified networks, however, a special programs team from Hanscom Air Force Base’s Command, Control, Communications, Intelligence and Networks Directorate has recently emerged, making their presence known.

“We have developed an agile and efficient process for delivering solutions that protect against the cyber insider threat,” said Lt. Col. Richard Howard, the Materiel Solutions Analysis (MSA) chief. Unlike other teams within the Special Programs Division, the MSA Lab is the only one that functions outside the classified realm.

The team’s mission is to rapidly identify and test government and commercial off-the-shelf hardware and software, and if viable, transition it to the classified arena. However, combating the cyber insider threat based on new networks quickly became one of MSA’s primary focuses.

In January 2014, the special programs unit stood up the MSA Lab, where the team tests and scrutinizes commercial and government technologies that could potentially function on a secure network, and at the same time, serve as a deterrent for insider attacks. The MSA Lab consists of three sections: Level 1, a robust unclassified area for running certain technologies; Level 2, which is the potential to perform classified tests; and Level 3, which is a virtual demonstration environment. Since MSA’s inception they have fielded more than 100 proposals on insider threat mitigation technologies from commercial companies, both large and small.

“The MSA Lab is unique, and by design, highly specialized on the needs of a select classified community,” said Paul Krueger, the MSA chief engineer. “Being co-located at Hanscom AFB with the Hanscom Collaboration and Innovation Center is important so that when necessary, we can take advantage of its infrastructure for massive joint and multi-national coalition warfighting experiments and demonstrations.”

Upon significant amounts of testing, the Air Force prioritized a single technology that began to notice a certain misconception within industry. “We saw a disturbing trend emerging from companies — that there is a single solution fix to insider attacks,” Howard said.

“Cyber threat is complex, difficult to define and a challenge to defend against,” said Lt. Col. Jeffrey Kligman, the Special Programs Division senior materiel leader. “Communication among other Defense Department agencies and industry is critical to solving this problem. However, the demand for MSA-vetted technologies has increased exponentially. In order to keep up with testing and analysis, the lab increased from two to seven engineers plus support from MIT Lincoln Laboratory, MITRE and various contractors.”

According to MSA officials, there were two main takeaways from the event.

The cyber insider threat is complicated, difficult to define and a challenge to defend against,” said Maj. Gen. Craig Olson, the C3I and Communication Networks Directorate program executive officer, who said MSA’s vetted technologies can be used to help define these threats, but it is a constantly evolving concept.

“Communication is the only way synergy can be developed across the DOD,” he said. “Making the community aware of current and emerging threats is also a challenge.”

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Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh III testify before the House of Representatives Committee on Appropriations’ Defense Subcommittee, Feb. 27, in Washington, D.C. The two leaders met with the House Appropriations Committee Feb. 27.

“Your Air Force is working hard to meet the combat commanders’ most urgent needs,” James said. “But a budget trajectory that supports less than the Air Force’s proposed budget to alleviate the financial strain on the United States Air Force that we must get in the United States Air Force that we face to divest fleets of aircraft, to include the KC-10 Extender. Total force flying hours will be cut, as well as weapons systems sustainment, ranges, simulators and high-end training exercises like Red and Green Flags.

Some of those hard choices include divesting the A-10 Thunderbolt II fleet, slowing the growth of compensation and requesting another round of Defense Base Realignment and Closure. The most pressing issue is not sufficiently ready for a high-end fight,” she said. To balance the realities of today with the modernization of tomorrow, the Air Force’s proposed budget requests an increase in end strength to 492,180 active-duty, guard and reserve Airmen. The extra dollars will also be invested in mission-critical infrastructure; intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance; vital space programs; cyber teams; the nuclear enterprise; the KC-46 Pegasus, F-35 Lightning II and the Long-Range Strike Bomber.

“My pride in this Air Force and the Airmen who gave it life hasn’t changed,” Welsh said. “My concern is that our Air Force from others is narrowing, and as it does the asymmetrical advantage that airpower provides the United States military is shrinking.”

The general explained modernization isn’t an option — it must be done, and he and the secretary asked Congress to help by lifting sequestration.

“Our short-term remedies will not allow us to further close that capability gap,” he said. “You understand it’s an ugly picture — we just want to make it clear.

The Air Force recognizes the financial strain on the U.S. government, and cost savings throughout the proposed budget to alleviate the strain.

“We get it in the United States Air Force that we have to close the American taxpayer’s money as quickly as we can and we can’t afford to waste a single dollar of it,” James said. “We’re working hard to make every dollar count.”

The Air Force is driving steadily toward auditability, and it’s taken a 20 percent reduction in funding at headquarters levels. The Airmen Powered by Innovation initiative has also turned up savings, and the Air Force is still looking for the best ideas from Airmen who do the job every day.

“We understand that we must be part of the nation’s solution to the debt problem and we’re ready to do that,” Welsh said. “We need your help in some areas — so that we can be ready for today’s fight and still be able to win in 2025 and beyond.”

Both James and Welsh agree America’s Airmen are what makes the Air Force what it is today, and they have been performing to the highest level, but they are being spread too thin. The operations tempo, coupled with decrease to critical infrastructure that gets Airmen and units combat ready, have taken their toll on Airmen and their families.

“If sequestration re- mains the law of the land, it will get worse,” James said. “Sequestration needs to be lifted permanently for the whole of government.”
The Air Force SBIR program has directly linked Air Force centers to AFRL technical points of contact to identify and evaluate Air Force needs and innovative solutions. Its primary objective is to accelerate the transition of SBIR/STTR-developed technologies into real-world military and commercial applications.

The Air Force SBIR and STTR programs provide more than $300 million in funding for research and development activities by small businesses annually. With this budget, the Air Force funds research from the early stages of concept development until it transitions to military or commercial use.

AF research will improve camera for targeting munitions

By Tech. Sgt. Joshua Strong
AF Research Laboratory

A recent training attendee called the CBT “the closest thing to flying” she could experience.

Putting face on prevention training

By Timothy Andari
Air Force Small Business Innovation Research

The SBIR program was established by Congress in 1992, to fund research and development activities by small businesses annually. With this budget, the Air Force funds research from the early stages of concept development until it transitions to military or commercial use.
PGA Family Tee Program comes to Arnold Golf Course

Two markers are shown here to indicate where to initiate play during a game in the Family Golf Tee Program. This program caters to players who are new to the game of golf. The program is new to the Arnold Golf Course and will be available in the spring. (Photo provided)

By Erica Sturkie
March 23, 2015

- Have you ever been interested in golf, but the game seems too intimidating? Confusing? Do you have no clubs, don’t worry. AGC offers men’s, women’s, left-handed, right-handed and junior clubs for rent at a reasonable price to accommodate golfers of all types. Club repair and regripping services are also available on-site and can sometimes be done while you wait.

- Some other amenities at AGC include rental pushcarts and riding carts, driving range, personalized mini lessons, Mulligan’s Grill for a bite to eat, and a pro shop full of personalized Arnold Golf Course merchandise. Even though the course is located on Arnold Air Force Base, the course is open to the base staff and to the general public.

- “Supporting our military members and being able to offer our facility to the public is a win-win for every golfer in the community,” Russell said.

- For more information call 454-GOLF. If you plan to eat lunch at Mulligan’s Grill, you may call ahead to place advance orders at 454-FOOD.
AEDC Woman’s Club recognizes scholarship recipients at April meeting

By Barbara McGuire

AEDC Woman’s Club (AEDCWC) will present the scholarship recipients from Coffee County Central High School, Tullahoma High School, Franklin County High School and Huntland High School at their April 7 meeting at the Arnold Lakeside Center. The speaker for the meeting is John Carney, city editor of the Shelbyville Times-Gazette. John will share information regarding the true story behind the horse Jim Key, who was said to have been able to read, write, spell and do math. It was recently announced that a movie starring Morgan Freeman is going to be filmed based on the book Beautiful Jim Key: The Lost History of a Horse and a Man Who Changed the World written by Mim Eichler Rivas. Jim Key is buried in Bedford County.

The $150 table donations at the March meeting were given to The United Way of Coffee and Moore Counties. The table donations for the April meeting will be given to The Blue Monarch. The meeting is open to the public and provides the opportunity to meet the AEDCWC members and to become a member. You don’t need to have military connections or be involved with Arnold Air Force Base to become a member. For more membership information call 455-3569.

The social hour of the April meeting starts at 9:30 a.m. with the business meeting and program beginning at 10 a.m. Reservations and cancellations for the April 7 meeting must be made no later than noon, March 31. You may make reservations or cancellations by calling 393-2552 or 931-636-4152.

Disclaimer: This is a private organization which is not part of the Department of Defense or any of its components and has no governmental status.