

Summer 2014



# Civilian Military Support Group NEWSLETTER



## President's Corner

By Danny Bazzell



**Danny A. Bazzell**

It is often said that "time flies when you are having fun." No truer words were spoken than when talking about our 25th Anniversary year. In April, our Spring Mixer kicked off the celebration with a glitzy, glamorous evening at the University of the Antelope Valley Grand Ballroom where we enjoyed great

music, excellent food, dancing and a lot of good friends just getting together to enjoy each other's company. Thank you, Julie Swayze, for putting together a beautiful event!

In May, the Civ/Mil Group pitched in as a sponsor of the "Lt. Dan Band Benefit Concert" at Lancaster Municipal Stadium (Home of the JetHawks). All proceeds from this event went toward building a customized, wheelchair accessible home for Antelope Valley's home town hero, Army SPC Jerral Hancock. What an amazing evening it was as a sold out crowd came together in unwavering support of Jerral and his family. As the Civ/Mil President, I was proud to be able represent our organization and honored to be able to give a little something back to a young man who has given so much for this country.

On May 30th, we said our goodbyes to Colonel Daniel "Moose" Daetz, Vice Commander of the 412th Test Wing, and his family as he retired from a stellar USAF career. Retirement ceremonies are always such bittersweet affairs because while we are congratulating and wishing our friends success as they embark on the next chapter of their lives, we are also saying goodbye for now as they move on. Moose was a regular participant at our monthly board meetings where he was always eager to brief us on the happenings at the Test Wing. He will be missed and we wish him well.

June came and went in a blur of activity and preparation for our annual BBQ, and on the evening of July 18th, we pulled out all the stops and had us a regular country hoe-down! What a fabulous night! I enjoyed spending time with

many old friends, making new friends and just watching everyone have such a grand time. After socializing for a while and eating our fill of tri-tip and BBQ chicken, Jake Nelson and the Tone Wranglers fired up the music. Two lovely young ladies, Katie Fernquist and Jessica Campbell, showed the crowd how to do the two-step; and dance the night away we did!

I want to especially thank several people for making this such a wonderful event. Jin Hur, from Crazy Otto's, who catered the event, provided fantastic food! The men from the Antelope Valley Veterans Community Action Coalition volunteered their time as servers and did a great job taking care of our guests. Thank you all for your service to our nation and for being a part of this memorable event. Steve Wizan, of the Agua Dulce Winery, provided a generous contribution of wine for the event. Brian Avery, of Bravery Brewing, provided an excellent sampling of his locally brewed beer! The Spoiled Doves of Texas (and now, California); Kathy Fergione, Linda K.C. Reynolds, and Natalee Norwood added a special flare with their photography and participation. Ladies, you were the hit of the evening. Thank you so much! Thanks as well to the organizing committee: Bob and Michelle Slade, John Fergione, Mike Belzil and Aida O'Connor. All the volunteers (too many to list by name) who put time and effort in to help setup, tear down, check in etc... you are the best! And a special THANK YOU to our hostess for the evening, the beautiful and gracious Frances Lane, for once again opening her home to us for this event. We love you Frances. I hope I didn't leave anyone out; and if I did, please forgive me.

So time has indeed flown by this year and we have had some great fun. But wait! There's more to come. Mark your calendars and save the date for the evening of October 23rd when we will get together again for our annual Installation Banquet. Time and place to be determined so keep your eye on your e-mail and snail mail for an invitation coming soon to you!

*Thank you for your  
continued support  
and blessings to you all!*



# Aerotech News

by Rebecca Amber  
Staff writer

-PALMDALE, Calif. -- The Edwards Air Force Base Civilian-Military Support group and guests gathered at Hacienda Lane Ranch for a night of dinner and dancing July 18. The Annual Barbecue served as not only a fundraiser, but as a 25th anniversary celebration for the group and was “without a doubt” the largest barbecue the group has ever had.

Among the guests, former and current commanders and leaders from the Air Force Test Center enjoyed conversation, live entertainment by Jacob Nelson and the Tone Wranglers, and dinner. The caterer, Jin Hur from Crazy Otto's donated the proceeds from the event to the Antelope Valley Veterans Action Coalition, who served the food that evening. Guests were also invited to have their picture taken at an old time photo booth put together by the Spoiled Doves of California and Texas.

“This is a pretty big day for the Brewer household,” shared Brig. Gen. Michael T. Brewer, 412th Test Wing commander. “Today, about ten minutes ago when you saw my wife start to cry, my son just got his first assignment from pilot training.”

He went on to say that when you think of the men and women wearing the uniform as sons and daughters, it's something special. It's no longer just a soldier going into combat that needs to rely on their equipment, but a son or daughter that is going to rely on their equipment.

“I've been the commander at three different bases and we don't get any support better than we get right here,” said Brewer. “I thank you for that.”

Edwards Civ-Mil was first established in 1989 in response to the base realignment closure commission's determination to shut down bases all over the country and world. The organization's founder, Aida O'Connor, shared her story of how Civ-Mil in the Antelope Valley came to be.

O'Connor had accepted a tour invitation from former Air Force Flight Test Center commander, retired Maj. Gen. John Schoeppner, to visit Patrick AFB, Fla. During that trip, she met their CivMil group.

“My gosh, it was the most beautiful time - it was gorgeous. The whole event was wonderful and their CivMil group was fabulous,” said O'Connor. “They not only were out here like we are tonight, but some of them were retired and so knowledgeable about the Air Force that they acted as docents on some of the busses.”

On the plane ride home, O'Connor asked Schoeppner where she could join the Edwards Civ-Mil group.

He replied, “Oh, we don't have one. They told me if I brought you on this trip we would have one.”

And 25 years later, the group is continuing to serve Edwards AFB. The group has raised the funds to complete projects such as providing new flags and poles to the base's Flag Park, financing busses to allow Airmen to participate in the Armed Services Day Parade and providing new furniture and equipment to the Higher Grounds facility in the dorm area.

“Relationships are always important. If you don't have relationships, you don't have a mission,” shared Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Brendan O'Dowd, a guest at the barbecue. “[With Civ-Mil] you know someone else is there, you're not by yourself, you're not alone. A lot of people feel alone today and there are people that are here supporting and are willing to do anything to make sure you feel welcome.”

Civ-Mil was presented with resolutions from California State Senator Steve Knight and the City of Palmdale for the relationship they have built over the years.

“I'm proud that Aida thought of this, or was dragged into this 25 years ago and was smart enough to continue on,” said Knight. “So many great people work at Edwards AFB and help our fighting men and women have the best that's out there and the most proficient. The test that they do out there makes sure that folks like General Brewer's son are going to be safe.”

The last presentation was a traditional one for Civ-Mil, a gift for their host, Francis Lane who offers her ranch for the event. This year's gift was an 18-foot by 22-foot garrison flag that was flown in 13 different aircraft including an F-18, C-17, B-2, U-2, B-52, B-1 and KC-135. It was presented to Lane in a custom-built cabinet to hold the flag.

The Edwards AFB Civilian-Military Support Group exists to create a friendly association between civic leaders and military personnel at Edwards. Civ-Mil acts as a host group when needed and finds annual service projects to improve the general quality of life on base.



# 25th Anniversary

by Julie Swayze

On a warm night on the 18th of July, we gathered at Hacienda Lane Ranch in Palmdale California to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the creation of the Edwards AFB Civilian Military Support group. In 1989, the founder and former president, Aida O'Conner, was urged to create as a support group that would establish a friendly benevolent association of civic leaders and military personnel at Edwards AFB. The goals of the group were to act as a host group whenever needed and to consider an annual service project to benefit Edwards Air Force Base.

The evening was a huge success! There were guests who were past and current commanders as well as civic leaders of the Antelope Valley community. Food was provided by local business Crazy Otto's, who donated their proceeds to the Antelope Valley Veterans Action Coalition. Members of that group served the food that night.

Besides great food and socializing, old west photos were made available to the participants via the amazing photo booth of the Spoiled Doves of California and Texas. As a thank you for her continued good hospitality, the Civ-Mil presented Frances Lane, the host of the BBQ, with a flag that had been flown on numerous aircraft - from bombers to fighters to tankers. The evening ended with music provided by Jacob Nelson and the Tone Wranglers, an outstanding local country and western band. The group also led an opportunity to do some line dancing.

There were many politicians and dignitaries in attendance to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the group. The group continues to support the base after a quarter of a century and is still going strong. Whether it's providing new flags to the Edwards Flag Park or financing transportation to airmen to participate in the Armed Services Day Parade, or funding to support the Airmen's dorm with Kuerig machines, coffee and a refurbishing of the pool table equipment.

The Edwards Civ/Mil group exists to support the base in a variety of projects that will benefit the base.



# We Glitter Done!

By The Spoiled Doves of California  
and John Fergione

The Spoiled Doves of California were honored to be a part of Civ-Mil's 25th Anniversary Celebration.



"It is wonderful to be a part of this event," said Ms. Maybe (Natalee Norwood), the Founder of the Spoiled Doves of Texas at Hacienda Lane Ranch in Palmdale. "I came out here from Austin to be part of the Civ-Mil 25th Anniversary event and found that the chosen location was absolutely one of the most beautiful locations I've ever worked. The Civ-Mil group is one that I honor and respect because of

the ongoing work they do and I felt it was truly a privilege to be included in the festivities. That we were able to bring laughter and smiles to the guests is a huge bonus!"

The Spoiled Doves of California is a western-theme entertainment group closely associated with its full-fledged sister company, The Spoiled Doves of Texas. During the Civ-Mil celebration, guests enjoyed donning western wear, posing with a six foot shot gun and even holding onto a couple of two foot pistols that were custom made by Korean War and Air Force Veteran John Bradach.

"No party is too big or too small," said Ms. Chee Vee-Us (Kathy L. Fergione), a Spoiled Dove and professional photographer, who printed over 100 photos for the event. "We can also do children's birthday parties, anniversaries or any event to which you would like to add a western flair and some fine hospitality. We can do a different theme as well. It's really whatever you can imagine."

Last summer, Ms. Bee Havin' and Ms. Chee Vee-Us joined the Spoiled Doves of Texas, when they were invited to photograph the International Microsoft Corporation International gathering in Houston, TX. At this gathering, they entertained over 350 guests. Later that week, they provided entertainment for the United States Truckers' Convention in Enchanted Springs Ranch, Boerne, Texas.

"The Spoiled Doves have a way of relaxing a crowd and getting the party started," said Ms. Bee Havin' (Linda KC Reynolds), a Spoiled Dove and professional photographer. "It is fun to see CEOs of major corporations and dignitaries out of their element and having a great time."

For more information on the Spoiled Doves, please visit  
[www.spoileddoves.com](http://www.spoileddoves.com)

**Email: [SpoiledDovesofCA@gmail.com](mailto:SpoiledDovesofCA@gmail.com)**

You can also visit them on  
[www.Facebook.com/SpoiledDovesofCalifornia](http://www.Facebook.com/SpoiledDovesofCalifornia)

# Community

By Al Hoffman,

Antelope Valley Board of Trade President and Civ-Mil Director

*Editor's Note: The following is a condensed version of an article published in the Antelope Valley Board of Trade August 2014 Newsletter.*

Here in the Antelope Valley there are so many outstanding organizations, made up of so many of the area's wonderful citizens. Several of these groups are like-minded, with similar purpose or mission. Be it the Antelope Valley Board of Trade; Palmdale, Lancaster, or Rosamond Chambers of Commerce; the AV Hispanic Chamber of Commerce; or the Greater Antelope Valley Economic Alliance, we all want to retain and grow business and industry in the AV, and in the process, develop a sense of community. When we all are in sync and work together towards common goals or with specific initiatives, we strengthen this region and are much more effective in presenting the Antelope Valley to individuals and entities outside our boundaries.

Our collective endeavors are really about advancing the Antelope Valley as a community. Our community is comprised of several other organizations which make the AV such a great place to live and work and certainly an attractive place to establish a business. Organizations ranging from United Desert Charities to Lancaster West Rotary to the AV Boys & Girls Clubs to another one perhaps not-so-large, not-so-known, but one that has an important mission and does tremendous good – the Edwards AFB Civilian-Military Support Group – all make a very positive difference and contribute significantly to our community.

The Edwards AFB Civilian-Military Support Group, Civ-Mil, is a local non-profit organization that was formed to develop a friendly association between the civilian community and civic leaders of the Antelope Valley and the military personnel assigned at Edwards AFB. Civ-Mil serves as a host organization whenever military or supporting civilians from other military commands and bases visit Edwards AFB or related

installations. The group also provides an annual service project which benefits the Base. But this group provides for more than just one service project annually. They do a tremendous job at helping to take care of the airmen, soldiers, Marines – anyone stationed at Edwards – and their families. They have done, and do, everything from help serve holiday meals to airmen who reside in the dormitories and cannot return home, to rounding up and providing much needed items (from children's clothing and gear to appliances to furniture) to the junior military families. It's all quite impressive. Civ-Mil actively promotes goodwill and cements a strong relationship between our uniformed and civilian community members.

Civ-Mil is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year. To help celebrate this milestone, the annual BBQ was focused upon this theme, these 25 remarkable years of service. Over 200 people gathered on the evening of July 18th at Hacienda Lane Ranch to enjoy good food, good entertainment, good weather, but mostly to enjoy good friends and fellowship. Many of the commands and units on Edwards AFB have recently received new leaders. They were there with the present (and even former) leaders of the Air Force Test Center and Edwards AFB. Several members of the AV Board of Trade attended. A few of us, yours truly included, are part of the Civ-Mil Support Group.

AVBOT has been working closely over the past several months with Civ-Mil, and we have supported each other with our respective events and endeavors. We will continue to do this, not just with Civ-Mil but also our other local organizations. We may have differing missions and focus, but ultimately we do have an over-arching common goal – to make for a better Antelope Valley. It is very much like we're all pieces of a puzzle; when we all come and fit together, then we have a truly strong community.



**Edwards AFB Civ-Mil 25th Anniversary BBQ:** Al Hoffman, AVBOT President and Civ-Mil Director; Major General Arnold Bunch, Jr., USAF, Commander, Air Force Test Center; Major General Curtis Bedke, USAF (retired), former Commander, Air Force Flight Test Center; Aida O'Connor, AVBOT Honorary Lifetime Director and Civ-Mil Founder; Brigadier General Michael Brewer, USAF, Commander 412th Test Wing / Edwards AFB; Danny Bazzell, EAFB Civ-Mil President; and Major General David Eichhorn, USAF (retired), former Commander, Air Force Flight Test Center.

# 25th Anniversary BBQ Reflections

By Curt & Ina Bedke

As we left the familiar dirt road leading from the Lane Ranch and turned onto the two-lane blacktop to head back down into the Antelope Valley, Ina and I traded impressions from the big 25th Anniversary celebration we'd just attended. It had been 7 years since our last Civ-Mil Barbeque. We'd had a wonderful time. What had made it so special?

It might have started with the invitation we'd received from Danny Bazzell, encouraging us to come ... but we talk with Danny all the time, so it was just normal to be "touching base"... like you do naturally with old friends.

It might have been the extra call from Aida O'Connor, doubling down on Danny's invitation ... and the fun I had telling her "Well, Aida, you didn't really need to call, because I'll let you be the first to know: Ina and I have already decided to come!" Was it the way she screamed like a little girl at the news? No, couldn't be that -- Aida is ALWAYS running at 135% enthusiasm, so that's just "normal Aida".

Driving up to the Lane Ranch is always a treat ... that last stretch of curving dirt road somehow seems to be just long enough to build up the anticipation so that when you finally park, you can't wait to get up to that gorgeous green lawn and "Get This Party Started"!

We weren't sure if we'd feel a bit out-of-place given our long absence...maybe we wouldn't know most of the people. That may actually have been true by the numbers...but when you "only" know about 40% of this crowd, you have a heck of a lot of catching up on gossip to attend to!

And as is always the case in the Air Force—especially in the test community—our friends ranged from folks we'd met at all our three tours at Edwards, spanning 1986 to 2007. (Note: I started writing names, but realized the list would be way too long, and didn't want to make Danny take the heat for the editing he would have had to do just to make it all fit!)

- Some new and different elements to the barbeque (the Wild West photo booth, the delights of the local microbrewery, a full band and line-dance leaders), added to the overall spirit of fun – it is never just the same old routine event!

## *Then there was the entertainment!*

Danny himself did a fine job with the national anthem (and the rest of us admit we were glad WE weren't the ones with the microphone!)

Domingo, of course, provided entertainment for most of the evening, even if he never actually made it to the Ranch! (We did stop and have a leisurely 3-hour lunch with him the next day ... he's fine, but the Hummer may need "a little work".)

And the special entertainment capping the evening was Jake Nelson and the Tone Wranglers. Ina and I had last seen Jake at the Showdown Rodeo seven years ago, where he had sung the national anthem, from a pickup truck's bed as his stage. (Danny, you sing way better than I do ... but you have a ways to go if you're gonna beat Jake!)

## *The charm of the Lane Ranch hasn't diminished...*

Frances, as always the classy hostess, enjoying the festivities and greeting the guests from the porch ...

## *The food, catered by Crazy Otto's, was as yummy as ever...*

And whoever planned the weather (Aida? Arnie? The Weather Shop?) nailed it down with an absolutely Perfect Summer Evening!

What was special about this 25th Anniversary Civ-Mil Barbeque? Only that it was wonderful—as always—and that it seems to me that the next one ... and the next ... will go on and on with their casual, familiar charm and comradery -- because the Civ-Mil Group is neither a dying vestige of an organization whose time is past, nor a struggling group still trying to find its way to a purpose and a rhythm. We're healthy, we continue on with new members revitalizing us while we still appreciate the "old-timers". In short: it's special because it's become such an ingrained, natural, comfortable "family". And it is always so nice to be able to come home to family!

Keep us on the mailing list!

--Curt & Ina Bedke

Editor's Note: Major General Curt Bedke, USAF (Ret) served as Commander, Air Force Flight Test Center, Edwards Air Force Base, from September 2004 to October 2007.





# CIV-MIL BBQ 2014

**HACIENDA LANE RANCH**  
 Frances Lane  
 5600 Hacienda Ranch Road  
 Palmdale, Ca. 93551  
 661-943-4483 Fax-661-270-1305

July 22, 2014

TO: CIV/MIL MEMBERS

What a successful 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration.  
 Thank you for the beautiful flag you presented me with,  
 I don't expect gifts, but I do have to say I enjoy them.  
 I have many good memories of Civ/Mil here at the ranch.

Thank You,  
*Frances Lane*  
 Frances Lane

## Civ-Mil 25th Anniversary Silver Book Coming Soon!

*By Dick Spann*

The Civ-Mil Twenty Fifth Anniversary "Silver Book," the history of our organization, is progressing nicely. Diane Nagy has done a wonderful job of organizing a mountain of information and preparing it for publication. John Fergione and Dick Spann have prepared a number of short articles for the book and several others have contributed to the gleaning of historical data from our archives.

We hope to have a draft of several portions of the book available, on October 2, at the Civ-Mil Installation Banquet and Annual Meeting for inspection. The primary work in the future will be raising the funds to publish it. Aida O'Connor, John Fergione and Dick Spann had a "brainstorming" session recently to determine the best methods to raise publishing funds, estimated to be between eight and ten thousand dollars. John is preparing a proposal for consideration by the Board of Directors.

# Why not Become a Civ-Mil Member



## Edwards AFB Civilian Military Support Group

### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

#### Contact Information

Membership Type:  Individual       Corporate      New       Renewal

Name	
Street Address	
City ST 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 is a privilege and such access may be denied, revised or revoked at any time by order of the Commander, 412<sup>th</sup> Test Wing, 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. Corporate membership \$125.00 (one designated member only)

**Please make checks payable to: EAFB Civ/Mil**

**Mail Completed Application to: PO 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

# Board of Directors

## Officers

Danny Bazzell: President  
John Fergione: Vice President  
Julie Swayze: Secretary  
Dr. George "Bud" Reams: Treasurer  
Mike Belzil: Immediate Past President

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Art Furtado	George Nagy
Roger Hemme	Pan Patel
Allen Hoffman	Pat Russell
Bob Johnstone	Robert Slade
Terry Landsiedel	Richard Spann
Cam Martin	Mark Thompson
Rhonda Nelson	Dr. Les Uhazy
Matt Winheim	Aida O'Connor

# Honorary Lifetime Directors

Clyde Bailey  
George Fox  
Aida O'Connor  
Andy Shillinglaw

## Directors Emeritus

Alis Clausen  
Cathy Hansen  
Terry Scott

## In Memoriam

*James Welling*

### Founder

Aida O'Connor

## The EAFB Civ-Mil Newsletter

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Casey Driver  
Melinda Mason

If you are enjoying reading this Newsletter, and you are not a member of Civ-Mil, but would like more information on the organization,

Submit your request in writing to:  
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P.O. Box 812  
Lancaster, CA 93584-0812  
Attn: Membership Chairman

<http://www.eafbcivmil.org>