Surge in engine testing at AEDC

Concurrent testing to become standard operations

By Deidre Ortiz
AEDC Public Affairs

With the System Development and Demonstration Phase for the F-135, engine for the F-35 Lightning II Joint Strike Fighter, coming to an end, there’s been a surge in testing at the AEDC Engine Test Facility.

According to Mike Dent, deputy director of the Aero Propulsion Combined Test Force at AEDC, in preparation for the

move to the production phase, there have been three F135 engine tests all within the same timeframe. "This concurrent testing is due to the Joint Program Office working to achieve Milestone C, which means the F135 will be finished with its SDD phase and move on to production," he said.

Dent explained the engines were being put through different types of testing and development in order to fulfill the necessary requirements. "We tested the redesign of the augmentor, or afterburner, of the engine," he said. "This was done under the war on cost WOC initiative. WOC initiatives are designed to save money by simplifying the manufacturing process."

"Additionally, we had other high priority testing taking place in the ETF (Engine Test Facility) J-1 test cell," Dent said. "This means continuous running of the plant for altitude testing."

Therefore, the Engine Test Facility needed to supply the test conditions for an altitude test while simultaneously supplying the test conditions for a sea level test in increased Mach numbers.

The implementation of concurrent testing takes significant upfront coordination, but is advantageous in many ways, according to Aeropro pulsion CTF leadership at AEDC.

"The major advantage is in streamlining throughout while at the same time you can run both schedule and budget due to economies of scale," Dent said.

Testing of the F135 at AEDC continued in June to meet the JPO deadline.

Coordination leads to safe and successful completion of maintenance projects

By Raquel March
AEDC Public Affairs

Coordination was a key factor in completing multiple maintenance projects safely at AEDC during a recent 11-day water and power outage.

The outage provided an opportunity to access, maintain and repair equipment that is used for daily test operations.

The base-wide water outage was scheduled to involve 19 corrective maintenance projects and move on to production, he said.

The AEDC contractor team had an extra-successful outage period from June 30 through July 10, said Brian Allen, an operations officer for the AEDC Test Support Division. "In this small window, craftsmen and technicians performed preventive maintenance on five large unit sub-transformers and circuit-switchers including the PWT main drive switch gear and also tested filter capacitors and other critical electrical components.

AEDC Pipeline Shop supervisor Kenny Abbott checks the dimensions of the fire protection line before fabricating a replacement pipe. The pipe failed after the start of a base wide water outage in early July and the job was worked into an ongoing heavy maintenance schedule. (AEDC photo)

Coordination was the key to ensuring the safety of personnel and equipment. "In a small window like this, we got all the work done and we continued to test," he said.

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Coordination leads to safe and successful completion of maintenance projects
Balancing work, life strengthens identity

Embracing diversity by leading from the front

Moving on from abuse, I keep a quote from Maya Angelou in my boundaries and under- stand that is not because of our weapons system, it is because of our Airmen. So, for all of our citizens and our community, embrace your core values of trust, respect, and collaboration. If you recognize your best and brightest no matter what.

Shattering the silence

We love our profession, those things -- and in the end it doesn't matter. The "life" in work-life balance is whatever you do outside of your work. If there is any question about the weight the Air Force places on work-life balance, consider the Diversity and Inclusion and Force of the Future policy initiative our Air Force leadership have implemented. These programs targeted at recruiting and retaining America's best talent are demonstrating that there is more than one approach to work and life. The life part of balance is critically important to ensuring that we achieve and maintain a culture of excellence.

Shattering the silence

Smoking Policy

1. The following revised AEDC smoking policy is effective immediately. Smoking is permitted solely in designated smoking areas. Smoking is not permitted in any other area of the facility that is not specifically designated as a smoking area. Smoking areas include the Vehicle Ops building, K Block, L Block, N Block, garage, and garage office areas. Smoking is prohibited in any room where smoking is not explicitly allowed. Smoking by anyone, including any AEDC employees, is strictly prohibited. It is the responsibility of all individuals to know and follow this policy. Smoking in any designated smoking area is the sole responsibility of the AEDC employee or civilian who has been granted access for smoking. See the attached AEDC smoking policy for a complete list of smoking areas.

2. Supervisors at all levels will ensure this policy is followed. Disciplinary action is appropriate for repeated violations of this policy.

Values

1. Integrity first.
2. Excellence in safety, security, and quality.
3. Trust, respect, and collaboration.
5. Awareness.
7. Driving force in our lives.
Those years were very home and my academia. While balancing the tough-defended my doctoral and finally successfully Record Examination test, ing English, took the high day. face to get where I am to - obstacles and enormous long journey with many she said. “It has been a that I have undertaken,” and challenging efforts were demanding. ing her accomplishments doctorate while at AEDC. female who had received a that there wasn’t another sources records, she found training and human re - supervisor, checked the ceremony in May. Space Institute graduation was recognized at the 2016 Tennessee, Knoxville. She earning from the University of and received her doctor - degree program at AEDC and by the fall of 2013, Bui completed coursework and received her doctorate in industrial engineering from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. She was recognized at the 2016 University of Tennessee Space Institute graduation ceremony in May.

When Ther Black, an AEDC contractor training supervisor checked the training and human resources, she found that there wasn’t another female who received a doctorate while at AEDC. Bui adds that achieving her accomplishments wasn’t easy. “It has been one of the most meaningful and challenging efforts that I have experienced in life,” she said. “It has been a long journey with many obstacles and enormous pressures which I had to face to get where I am today.”

Bui has 31 years of experience in engineering from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. The University was recognized at the 2016 Univer- sity of Tennessee Space Institute graduation ceremony May 9. She was recognized at the ceremony for receiving her doctorate in industrial and admitted engineers. I graduated at the top of my high school class in Viet- nam. My dad was so proud that he told me that even though he had to work the hardest job on this earth, he wished for me to be successful and wanted to support me in pursuing my higher education.

Bui said that she didn’t think of going to college to receive a higher education in Vietnam. She expressed that she didn’t believe the knowledge ob - tained from going to college would be beneficial to the future and sustainment at the military family in Viet - nam. My dad was so proud that he told me that even though he had to work the hardest job on this earth, he wished for me to be successful and wanted to support me in pursuing my higher education. Bui said she didn’t know what was going to happen and I knew I couldn’t be selfish to think it was possible to receive a higher education. Randy Sloan, an Infor - mation Assurance lead and former Systems Engineering manager at AEDC, sees a future not only for Bui’s doctoral research on prognostic algorithms at AEDC. Timgould that there are many choices and configurations of special gauges used in the STAT facility with colleague Mike Scott, an AEDC Space Threat Assessment Systems Testbed, which gives him a chance to see the work performed in that location. Also pictured (left, clockwise) are team members Rod Cregger, Tim Leyton and Mark Chappell. (U.S. Air Force photo/Rick Goodridge)

Dr. Them Bui, right, a Space Threat Assessment Testbed Control Systems engineer at AEDC, discusses the settings and configurations of special gauges used in the STAT facility with colleague Mike Scott, an AEDC Space Threat Assessment Systems Testbed, which gives him a chance to see the work performed in that location. Also pictured (left, clockwise) are team members Rod Cregger, Tim Leyton and Mark Chappell. (U.S. Air Force photo/Rick Goodridge)

Team AEDC Spotlight

Dr. Bui first recorded AEDC female to receive Ph.D.

By Raquel March

AEDC Public Affairs

Dr. Them Bui is known as a Control Systems engineer at AEDC, an expert in industrial engineering. She is the first recorded female at AEDC to receive a doctorate degree. Bui received the degree in industrial engineering from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville in the fall of 2015. The University of Tennessee Space Institute recognized Bui at a graduation ceremony May 9. (U.S. Air Force photo/Rick Goodridge)

Ther Black, an AEDC contractor training supervisor checked the training and human resources, he found that there wasn’t another female who received a doctorate while at AEDC. Bui adds that achieving her accomplishments wasn’t easy. “It has been one of the most meaningful and challenging efforts that I have experienced in life,” she said. “It has been a long journey with many obstacles and enormous pressures which I had to face to get where I am today.” Bui has 31 years of experience in engineering from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. The University was recognized at the 2016 University of Tennessee Space Institute graduation ceremony in May.

Dr. Joe Sheeley, mentor of Tennessee Space Institute recognized Bui at a graduation ceremony May 9. She was recognized at the ceremony for receiving her doctorate in industrial and admitted engineers. I graduated at the top of my high school class in Vietnam. My dad was so proud that he told me that even though he had to work the hardest job on this earth, he wished for me to be successful and wanted to support me in pursuing my higher education.

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Author documents historic significance of Camp Forrest

By Deidre Ortiz
AEDC Public Affairs

Before the establishment of AEDC and its unique aerospace testing facilities, part of the land Arnold Air Force Base sits on was used as one of the Army’s largest training bases during World War II.

The camp, named Camp Forrest after Civil War Cavalry Confederate General Nathan Bedford Forrest, was active between 1941 and 1946. The area is rich in history, but not many publications exist chronicling the historic significance of Camp Forrest.

Elizabeth Taylor, an author from Georgia, wanted to change this and recently set out to research all she could about the camp. The end result is the book “Camp Forrest,” part of the Images of America series published by Arcadia Publishing. It is a photographic history of the soldiers who were trained there, the civilians who worked there, and the prisoners of war housed there.

“There’s so little available out there about it,” she said. “Other than a few websites and the book, ‘Reveille to Taps,’ there’s not much beyond that on the camp near Tullahoma, Tenn., that was used during World War II. What is left of the camp is now part of Arnold Air Force Base. The book is part of the Images of America series published by Arcadia Publishing. It is available at www.arcadiapublishing.com and local bookstores.”

Taylor explained though her career was spent in public administration, history, has always been an interest of hers, and recently she learned a colleague’s relative worked at Camp Forrest and became interested in the place.

“I found the stories and the campus in Tullahoma so interesting,” she said.

One such story is that of Richard Weinert, an Army Private, who while at the camp worked as a photographer with his girlfriend, Evelyn York of Shelbyville.

“The letters had different drawings on the envelopes, and even though Shelbyville isn’t that far, they wrote to each other multiple times a week,” Taylor said. “Each envelope is its own work of art.”

Weinert was sent to fight overseas, but upon returning married York and together they moved to Wisconsin. Not so surprisingly, Weinert found work as an illustrator for magazines.

A few of the envelopes with Weinert’s drawings can be found in Taylor’s book.

However, this work of nonfiction begins at Camp Perry, the precursor to Camp Forrest, in 1926 and takes the reader on a journey through the life of the camp, which spanned 85,000 acres and served a training area for infantry, artillery, engineer and signal organizations.

She notes in the introduction of the book the sheer size of the camp, “It cost approximately $36 million to build the 1,300 buildings, 55 miles of roads and 5 miles of railroad tracks the camp contained. The 1,300 buildings consisted of 408 barracks, 158 mess halls, 14 officer mess buildings, 19 grandhouses, 35 warehouses, 20 administration buildings, 30 officer quarters, buildings, a bakery, an ice plant, an incinerator, a cold storage building, a laundry, a water and sewage treatment facility, a dental clinic, and a 2,000 patient hospital.”

The book also illustrates how the town of Tullahoma as a whole was affected by the installation of Camp Forrest. In 1940 Tullahoma’s population was 4,300. By the end of the war, the population increased to 75,000.

The end result is the book “Camp Forest,” a book by Elizabeth Taylor, is a photographic history of Camp Forrest, a military training area for infantry, engineer and signals on what is now part of Arnold Air Force Base.

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### Nature’s hazards: Poisonous plants

**By Air Force Material Command Health and Wellness Team**

**W R I G H T - P A T T E R S O N A I R F O R C E B A S E, Ohio –** State parks and woodlands are favorite places for many people who enjoy outdoor activities. Unfortunately, contact with poisonous plants can make these outings a miserable experience.

Poison ivy, poison oak, and poison sumac all contain the plant oil urushiol, which can cause severe skin rash when any part of the leaves, stem or root is touched. Allergic reaction can occur directly by touching the plant, or indirectly by coming into contact with the oil on animals, tools, clothing or other surfaces. Even the smoke from the burning of these poisonous plants contains urushiol particles that can be inhaled and cause lung irritation.

**Interaction with these plants is preventable. This article is designed to help individuals learn how to identify poisonous plants in order to avoid exposure.**

#### Plant Identification

**Poison Ivy** – The old saying “Leaves of three, let it be” is a reminder of the consistent leaf characteristic of this plant. Leaves can be 2-6 inches long and may be toothed or have smooth edges. Leaves emerge with a shiny reddish tinge in the spring, turn dull green as they age, eventually turning shades of red, yellow or orange in the fall before dropping off the plant. There are different types of poison ivy found throughout the United States. Eastern poison ivy is typically a hairy, ropelike vine with three shiny green (or red in the fall) leaves building from one small stem. Eastern poison ivy is the one of the most common poisonous plant species in the United States, and is found throughout the Midwest to the east coast. It can grow as a shrub or as a vine that climbs high on trees, walls and fences or trails along the ground. Western poison ivy is typical a low shrub with three leaves that does not form a climbing vine.

**Poison Oak** – Similar to poison ivy, poison oak consists of three leaflets. One distinguishing feature of poison oak is its lobed leaves, which gives it the appearance of an oak leaf. Leaves emerge with a reddish tinge in the spring, turn and then assume varying shades of yellow, red and orange in the fall. Atlantic poison oak can be found as ground vine or shrub, while Pacific poison oak grows as a ground vine, a shrub and climbing vine.

**Poison Sumac** – More allergic than poison ivy and poison oak, poison sumac is a tall shrub or small tree that has a stem that does not form a climbing vine.

Symptoms of Skin Contact

- **Signs or symptoms associated with dermal contact with poisonous plants may include:**
  - Red rash within a few days of contact that lasts from two to three weeks;
  - Itching;
  - Swelling.

**First Aid**

- Individuals who have come in contact with poisonous plants should:
  - **Immediately** rinse with rubbing alcohol, specialized poison plant washer, degerming soap (such as dishwashing soap) or detergent, and lots of water;
  - Apply wet compresses, calamine lotion or over-the-counter hydrocortisone cream to the skin to reduce itching and blistering;
  - Use an antihistamine such as diphenhydramine (Benadryl) to help relieve itching; and,
  - Seek professional medical attention if the rash is widespread, on the face or genitals, does not improve within a few weeks, or if you have difficulty breathing from inhaling the smoke from burning poisonous plants.

**Civilian Health Promotion Services will be offering educational briefings on summertime safety during July. For more information, visit www.AFMCWellness.com.**

While nature’s hazards are plentiful, there are steps we can take to improve our safety. In the article, “Executing this work will reduce the probability of down time impacts and provide better reliability for our test customers,” Skipworth said.

**Maintenance from page 3:**

Allen said during the water outage, workers safely repaired seven known leaks in the cooling water system and conducted nine repairs of valves and other components. Concrete repairs were also performed on the Complex secondary reservoir which supplies cooling water to the test facilities.

According to Rodney Skipworth, a National Aerospace Solutions, LLC, Utilities manager with the Test, Operations and Support contract, 18 scheduled jobs and three unscheduled jobs were completed with the water outage. During the electrical outage, all scheduled jobs were completed, as well as four that were unscheduled.

Due to the number of projects, many AEDC Tactical Integration Group, an Air Force and contractor scheduling group, reviewed the maintenance schedule to minimize the impact to testing and limit impacts to the facilities.

“The executing this work will reduce the probability of downtimes impacts and provide better reliability for our test customers,” Skipworth said.
Two missions, one fight

By Master Sgt. Anika H. Jones

SOUTHWEST ASIA (AFNS) – The 737th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron and the 386th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron have two different missions, yet work together every day to ensure the single mission of the C-130 Hercules can equip and prepare our forces to stay in the fight another day.

“In the profession of total force Airmen, this is our mission,” said Lt. Col. Michael Cummings, the 737th EAS commander. “Their dedication to the mission, their professionalism and their sacrifice has made me extremely proud of these people.”

Members of the 737th EAS and 386th EAMS all face challenges such as steep learning curves, extreme environmental conditions with temperatures reaching up to 140 degrees, and being separated from their loved ones.

“I’m most proud of our teams for enduring the challenges that come with operating in a deployed location,” Lt. Col. said. “They have represented their states and the Air National Guard wonderfully. It is difficult for guard members to have their full-time civilian jobs to deploy, but they always do their duty with no complaints,” said Lt. Col. Michael Cummings, the 737th EAS commander. “Their dedication to the mission, their professionalism and their sacrifice has made me extremely proud of these people.”

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Two missions, one fight

By AEDC Safety

Pool Safety is a national public education campaign to reduce child drownings, non- fatal submersion and entrapments in swimming pools and spas. The campaign was developed by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) to carry out the requirements of the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act (P&SS Act), federal legislation mandating new requirements for public pools and spas.

CPSC is working to ensure drowning and entrapment prevention are important public safety priorities by raising awareness, promoting industry compliance and improving safety at pools and spas. The Pool Safety campaign emphasizes an important and simple message: adding an extra safety step in and around the water can make all the difference.

CPSC estimates that each year nearly 100 children younger than five drown in swimming pools and spas and an additional 4,000 children that age go to hospital emergency rooms due to submersion injuries in pools and spas. You can Pool Safety by adopting extra safety steps:

Stay Close, Be Alert and Watch

• Always watch children and never leave them unattended.
• Keep children from pool drains, pipes and other openings.
• Have a charged phone close by at all times.
• If a child is missing, check the pool first.
• Share safety information with family, friends and neighbors.

Learn and Practice Water Safety Skills

Learn to swim and make sure kids do,

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Students get excited about science

The students in the AEDC Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Camp hold their certificates showing they completed three days of fun, hands-on science activities at AEDC. This year’s STEM Summer Camp was held July 12-14 for children of AEDC employees. Funded through the Air Force Environmental Outreach Office, the camp is at no cost to those who attend. A graduation was held at the end of the camp to celebrate the group’s accomplishments. Picture left to right are the participants in this year’s camp at AEDC; in front: Cara Fata, Amber Maj, Zaylan Spinnler, Natalia Aquires, Cole Fowler, Bradley Exoo, Samantha Wonesfield, Jacob Silbaugh, Alex Halliburton. Second row: Kimberly Coleman, Nics Pangelinan, Noah Kloppe, Kathryn Brown, Alyson Newsom, Joseph Durman, Zane Hagel, Benji Spratlin, Emma Fulks, Elliana Masters and Steven Melhalt with STEM Camp assistants Carlene Guerin and Laura Burke. In back is Jane Matty, AEDC STEM outreach specialist. (U.S. Air Force photo/photographer Peterson)

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Learn to swim and make sure kids do,
Pool Safely: Simple water safety steps can save lives
The F-35A Lightning II fifth-generation fighter aircraft was declared ‘combat ready’ by Gen. Hawk Carlisle, the commander of Air Combat Command, Aug. 2. AEDC has conducted multiple tests to help prepare the F-35A. Testing ranged from aerodynamic flows for the body of the aircraft and store separation to the F135 engine that powers the fighter.

Carlisle lauded the aircraft’s performance, noting that the aircraft had met all key criteria for reaching initial operational capability: Airmen trained, manned and equipped to conduct basic close air support, interdiction and limited suppression/destruction of enemy air defenses in a contested environment with an operational squadron of 12-24 aircraft; the ability to deploy and conduct operational missions using program of record weapons and missions systems, and having all necessary logistics and operational elements in place.

“I am proud to announce this powerful new weapons system has achieved initial combat capability,” Carlisle said. “The F-35A will be the most dominant aircraft in our inventory because it can go where our legacy aircraft cannot and provide the capabilities our commanders need on the modern battlefield.”

The F-35A is the latest addition to ACC’s fleet of deployable and fifth-generation aircraft. It provides air superiority, interdiction, suppression of enemy air defenses and close air support as well as great command and control functions through fused sensors, and it will provide pilots with unparalleled situational awareness of the battlespace that will be more extensive than any single-seat platform in existence.

“Bringing the F-35A to initial combat readiness is a testament to our phenomenal Airmen and the outstanding support of the Joint Program Office and our enterprise partners. This important milestone for our fighter force ensures the United States, along with our allies and international partners, remains prepared to deter, deny, and defeat the full spectrum of growing threats around the globe,” added Air Force Secretary Deborah Lee James, Chief of Staff of the Air Force.

The F-35A Lightning II aircraft receive fuel from a KC-10 Extender from Travis Air Force Base, Calif., July 13 during a flight from England to the U.S. The fighters were returning to Luke AFB, Ariz., after participating in the world’s largest air show, the Royal International Air Tattoo. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Madelyn Brown)
The Project Management Institute is hosting a luncheon meeting at the University of Tennessee Space Institute on Aug. 18. Join local project management professionals for a time of networking and learning from 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. The guest speakers will be Alicia Page and Dave Masters of Same Page Mediation, LLC.

During this session, Page and Masters will discuss common causes of conflict in the workplace, share some steps to take to reduce conflict and provide some skills to resolve conflict when it occurs. The information is meant to help organizations concentrate on running their business.

The Project Management Institute is the world’s leading not-for-profit professional membership association for the project, program and portfolio management profession. PMI advances careers, improves organizational success and further matures the profession of project management through its globally recognized standards, certifications, resources, tools, academic research, publications, professional development courses and networking opportunities.

Call 454-5407 for additional information about joining the local branch or to make a reservation for the luncheon.

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The F-35A was recently declared combat ready. The F-35 with our active-duty counterparts here at Hill, our units were the first to fly combat-ready F-16s nearly 40 years ago, and we’re very proud to have made history once again in bringing the Air Force’s newest fighter jet to ‘JC’.

For more information visit the link: https://www.acc.af.mil/AirCombatCommand/F-35Program.aspx.

For questions, contact Air Combat Command Public Affairs at (757) 764-9007 or via e-mail at acaoperations@usaf.mil.

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By Douglas Brown

AEDC quarterly award winners announced

Capt. Brett Johnson
Company Grade Officer of the Quarter

Staff Sgt. Jared Varney
Non-Commissioned Officer of the Quarter

Master Sgt. Matthew Krueger
Senior Non-Commissioned Officer of the Quarter

2nd Lt. Benjamin Sinemus
Honor Guard of the Quarter

Amanda Stroop
Civilian of the Quarter

Tyler Neale
Civilian of the Quarter
Scientist/Engineer

Geneva Hurley
Civilian of the Quarter
Clinical/Technical Support

Rebecca Gardner
Air Force Test Center, Category III Civilian of the Quarter

Robert May
Non-Appropriated Fund employee of the Quarter

AEDC Safety Award
Services Recipient – D1, Jerry Rice, Brandon Berridge and Greg Burns.

Monique Purdon, Lockheed Martin’s wind-tunnel lead on the F-35 Lightning II store separation team, examines a GBU-31 Joint Direct Attack Munition (JDAM) in the four-foot transonic wind tunnel at AEDC in 2007. The F-35A was recently declared combat ready. (U.S. Air Force photo/Rick Goodfriend)

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The Project Management Institute presents “Conflict Resolution Training”

By Douglas Brown

Mediation, LLC.

During this session, Page and Masters will discuss common causes of conflict in the workplace, share some steps to take to reduce conflict and provide some skills to resolve conflict when it occurs. The information is meant to help organizations concentrate on running their business.

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1st Lt. Jonathan Dias and 1st Lt. Hedison Doe take the oath during their promotion ceremony July 8 at AEDC. Both are being promoted to rank of Captain. The ceremony was led by Col. Timothy West, AEDC Test Operations Division chief, and the families and several friends of Dias and Doe were in attendance. (U.S. Air Force photo/Holly Peterson)

By Headquarters Pacific Air Forces Public Affairs

For the first time in 10 years, B-1B Lancers will replace the B-52 Stratofortresses in support of U.S. Pacific Command’s continuous bomber presence mission. This forward deployed presence demonstrates continuing U.S. commitment to stability and security in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region. (U.S. Air Force courtesy photo)

Dias and Doe promoted to Captain

AEDC Milestones will be posted in the August 22 High Mach issue.

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B-1s to replace B-52s during routine bomber presence rotation

The B-1B’s will replace the B-52 Stratofortresses currently deployed from Minot AFB, North Dakota. This is not the first deployment of B-1Bs in the PACOM area of responsibility; however, it is the first time in 10 years. With a large weapon capacity and exceptional standoff strike capability, the B-1 will provide PACOM and its regional allies and partners with a credible, strategic power projection platform. This forward deployed presence demonstrates the continuing U.S. commitment to stability and security in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region. The bombers will be accompanied by approximately 300 Airmen from Ellsworth AFB, South Dakota.

Air Force Global Strike Command continues to routinely deploy bombers to Andersen AFB, which provides opportunities for Airmen to advance and strengthen regional alliances and long-standing military-to-military partnerships throughout the Indo-Asia-Pacific.
Earlier this month, Malmstrom Air Force Base encountered a wildlife phenomenon, and through perseverance and understanding, handled what could have been a sticky situation in the most natural way possible. Airmen utilized quick thinking and humane treatment to save the lives of approximately 25,000 honeybees discovered near the combat arms training and maintenance range. The bees were discovered in close proximity to an outdoor picnic area at the CATM range by Tech. Sgt. Rayce Schneider and Senior Airman Billy Hunt, both assigned to the 341st Security Forces Support Squadron.

"Sergeant Schneider heard the buzzing," Hunt said. "It sounded like a bee buzzing by your ear, but multiply the buzzing by one thousand. At first, we thought it was just a few hundred bees, but it actually turned out to be a lot more." The Airmen then contacted Tech. Sgt. Freddie Belton, a member of the 341st Civil Engineer Squadron pest management.

"We called Sergeant Belton and he was able to help us out," Hunt said. According to Belton, he considered the option of exterminating the bees. However, according to Dr. Elin Pierce, a 341st CES Fish and Wildlife biologist, exterminating such a large number of insects can be costly, and often involves using chemicals in the removal process and could also pose a risk to crop production. When bees gather nectar from flowers, they move pollen from one plant to another, helping to pollinate approximately 80 percent of all fruit, vegetable and seed crops in the U.S., she said.

After assessing the situation, Belton then made the decision to contact Pierce to seek advice from a professional on how to best handle an unusual situation. According to Pierce, the bees were clustered in a 3-foot-long "ball" hanging from a shrub that she estimated to be 10,000 bees in total.

"The bee swarm was on the move from a previous home to find a new one," Pierce said after examining the situation with Belton. "During this phase they often stop to rest somewhere but they are not territorial, nor aggressive. It was possible to get within a foot or two without disturbing the bee swarm." Pierce recognized that the bees were in transit and considered her options.

"The swarm would have (to travel) a tremendous distance to find a new home," Pierce said. "The fields east of Malmstrom Air Force Base have nothing but wheat (fields) with no structures for bees to build a hive in."

According to Pierce, there were in fact more bees nestled further within the shrub, bringing the total estimated number to 25,000. Being a master beekeeper, Rogers was able to remove the bees using a cardboard box with slatted interior and a lid. Rogers removed the branches the swarms were attached to and gently shook the bees off into the box. Rogers was able to give the bees a new home where they could continue to produce honey.

According to Pierce, it was all over in a short time and not one person was stung. "I definitely consider it a win," Hunt said. "Most people's first instinct is to kill bees."