

August - September - October



Civilian Military Support Group NEWSLETTER



President's Message and Board of Directors News

As your newly installed president, I want to thank all Civ-Mil members for their interest in Edwards Air Force Base and our organization. If you are a long-time member, I personally thank you for your loyalty. For our newest members, I thank you for making Civ-Mil one of your organizations of choice! We all have many competing choices for our discretionary time. Our dues and volunteer efforts are dedicated directly to benefit the men and women of Edwards AFB and their families. In the process we are assisting the promotion and advancement of flight test throughout the Antelope Valley. Through Civ-Mil membership, we have found a terrific way to support our community and our nation's men and women in uniform.



Mike Belzil
President

In Board news, we recently received a resignation notification from Andy Shillinglaw. Andy was well known as the organizer of our annual Civ-Mil BBQ. Unfortunately, he has moved from the AV and is no longer able to participate regularly. Andy's talents and dedicated service on the board will be missed, but we are pleased he will retain his association with Civ-Mil as a member.



George Fox recently offered his resignation as well. George was among the first members of Civ-Mil; has been associated with us for 18 of our 20 years of existence; and he has been a main organizer of many of our newsletters. However, in view of his uncertain ability to fully participate in the coming months, George elected to vacate his position on the board. Civ-Mil's Board of Directors, in recognition of George's long and dedicated service, appointed him as Director Emeritus. We look forward to George's affiliation and participation in Civ-Mil mat-

cont. Pg 2

New Board Members and Officers Installed

The Civ-Mil Annual Installation Banquet was held at the Hellenic Center in Lancaster on Thursday evening, September 17, 2009. The event was well attended by more than 120 Civ-Mil members, Edwards AFB leaders, elected officials, special guests, spouses and friends. The Master of Ceremonies for the evening was James Charlton, and he delivered his customary flawless performance. The agenda for the evening featured the presentation of the colors by the Blue Eagles Honor Guard; the National Anthem sung by Technical Sergeant David Ah Sing; the Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilman Mike Dispensa; an inspirational message by CA Assemblyman Steve Knight; the invocation by the 95th Air Base Wing Commander, Col Jerry Gandy; and the keynote address by the Air Force Flight Test Center Commander, Maj Gen Dave Eichhorn.

Following Gen Eichhorn's report on the past, present and future of flight test at Edwards AFB, the incoming board members and Civ-Mil officers were installed. The directors for the class of 2012 are Danny Bazzell, Mike Belzil, Art Furtado, Roger Hemme, Aida O'Connor, Pan Patel and Bud Reams. The Civ-Mil officers for 2009-2010 are Mike Belzil, President; Danny Bazzell, Vice President; James Welling, Secretary; and Bud Reams, Treasurer.



Thanks, in large measure, to the strong showing by base leadership, the installation banquet provided an outstanding opportunity for our membership to learn about current developments at Edwards. The audience even received a personal invitation

cont. Pg 2

ters as time permits.

Les Uhazy and Jack Stewart have been appointed by the board to replace Andy and George as directors. In conformance with our bylaws, Les and Jack received the highest number of votes during this year's board elections. Both are eager to serve, and we welcome them onboard.

With our 2010 membership drive underway, we expect renewals and new member additions will retain our membership at 150. This level of membership is our limit as currently provided in the Civ-Mil bylaws. If not already done, please renew your membership, and encourage others to join this fine organization.

Mike Belzil

EAFB Holiday Meal Program

The dropping temperatures, falling leaves and nip in the air serve as a subtle (and sometimes harsh!) reminder that summer is over and that the holiday season will soon be upon us. In fact, Thanksgiving is just around the corner. The upcoming holiday season offers an opportunity for Civ-Mil to assist the junior Airmen and Marines, and their families, onboard Edwards AFB.

As always, during the holiday season, the Edwards Air Force Base Civilian-Military Support Group will be collecting monetary donations to support our annual Holiday Gift Basket program in support of our troops at Edwards. The holiday season can be especially hard on a young family when a spouse, mother or father is deployed overseas or perhaps struggling to make ends meet in these tough times. Traditionally, this is where the members of Civ-Mil have stepped in year after year to lend a hand.

This season your generous donation of \$25.00 or more will help to provide a holiday meal to approximately 65 enlisted Airmen/Marines and their families who have been identified by their First Sergeants as needing a helping hand. Please make checks payable to EAFB Civ-Mil, indicate "Holiday Meal Program" on the lower left side of your check, and mail to:

**EAFB Civ-Mil
PO BOX 812
LANCASTER, CA 93584-0812**

Thank you in advance for making a difference in the lives of our military families. Your generosity will directly benefit these outstanding men and women who serve our country in the cause of freedom.

from Gen Eichhorn to attend October's Air Show. Spirits were high, our MC kept the event light and entertaining, and there was ample time for socializing. By all accounts, the evening's program was well organized and very successful. All in attendance had a most enjoyable evening.

Civ-Mil Thanks Aida O'Connor as She Concludes Presidency

As part of the formal ceremonies at the installation banquet on September 17th, Aida O'Connor transferred presidency of the Civ-Mil Support Group to Mike Belzil, signaling the completion of her term as president. Although Aida has previously served as president during 3 other periods in Civ-Mil's 20-year history, her most recent term began in 2007.



Aida O'Connor
Past President

Aida had a fantastic run as our president for the past two years. Under her tenure, one of her key goals was to increase our membership. Aida led the expansion of our membership from a low of less than 90 members to our current level of 150!

Aida established another major goal of ensuring the value of a Civ-Mil membership. She accomplished this goal in a number of ways. Each member receives a membership certificate, a Civ-Mil coin, and corporate members receive a membership plaque. In addition, members are invited to participate in several special events. Some of the events organized during Aida's presidency include base tours at Edwards and Vandenberg; the annual BBQ and installation gatherings; periodic mixers; and hosting dinners for visiting groups.

Although Aida has stepped aside as president, she will remain active on our Board of Directors and in the role of past president. The Board of Directors congratulates Aida on her successful tenure as president and is fortunate to continue to benefit from her perspective as past president.

A photograph of several wrapped Christmas gifts in various colors and patterns, some with ribbons and bows. The gifts are arranged on a light-colored surface. Overlaid on the image is text in red and black.

Christmas is Comming !!!
*Lets not forget our familes this
holiday season*
Contact Mike Belzil or Aida O'connor



INSTALLATION DINNER



Flight Test Nation 2009

Tremendous Success!

*Commentary by Major General David Eichhorn, USAF
Commander, Air Force Flight Test Center
(Reprinted with permission from Maj Gen Eichhorn)*

Men and Women of the Air Force Flight Test Center,

What a day - a clear blue sky with calm winds! A perfect day for an air show!

So much preparation went into this event, where do I start? Security? Maintenance? Medical? Operations? Civil Engineering? Protocol? Public Affairs? The AFFTC Museum? The Civ-Mil Group? Safety? Finance? Communications? Scaled Composites? National Test Pilot School? NASA? All the local communities that issued proclamations of unequivocal support? It took the best out of all of them and their best was what they delivered! Now, so many to thank - so hard, no, it's impossible to find the right words but I have to try!



The eager public, over 200,000 in total, lined up early and our security forces were ready for them. They started early and they went very late to ensure our guests got off the base safely. The parking plan was executed extremely well and even better were the adaptations that happened real-time as an anxious public was backed up all the way to the highways, north and west. We did our level best to expedite the flow but so many people knew how great Flight Test Nation 2009 was going to be that some lengthy delays were inevitable. So we adapted again and extended the hours of the open house to 1700 so those that gave effort to be here could enjoy it for a while.

And enjoy they did! You didn't have to be on the ramp to hear the Edwards trademark opening sonic boom! At precisely 10 o'clock, Brigadier General "Chuck" Yeager and Major General Joe Engle sent a shock wave to the ground from 30,00 feet, high overhead! Where else does that happen?

Once on the ramp, the public was exposed to what I believe was the greatest collection of aircraft ever amassed at an airshow! The F-35 Lightning II made its airshow debut! The White Knight II flew by and was put on static display next to its older brother White Knight I. National Test Pilot School at Mojave brought over some of their aircraft and Global Hawk was basking in the public glow

as well. There was a long line of people to go through the NASA Shuttle Carrier Boeing 747. All this and our regular stable of aircraft which includes Raptors, Talons, Vipers, BUFFs, BONEs, Spirits, Hornets, Eagles, etc, etc, etc. All Edwards has to do to have a great show is open the hangar doors but we did so much more!

The public was also privileged to witness the enlistment ceremony for about 200 Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines! I officiated the oath of enlistment and was joined on stage by a multi-service honor guard, and representatives from each of



people here, some of our guests were sure to overdo it. They were ready, well organized and on top of the situation.



the services. In addition, Yeager and Engle joined me as well to show their support for America's finest! What a privilege for me to do the ceremony! What a great start to their careers!

Speaking of careers, a long time friend of the base and our Test Community, David Hartman, was here to moderate a talk between Yeager and Engle. For over an hour, Hartman and his guests enthralled the audience in our big hangar. How does one get to be a legend of flight test? Well, Yeager and Engle described their path to stardom and it was fascinating! Their paths were full of challenges and opportunities that they were smart enough to tackle both!

Everyone made this day the success it was but I have to give special thanks to the medics who took care of people overcome by the sun/heat. With so many

Then there's our bomber maintenance team that worked through the pain (and the night) to show off their aircraft! I'm sure all our maintainers had their share of challenges but the bomber team has had more than their share lately. They did a fantastic job! The show and our trademark finale with all our aircraft flying overhead would have suffered were it not for them. The bomber formation of the B-1, B-2 and B-52 was just awesome to behold and they made sure it happened! We were asked why do we do such an awesome finale? Because we can! Because we're The Air Force's Flight Test Center and it's what we do!

If you weren't here - boy did you miss it! I've attached some pictures so you can see just how incredible the achievement was for Lt Col Aaron Reed, our airshow director, and his team of world-class professionals! We cannot thank them enough for their hard work and dedication!

Flight Test Nation 2009 is now in the history books as the new standard in airshow excellence! I can't wait for 2011!

God Bless all of you and God Bless America!

Ike

DAVID J. EICHHORN, Maj Gen, USAF
Commander, Air Force Flight Test Center



Generals Eichhorn and Yeager



Ike and Indy run an Air Show: Major General David Eichhorn, AF-FTC Commander and Colonel Jerry Gandy, 95th ABW Commander make sure all goes well at the Edwards AFB Open House & Air Show on October 17th.

2009 Edwards AFB Open House & Air Show: Flight Test Nation

What a day for an air show! It had been 2006 since Edwards AFB hosted an open house and air show. But with Flight Test Nation on Saturday, October 17, 2009, over 200,000 attendees visited the base and viewed numerous aircraft and weapons systems on the ground and in the air. It was a superb day for flying, and there was flying – a lot of flying. There were aerial displays from heritage aircraft such as the B-17, B-25, P-38, and P-51. Modern day aircraft such as the B-1, B-2, C-17, F-16, and F-22 thrilled everyone. Even the unique White Knight II, built by Mojave's Scaled Composites for Virgin Galactic, flew for the crowd before landing and joining up on the ramp with the original White Knight aircraft.

Other airborne entertainment was provided by the US Army's Golden Knights parachute team. The aerial production of Tora! Tora! Tora! offered vintage American and Japanese aircraft with plenty of explosive effects.

There was plenty on the ground to interest everyone. Visitors were able to tour through some of the largest aircraft on the flightline such as the C-17 Globemaster III transport and NASA's 747 Shuttle Carrier Aircraft. The wings and shadows of these huge planes and the B-52, B-1, KC-135 provided relief from the sun for many.

The AFFTC Museum's freshly painted SR-71 Blackbird – always impressive – joined the other aircraft stretched along the flightline. The Marine Corps' CH-46 Sea Stallion, Boeing's X-48B Blended Wing Body (BWB) dem-

onstrator, Northrop-Grumman's X-47B Unmanned Combat Aircraft for the US Navy, NASA's Predator B 'Ikhana'



UAV, and Lockheed-Martin's F-35 Lightning II Joint Strike Fighter – all part of the Edwards AFB "airscape" were proudly on display and drawing much interest. All of the aforementioned aircraft plus so many more made this a very special event.

Adding to the day was the outstanding food and drink provided by the various flight test squadrons, units, and organizations that make up Edwards AFB.

Major General Eichhorn hosted the Commander's Hospitality Tent. Our very own Edwards AFB Civ-Mil Support Group, in partnership with the William J. "Pete" Knight Chapter of the Air Force Association, made this possible



with the gracious support of aerospace contractors, local businesses, community organizations, and individuals. This area was where base leadership, community leaders, elected officials, and friends of the General and AFFTC leaders could socialize together in a covered environment, watch the action in the air and on the runway, enjoy refreshments, and just plain seek a place to rest for a bit after walking up and down the flightline. Guests had an opportunity to mingle with some aviation luminaries such as Chuck Yeager and Joe Engle.

Civ-Mil had a display in the Commander's Tent, with thanks going to Rex Moen and Bob Slade for organizing it. Mike Strickler, EAFB Public Affairs, deserves thanks



William J. [unclear] and the EAFB Civilian / Military Support Group
 Thanks These Community Partners For Their Gracious Support and Refreshments

DIAMOND LEVEL DONORS
 Lockheed Martin Aeronautical Company

GOLD LEVEL DONORS
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 • Edwards AFB Civilian/Military Support Group
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 • Paul Nafzinger
 • Linda Lunsford
 • Rex Moen
 • Cathy Hansen
 • Luis Merryman
 • Harry Talbot
 • Al Hoffman
 • Mojave Chamber of Commerce



for putting together the video display. The Commander's Tent was enjoyed by many of us. Extra gratitude must be extended to Rex Moen for his dedication and tenacity in making this a reality.

There is so much more that can be said about Flight Test Nation 2009. If you missed it, well let's just hope that you can join all of us in 2011. If you were there, you know just how exciting and fun it was. It was a great day for an air show, and it was a great air show!

Congratulations and thanks to Major General Eichhorn, Colonel Thornton, and Colonel Gandy as well as the entire Edwards Air Force Base and Dryden Flight Research Center Team for allowing the thousands of us to share in one day what they do every day.

Al Hoffman

Membership Drive 2010 Underway!

The 2010 EAFB Civ-Mil Support Group Membership Drive began October 1, 2009. Members who have not paid their dues prior to October, should have received both email and letter notifications. New and returning members should return membership forms as soon as possible. Payments should be made to EAFB Civ-Mil and mailed to PO Box 812, Lancaster, CA 93584. Our annual membership fee structure remains the same as last year:

Renewal or New Individual Membership: \$60
Joint Membership (husband-wife membership): \$100
Corporate Membership: \$125

Upon processing of payment, members will receive a membership certificate and card, Civ-Mil vehicle sticker, and, for new members, a Civ-Mil challenge coin. Additional coins can be purchased through our organization at a cost of \$5 each. EAFB officials will issue base access passes by separate correspondence. The passes will be valid throughout 2010.

If you have any questions regarding membership, please call Mike Belzil at 661-202-0934.

MISSION

“The purpose and general nature of this organization is to establish a friendly, benevolent association of civic leaders and military personnel at Edwards Air Force Base (EAFB), to host groups incoming to Edwards, and to consider service projects to benefit EAFB.”

Director Emeritus

Terry Scott, Alis Clausen, George Fox

Honorary Lifetime Directors

Clyde Bailey, Tom Craft
Roger Persons, Aida O'Connor

THIS QUARTER'S EVENTS

AFFTC Annual Awards Winners Reception

Saturday, November 14

Contact AFFTC Protocol Office

Civ-Mil Membership Renewal

October – December 2009

Contact Mike Belzil or Aida O'Connor

EAFB Annual Holiday Meal Program

November – December 2009

Contact Danny Bazzell or Aida O'Connor

AFFTC Commander's Holiday Reception

December 2010 (Tentative)

Contact AFFTC Protocol Office

Civ-Mil Spring Mixer

Spring 2010

TOY'S FOR TOTS

by Edwards Marines.

BOARD DIRECTORS

Mike Belzil : President

Danny Bazzell: Vice President

James Welling: Secretary

George "Bud"Reams : Treasurer

Judy Bauer

Rex Moen

John Fergione

Aida O'Connor

Patricia Russell

Pan Patel

Cathy Hart

Art Furtado

Roger Hemme

Robert Slade

Al Hoffman

Jack Stewart

Bob Johnstone

Mark Thompson

Larry Jernigan

Les Uhazy

Chuck Medicus