

Spring / Summer 2017



Civilian Military Support Group NEWSLETTER



President's Remarks

by Al Hoffman

2017 is turning out to be a very busy year for Edwards AFB, and with increased tempo across the Base, there are certainly more opportunities for engagement of the Civ-Mil Group supporting the Airmen, other Service Members, and their Families. Civ-Mil continues to provide ever-so-important financial assistance to groups on the Base. This year we provided \$10K to the 1st Sergeants Council so that they can assist Airmen and family members in deserving and/or emergency situations. We did contribute \$850 to the Airmen Against Drunk Driving campaign on Base and provided the local Marine Corps contingent



Allen Hoffman

\$500 for their assistance efforts. Our organization also supplied 200 tickets – 100 for each day – for the Los Angeles County Air Show to 412th TW Command Chief Todd Simmons and his team of senior non-commissioned officers to distribute to deserving Airmen. Tickets were also provided to our Air Force community for Civ-Mil's Spring Mixer, which was combined with our Group's Release Celebration for the Silver Anniversary Book "25 Years Supporting Warriors: A History of Edwards AFB Civilian – Military Support Group 1989-2014" as well as the Lancaster Jethawks Annual Aerospace Appreciation Night.

Speaking of the Mixer / Book Release / Aerospace Appreciation Night event, many of our members joined with our Air Force friends to brave a rather blustery and chilly evening to enjoy a BBQ meal, a baseball game, the book, but most importantly to connect each other and either strengthen existing, or forge new, relationships at The Hangar on May 12th. Brigadier General Carl Schaefer, Commander, 412th Test Wing / Edwards AFB, threw the game's ceremonial first pitch. NASA offered a couple of terrific, always exciting, fly-bys with one of its research and chase F-18 jet fighters. Many of those in attendance left with a copy of our Silver Anniversary Book.

Civ-Mil has also joined with the Flight Test Historical Foundation in providing matching grants to the local schools competing in designing a concept for the new Medal of Honor Memorial Wall. The present day one will be relocated to the Air Force Flight Test Museum's current location, then ultimately will be integrated into the design of the relocated and expanded Museum location outside the West or Rosamond Boulevard Gate to the Base. More on this exciting project in a separate article.

In recognition of Civ-Mil's efforts, at a recent Directors meeting, CMSgt Daryl Baldosser presented a plaque on behalf of the Edwards

Chiefs Groups as a "Thank You for your support and sponsorship of our Airmen Leadership School mentorship initiative."

And since I've mentioned the Book a couple of times, I sure hope everyone has an opportunity to get one, or at the very least spend some quality time with one. This is a well-done historical look at the Edwards AFB Civilian-Military Support Group. A super big Thank You must be extended to our Historical Committee, chaired by Dick Spann and assisted by Diane Nagy, Aida O'Connor, and John Fergione. Without the dedication and hard work put forth by Dick and Diane in particular – and also our design and graphics expert, Bradley Smith – as I would aptly describe as a 'labor of love,' the "25 Years Supporting Warriors" would never have been realized. One other small, but significant, thing to note... Just inside the front you will see Library of Congress Control Number 2017930900. Not many other (if any) organizations like Civ-Mil can boast about that. We are still in the process of distributing these Books to Civ-Mil Members, sponsors, libraries, and every US Air Force Base both here in the US and abroad.

Besides an increase in the tempo of flight test operations and hardware projects on the Base, there have been many other activities happening. Civ-Mil was well represented at the annual 412th Test Wing Awards banquet and ceremony on February 8th inside Hangar 1600. It was great – and a lot more fun – to have the Awards return to the hangar venue...to dine and converse alongside aircraft such as the F-22, F-35, and B-52 among others. From Civ-Mil, Congratulations is offered not only to all of the winners, but to all uniformed and civilian nominees.

An exciting endeavor has taken foot in that an Enlisted Heritage Project is well underway. The Enlisted heritage Center will reside inside Club Muroc. Hardware, uniforms, photographs, and all sorts of other are, or will be, displayed memorializing and honoring the contributions of the men and women of the enlisted ranks throughout the history of our US Air Force. I highly encourage everyone who has a chance to drop by Club Muroc to check this out. And Chief Simmons is excited about the 'more to come' aspect of this important project. We'll keep you informed on the progress.

What else? On June 8th, AFRL (Air Force Research Laboratory) on Edwards AFB, more affectionately known as the Rocket Lab or Rocket Site, celebrated its 65th Anniversary with a Family Day and Open House. So, Congratulations to Colonel Anne Clark, Commander of AFRL Det 7, and Dr. Shawn Phillips, Chief of the Rocket Propulsion Division for AFRL on 65 years of crucial support to our national defense and space programs.

Our Group has grown a bit too. A very enthusiastic Welcome to our newest members: Lindy Parke, Chris Chapleau, Cindy & Bill Poole, Jean Harris, Dan Sebastian, James Webb, and the Antelope Valley

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Researching, designing, refining

By: Allison Gatlin

LANCASTER - The 64 seventh-grade engineering students at Fulton & Alsbury Academy of Arts and Engineering spent much of their school year researching, designing, refining and ultimately creating a three-dimensional model of a monument to Army Air Corps and Air Force Medal of Honor recipients.

Now they will be able to see their design constructed and displayed at Edwards AFB: a 10-foot-tall five-sided stainless-steel pyramid mounted atop a two-foot-tall pentagonal base whose five sides are marked with the words Sacrifice, Loyalty, Patriotism, Courage and Valor.

Each of the pyramid's five sides bears an airplane emblem representing a war in which Army Air Corps or Air Force men received Medals of Honor, plus the names of the honorees from that war.

"It's pretty cool because not every day can seventh-graders build something that can mean a lot to someone," said student Ronisha Brown.

The seventh graders' monument won top prize in an Air Force Flight Test Museum contest to design a replacement for a 20-year-old monument that is out an out-of-the-way location at Edwards.

"These kids have actually designed a museum-quality memorial that will be seen for years by the public," said Danny Bazzell, general manager of the Flight Test Historical Foundation, which funds the museum.

The design contest was a joint project of the foundation and the Edwards Civilian-Military Support Group, which created the existing monument.

For the prize-winning design, the school will receive a \$2,000 first-place award toward its engineering program.

The seventh-graders won the competition against three other teams from area high schools. R. Rex Parris' team placed second, with a \$1,000 prize, and a team from Lancaster High School's Learning and Achieving in Multimedia Production and Engineering, or LAMPE, program placed third, winning \$500.

The fourth team, from Tehachapi High School, also performed well, so organizers decided to award a \$500 fourth-place prize to them, as well.

The existing monument to Medal of Honor recipients from the Air Force and its predecessor, the Army Air Corps, was erected in 1997. A wall mounted with bronze plaques naming the recipients, it sits in a small park across the street from the Air Force Test Center headquarters.

"That memorial just sits back, kind of hidden," Bazzell said.

The situation was made worse in recent years as drought conditions left the park grass dry and dead.

"It just didn't seem like a fitting place."

Organizers decided the need for a new monument was an opportunity to engage the science, technology, engineering and math - or STEM - education that is at the center of the museum's mission.

The Fulton & Alsbury students' winning design consists of three components: a support base, a motif and a pyramid.

"Everything has meaning," said student Crystal Chavez, one of the primary designers on the collaborative effort.

The support base is in the shape of a pentagon, to represent the nation's five fighting forces, said student Michael Southworth.

The words on each side are ones the students determined represent the traits exhibited by military pilots and other military personnel: sacrifice, loyalty, patriotism, courage and valor.

Atop the base is the motif: a one-foot-wide band of crossed bars to represent strength.

The bulk of the monument is the pyramid, which reaches toward the sky.

Sage Cheshire Aerospace of Lancaster will construct the monument. Students visited the shop as they were creating their design to gain an understanding of the manufacturing process and how engineering is applied.

The new monument will be placed at the museum's current location. However, plans call for moving it once a planned new museum is built outside the base's West Gate on Rosamond Boulevard, where it will be accessible to the general public.

This requirement that the monument be transported was one constraint on teams' designs that affected their final scores in the judging.

The design details included not only style and dimensions, but also the materials to be used. This required the teams to research materials for requirements such as weight, strength and the ability to withstand the desert weather conditions over time.

"This has to be a real-world engineering problem,"
Bazzell said.

The students choose stainless steel for their winning design, taking into consideration such constraints as the size, safety issues and portability.

Working from photographs of the site, students worked to create a monument that would fit the site but still be large enough "to where you're kind of amazed by it," Chavez said.

In addition to the design itself, which was rendered as a model using computer-aided 3D printing, students were required to submit a video explaining their design and an essay about the Medal of Honor.

The students learned about the Medal of Honor and each researched a different recipient. They learned that only one woman has been awarded the medal, Mary Edwards Walker, for her service during the Civil War.

"I thought there would be a lot of them," said student Makaila Paul. "Even though (women) were just introduced to (combat roles), I'm surprised there wasn't more."

For Southworth, the project gained new meaning after a visit to Arlington National Cemetery during a trip to the nation's capital. There he saw the gravesite of the Medal of Honor recipient he had researched.

"It really put into perspective why we're building this,"
he said.

The seventh-grade engineering class curriculum at Fulton & Alsbury already included learning 3D modeling, typically using a project to design playground equipment. The monument competition was a way to incorporate a real-world project into the curriculum, said Principal Andrew Glatfelter.

"It's neat that they could work for a real client because it has real-world applications," he said.

The competition's extensive requirements also meant "they got to dabble in a lot of things," such as material science, Glatfelter said.

Southworth, who has ambitions to be an architect, said the project was an unusual opportunity to test his skills as a seventh-grader.

"This is the closest thing I could get to being an engineer,"
he said.

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Mall. For those who have renewed their memberships, Thanks. If you have not yet, you may by going to www.eafbcivmil.org or in-person at our annual BBQ on July 21st.

And speaking of our annual BBQ, it is approaching. This year's BBQ is set for Friday evening, July 21st. We are once again at the fabulous Lane Hacienda ranch in Palmdale. Besides the good food (steak, chicken, vegetarian), the beer (Thank You Bravery Bewing), wine, non-alcoholic beverages, and just an overall tremendous gathering of military and civilian community folks, we have the return of the Spoiled Doves of California. The Spoiled Doves were a big hit at our 25th Anniversary BBQ. This will certainly add another element of fun to the evening. Please see our BBQ invitation in this newsletter or go to our website www.eafbcivmil.org for more information and certainly, to RSVP.

We certainly hope to see everyone at the BBQ – as well as – just around the Valley or on the Base. ***And here is wishing everyone a safe and fun Summer!***

Mission Statement

The purpose and general nature of the Edwards Air Force Base Civilian-Military Support Group is to establish a friendly, benevolent association of civic leaders and military personnel at Edwards Air Force Base, to act as a host group whenever needed and additionally, to consider an annual service project to benefit EAFB.



Civ-Mil Hosts Spring Mixer & 25th Anniversary Book Release

By Mike Belzil

On May 12, 2017, President Al Hoffman hosted the annual Civ-Mil Spring Mixer at JetHawks stadium (The Hangar). Although the evening was brisk and blustery, the turnout was impressive, as more than 100 guests gathered for the traditional spring social at a creative location. The venue was a first for Civ-Mil Spring Mixers, and it was made even more memorable as the highlight of the evening, in addition to a JetHawks victory, was the release of our 25th anniversary book, *25 Years Supporting Warriors: A History of Edwards AFB Civilian-Military Support Group 1989 - 2014*.

The mixer was held at the Hunter Dodge Party Deck at The Hangar. The venue provided much-needed shelter from the windy conditions while providing an excellent location to network and socialize. The event had a mix of Civ-Mil board members, community leaders and book sponsors. Edwards AFB base leadership was also well-represented as Brig Gen Carl Schaefer, 412th Test Wing Commander, his wife, Pauline, 412th Test Wing Vice Commander, Colonel Jason Schott and 412th Test Wing Command Chief Master Sergeant and Mrs. Todd Simmons were among those in attendance.

In conjunction with the evening's festivities, copies of the 25th anniversary book were provided to all in attendance. This marked the inaugural distribution of the publication and showcased the dedicated efforts of the Civ-Mil Historical Committee to compile and publish the book. The committee was chaired by the Dick Spann, Civ-Mil Historian, and included founder, Aida O'Connor; John Fergione (Civ-Mil president at the project's initiation); and Diane Nagy, Project Manager. Diane also served as the Editor-in-Chief, and she is largely credited with driving the project to completion. Diane was assisted by EAFB consultant Dennis Shoffner as well as editors Katy Corbett and Tamara Castillo.

The chilly conditions did not dampen the spirits of all in attendance. The conversation was lively, the fellowship was heartwarming, and the game was exciting. Attendees departed with more than 100 copies of the book. Additional distribution is planned to all USAF bases in the continental United States, regional and state libraries, and attendees at the Civ-Mil BBQ in July.

2017 Summer Barbeque and the 25th Anniversary Book Distribution

By Dick Spann

Our annual summer Civ-Mil Barbeque will be held on the July 21, 2017, at the Lane Ranch in Palmdale.

Our host for the evening will be Ms. Frances Lane, who graciously donates her property each year for our gathering. This year's BBQ will feature a new food preparer for the event.

For the first time, we will have the Antelope Valley's oldest cooking group, the Sherri Chefs, preparing and grilling our steak and chicken. This group has served the Antelope Valley for over 80 years at a wide variety of civic events. In addition, this year marks the return of the Spoiled Doves

The photo opportunity with the group of three women was one of the hits of the evening at our 25th Anniversary BBQ, and they have agreed to return again this year. The Doves will be dressed in western period costume and will bring traditional western wear and props for anyone wishing to take classic photographs with them. Additional entertainment and giveaways are under consideration, so be sure to attend. You may be pleasantly surprised!

Finally, for all members of the Edwards Air Force Base Civ-Mil Support Group and sponsors, or if you placed a congratulatory tribute to Civ-Mil in the 25th anniversary book, you may pick up a copy of your book at the barbeque at no cost. We all look forward to another great night together at Frances Lane's Ranch!

The school where Air Force pilots get ‘comfortable being uncomfortable’

Priska Neely (Reprinted with permission of Julie Swayze)

The U.S. Air Force Test Pilot School, at Edwards Air Force Base, 90 miles north of Los Angeles, prepares pilots for test missions for new aircraft and systems. Priska Neely/KPCC



When new, experimental aircraft are developed for the military, the first pilots to enter the cockpit are flying blind.

“The very first person to fly the F-35, they were the first person,” said Colonel Charles Webb. “There was nobody to ask, ‘How well does it land?’ You have to have the skill set that you can bring to a brand new platform.”

Drive 90 miles north of Los Angeles, way out in the Mojave Desert, and you’ll find the home of the pilots and engineers who are developing the skills to carry out test missions: the U.S. Air Force Test Pilot School.

The work of test pilots is vital to working out the kinks of new aircraft, systems and weapons and making sure it’s safe in the real world.

“Our sacred duty in my opinion is to go there before the warfighter,” said Webb, commanding officer of the school on Edwards Air Force Base, “so we don’t have a young wingman over hostile territory that finds something we should have found in test.”

There’s a saying in the test flight community: “Call the baby ugly.” If there’s an issue with a new piece of machinery or if software isn’t running right, you’ve got to be able to bring it up. This school prepares students to do that as flight test pilots and engineers.



Colonel Charles Webb walks down the hallways lined with class photos dating back to the school’s founding in 1944. Priska Neely/KPCC

The U.S. Air Force Test Pilot School is very competitive, with only 20 students accepted into each class. Half are pilots and half are engineers, who monitor systems from the backseat of the plane or in a control room on the ground. The tuition—valued at \$1 million—is covered by taxpayers.

During the 48-week course, students learn to push the limits of aircraft. How high can a plane climb? How fast can it go? How much can it carry?



Colonel Charles Webb walks down the hallways lined with class photos dating back to the school’s founding in 1944. Priska Neely/KPCC

They spend half of an average day practicing flight maneuvers and testing capabilities, and the other half of the time in intensive math and engineering classes.

After graduation, many students will move across the street at Edwards Air Force Base to work at the Air Force Flight Test Center – running test missions for systems the military is rolling out.



Students learn the ins and outs of almost everything the U.S. Air Force uses so that they are equipped to test new technologies. Priska Neely/ KPCC

At the height of the space race, the path to NASA went straight through test pilot school. The 1979 book “The Right Stuff,” which was later made into a movie, follows the men who risked their lives as test pilots before becoming Mercury 7 astronauts.



This modified F-16 can simulate the flight characteristics of many other aircraft. Priska Neely/KPCC

Outgoing 461st FLTS commander selected for astronaut training

EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. --

Lt. Col. Raja Chari has been selected by NASA to join the 2017 Astronaut Candidate Class. He will report for duty this August.

Chari relinquishes command of the 461st Flight Test Squadron June 9 where he oversaw developmental testing of the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter for the past couple of years. Simultaneously, he served as director of the F-35 Integrated Test Force.

Chari will leave Edwards AFB as a colonel select. He has flown more than 2,000 flight hours in the F-35, F-15, F-16, and F-18 including F-15E combat missions in Operation Iraqi Freedom and deployments in support of the Korean peninsula.

“What this truly means is recognition of all the people I’ve worked with and the opportunities I was given,” said Chari. “Whether it was pilot training, test pilot school, or even in my current job as the 461st commander, the Air Force has always provided me with a team made up of great and motivated people, mentors and leaders who coached me along the way and let me grow. I’m more than a little sad to be leaving the ITF and the F-35, but am humbled to have the chance to serve in this new role. I can only hope to motivate some student out there somewhere to go learn as much as they can with the intent to give back something to this nation.

The Iowa native graduated from the U.S. Air Force Academy in 1999 with bachelor’s degrees in astronautical engineering and engineering science. He continued on to earn a master’s degree in aeronautics and astronautics from Massachusetts Institute of Technology and graduated from the U.S. Naval Test Pilot School.

Chari is one of 12 new astronauts introduced on Wednesday who will train for missions into Earth’s orbit and into deep space.

The seven men and five women comprise the 22nd class of American spaceflight trainees since 1959. The group is the largest NASA has selected in almost two decades a NASA release said.

The 12 new candidates include six military officers, three scientists, two medical doctors, a lead engineer at SpaceX and a NASA research pilot.

Chari will report for duty in August to begin two years of training as an Astronaut Candidate. Upon completion, he will be assigned techni-



By 412th Test Wing Public Affairs /
Published June 07, 2017

cal duties in the Astronaut Office while he awaits a flight assignment, according to NASA.

“It’s not something I always wanted to do on a specific day, but rather something that’s evolved. Around eighth or ninth grade the idea of flying and science really caught hold in my mind. Through high school that evolved into a desire to attend the Air Force Academy, and although space was definitely something I’d say I wanted to do, it seemed so ridiculous that really I had my sights set on flying. Once I was at the academy and especially grad school, I fell in love with engineering and the idea of being a test pilot really took hold. From that point, the idea of becoming an astronaut didn’t seem so ridiculous. But the great thing is I enjoyed every step along the way. I never felt I was doing something just to fill a square but rather because I really enjoyed it and it just happened to also be one of many paths (the majority of my class is not test pilots) to becoming an astronaut.

- Some information for this article provided by NASA

Continued From Page 5

Students have access to an unusual aircraft – the Variable-stability In-flight Simulator Test Aircraft, known as VISTA (above) – which can simulate the flight characteristics of a range of fighter jets and bombers to give pilots practice.

“You develop some confidence and essentially become comfortable being uncomfortable,” said commandant Webb.



Major Matthew Goh graduated from the U.S. Air Force Test Pilot School June 9, 2017. Priska Neely/KPCC

“This is really the cutting edge,” said Matthew Goh, who graduated from the school in June. “This is really the forefront of technology and having a huge say in it, that’s incredible.”

Goh is from Singapore — two spots in each class usually go to international students. After graduation, he’ll return to Singapore to work in flight test development.

For the most part, students at the school are overwhelming white and male. All applicants must have an undergraduate degree in engineering, and Colonel Webb says that requirement limits the pool.

Webb says getting kids more access to math and engineering in grade school is key to bringing more women and students of color to the school and creating a more diverse test pilot community.



Edwards AFB Civilian Military Support Group

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Contact Information

Membership Type: Individual Corporate New Renewal

Name	
Street Address	
City, State, Zip Code	
Home Phone	
Work Phone	
Cell Phone	
E-Mail Address	

New Member Referred by: _____ Approved by Board: _____

Access

Membership in EAFB Civ/Mil does not guarantee access to Edwards AFB.
 The granting of any access to Edwards AFB is a privilege and such access may be denied, revised or revoked at any time by order of the Commander, Air Force Test Center, Edwards Air Force Base.

Interests

I am interested in volunteering to assist with the following committees

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Elections | <input type="checkbox"/> Annual BBQ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> By-Laws | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Annual Project | <input type="checkbox"/> Installation Banquet |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Membership | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I am interested in serving as a Director | |

In addition to my dues I would like to donate an additional \$_____ to Civ/Mil

Payment Information

**Annual Membership Dues are \$60.00 per Person (Individual), Spouse \$40.00
 Corporate Membership: \$125.00 (One Designated Member Only)**

Please make checks payable to: EAFB Civ/Mil

Mail Completed Application to: P.O. Box 812, Lancaster, CA 93584-0812

Membership Includes:

- Membership Card
- Membership Certificate
- Civ/Mil Coin: New members Only {Limited to one per membership, additional coins may be purchased if desired}
- 2 Decals For Vehicle, Home or Office

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If you are enjoying reading this Newsletter, and you are not a member of

Civ-Mil, but would like more information on the organization, please contact:
George Nagy at (661) 400-5516

You may also submit your request in writing to:

EAFB Civ-Mil

P.O. Box 812

Lancaster, CA 93584-0812

Attn: Membership Chairman

<http://www.eafbcivmil.org>

Upcoming Events

1. Civ-Mil Annual BBQ 2017
Hacienda Lane Ranch, Palm-
dale, CA

July 21, 2017

2. Civ-Mil Annual Installation
Location TBD

Fall 2017