

December 2013 - January - February - March 2014



Civilian Military Support Group NEWSLETTER



Greetings friends and members of Civ-Mil.



Danny A. Bazzell

Well, spring has sprung and we are well into the 2014 year. The past few months have been modestly busy as you will see in this issue of our newsletter. Our Holiday fund-raising campaign was a huge success and we were able to provide much needed support to our Airmen families in need during the holidays and beyond.

Last July at our annual BBQ, I had the pleasure of meeting Wing Commander Glenn "L J" Littlejohns of the Royal Air Force. LJ leads the United Kingdom contingent here at Edwards working on the JSF program. After meeting him and several other of our RAF partners I got to thinking how when our Airmen deploy overseas they are most always deployed to a U.S. run installation complete with all the support mechanisms associated with such installations. How difficult must it be for a foreign national to come to a U.S. run installation here in the States and basically have to setup their own support mechanisms from scratch? This led me to reach out to the City of Palmdale and the Antelope Valley Board of Trade and create a "Welcome to the Antelope Valley" event to invite all our foreign military partners out to not only meet local community and business leaders but more importantly, to gather together a wealth of local resources with regards to education, health care, job placement, housing etc... The event was a success beyond my wildest expectations and you can read more about it further in this newsletter. Suffice it to say, we will probably be repeating that event in the late summer or early fall so keep an eye out for more information.

As far as upcoming events go please save the date of April 25th open for our Spring Mixer and our 25th Annual Civ-Mil BBQ is set for Friday, July 18 th.



The first three months of 2014 have also seen some changes in the makeup of the Civ-Mil Board of Directors. Cathy Hart, who has been a Director of Civ-Mil for many years, announced her resignation from the Board in early February due to a promotion and her changing duties at Southern California Edison. Cathy felt her new duties would not allow her the time needed to serve effectively as a Director and felt the need to step down. While I am sorry to see her go, I understand completely and wish Cathy and her husband, John all the best going forward.

As a result of Cathy's departure, I reviewed a number of qualified prospects to replace her on the board and ultimately the name of Rhonda Nelson rose to the top. I asked Rhonda if she would be willing to serve out Cathy's remaining term and she graciously accepted. Her appointment was approved by the full Board at our March 13th meeting. Rhonda brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to Civ-Mil and I look forward to her contributions to our organization. Please take the time to read Rhonda's biography in this newsletter and join me in welcoming her to the Board of Directors.

Lastly, but certainly not least, it is with great sadness that we learned of the passing of long time Civ-Mil member, Director, past Secretary and past Vice President, James Welling at his home in Boron on March 22. James served Civ-Mil and the Antelope Valley for many years and in many capacities and will be missed. Please join me in expressing our heartfelt condolences to his wife Charlotte and his family during this difficult time.

**Blessings to you all
Danny Bazzell**

Flag Park Flags Approved as Annual Project

The Civ-Mil Board recently approved the replacement of the Flag Park flags as one of the group's service projects for 2014. Two years ago, Civ-Mil provided 3 sets of flags for the Flag Park. The park is located on Rosamond Blvd at Edwards AFB, across from the AF Test Center headquarters building. One complete set consists of a total of 56 flags; one for each of the 50 states and U.S. territories. As a result of the frequent use of the flags and our challenging wind conditions, it is necessary to provide multiple sets on a regular basis.

The board unanimously agreed periodic replacement of the flags is a worthy, recurring annual service project. Civ-Mil is proud to make this modest contribution to making the base look presentable to base residents and visitors.



Civ-Mil Group builds bonds with Team Edwards

Commentary by Master Sgt. Eric Jackson
412th Maintenance Group First Sergeant

2/12/2014 - EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. -- Many of you haven't personally heard of the Civilian-Military Group or know who they are composed of, but I can attest and ensure you that hundreds of Edwards Airmen and their families have been the recipients of their generosity and unwavering support. As an Air Force First Sergeant, I've had the distinct pleasure and honor to work with and witness first-hand what our local civilian community leaders and military leaders do in support of us in uniform and our families.

To give you a little background, the Civ-Mil Group board of directors host a collaborative monthly meeting along with Edwards AFB military leaders and discuss ways in which the military and civilian communities can best serve one another. I would like to share a few examples of what this great support group has done for our military personnel. In 2013, the Civ-Mil Group allocated \$8,500 to the First Sergeant's Council to take care of our Airmen and families.

Our Edwards AFB First Sergeants are the stewards of this money and take this responsibility very seriously as we've been entrusted to ensure that 100 percent of the money goes to assist our Airmen and families that have a genuine and immediate need of monetary assistance. The Civ-Mil money directly supported the First Sergeant's Operation Angel Tree Program in 2013 which allowed us to provide over 300 gifts for children of less fortunate military families.

In addition, their generous donation allowed us to stand-up the "first-ever" *Exceptional Family Member Program* (EFMP) Gas Card. This program helps off-set the cost of gas for a family who must travel out of the local area for required medical appointments. The Civ-Mil Group understands that it's financially difficult for many military families to absorb the costs to travel out of the local area to attend these medical appointments and wanted to do something to help lessen the impact it currently has on our EFMP families. All the Active Duty EFMP family member needs to do is contact their unit's First Sergeant for assistance. This program wouldn't be possible without the overwhelming support of our Civ-Mil leaders.

Additionally, Civ-Mil has funded the *Edwards Emergency Relief Fund* or better known as ERRF. This fund provides monetary grants or interest free loans for Active Duty members and their families in immediate need of financial assistance. This fund has been used for a variety of reasons to include securing air or ground travel for an individual to get back home due to a family emergency, covering utilities, groceries, gas, and many more situations where financial assistance is necessary. With the support of the Civ-Mil Group, we've been able to provide this sort of service to our military community and, without them, it just wouldn't be possible to help as many people we currently are assisting who are going through some tough times in their lives.

Furthermore, the Civ-Mil Group understands the unique challenges that face our unaccompanied single Airmen here at Edwards and are doing everything that they can to improve their quality of life. Over the course of 2013, the Civ-Mil Group committed \$2,500 towards improving dormitory living by purchasing new pool cues, balls, racks, chalk, along with two Keurig coffee machines, coffee, and two video gaming systems.

There are many more programs or projects that the Civ-Mil Group is involved with that may go unnoticed by many, but I can assure you, their unwavering support for the men, women, and families of Edwards who freely serve and sacrifice for our nation with unquestioned professionalism, and patriotism doesn't go unfelt

Civ-Mil Meets General & Mrs. Welsh

On January 30, Civ-Mil board members were among the guests invited to a reception in honor of the Chief of Staff of the Air Force, General Mark Welsh and his wife, Mrs. Betty Welsh. Gen and Mrs. Welsh were visiting Edwards for an update on Air Force Test Center activities.

The reception invitees included Edwards AFB leaders, 412th Test Wing Honorary Commanders, and community leaders and their spouses. Major General Arnie Bunch, AFTC commander and Brigadier General Mike Brewer, 412th Test Wing commander delivered welcoming remarks to all in attendance and introduced General Welsh for comments.

Air Show Returns to Antelope Valley

Aircraft formations darted across the desert skyline in a triumphant return of the air show to the Antelope Valley March 21-22, 2014. The Los Angeles County Air Show (LACAS) was hugely popular and well-supported by the AV and surrounding communities. LACAS attendance estimates over the 2-day event exceeded 100,000 people; a remarkable feat considering the Air Show was planned in less than six months' time.

The idea for an air show began with the vision of local aviation enthusiasts who correctly assessed the AV community's appetite for such an event. Spearheaded principally by Bob Alvis, Brett Hawse and JD Kennedy, a committee soon formed and planning was under way. The pace of activity ratcheted into high gear in early December 2013 when the US Navy Blue Angels committed to appearing in March 2014. The appearance of the Blue Angels would be the first public appearance by a military performance team in the AV since the last Edwards AFB Air Show, approximately 5 years ago.

In addition to the Blue Angels, the air show featured a host of acts, including a National Anthem & Flag Jump opening, P-38 demo, NASA ER-2 flyover, Red Bull Air Force performers, a Korean War Reenactment, P-51, F-86, T-6 and a host of other aircraft and performers. Executive Director, Dennis Dunbar, assessed the event as very successful, especially for a first-year air show. Several Civ-Mil members were among the planners and volunteers involved in delivering a boost of aviation activity, and an accompanying economic and tourism bump, into the AV. Proceeds from LACAS, a 501(3)c non-profit organization, are earmarked for scholarships to local students intending to focus on Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) areas of study.

James Welling



passed away on March 22, 2014. He is survived by his wife Charlotte, daughter Sonnett, son-in law Trevor Davies, granddaughter Landry, brothers Ron and Joe Welling, sisters Marcia Dravis and Kathy Minnick. He was born and raised in Boron, graduated from Boron H.S. in 1967. After serving 4 years in the US Navy and having served in Viet Nam, he returned home to raise his family.

James had served the Edwards AFB Civilian-Military Support Group as a Director, past Secretary and most recently as our Vice President for the 2012-2013 fiscal year. James also served many years as Kern County Supervisor Don Maben's field rep and was active in Boron community affairs, including serving as chamber president. He was also a charter member and former treasurer of the Edwards Community Alliance/ East Kern Educational Resource Network and worked with Don Maben to form the Rosamond Municipal Advisory Council. Before joining Don he served many years in the transportation department of the Muroc Joint Unified School District.

25th Anniversary Mixer Coming Soon

Did you know this year, 2014, is the Silver Anniversary of the Edwards Air Force Base Civilian-Military Support Group? To commemorate our founding in 1989, several silver anniversary events are in planning, beginning with our Silver Anniversary Mixer at the UAV Grand Ballroom on Friday, April 25, 2014. Be sure to check your mail and email for invitations. Our annual Spring Mixer is a great opportunity to connect with EAFB leadership, Honorary Commanders and community leaders. Plan to attend so you can hear the run down on EAFB current activities and Civ-Mil's planned events for our Silver Anniversary year!

Later in the year, planning will be underway for our Silver Anniversary BBQ. This year's BBQ will feature special attendees and, perhaps, even weekend activities. And this fall, our Silver Anniversary Installation Banquet promises to be a memorable event. Members are encouraged to sign up early, volunteer to help with planning and make the most of our Silver Anniversary year!

Civ-Mil Spring Mixer
April 25th
Cocktails 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Dinner @ 7 p.m.
\$30.00 per person
Business Attire
Military – Uniform of the Day

RSVP by April 21st
rsvp@eafbcivmil.org
By Phone: 661 945-1021

Join us for an evening of entertainment & hospitality
GRAND BALLROOM, 44201 10th Street West, Lancaster, CA



Community welcomes F-35

European members

Linda KC Reynolds

Aerotech News & Reviews

Civ-Mil and businesses from around the Antelope Valley (AV) welcomed European families stationed at Edwards Air Force Base that are assigned to the at F-35 Joint Operational Test and Evaluation program during a Meet and Greet mixer held at the Larry Chibole Cultural Center in Palmdale.

Upon entering the event, ladies were given a red rose compliments of Larry Chimbole and Chris Spicher of AV Florist.

Community leaders, business and education advisors were on hand to inform guests of services offered while living in the AV. With approximately 150 families scheduled to move into the AV this summer, (75 from the UK) Civ-Mil is leading the way to help make the transition as smooth as possible.

“We are not in the middle of nowhere, we are in the middle of everywhere,” Civ-Mil President Danny Bazzell told guests. “And we are here to help you in any way we can.”

Guests helped themselves to a fajita/nacho-bar sponsored by Schoolers and were given a demonstration of Eniac, a frisbee tossing robot by the Lancaster High Eagles robotic team. “We are happy to be here and share Eniac with these kid because Edwards has always been there for us,” said Eagles co-manager Natalie Wenzell.

“In Europe we have free health care and very little paper work. Here in America, you have a different system and a lot of paper work,” joked F-35 UK Wing Commander Lt. Col Glenn Littlejohns. “I’m not sure what it is, but everyone who is coming over seems to be having babies.” He was thankful for the services provided by local medical centers and hospitals.

Yvette Emard, founder of Kids Charities of the AV, encouraged guests to enjoy many family orientated events throughout the year including: Concerts at Marie Kerr Park in Palmdale, ‘Thunder on the Lot’ a premier classic car and motorcycle event, ‘Grace Fest AV’ a Christian concert that features national and local artists and W.O.W., a women’s faith based conference that takes place at the Painted Turtle Camp. “There is plenty to do right here in the AV,” said Emard. The Kids Charities has been operating since 2000 and has raised and dispersed over 4 million dollars to more than 30 local children’s charitable organizations.

Many had questions about driving privileges, schools, housing, entertainment but left feeling better about being a long way from home.

“Thank you for making us feel so welcomed,” Mrs. Hayley Littlejohns told Barbara Childs and other community members. “We appreciate you paying attention to our particular needs and I’m confident that future British families will be well looked after by the community.” (www.kids-charities.org)

Civ-Mil is an organization established 25 years ago by founder Aida O’Connor to establish a friendly benevolent association of civic leaders and military personal, to act as a host group whenever needed and to consider an annual service project to benefit all working at Edwards. www.eafbcivmil.org



Lancaster High Eagles Robotic student Ruth Nunn (center) gives a hands-on demonstration of Eniac, a frisbee tossing robot to Jolie, Abbey and Edward Littlejohns while parents Hayley and Glenn look on during a Civ-Mil Meet & Greet that welcomed team members from Europe. Glenn Littlejohns is the UK Wing Commander for the F-35 Joint Operational Test and Evaluation at Edwards Air Force Base. Approximately 150 families (75 from the UK) are expected to move to the Antelope Valley this summer.

Amelia Thomson 3, enjoys some finger-licking southern cooking at a Civ-Mil Meet & Greet. Her father Paul Thomson, a Lieutenant Commander in the Royal Navy and senior engineering officer at F-35 and her mother, Emma, arrived at Edwards in October 2012 from the UK. Emma said she is enjoying being based at Edwards and is making the most of being in the middle of everything.



Birgitte, Cecilie, Frederikke, Sr. MSgt. Niels Petersen



and
son,
Alexander,
enjoy
a little family time with other families from Europe at the Civ-Mil Meet & Greet. The Petersen family came from Denmark in January and will be stationed at Edwards until 2016. Petersen is a technical supervisor working on a Danish F-16 for the F-35 program. The children are attending Pine Crest and Paraclete school, adjusting to the transition and learning a lot of new words.

GARY SINISE FOUNDATION & OPERATION ALL THE WAY HOME PRESENT

Gary Sinise & The Lt. Dan Band will be coming to the Antelope Valley on **May 10** for an amazing concert at the **JetHawks Hangar** to support OATH’s effort to build SPC Jerral Hancock a new handicapped accessible home. This is going to be an amazing event for our community. Not only will it raise funds for Jerral’s new home, but also it will help raise awareness of the needs of our veterans and what communities can do to help bring them “all the way home.”

Tickets are on sale now at www.OATHTickets.com. Only 3000 tickets are available, and they are already selling fast. Please don’t wait if you plan to go. Every seat is a great seat in terms of view. It’s going to be a great show!



Seating information:
Upper Grandstand - \$35
Lower Grandstand - \$50
VIP Tickets - \$100 (seating is on the infield directly in front of the stage. Only 250 VIP seats are available.)





*Civ-Mil President
Danny Bazzell and his wife
Evangelina enjoy a
photo-op with
Chief of Staff of the USAF,
General Mark Welsh III*

General Welsh thanked the EAFB team for all they are doing in support of flight test operations for the Air Force and the nation. He was very complimentary of the workforce and base leaders. He was especially pleased with the engagement of the base leadership with the community, and he thanked the community for providing ceaseless civic and political support to the Air Force and the base.

General and Mrs. Welsh directly thanked the Civ-Mil Support Group for providing exceptional support to the base. He was very complimentary of Civ-Mil annual projects such as the Flag Park, Higher Grounds Internet Café and Airman Attic renovation. Mrs. Welsh told the group she toured Airman's Attic and stated it is among the best in the Air Force, thanks, in large measure, to Civ-Mil's involvement.

General Welsh concluded his remarks with a Q & A session. He spoke about the role of the community to maintain advocacy for the base; the future of Air Force staffing levels; and the importance of retaining Edwards AFB for flight test activity.

Outlook Conference: Outstanding!

The 2014 Antelope Valley Board of Trade (AVBOT) Outlook Conference was held Friday, February 21, 2014 at the Mojave Air and Space Port. A capacity crowd gathered to hear a mostly positive regional outlook. The featured speaker was Captain Mark Kelly, USN, retired. His message was well received and greatly appreciated by the enthusiastic attendees.

The conference was hailed as a tremendous success. The vision to change the conference venue from the fairgrounds to the Mojave Air and Space Port was conceived and executed by Al Hoffman, AVBOT Vice President and Civ-Mil Director. The location change created a buzz of interest. The conference completely sold out, more than 800 tickets, and there was a considerable standby list of people hoping to attend.

Several Civ-Mil members attended. Most of the directors were able to attend, and Civ-Mil sponsored a table in support of the conference and to provide an attendance opportunity for our members and EAFB personnel. Congratulations go out to AVBOT President, Scott Cummings, Vice President, Al Hoffman, and the conference organizers for delivering the most widely attended conference in recent memory.

Upcoming Events

Spring Mixer

April 25th

Annual Civ-Mil BBQ

is set for Friday, July 18 th.

Mission Statement

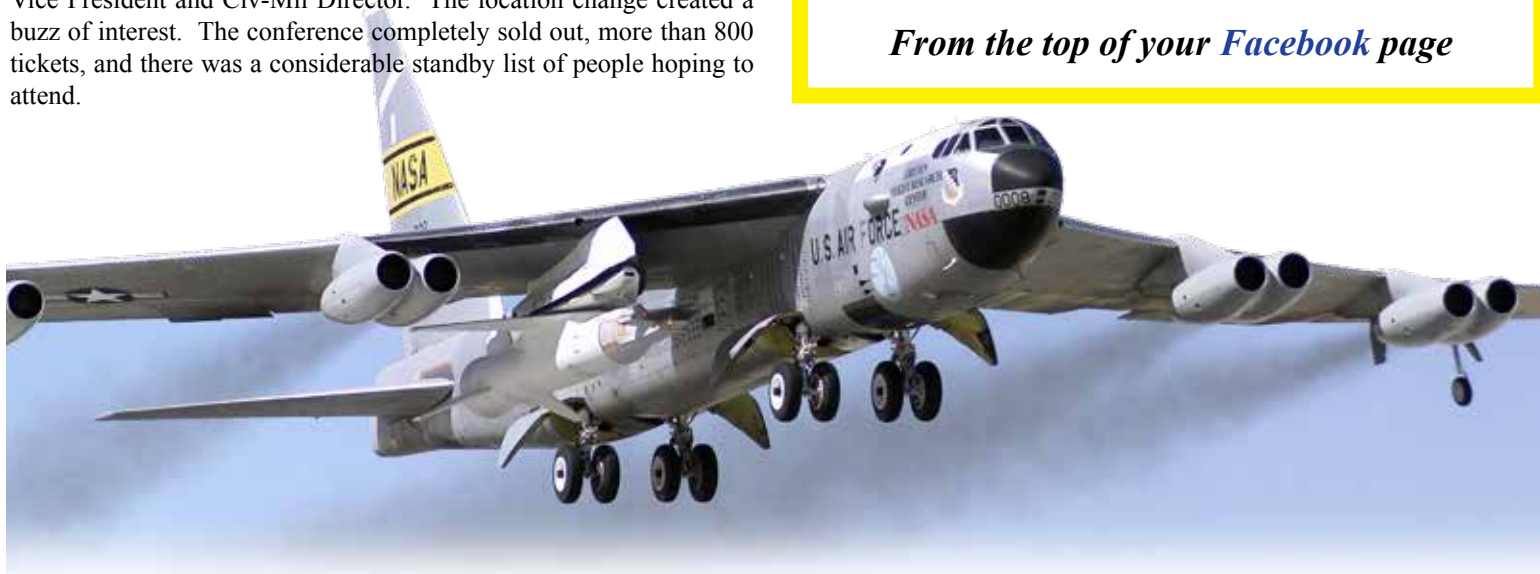
The purpose and general nature of the Edwards Air Force Base Civilian-Military Support Group is to establish a friendly, benevolent association of civic leaders and military personnel at Edwards Air Force Base, to act as a host group whenever needed and additionally, to consider an annual service project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

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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,

Submit your request in writing to:
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Attn: Membership Chairman

<http://www.eafbcivmil.org>