

DESERT WINGS

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Breaking barriers since 1947

Celebrating 70 years of supersonic flight

Jan. 12, 2018

Back in the Saddle readies workforce for busy 2018

By Kenji Thuloweit

412th Test Wing Public Affairs

Before heading into the year with full force, the 412th Test Wing took a pause to remind its workforce to be safe while conducting its test mission.

Everything from aircraft in-flight emergencies to workplace injuries were examined at the Airman and Family Readiness Center during the annual Back in the Saddle briefing held Jan. 2.

Briefers urged an audience made up mostly of flyers, engineers, maintainers and airfield operations personnel to continue to focus on safety, teamwork and mishap prevention as the wing enters another busy year of flight test operations.

"It's about taking time to reflect; we spend a lot of energy in here to make sure we make 2018 as safe as it can be," said Brig. Gen. Carl Schaefer, 412th TW commander.

Back in the Saddle combines mishap reviews from fiscal year 2017 with informational briefings for the workforce. Throughout the four-hour morning briefing, personnel listened to briefings about lessons learned in 2017 both at Edwards and throughout the Air Force.

In addition to continuing its dynamic mission in 2018, Edwards AFB, along with the rest of the Air Force, faces the task of keeping in line with Air Force leadership's commitment to



Developmental and operational testing of the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter (pictured) are just two of the many test programs Edwards AFB continues to oversee in the new year. The 412th Test Wing held the annual Back in the Saddle briefing Jan. 2 to remind the Edwards workforce to be safe as it enters a busy 2018. (Courtesy photo by Darin Russell/Lockheed Martin)

getting the force back to full warfighting readiness.

See Saddle, page 4

Air Force selects 63 officers, civilians for USAF TPS

By Kat Bailey

Air Force Personnel Center Public Affairs

The Air Force has selected 63 primary and alternate students to attend training at the U.S. Air Force, U.S. Naval, British and French test pilot schools, with classes starting next summer.

The selection board met in July and considered total force officer and civilian candidates for test pilot, test combat systems officer, test remotely piloted aircraft pilot and flight test engineer.

"Test pilot school ensures Air Force mission dominance by

training highly qualified officers and civilians to lead and conduct full-spectrum testing and evaluation of aerospace weapons systems," said Maj. Daniel Kimball, assignments officer at the Air Force's Personnel Center. "Also, by engaging in exchange programs with the Naval Test Pilot School and our allies, we develop stronger joint and international relationships."

The TPS graduates will have a profound strategic impact on the development of future combat capabilities, Kimball added.

The U.S. Air Force Test Pilot School at Edwards Air Force Base, California, trains pilots, combat systems officers and engineers to develop, test and evaluate the newest aircraft and weapons systems. In addition, the school conducts exchange programs with the U.S. Naval, United Kingdom and French test pilot schools to train fixed and rotary wing pilots and flight test engineers.

Program graduates will earn a Master of Science in Flight Test Engineering through Air University.

The selection list is available on myPers from a CAC-enabled computer. To view the list, select "Any" from the dropdown menu and search "Test Pilot." Prior to posting the list on myPers, the Air Force's Personnel Center provided senior raters with advanced knowledge of the selection list to allow notifications through the chain of command.

For more information about Air Force personnel programs, visit [myPers](#). Eligible individuals who do not have a myPers account can request one by following [these instructions](#).



Bravery and flying skills of the highest order have always been requirements for the flight test mission, but the Air Force demands much more of today's flight test professionals, including the 63 total force Airmen selected to attend test pilot school starting as early as June 2018. (U.S. Air Force graphic by Kat Bailey)

Blended Military Retirement System now in effect

From DOD News, Defense Media Activity

One of the most wide-reaching and significant changes to military pay and benefits over the last 70 years goes into effect Jan. 1, 2018, with the implementation of the Uniformed Services Blended Retirement System, known as BRS.

The new system blends aspects of the traditional [defined benefit retirement](#) pension system, with a [defined contribution](#) system of automatic and matching government contributions through the [Thrift Savings Plan](#).

All new entrants into the uniformed services on or after Jan. 1 will be enrolled in this new retirement system, Pentagon officials said. The uniformed services are the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Public Health Service Commissioned Corps and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Officer Corps.

Nearly 1.6 million current service members will have the option to remain in the current legacy "high-3" retirement system or to choose the BRS when the opt-in period for eligible service members opens Jan. 1. [Opt-in eligible service members](#) from all seven of the uniformed services will have an entire year to make their retirement system election. The open period for the majority of service members is from Jan. 1 through Dec. 31, 2018.

Service members will need to visit their service's pay web-site, such as [MyPay](#) to opt into BRS.

Service members who believe they are eligible to opt in, but do not see the opt-in option available online should contact their local personnel/human resources office to verify eligibility, officials said.

The decision to opt in is irrevocable, officials emphasized, even if a service member changes his or her mind before the Dec. 31, 2018, deadline. Eligible service members who take no



Click on the graphic to take the Blended Retirement System training course. (U.S. Air Force graphic)

action will remain in the legacy retirement system, they added.

Prior to opting in, officials recommend that service members take advantage of all available resources to assist in making an informed decision on the financial implications specific to their retirement situation. The Defense Department endorses several training and informational tools to support a service member's decision, including the BRS [Opt-In Course](#), the BRS [Comparison Calculator](#) and numerous online BRS [resource materials](#). Service members can receive no-cost, personal support from an accredited personal financial manager or counselor available at their installation's military and family support center or by calling [Military OneSource](#) at 1-800-342-9647.

Air Force no longer requires first year evaluations

Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

Air Force officials announced Jan. 4, 2018, Enlisted Performance Reports are no longer required for regular Air Force Airmen in the grade of airman first class and below with less than 36 months' Time-In-Service or Air Reserve Component Airmen below the grade of senior airman.

This policy change supports Air Force senior leaders' focus on revitalizing the squadron and saving Airmen time. It is intended to eliminate an unnecessary administrative requirement and empower frontline supervisors, raters and commanders to frequently engage with their Airmen face-to-face, said Lt. Gen. Gina Grosso, deputy chief of staff for Manpower, Personnel and Services.

"While the Air Force values the contributions of all enlisted personnel, the requirement to document performance in a formal evaluation prior to the grade of senior airman is not necessary," said Grosso.

Instead, the Air Force has additional

means available to document an Airman's performance and to ensure he or she is meeting the training, developmental and experiential skills required to perform as professional Airmen."

Performance feedback and Airmen Comprehensive Assessments will still be required. Initial feedback sessions will occur within 60 days of raters taking over as supervisors and then every 180 days until an EPR occurs.

The removal of EPRs prior to promotion to senior airman will allow Airmen more time to learn their primary skills and missions before their performance is documented on an EPR, Grosso said.

All active-duty enlisted Airmen will receive their initial evaluation upon reaching their first March 31 Static Close-out Date after either promotion to senior airman, or after completion of a minimum of 36 months' time-in-service, regardless of grade, whichever occurs first. All Air Force Reserve Com-



(U.S. Air Force graphic)

ponent enlisted Airmen will receive initial evaluations upon the first March 31 SCOD as a senior airman.

Commanders still retain the option to complete a Directed By Commander evaluation to document substandard performance for those airmen first class and below any time after an Airman reaches 20 months' Time-In-Service. If a Directed By Commander evaluation is written, the Airman will receive a subsequent evaluation the following March 31 SCOD.

More information about the policy change is available at [myPers](#).

412th Force Support Squadron upcoming events

Force Support Squadron 277-0723

Martin Luther King Jr. Day Holiday Hours

— All facilities will be closed except the following: Aero Club is flying sunrise to sunset; office closed. Joshua Tree Dining Facility: brunch 6 a.m.-1 p.m.; dinner is 4:30-7 p.m.; and midnight meal is 11 p.m.-1 a.m. The Muroc Lake Golf Course is open 7 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Sandbagger Grill hours are 7 a.m.-2 p.m. The High Desert Inn is open seven days a week, 24 hours a day.

Airman and Family Readiness 277-0723

Ditching the Dorms is Jan. 18, 3-4 p.m. This class will help service members better prepare themselves financially for moving out of the dorms. The class is required and can be com-

pleted at any time, and at a minimum, should be completed at least three months prior to moving out of the dorms.

Club Muroc 275-CLUB

Club Holdem' is Jan. 18. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. with games beginning at 6. Pre-register for a discount. Complimentary food will served.

High Desert Lanes Bowling Center 275-BOWL

Green Pin Special is every Monday, 10:30 a.m.-7 p.m. Get a strike when you have a green head pin and get that game free. Shoe rental not included. Cannot be combined with any other offers/specials.

Top Gun Singles Tournament is Jan. 20 at 3 p.m. Double elimination scratch tournament with a three game qualifier round, elimination round and championship round. At the end of the elimination round, the top bowlers will compete in the championship round for FSS gift cards. Top bowlers are the top three (or five depending on participation) players.

Each round will be bowled on a different pair of lanes. Call for entry fee info.

Family Package Fridays is from 2-6 p.m. Price includes two hours of unlimited bowling, shoe rental, large one-topping pizza and a pitcher of soda.

Glow in the Dark Bowling is Friday and Saturday, 6 p.m.-midnight. Shoe rental included with price. Bowl as many games as you want. Don't miss out on all the fun at an affordable price and a fun atmosphere for the whole family.

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

Engraving Shop Email Change — The Engraving Shop's email address is: servicesen-graving412@gmail.com.

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.

Auto Hobby hours are Wednesday, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.; Thursday & Friday, 12 p.m.-8 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; and Sunday, 12 p.m.-5 p.m.

Library 275-BOOK

Storytime — Toddlers and preschool children are invited every Wednesday and Friday at 10 a.m. to enjoy a wonderful story and create very unique craft projects. Volunteer readers are welcome!

Education and Training 277-2713

Leadership Training Opportunities — Did you know that your Edwards Education and Training Center offers a variety of civilian leadership training programs to help civilian leaders in their day-to-day leadership paths? Examples of the courses that can be offered are: Leadership Gold, 360 Degree Leader and Leadership Education. Please contact your Edwards Edu-

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

cation and Training Center if any one of these courses are of interest to you.

Aero Club 275-AERO

Aero Club Open House is Jan. 18, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Meet with the instructors, check out the airplanes take an orientation flight for a discounted cost and then return to the Aero Club for free pizza and soda. Plus, join the Aero Club in January and receive a discount off your membership. **Realize Your Dreams. Start Flying!** — Join the thousands of men and women who made their dream a reality. Open to active duty military, DOD and NAF civilians, family members, Civil Air Patrol members, retired military, Guard and Reserve, and others by installation approval. Earn three months free Aero Club membership with your introductory flight. For more information visit myairforcelife.com/aeroclubs.

Rosburg Fitness Center 275-GYM1

Waist Management Weight Loss Challenge goes from Jan. 8-Feb. 28 at the Rosburg Fitness Center. Sign up by Jan. 8 to start the new year right. Take part in eight weeks of competition to see who will lose the most weight.

Challengers will receive bonus workouts, classes and advice.

Power Lifting Competition is Jan. 18 at 2 p.m. Athletes compete in three lifts: bench press, squat and dead lift. The totals of their lift are combined to determine the winners.

Resolution Run 5K is Jan. 19 at 6:30 a.m. No sign ups required! Just show up and run.

Oasis Community Center 275-CNTR

Mike Super is being brought to Edwards by Air Force Entertainment Jan. 20 at 6 p.m. at Club Muroc. Open to all. Doors open at 5 p.m. As the winner of NBC's hit TV show "Phenomenon," Mike Super is the only magician in history to win a live magic competition on a primetime U.S. network television station and was voted America's Favorite Mystifier! Super is also a top finalist on NBC's number one rated summer series "America's Got Talent!" His appeal to both young and old has made him one of the most sought after mystifiers in the world. Come out to Club Muroc for a jaw-dropping evening that will leave you in awe.

Star Wars Family Bingo is Jan. 26 at 5 p.m. Plan seven games for Star Wars prizes from a galaxy far, far away.... Family-friendly game tempo and atmosphere. May the force be with you.

Zumba is Monday, 11 a.m.-12 p.m. and 5 - 6 p.m. On Tuesdays, class is 4:30-5:30 p.m. For Wednesdays it is 11 a.m.-12 p.m. Discount for advanced purchase of 10 classes.



Adopt me!

Raven is a beautiful one-year-old Bombay who is calm, mild mannered and incredibly sweet. She loves attention and getting love. Some of her favorite things include her kitty bed where she can often be found snoozing away and eating yummy treats. We believe Raven will fit great into any home! Call APET at 258-9525 today!

Outdoor Recreation 275-CAMP

Now Hiring Lifeguards for the Oasis Aquatic Center. Free training for applicants who pass the initial swim test. Swim test includes a 300 meter swim, two-minute tread with no hands and a timed deep-water brick retrieval. Must be 16 years or older to apply. Contact the Oasis Aquatic Center for more information.

Open/Family Swim at Oasis Aquatic Center starts Jan. 2, Monday-Friday. Hours are 3-5:30 p.m. Family pass is valid for four people for three months. Passes are available for purchase at Outdoor Recreation and the Oasis Community Center now. They must be shown to the lifeguards on duty for verification before entering the pool.

Free Lap Swim at the Oasis Aquatic Center hours are Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 6-8 a.m. And Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. No children allowed unless they are able to swim laps unsupported.

Need Ski or Snowboard Gear? Outdoor Rec has all of the equipment you need. Check out the Equipment Rental pricelist on ODR's page at www.edwardsfss.com or stop by ODR today!

Stables — Outdoor Recreation has riding stables where you can board your horses for a discounted fee on your first horse and an additional fee per month for each additional horse. There is a limit of four stalls per patron. Please call Outdoor Recreation for more details.

The Land Sailing Program operates by private bookings only. Must be cleared with the flight line one week prior to scheduled event. If you have any questions, call ODR at 275-2267.

Numerous openings in RV Storage — Come over and park your equipment for our low prices and have access to them anytime you need.

Private parties - Rod and Gun, paintball and other Outdoor Recreation activities and facilities are available for squadron functions and private parties for a nominal fee. In addition to using our facilities, let us plan a recreational trip for you. Interested in going somewhere with colleagues or friends? Let us know the type of activity, number of people, where you want to go and your budget limit. We will work with you!

Family Child Care 275-4322

Family Child Care is seeking dedicated people who love working with children! If you live on-base and want to care for children in your home or you are a military dependent and live off-base, you may be eligible to be a licensed or affiliated provider! Make a positive difference in the lives of children! Most materials and training are provided free of charge!

Muroc Lake Golf Course 275-PUTT

Best Ball Tournament is Jan. 20 beginning at 8 a.m. with a shotgun start. Sign up by Monday, Jan. 15. Two-player, best ball with handicap. Prizes and food following play. Must have a Southern California Golf Association handicap.

Customer Satisfaction Survey — Muroc Lake Golf Course strives to deliver the best possible golfing experience to its customers. We are always eager to hear what our customers have to say and we'd like to invite you to complete

our customer survey. Our survey is short and to the point and we encourage you to be open and candid with your feedback. Thank you for your help and we look forward to seeing you soon. Please visit the Muroc Lake golf Course to fill out a paper survey or head to the following link to complete the survey online: <https://gsp.ngf.org/cgi/start.asp?SC=Edwards-MurocLake>.

Single Airman Golf Special — Single Airmen can enjoy 18 holes, cart, burger, fries and drink for a small price. Rental sets are provided for no charge if needed. Limited to the first 100 participants. Single Airmen are Air Force active duty or Air Reserve Component personnel permanently assigned to an Air Force installation or Air Force-led joint base without a spouse and a guest.

Teen Center 275-8336

Edwards School of Music — Sign up today. Open to ages 5-18. Lessons available for piano, guitar, bass guitar, drums, flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet and voice. Other instruments available upon request. Lessons available at all levels, beginner to advanced. For prices and class schedule, stop by the Teen Center or Youth Center. The Edwards School of Music is located in building 7211, right next to the Teen Center.

Keystone Club meets every Wednesday at 2:15 p.m. at the Teen Center. The Keystone Club is a leadership club that performs community service projects around the base. The club also helps teens to maintain focus in high school and helps potential graduates prepare for college.

Youth and Teen Centers Memberships — For about a dollar a day, you could have peace of mind knowing that your son or daughter is in a safe environment - an environment that fosters

development and offers constant supervision, tutoring and fun. The Youth and Teen Centers offer social opportunities and structured programming from affiliated agencies such as the Boys and Girls Clubs of America and the 4-H Club.

Rod & Gun 275-CAMP

"Big 50" Thursdays - The "Big 50" is an Amateur Trap Shooting Association registered shoot in which all participants shoot 50 single targets, 50 double targets and 50 targets from their handicapped position.

Information, Tickets and Travel 275-TRIP

New Travel Specialist — Save hours of searching the internet by contacting Candace at Edwards ITT. She has over 10 years of travel experience and is here to help you plan the vacation of your dreams. Custom packages are available including resorts, cruises, flights and tours.

ITT Pricelist & Other Events — To see the current ITT price list for events, parks, hotels and discount information, visit www.edwardsfss.com/wordpress/travel/itt.

Armed Forces Vacation Club — Let us find your dream vacation rental. Forget cramped quarters, get access to space-available resort rentals worldwide for one low weekly price. ITT is located in the Oasis Community Center.

Youth Sports 277-8961

Smart Start Basketball begins Jan. 17. Games will be on Wednesdays for six weeks at 10 a.m., 12 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. Open to ages 3 and 4. Youth programs is also looking for highly motivated coaches to coach basketball this year. Please contact Emil Graves at 277-8961 for more information.

2018 Biggest Loser is Coming!!!



Prizes!!!

2018 BIGGEST
LOSER
10-WEEK
CHALLENGE!!!

Prizes!!!

Prizes!!!

What? Register yourself or your 4-person team
by 26 January 2018

When? Challenge dates: 22 January – 06 April 2018
Weigh in **REQUIRED** during first and final week
Monday-Friday from 0800-1500

Where? Bldg 3925

Prizes awarded to:

- Team (4 people) and individual with highest % weight lost
- Team (4 people) and individual with highest number of points

Sign Up Now!!!

To Register, please email the Health Promotions Manager
at
eugene.mcclelland.civ@mail.mil
or call 661-277-9427



Edwards Basic Allowance for Housing increases in 2018

By Melody Couch
412th Civil Engineer Group

The Department of Defense's 2018 Basic Allowance for Housing rates were [re-leased Dec. 15](#). Edwards AFB active duty military members will receive an average increase of 7 percent in their BAH. Members will see their increase in their Jan. 15 pay.

BAH is defined by the Defense Travel Management Office as "a U.S.-based allowance prescribed by geographic duty location, pay grade and dependency status. It provides uniformed service members equitable housing compensation based on housing costs in local civilian housing markets within the United States when government quarters are not provided."

The two components of BAH are rent and utilities, including electricity, heat, water and sewer. The goal is to accurately reflect median-priced rental costs and average utility costs for suitable-quality housing based on duty location.

BAH is not designed to cover all housing expenses. Based on authorities granted under the FY 2016 National Defense Authorization Act, the BAH program includes a cost-sharing element

of 4 percent for 2018; meaning that the BAH is designed to cover only 96 percent of the housing costs; this is a 1 percent drop from last year.

Annually, between the months of April and August, the 412th Civil Engineer Group Housing Management Office works in tandem with Defense Department contractor Robert D. Niehaus, Inc. collecting data for suitable-quality housing in the Antelope Valley. Prior to submitting a property for inclusion in the data collection, the Edwards housing management office researches each rental in the Antelope Valley. Reasons for the HMO to exclude a property includes: high crime area, poorly maintained and/or condemned property, health issues (rodent/pest infestations), environmental factors such as locations near landfills, sewage treatment plants, environmental clean-up sites, areas with unsafe drinking water. Also excluded are subsidized housing and high income properties.

After appropriate properties are submitted for review, RDN calculates median rental costs, combines the information with average utility costs and utilizes algorithms to develop the new BAH rates



(U.S. Air Force graphic)

specific to the Antelope Valley.

Not all military locations across the U.S. will receive increases in their BAH rates. Areas with high cost of living rates generally receive increases to help offset expenses, where smaller cities with lower living expenses receive smaller increases, or sometimes even decreases in BAH.

The Edwards HMO works every year to ensure the local housing costs are fairly reflected to the BAH calculations resulting in average increases each year since 2013 where many locations have received decreases.

Read more about 2018 BAH rates [here](#).

Scorpions to Wildcats, DHS grads hitting it big in college

By Kenji Thuloweit
412th Test Wing Public Affairs



Desert High School graduates Devyn Cross (left) and Elizabeth Shelton drop by their former school Jan. 3, 2018, during a holiday break. The former DHS volleyball standouts are now attending the University of Arizona in Tucson. (U.S. Air Force photo by Kenji Thuloweit)

Two years ago, Desert High School students cheered in the gym as volleyball players Devyn Cross and Elizabeth Shelton signed their National Letters of Intent to attend the University of Arizona on full athletic scholarships. Both players learned volleyball for the first time at DHS, not sure where their futures were headed. After winning California Interscholastic Federation titles and becoming increasingly skilled in their sport, college coaches started to take notice. Scholarship offers started pouring in and the doors of opportunity began to open.

Today, Cross and Shelton are rising stars on Arizona's women's volleyball team and fully immersed in college life in Tucson.

Upon returning to the High Desert and their listed hometown of Edwards Air Force Base for the holidays, both student athletes sat down to talk about their college experience so far. Both Arizona Wildcats endure a full class schedule with Shelton majoring in neuroscience and Cross focusing on sociology. The full class load coupled with year-long volleyball preparation keeps them busy.

"It can be hectic if you don't know how to manage it," said Shelton. "We still have to work out, play volleyball...and then there's weight lifting, practice and class."

"Do not wait until the last minute to do anything," Cross said. "Homework, grocery shopping, whatever it is, when you think you need to do something then do it."

Cross recommended creating schedules and planning out meals to make things smoother.

The official college volleyball season doesn't start until August but preparation and conditioning never stop, according to the sophomores. Cross is a middle blocker and Shelton plays outside hitter. Cross led the 2017 Wildcats in blocks with Shelton finishing second in the category. Shelton also finished third on her team in kill shots and named an honorable mention on the Pac-12 All-Academic Team, according to the Wildcats' website.

For high schoolers, or even middle school students, Cross and Shelton advise potential college athletes to begin their journey early. "If you're trying to be recruited for a sport, start your freshman year," said Cross. "Start looking for a college and getting your name out there early."



This Week in Edwards History

On Jan. 9, 1943, the first flight of the Lockheed XC-69 took place from Burbank, California, to Muroc Army Airfield. It was piloted by company test pilots Edmund Allen and Milo Burcham. The four-engine, propeller-driven aircraft was designed by Kelly Johnson and developed from the Lockheed L-049 Constellation airliner. (Edwards History Office file photo)

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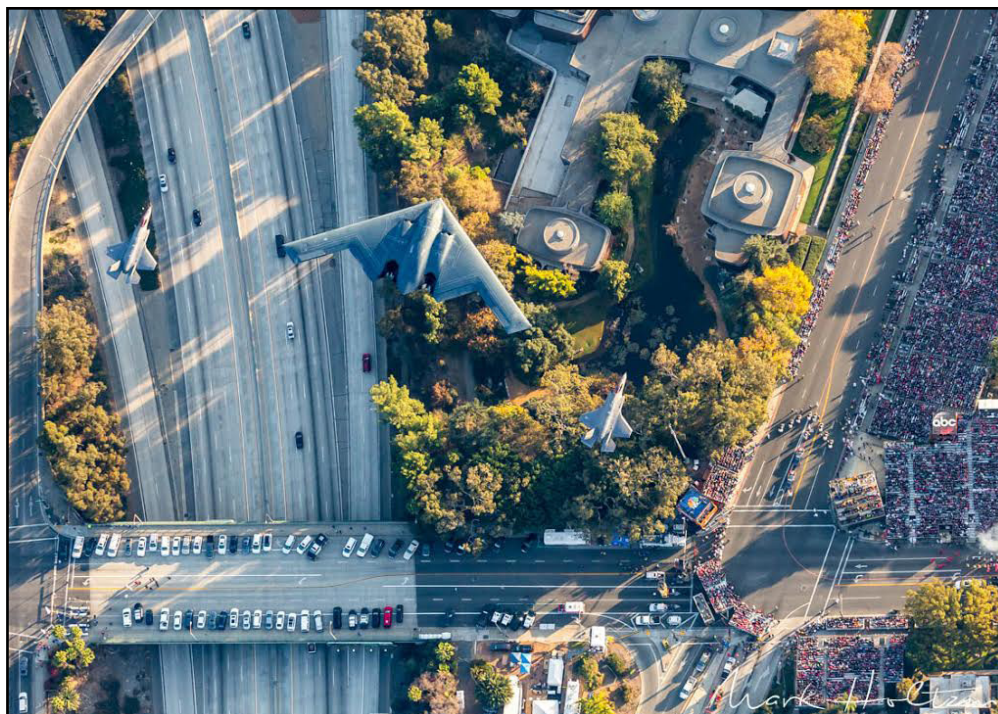
"If you listen to our chief of staff, we are 16 years into a 30-year war and I agree with him," Schaefer said. "We're going to be at war with violent extremism for at least 15-20 more years. In the midst of that, we kind of lost our edge as a service and as a nation for a high-end fight. What you're going to see across the Air Force is a ratcheting up of our readiness."

The general explained that the Edwards mission adds to the Air Force's wartime capability by testing and sending lethal and more capable weapons to the warfighter for that high-end fight.

"We're going to be asked to do that; we're going to be asked to do more in 2018 than we did in 2017, and the same thing in 2019."

Schaefer also noted that Edwards Airmen continue to deploy in support of combat operations, which can leave units relying on less personnel to get the mission done.

Overall, 2017 proved to be a very safe year for the 412th Test Wing. There were no major mishaps involving lost aircraft and there were no on-duty fatalities. However, base leadership emphasized the need to reduce minor mishaps.



(Courtesy photo by Mark Holtzman)

Flying into 2018

Two F-35 Lightning IIs from the 31st Test and Evaluation Squadron at Edwards Air Force Base took part in the traditional flyover at the beginning of the annual Tournament of Roses Parade Jan. 1, 2018, in Pasadena, California.

The fifth-generation fighters accompanied the B-2 Spirit stealth bomber in the middle, which was from the 509th Bomb Wing at Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri.

According to information from Donate Life America, the flyover honored organ donor Maj. Benjamin Meier, an Air Force pilot who was assigned to the 31st TES.

The F-35 on the left of the B-2 represented all organ donors, while the F-35 on the right symbolized all who have received organs that have prolonged their lives.

While on a morning run in 2015, Meier was struck in the head by the mirror of a passing truck on Edwards AFB and later died of his injuries. As an organ donor, Donate Life America says Meier was able to provide several organs to people who live on to this day.

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Commander, 412th TW Brig. Gen. Carl Schaefer
Installation Support Director Dr. David Smith
Command Chief Chief Master Sgt. Roosevelt Jones
Director, 412th TW Public Affairs Ed Buclatin
Editor Kenji Thuloweit
Contributor Dawn Waldman

To submit articles or upcoming events
send an email to
newsroom@edwards.af.mil