

DESERT WINGS

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F-22 testers honored for contributions to national defense



(Courtesy photo by Chad Bellay/Lockheed Martin)

By Christopher Ball
412th Test Wing Public Affairs

The U.S. Air Force announced June 14 that the 412th Test Wing's F-22 Modernization Flight Test Team won the 2017 Air Force Association Citation of Honor Award for their outstanding contributions to the country's national defense.

The award recognizes the outstanding contribution of an individual or organization to the development of aerospace

power for the betterment of mankind.

The F-22 Modernization Flight Test Team consists of a group of military and government civilian professional test pilots and test engineers. They are chartered with providing rapid test planning, execution and reporting on advanced weapon and avionic upgrades in support of the F-22 and Raptor warfighters deployed worldwide.

The team set benchmarks by fielding

a new bombing system for the F-22 in record time, thereby enabling successful Syria strikes and earning praise from the commander of Air Combat Command. Furthermore, the team innovated a stealth measurement capability lauded by the commander of Air Force Materiel Command, enhanced F-22 reach via first flight of the Low Drag Pylon, and boosted lethality by shooting first-ever missile systems from a Raptor.

Class 16B graduates from USAF Test Pilot School

From U.S. Air Force Test Pilot School

Twenty officers completed the one-year curriculum at the U.S. Air Force Test Pilot School to graduate as Class 16B June 9.

Upon graduation from TPS, Class 16B includes 11 experimental test pilots, seven flight test engineers, one experimental remotely piloted aircraft operator and one experimental test combat systems officer.

Students from the Air Force, Navy, Marines, and from Singapore, the United Kingdom and Australia worked as teams during the year to complete over 2,500 hours of academics and 120 hours of flight training each. As a final graduation exercise, the students demonstrated learning by planning and executing real-world test management projects.

The test management projects were also the equivalent of an academic thesis, as the graduating students also earned a master of science degree in flight test engineering.

Four student awards and three distinguished graduates were presented during the graduation ceremony. The student awards were: Capt. Chris Thorn, the student who exemplifies the warrior-focused attitude to find and field the best weapons systems possible; Maj. Ryall Meyer and Capt. Chris Thorn, who contributed most to class spirit and morale; Capt. Antho-



U.S. Air Force Test Pilot School Class 16B pose for a class photo in front of the NF-104 by the school house. (U.S. Air Force photo)

ny Puntel, outstanding flight test engineer or navigator; and Maj. Jonathan Bearce, outstanding test pilot.

The distinguished graduates were Maj. Jonathan Bearce, Capt. Anthony Puntel, and Maj. Chris Taylor.

See Class 16B, page 3

Slow it down: Security forces cracking down on speeders

Commentary by Senior Airman Xavier Lane
412th Security Forces Squadron

The community at Edwards Air Force Base has a huge problem on its hands that security forces and others are looking to rectify. There has been a large number of speeding violations cited within the past few months that has cast a dark cloud over the entire populace of the base.

As we all know, going excessive speeds in a motor vehicle is highly dangerous for others as well as yourself at any time. We as security forces members have to uphold the laws and standards regardless of affiliation or rank. The 412th Security Forces Squadron has put together a panel of highly motivated Airmen to figure out a course of action to curtail speeding on base.

The plan is to get everyone on base to realize that this is a serious offense and it will not be tolerated. We have ideas and plans in place to combat speeding and we are certain that the preventive actions we are taking will reduce speeding on base.

The 412th SFS has been vigorously patrolling the base to catch the offenders who are committing speeding violations. We have noticed an influx of tickets from Jan. 1-June 2 that is shocking to most.

We have accumulated a total of 232 traffic citations for speeding, which is definitely unacceptable by our standards. The hike in violations has come with many excuses such as tardiness to work, loss of concentration on their speed and lack of knowledge of speed limits in certain areas.

Regardless of the excuse or reason, speeding is unacceptable at any time. The safety risks are automatically amplified whenever you are operating a vehicle because of other drivers and pedestrians. When you take speeding into account there is even more of a hazard.

The stance that we are taking now is to eliminate the risk of injury, harm or damage to anyone, any property and to protect the entire base.



Defenders from the 412th Security Forces Squadron pull over a van for speeding. (U.S. Air Force photo)

Knowledge of speeding is well documented and widespread throughout many circuits but we want people to really understand the risk that they are taking. Risk management is important to understand with simple things such as our daily routines.

Chief Master Sgt. Michael Young, 412th SFS, said, "I hope all test wing members remember to apply the same risk management principles to off-duty activities as they do on-duty tasks; every Edwards member is vital to the test wing mission."

That is a stern message considering the repercussions that come with speeding, such as loss of driving privileges, administrative paperwork, extra duties and court time, which can affect your availability to the mission. Additionally, court-ordered fines can be costly.

Those are major factors to remember before you make that decision to speed.

Staff Sgt. Jasmine Wilson and Senior Airman Tequila Adams contributed to this article

Technical workforce gets taste of everything on Edwards

By Kenji Thuloweit
412th Test Wing Public Affairs

Leaders often say the number one asset for the U.S. military is people. The engineers and scientists who help put the world's most advanced weapons and aircraft into the air for the world's most powerful military ensure that the 412th Test Wing is no different.

These scientist and engineers gathered for a meeting of the minds – a technical symposium -- June 5 at the Airman and Family Readiness Center here.

The technical symposium was the brainchild of Ann Harris who is the technical assistant to David Wheaton, 412th TW senior technical director. It was promoted as an opportunity for science and engineering professionals on base to learn about the different test programs being conducted outside their own units and given professional insight



The 412th Test Wing held a technical symposium at the Airman and Family Readiness Center June 5. (U.S. Air Force photo by Kenji Thuloweit)

into the future of testing.

"One of my jobs working for Mr. Wheaton is to review of all presentations for public release," said Harris. "Over the last year, I've read stuff that just knocked my socks off. Like, 'We do that? This is amazing.' About nine months into my tenure here, I said, 'Wouldn't it be cool if all these people would present again? In one place, right here at Edwards?'"

"Sometimes it can be hard to feel that what you do is important and matters. This was also a way to celebrate the huge contribution that the engineering workforce makes to the mission of the test center. We write the test plans, we monitor the missions and we write the reports. But we rarely get to see what other combined test forces are doing, or what other disciplines do. This was a step in rectifying that situation," Harris said.

Presentations were given from various technical experts, test pilots, the innovation team, the statistics branch and a number of engineers who talked about test projects they're working on such as high-altitude airdrop, Auto Ground Collision Avoidance, emerging technologies, weapons testing, sensors and weather radar data analysis. Non-technical lectures were also given.

Read more at www.edwards.af.mil

412th Force Support Squadron upcoming events

Force Support Squadron 275-3826

Summer Bash 2017 will be held July 4, from 4-10 p.m. at Wings and Roberts Fields. The annual event is open to the entire Edwards AFB community. Celebrate Independence Day with live music, food booths, water fun and carnival rides. The television show "The Voice" Season 11 winner, Sundance Head, will be performing at 8 p.m. before the fireworks show at 9:45 p.m. Plus, enter to win a two-night stay at the Stratosphere in Las Vegas and Knott's Berry Farm Tickets. Sundance Head is brought to Edwards by Air Force Entertainment.

New 2017 Sponsorship and Advertising Opportunities for local business operators; reach your military market! Edwards Services is proud to provide businesses the opportunity to show support of our military members through the AF Commercial Sponsorship Program. From 4th of July's Summer Bash to the annual Summer Reading Program, Edwards Services does its best to show appreciation for the commitment of excellence the men and women of Edwards AFB provide every day. We are seeking support for these events and more in the form of funding and event enhancements. Sponsors will receive recognition such as logo placement on advertising materials, booth space onsite during the event, verbal acknowledgement, mention in base newspapers and opportunities to network with event participants. All offers of sponsorship must be received no later than three months prior to the event date. Contact Tiffany Meyer at 275-3841. *(This is a solicitation for commercial sponsorship by a Nonappropriated Fund Instrumentality of the United States Government. It does not obligate appropriated funds or nonappropriated funds of the government.)*

Airman and Family Readiness 277-0723

Department of Labor 5-day Transition Assistance Program is Monday-Friday, June 19-23, 7:15 a.m.-4 p.m. The TAP workshop is required for all separating and retiring military members. Spouses are welcome and encouraged to attend. Completion of the pre-separation counseling briefing is a mandatory prerequisite for this workshop.

Women, Infants & Children Program is June 19 from 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Open for both walk-ins and appointments, closed for lunch noon-1 p.m. For an appointment or voucher information, call toll free 866-327-3074.

Key Spouse Monthly Training is Wednesday, June 21 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Monthly training for key spouses on resources and services both on base and in local civilian communities.

Survivors Benefit Plan Workshop is June 27, 10-11 a.m. This workshop is designed to educate and familiarize all retiring Air Force members with the SBP. A face-to-face meeting with an SBP counselor and an election must be accomplished before retirement. Spouses are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Sponsorship Training — All sponsors need to complete the on-line training at <http://apps.mhf>.

dod.mil/es and then call Maricel Rusit at 277-0723 for more information and resources.

Club Muroc 275-CLUB

Membership Appreciation Dinner is June 19 from 5-7 p.m.

Splash Nights Fridays are 5-8 p.m. Swim for free. Grill your own steaks and hot dogs. Music is available. Bring the whole family!

Delivery Service — Did you know that the club delivers to base housing? Call Monday-Friday from 5-8 p.m. to place your order!

Arts and Crafts Center/Auto Hobby 275-ARTS/AUTO

Patriotic Wreath Making will be held June 29 from 5-7 p.m. Open to ages 14 and up. Sign up by June 28 at 2 p.m. Patriotic rag wreaths will be the project. All supplies will be provided. Spaces are limited so sign up now.

Instructors Needed! If you're creative, we need you. Arts and Crafts is seeking out instructors of all types. Come and share your creative knowledge with a diverse group of students looking for painting, photography, drawing, scrapbooking and other craft/art related instruction.

Instructors Needed! Attention all artists and crafters! If you're creative, we need you! The Arts & Crafts Center is seeking out instructors of all types. Come and share your creative knowledge with a diverse group of students looking for painting, photography, drawing, scrapbooking and other craft/art related instruction. No prior instructor experience necessary. If you are knowledgeable then we are looking for you!

Smog Checks - Auto Hobby has a certified Smog Technician available Tuesday-Saturday, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. No appointment is required!

Basic vehicle maintenance class is Saturdays at 10 a.m. Participants will learn the basics of good vehicle maintenance. Learn how to operate a lift, change your oil and check and balance your tires. Call the Auto Hobby Shop at 275-AUTO (2887) for more information.

Automotive detailer wanted - The Edwards Car Wash is looking for an automotive detailer. Call Auto Hobby for more information.

Towing service available through Auto Hobby Tuesday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Towing is available on-base and off-base. Call Auto Hobby for more information or prices.

Oil changes and alignments are offered at very competitive prices as well as services in mounting and balancing.

Wood Shop is available Tuesday through Saturday, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. For the woodworking hobbyist, the Arts and Crafts Center provides a variety of equipment that includes band saws, table saws, a drill press and much more. A safety course is required to use the Wood Shop.

Library 275-BOOK

Summer Reading Program: "Reading by Design" runs until Aug. 11. Sign-ups begin will continue throughout the program. Children of all ages are welcome to participate. Join the base

**For more information
about 412th FSS offerings, visit
www.edwardsfss.com/wordpress**

library staff every Friday at 10 a.m. for a special Summer Reading Program event.

Coffee and Coloring is every Tuesday from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Enjoy a cup of coffee or tea while coloring designs created for adults. Call or e-mail the library for more information.

Sign up for FSS Texting! Receive FSS event info straight to your phone by signing up on Edwardsfss.com! We promise we won't spam you—each keyword will receive an average of one weekly message!



Adopt me!

Meet Oreo! He's a sweet two-year-old terrier who loves to dance and cuddle. If you're looking for a sweet lap dog this is your boy! Oreo does well with other dogs and seems to be okay with cats. He is neutered, vaccinated and microchipped. He's searching for a life-long dance partner! Call APET at 258-9525 today!



Bob Hope USO

Your Troops are Invited to Enjoy Top Comedians at the 4th Annual USO/K-EARTH 101 LIVE Comedy Show at the Hollywood Laugh Factory!

A Bob Hope USO production in association with K-EARTH 101 and the Hollywood Laugh Factory



Jay Leno and Brad Garrett were among a dozen comedians who entertained Bob Hope USO guests at the 2016 event,
hosted LIVE on LA's #1 morning show with Gary Bryan on K-EARTH 101!

0600 to 1000 on June 29th • Attire: Uniform of the Day • RSVP by June 25 to Events@BobHopeUSO.org

Questions? Contact Allison Anderson at 562-999-7732 or Allison@BobHopeUSO.org

This event, like all Bob Hope USO shows, is free. No tickets are available to the general public, for sale or give-away. Attendees must be current members of the military, including active, reserve and national guard. Bases and units sending groups in GSA vans or military buses will have no-cost parking available. Space is limited, and group RSVPs are required. PAO and/or JAG requests for additional information can be directed to Bob@BobHopeUSO.org.

Outdoor Recreation 275-CAMP

Summer Pool Hours: Oasis Aquatic Center — Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 6-8 a.m. for lap swimming. Sonic Splash Pool — Wednesday-Friday, 1-6 p.m. Saturday and Sundays, 12-6 p.m. Muroc Pool Splash Night Fridays are 5-8 p.m.

R4R Surfing Lessons are June 24, 7 a.m.-5 p.m. Sign up by June 21 at Outdoor Recreation. Join us as we head down to beautiful Santa Monica beach where we will meet up with instructors of the #1 surf school in Southern California. All your gear will be provided, so bring your enthusiasm and spend the day with us as ODR takes you on a trip filled with fun, sun and surf! Active duty members and dependents have priority. Food and beverages will be provided. Participants should bring sunscreen. Alcohol is not permitted.

Rod & Gun 275-CAMP

"Big 50" Thursdays — The "Big 50" is an ATA Registered shoot in which each participant shoots 50 single targets, 50 double targets and 50 targets from their handicapped position. Call Outdoor Recreation for more information.

High Desert Lanes Bowling Center 275-BOWL

Father's Day Bowling Special is June 18 from 11:30 a.m.-7 p.m. Dads bowl free. Shoe rental included.

Kids Bowl Free Program — Register your child for a spring and summer fun bowling pass and receive two free games of bowling a day this spring and summer (shoe rental cost not included). To register, go to www.kidsbowlfree.com/AirForce. All KBF members are invited to the KBF Bowling Parties June 27, July 25 and Aug. 29 from 3-6 p.m. Enjoy unlimited bowling, shoe rental, two slices of cheese pizza and a drink for a low price per person, per party.

R4R Single Airman Glow Bowl Nights are Saturdays from 8 p.m.-midnight. Single Airmen

will receive unlimited games and shoes for glow-in-the-dark bowling for free. There will be music and a fun atmosphere for all. Must show valid military ID. Offer ends August 26.

Muroc Lake Golf Course 275-PUTT

Kids Drive Free is June 1-Aug. 31, 7 a.m.-5 p.m. Visit the Muroc Lake Golf Course Pro Shop to receive two free tokens per day for junior golfers. Children under 13 must be accompanied by an adult at all times. Tokens must be used the day of receiving them.

412th Security Forces Squadron issues speeding citations

The 412th Security Forces Squadron issued 20 speeding citations and processed one driving suspension from June 5 through June 11.

Citations issued

1 to 10 mph.....	2
11 to 15 mph.....	10
16 to 20 mph.....	8
21 to 24 mph.....	0
25+ mph	0

Driving privilege suspensions (current)

15 days.....	0
30 days.....	0
60 days.....	0
90 days.....	1
180 days (six months).....	1
365 days (one year).....	15
730 days (two years).....	0
1,095 days (three years).....	0

Per AFI 31-218 and EAFBI 31-218, a DD Form 1408 Armed Forces traffic tickets (no-fine) are issued to military members. Military members receiving 1408s are subject to Uniform Code of Military Justice action. A U.S. District Court Violation Notice (USDCVN) (a fine) is issued to all civilians, dependents and retirees. If issued a USDCVN, violators may be required to be present at Magistrate Court in Bakersfield, California, receive traffic violation points against their state-issued driver's license and potentially receive suspension of on-base driving privileges.

Local brass meet for annual Mojave Commanders' Summit

By Kenji Thuloweit
412th Test Wing Public Affairs

Military leaders and stakeholders from around the region met at the Airman and Family Readiness Center June 7 for this year's Mojave Commanders' Summit.

The summit provides a forum for military commanders around the Mojave Desert in California to exchange ideas and resolve issues affecting military operations within the region, according to its charter. The primary focus of the MCS consists of air and ground encroachment, endangered species preservation, renewable energy development, special-use airspace and any other issue Mojave military organizations may have in common.

Brig. Gen. Carl Schaefer, 412th Test Wing commander, was joined by Rear Adm. Brian Corey, Naval Air Warfare Center Weapons Division; Brig. Gen. Kevin Killea, Marine Corps Installation West; Rear Adm. Yancey Lindsey, Navy Region Southwest; and Army Col. Matthew Moore, National Training Center, Fort Irwin, California.

The military members were also joined by representatives from the U.S. Bureau of Land Management and the California Governor's Military Advisory Council among others.

"The annual event is paired with the R-2508 (airspace) Joint Policy and Planning Board and is a forum that fosters an environment of cooperation among all Mojave military installations to sustain military facilities, ranges and airspace, and ensures the highest possible caliber of testing and training operations in the Mojave Desert," said Scott Kiernan, 412th TW Plans and Programs sustainability officer and Encroachment Prevention Management.

Key topics covered this year included coordinating multi-service outreach efforts; establishing annual Mojave region range tours for elected officials; water sustainability; implementation of the Desert Renewable Energy and Conservation Plan by Bureau of Land Management; and preparation for the upcoming California Governor's Military Advisory Council Defense Summit.

Kiernan said the Air Force defines encroachment as any



Top military officers from around Southern California visited Edwards for this year's Mojave Commanders' Summit June 7 at the Airman and Family Readiness Center. Pictured from left to right: Army Col. Matthew Moore, National Training Center, Fort Irwin, California; Brig. Gen. Kevin Killea, Marine Corps Installation West; Brig. Gen. Carl Schaefer, 412th Test Wing commander; Rear Adm. Yancey Lindsey, Navy Region Southwest; and Rear Adm. Brian Corey, Naval Air Warfare Center Weapons Division. (U.S. Air Force photo by Kyle Larson)

deliberate action by any governmental or non-governmental entity or individual that does, or is likely to inhibit, curtail, or impede current or future military activities within the installation complex and/or mission footprint; or any deliberate military activity that is, or is likely to be incompatible with a community's use of its resources.

"Some of the more prominent encroachment concerns that can impede DOD mission capabilities in and over the desert include frequency spectrum, energy compatibility/availability and urban growth," said Kiernan.

Kiernan added that all military installations and ranges within the Mojave Desert have committed substantial resources to protect the threatened Mojave Desert tortoise. Some of these efforts include maintaining and restoring tortoise habitats; translocating tortoises to allow for active range expansion; monitoring tortoise behaviors; and educating all installation users on tortoise protection requirements.

He also mentioned the Joshua tree is currently under review by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act.

The MCS rotates its meetings every year between the different military installations. Last year, the summit was held at Fort Irwin, home of the U.S. military's National Training Center.

From Class 16B, page 1

Class 16B

Maj. Garrett Bartee
test pilot

Marine Maj. Jonathan Bearce
test pilot

Flight Lt. Alex Blackstock
(United Kingdom)
flight test engineer

Capt. Mark Brodie
combat systems officer

Flight Lt. Brendan Buell
(Australia)
flight test engineer

Capt. Rachel Chrach
flight test engineer

Capt. Joseph Demonte
test pilot

Maj. Calvin D'Silva
test pilot

Maj. Mathew Goh
(Singapore)
test pilot



(U.S. Air Force graphic)

Capt. Patrick Highland
test pilot

Capt. Christin Mastracchio
test pilot

Capt. Frederick Meyer
RPA operator

Maj. Ryall Meyer
test pilot

Capt. Anthony Puntel
flight test engineer

Capt. Bryan Ralston
flight test engineer

Navy Lt. Eric Sink
test pilot

Maj. Chris Taylor
test pilot

Capt. Chris Thorn
flight test engineer

Capt. John Wilder
flight test engineer

Capt. Rachael Winiecki
flight test engineer

This Week in Edwards History

On June 15, 1964, the first Douglas B-26K counter-insurgency aircraft was ferried to the Edwards to begin limited Category II evaluation for the Aeronautical Systems Center. The B-26K was a modification of Korean War-era Douglas B-26Bs adapted for combat service in Vietnam and later was redesignated A-26A. (Edwards History Office file photo)



31st TES to celebrate 100 years of existence June 23

By Kenji Thuloweit
412th Test Wing Public Affairs

The Edwards base community is invited to attend a special all-hands event at Hangar 1600 June 23. The 31st Test and Evaluation Squadron is holding its centennial celebration. Festivities will run from noon to 4 p.m. The gala will feature food, static displays and historical items, squadron representatives said.

The 31st TES is an Air Combat Command tenant unit at Edwards. The Desert Pirates are part of the 53rd Test and Evaluation Group out of Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada, which falls under the 53rd Wing at Eglin AFB, Florida. The 31st TES represents the warfighter during early flight testing to ensure the combat Air Force receives the world's best operational systems, according to the squadron.

The 31st TES has about 250 personnel who can be found working in the combined test forces located throughout Edwards, most with the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter program.

The squadron has been in existence since June 26, 1917, where it began as the 31st Aero Squadron at Kelly Field, Texas, shortly after the United States' entry into World War I.



(U.S. Air Force graphic)

"The 31st TES is excited to have the opportunity to forge fifth-generation fighters, remotely piloted aircraft and bombers with our predecessors during this momentous celebration," said Lt. Col. Nick Ihde, 31st TES commander. "The lineage stemming from World War I as the 31st Aero Squadron, to World War II as the 31st Bombardment Squadron, to the Korean War as the 31st Reconnaissance Squadron, was foundational in allowing the current Desert Pirates to perfect lethality in the F-35, E-3, RQ-4, MQ-9, B-1, B-2 and B-52."

After years of flying everything from early fighters to multiple WWII-era

bombers, the unit was closed down but re-activated July 1, 1986 as the 31st Test and Evaluation Squadron at Edwards. Its primary mission was to support the General Dynamics F-111B medium bomber for Strategic Air Command and to test modifications and upgrades prior to being sent to field units. It also performed testing for modifications to the B-52 and B-1B Lancer strategic bombers and SR-71 Blackbird strategic reconnaissance aircraft, according to historical publications.

In June 1992, with the inactivation of SAC, the squadron came under the new Air Combat Command.

The 31st TES is currently staffed with operations, maintenance and engineering experts who plan and conduct tests, evaluate effectiveness and suitability, and influence system design. Unit personnel are integrated into the bomber and remotely piloted vehicle programs. The squadron also possesses multiple F-35A Lightning II Joint Strike Fighters and is the Air Force's lead test agency for F-35 initial operational test and evaluation.

- Information for this article provided by the Air Force Historical Research Agency

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