

February 2012



Civilian Military Support Group NEWSLETTER



President's Corner – February 2012 Civ-Mil 2012



Mike Belzil

Edwards Air Force Base.

By the time this Newsletter reaches you, we will already be 2 months into 2012. Perhaps you are managing to keep a few of your New Year's resolutions, and I am hopeful you have room to add one more. I would encourage all of us to resolve to be a little more active in our Civ-Mil Support Group so we can be a force for positive change for military members, their families and civilian employees at

Holiday Meal Program

One way we had a positive and significant impact for base residents was through participation in our Holiday Meal Program at the end of 2011. This annual program helps provide meals for deserving service members and families during the December holidays. The Board of Directors worked closely with the Edwards Command Chiefs to ensure donations would go to families with the greatest need. Thanks to the leadership of board member Julie Swayze, who was our committee chair, and the generosity of our members and outside contributors, we were able to contribute \$3,500.00 to assist base families during the holiday period. The board is tremendously grateful to all who assisted through donations and fund raising.

Membership

One of the easiest ways to contribute to Edwards Air Force Base advocacy is to promote membership in Civ-Mil. If your membership is current, the Civ-Mil Board thanks you. If your membership has lapsed, please renew it as soon as possible. If you are a business owner, I en-

courage you to become a corporate member if you are not yet participating at that level. And, if you are the spouse of a member, please know you are welcome as either a member or a volunteer within our organization. Finally, the Board of Directors and I urge you to encourage your friends to join our organization. The contributions we make in support of the Base make membership rewarding and well worth our time and effort.

As you no doubt know, our group exists for the sole purpose of benefiting Edwards Air Force Base and its residents. To that end, we allocate our expenditures to assist, in some way, the base workforce and family members. The larger our organization, the greater the opportunity we have to participate in Civ-Mil activities in support of the Base. Part of our engagement with the Base involves organizing social events as a mechanism to conduct modest fund raising and promote interaction between base leaders and our membership. With spring around the corner, I hope you are planning to participate in our first Civ-Mil social event of 2012.

Spring Mixer

As is our tradition, the 2012 Spring Mixer is being planned for the April-May time frame. We coordinate with base leadership staffs to coordinate the best possible participation of base leaders and facilitate interaction with Civ-Mil members and community leaders. Last year's event was held in downtown Lancaster. We are in the planning phase of our 2012 mixer and we would welcome your suggestions and ideas to make this the best mixer ever. Last year's participation was in excess of 100 attendees, and it is our goal to match or exceed that total this year. We will be sending out a "Save the Date" advisory once our date is set. Invitations will follow thereafter. We hope you will plan to attend—and bring a guest!

(Cont. on Page 2)

Thank You

I want to close this President's Corner installment by thanking you for your membership and participation. Our membership is composed entirely of volunteers. Our ability to participate in Civ-Mil events is a reflection of how we choose to spend our discretionary time. With many activities, organizations and other interests competing for our free time, I am both amazed and grateful for the contributions of our membership to participate and volunteer on behalf of Civ-Mil and Edwards Air Force Base. If you feel you would like to contribute but are not sure how to begin, I urge you to reach out to me or any member of our Board of Directors. We can always use a helping hand, and every volunteer is welcome.

A Note Of Thanks...

To the gentleman who purchased and donated over 10 pairs of baby's shoes and other items specifically for the Airman's Attic.

To the Antelope Valley Boys & Girls Club for providing over 30 pairs of children's shoes for the Airman's Attic.

Your generosity is most commendable!

Please accept our sincerest thanks
The Membership of the
Edwards AFB Civ-Mil Support Group

End

Mission complete: Team Edwards' Airman's Attic Re-Opens

by Meredith Mingledorff

95th Air Base Wing Public Affairs, Edwards AFB, CA

After more than two years of work, members of the Edwards community came together to celebrate an improved Airman's Attic on November 22. Sporting brand new carpet and a cleaner more organized space, the attic re-opened its doors just in time for the holidays.

The new carpet was a gift to Edwards Airmen provided by the Edwards AFB Civilian-Military Support Group. The private organization is a body of community partners whose purpose it is to establish a "friendly, benevolent association of civic leaders and military personnel at Edwards." Each year the group chooses and completes a community service project at Edwards Air Force Base. Some of their previous projects include the Flag Park across from Building 1 and the Higher Grounds Internet Café in the dorms, where they contributed furniture, six computers, and two plasma screen TVs.

What made the Airman's Attic project significant was the scale of the project. Raising more than \$15,000 to replace the carpet, the Civ-Mil group decided to complete the work in two phases over two years instead of one.

"This has been a culmination of a two-year project and we are proud to have been a part of this effort," said Mike Belzil, president of the Civ-Mil group. "Our 2010 project was Airman's Attic Phase I for the first half of the project, and our 2011 project was Airman's Attic Phase II for the remaining portion."



Base leadership and members of the Edwards Civilian-Military Support Group join forces to install new carpet tiles on the floor of the Airman's Attic. From left: Michele Slade, Col. Gregory J. Schwab, 95th Air Base Wing Commander, Chief Master Sgt. Bill Thomaston, 95th Air Base Wing Command Chief, Chief Master Sgt. Chris McCollor, 412th Test Wing Command Chief, and Danny Bazzell, Vice President and Director of Strategic Communications for the Edwards Civ-Mil group. (U.S. Air Force photo by Diane Betzler)

The new facility, located in Building 7211, next to the U.S. Post Office, occupies more than 8,000 square feet.

“I’ve never seen an Airman’s Attic this big,” said Col. Amy Arwood, Vice-Commander, 95th Air Base Wing.

Arwood and Wing Commander, Col. Gregory Schwab, were among several base leaders who came to the store to thank the community for their support. Also in attendance were Chief Master Sergeants Bill Thomaston and Chris McCollor, command chiefs of the 95th Air Base Wing and 412th Test Wing, respectively.

“We are truly grateful to be involved in Airmen giving back to Airmen,” said Thomaston. “Team Edwards has a great relationship with our partners downtown and are lucky to have the backbone of this operation, the spouses of our enlisted members, who truly make this operation work.”



The Team Edwards' military community came together with members of the Edwards AFB Civilian-Military Support Group on November 22 to celebrate completion of a two-year project at the Airman's Attic. The Civ-Mil Group raised more than \$15,000 to install new carpet in the facility, an accomplishment completed with volunteer work from members across the base. (U.S. Air Force Photo by Meredith Mingledorff)

Airman's Attic Notice

Special thanks to Pan Patel

If you, or anyone you know, are interested in making a donation to the Airman's Attic, here is some important information you should know. Pan has donated the use of a storage facility to hold items for delivery to the Airman's Attic. The storage unit is on his property at the Devonshire Inn, 2076 West Rosamond Boulevard in Rosamond. If you have any questions or would like to coordinate storage, please contact Pan Patel at (661) 256-3454.

The attic is staffed entirely by volunteers and overseen by the Edwards Top 3. The current two lead volunteers, Kristen Minor and Jennifer Ireland talked about how far the space had come in the last phase and excitedly spoke about the work they'd seen.

“These guys were tearing up carpet and throwing out trash. It was a mess in here,” said Ireland.

The last week of the effort required the attic to shut its doors and relocate much of its merchandise. According to Ireland and other volunteers, the workforce came from across Team Edwards.

“We really came from all over,” said Staff Sgt. Robert Hardesty, 412th Maintenance Group. “We had as many as 21 volunteers on one of the days and it took about 40 all together. There were test wing, air base wing and associate units. Everybody chipped in. It was totally a team effort.”

Team is central to what the attic stands for according to Master Sgt. Randall George, Airman's Attic Committee Chairman for the Edwards Top 3.

“It says ‘Airman's Attic’ up there,” George said, pointing to the sign above the counter. “But what's important to remember is the ‘Team Edwards’ part. It took the whole community pulling together to make this what it is today and in the military we are family. We have to look out for one another. This facility is open to all branches of the service and that's important.”

The attic provides household and personal items free-of-charge to active duty military members rank E-6 and below. The service is intended to provide a helping hand to members as they set up new households or start new families, a service that can make a difference in financial security for some of the newest military members.

Senior Airman Robert Sotler, Information Protection Officer, 95th Communications Squadron, was one of the volunteers who helped complete the final transformation for the attic. He said his appreciation was what prompted the work.

“I wanted to give back,” said Sotler.

He and his wife, Meg, are parents to a one-year old baby girl and have used the Airman’s Attic as a resource for their household needs. According to the Airman, clothes, toys, a baby walker, and a table have all helped the family stay on-track financially.

“I bring home the only source of income,” he said. “This [the Airman’s Attic] has helped us out tremendously and I wanted to do something in return for what they’ve given me and my family.”

Volunteers are always welcome according to Airman’s Attic staff. Those interested in community service can stop by the store during its regular hours or call 661-277-2246 for more information.

“Most of our Civ-Mil members are prior service or from military families,” added Belzil. “We enjoy keeping that connection and get our motivation from coming out here and visiting with the men and women who make our military great.”

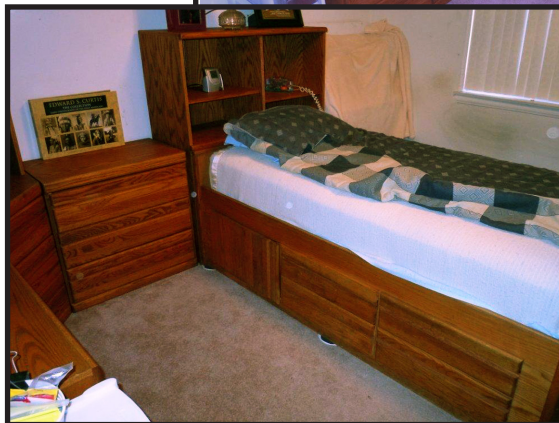
The Civ-Mil group is in the process of choosing a project for 2012.

End

An Airman’s Attic Donation

By John A. Fergione
Civ-Mil Newsletter Editor

The EAFB Civ-Mil sends many thanks to Gloria and Al Kellogg of Palmdale for their generous donation to the Airman’s Attic last October. Their gifts will certainly be appreciated. Thanks to Robertson Palmdale-Honda for donating the moving truck. Between Al and Gloria’s gift and other merchandise, this truck was pretty full. The contents completely filled a storage shed donated by Pan Patel at the Devonshire in Rosamond.



UP COMING EVENTS

Civ-Mil Spring Mixer
Spring 2012
More Information to Follow

MISSION

“The purpose and general nature of this organization is to establish a friendly, benevolent association of civic leaders and military personnel at Edwards Air Force Base (EAFB), to host groups incoming to Edwards, and to consider service projects to benefit EAFB.”

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If you are enjoying reading this Newsletter, and you're not a member of Civ-Mil, but would like more information on the organization, please contact Art Furtado at (661) 965-5452.

You may also submit your request in writing to:

EAFB Civ-Mil
P.O. Box 812
Lancaster, CA 93584-0812
Attn: Membership Chairman