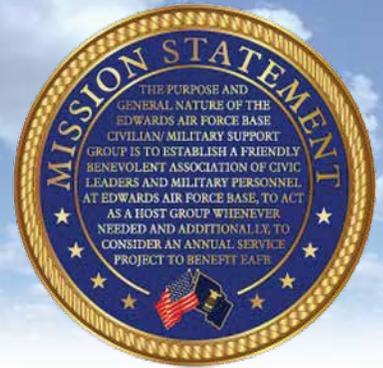


August 2012



Civilian Military Support Group NEWSLETTER



President's Corner

By Mike Belzil

In this installment of the President's Corner, I will bring you up to speed on our the results of our Spring Social, Civ-Mil Elections, Civ-Mil BBQ, A Night at the JetHawks, and Civ-Mil Installation.



Mike Belzil

Spring Social and Base Advocacy Our Spring Social on May 16 was attended by over 120 Civ-Mil members, community leaders and base officials at the Grand Ballroom of the University of Antelope Valley on Sierra Highway in Lancaster. The theme of the evening was Edwards Air Force Base advocacy and the sustainment of aerospace operations within the Antelope Valley. There were several highlights throughout the evening. General Nolan gave us an excellent update on the Air Force Materiel Command restructure

and status of the formation of the Air Force Test Center. In addition, video messages of support for EAFB and aerospace operations in the AV were provided by Congressman Kevin McCarthy and CA State Assemblyman Steve Knight. Letters and messages of support were also presented by elected officials and community leaders. Following testimonials by elected officials' staff, the final highlight of the evening was Assemblyman Knight's award presentation and announcement of our founder, Aida O'Connor, as his choice for Woman of the Year. By all measures, the evening was successful, enjoyable and very well supported.

Civ-Mil Elections. During the July Board of Directors meeting, a slate of candidates was approved for elections for the expiring terms of 1/3 of our director positions. Thanks to the excellent work of Bob Johnstone in leading the nomination committee, the slate of candidates included Cathy Hart, Bob Johnstone, George Nagy, Kimberly Perkins, Dr. Ken Santarelli, Bob Slade, Mark Thompson, Stanley Turner, Dr. Les Uhazy and James Welling. Ballots were mailed out in July with tabulation scheduled for the August board meeting. Once the election results have been ratified, the board will nominate and approve the slate of officers to lead Civ-Mil during 2013. The incoming board members and officers will be installed at the Annual Installation Banquet at the University of Antelope Valley Grand Ballroom, on Thursday, September 13.

Civ-Mil Barbeque. By our chefs' count, over 130 base, Civ-Mil members and guests were in attendance at our Annual Civ-Mil BBQ on July 26. The BBQ has always proven to be a great way to meet the incoming base leadership team, and this year was no exception. As is our tradition, the BBQ was held at Hacienda Lane Ranch, off 60th Street West in Palmdale. Ms Frances Lane once again graciously offered to host our gathering. The festivities began with a social at 5 pm, and dinner followed at 6 pm. The customary menu was steak or chicken dinner with all the fixings. Assemblyman Steve Knight, Kern County Supervisor Zack Scrivner, and Palmdale City Manager David Childs were among the community officials in attendance. Dr Davey Belk and Col Amy Arwood introduced the base leadership. Assemblyman Knight provided entertaining after-dinner remarks. An enthusiastic volunteer corps complemented exceptional planning by Bob and Michele Slade to deliver an outstanding evening of great food and fun.

A Night at the JetHawks. Right on the heels of the BBQ, Civ-Mil hosted A Night at the JetHawks at Clear Channel Stadium (aka The Hangar). The game was played the evening of Saturday, August 4th, in conjunction with Aerospace Appreciation Weekend. This event has grown in interest and quality with each passing year. We added additional skyboxes and seating to make this year's event our biggest ever. Skybox seating was arranged by Art Furtado and James Welling. Thanks to their superb coordination, 50 base and board members enjoyed a fantastic evening of baseball and socializing.

Annual Civ-Mil Installation Banquet. As summer transitions to fall, be on the lookout for invitations to the Civ-Mil Annual Installation Banquet. We will install the newly elected board members for their 3-year term, and we will also be installing the incoming President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary as Civ-Mil officers for the new membership year. The installation will be held Thursday, September 13, at the University of Antelope Valley Grand Ballroom on Sierra Highway in Lancaster.

The summer months are particularly busy periods for our organization. In addition to the activities mentioned above, there is a traditional turnover in leadership positions at the base. Civ-Mil events provide involvement opportunities to get to know the incoming base leaders a little quicker and a better. If you have the time and interest to volunteer, please contact me or Aida O'Connor.

We are always looking for additional hands to lighten the work load.

Civ Mil Hears Edwards Update from General Nolan

“Courtesy of Aerotech News and Review”

By Raphael Jaffe
Staff writer



Brig. Gen. Robert Nolan, commander of Edwards AFB addressing the May 16 Edwards Civ-Mil Spring Mixer.

At its May 16 Spring Mixer, about 120 members and friends of the Edwards AFB Civilian-Military Support Group were treated to the latest news in an informal talk by Brig. General Robert Nolan, Edwards’ commander. The General showed the organization charts for the AF Materiel Command, scheduled for initial operational capability in October, 2012. He also warned that the changes may be blocked “by one or more political entities.”

The new organization will shrink AFMC from 12 to 5 Major Commands, to reduce staff and overhead. There would be a reduction of about 1,050 in management level civilians [Edwards would lose about 92 positions.] The advantages of the new organization include improved warfighter support by showing a single

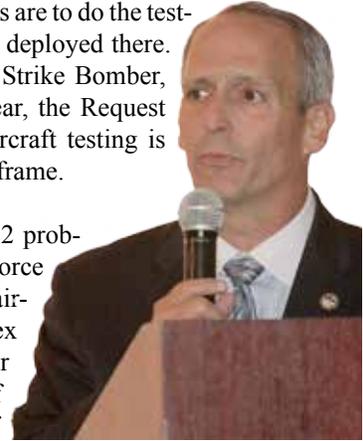
face to the customer; fostering integrated test capabilities across the enterprise; facilitating base level support by integrating the base level wings into the test wings; driving standard processes; and simplifying and reducing overhead.

The new Air Force Test Center will be responsible for development and evaluation of all Air Force aircraft. Edwards will become the site of the AFTC. It will be commanded by a two-star general. The 95th Air Base Wing, will be decommissioned, and its responsibilities taken over by the 412 Test Wing, headed by a one-star general. The Test Center will be responsible for the 96 Test Wing, which remains at Elgin AFB, Florida, and is headed by a one-star general. The Test Center is also responsible for the Arnold Engineering Development Center, located at Arnold AFB, Tennessee and headed by a colonel. The base wing changes are scheduled for July 20.



General Nolan discussed present and future aircraft testing at Edwards. There are now eight JSF aircraft on the test range. That number will grow to 20, with six each of Air Force, Navy and Marine Corp versions each, plus United Kingdom versions of the aircraft. About 28 % of the testing has been completed.

On the horizon is testing of the KC-46 tanker. This new AF tanker is being built by Boeing. Present plans are to do the testing in Seattle. A detachment will be deployed there. Also coming up is the Long Range Strike Bomber, which will replace the B-1. Next year, the Request for Proposals will be issued, and aircraft testing is anticipated in the 2018 to 2020 time frame.



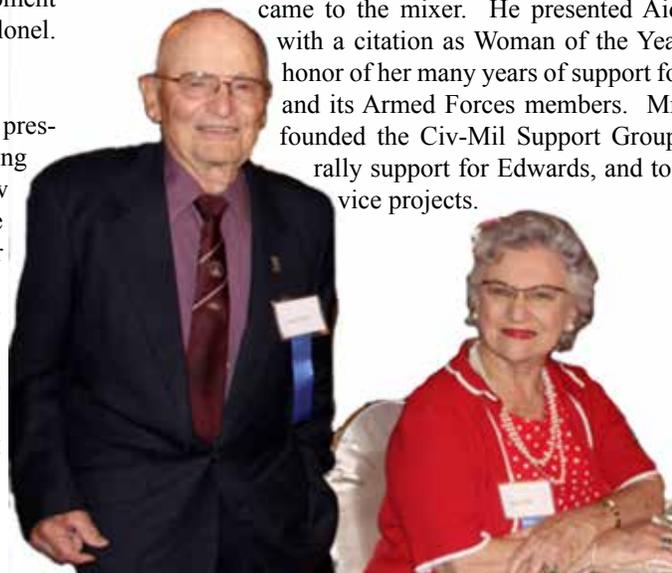
General Nolan spoke of the F-22 problem. He said that right now the Air Force has initiated measures to make the airplane safer. It has the most complex oxygen systems in use by the Air Force. Edwards is in the process of a complete teardown investigation of the problem, using two F-22s whose pilots have reported problems. The problem is still a mystery.

MC for the evening was Mike Belzil, President of the Edwards Civ-Mil group. He introduced many of the civilian leaders who have been supporting Edwards at this time of defense spending cuts. They included Bakersfield Mayor Harvey Hall; Palmdale City Manager David Childs, Congressman Kevin McCarthy’s Field Representative Vince Fong; California State Senator Sharon Runner’s Representative Lisa Moulton; and Assemblyman Steve Knight’s Representative Sarah Tyndall. McCarthy and Knight sent televised greetings to the affair.



Aida O’Connor, founder of Edwards Civ-Mil, is flanked by Assemblyman Steven Knight, and Brig. Gen. Robert Nolan.

In a surprise treat, Assemblyman Knight himself came to the mixer. He presented Aida O’Connor with a citation as Woman of the Year. This is in honor of her many years of support for the air base and its Armed Forces members. Mrs. O’Connor founded the Civ-Mil Support Group in 1988, to rally support for Edwards, and to perform service projects.





2012 Spring Mixer



Edwards Praises Civ-Mil at Annual Barbeque

By Raphael Jaffe
Staff writer

Air Force Test Center officers profusely thanked the Edwards AFB Civilian-Military Support Group at the July 26 Barbeque. Col Amy V. Arwood, Director of Staff for the 412 Test Wing, said “the group brings stability to the base as it continues to make history every day. We really appreciate what you provide to the base and its personnel.”

Dr. Davy Belk, Executive Director, thanked Civ-Mil for bringing it all together. “We are an expeditionary Air Force, sending airmen out to fight and it is important to have a home base where your family is taken care of, which has your back and Civ-Mil and the community is a big part of that.”

There were over 120 military and civilian leaders at the barbeque. It took place at the beautiful Hacienda Lane Ranch in Palmdale. For 23 years, Ms Frances Lane has provided the grounds for the event.



Assemblyman Steve Knight headed the civic leaders in attendance. He remarked that his father was Vice Commander at Edwards when he was born there, and said he immediately looked out his window and fell in love with airplanes and has been in love with Edwards ever since. “You truly lead the nation and the world in advanced aircraft up to today with your hypersonic research.”

Other civic officials were Vince Fong, on behalf of Congressman Kevin McCarthy, Kern County Supervisor Zack Scrivner, Palmdale City Manager David Childs, and California City Manager Tom Weil. The Air Force Association was represented by Rex Moen, California President, and Randy Kelley, Secretary.

Most of base command staff was in attendance. Unfortunately because of higher priority requirements related to the recent Air Force Material Command change to a five center structure, neither Brig. Gen. Arnold Bunch, nor Brig. Gen. Michael Brewer could attend.

Col. Arwood and other military gave particular praise to Civ-Mil for its support of the Airman’s Attic. This has been ongoing for since 2010, when Civ-Mil funded carpeting of its new 2400 square foot facility. In response to recent requests, Civ-Mil has obtained literally truckloads of appliances and furniture that are donated by the Attic to junior grade enlisted. Founder Aida O’Connor has been central in obtaining these generous contributions. Col. Arwood said of the 23 duty stations to which she has been assigned, she has seen none as large.

The barbeque project was chaired by director Bob Slade and wife, Michelle. Attendees said that it was well organized, enjoyable, and gave the military a chance to interact with the community and its leaders.

Many directors and members contributed gifts that were raffled to participants. Those proceeds are supporting the current Civ-Mil project, the rehabilitation of the Edwards Bldg 1 Flag Park. The Park displays flags of all 50 states and the territories.



Thanks for helping with the morning setup {John Fergione, Ken Frisk, Richard Spann, Jose, Bob Slade, Art Furtado}. Not pictured: Linda Reynolds, Michelle Slade.

Directors Pan Patel and Terry Landsiedel tended the cash bar, the profits of which are going to the Airman’s Attic project. Director Julie Swayze and husband, Steve, handled the door. The volunteer cooks were David Norris, Doug Beimler and Kenny Gardner.

Civ-Mil President Mike Belzil was Master of Ceremonies for the event. Other Director attendees were founder Aida O’Connor, Vice President Danny Bazzell, Treasurer Bud Reams, Membership Chair Art Furtado, Newsletter Chair John Fergione, Roger Hemme, Allan Hoffman, Terry Landsiedel, Pan Patel, Pat Russell, Robert Slade, Richard Spann, Julie Swayze and Les Uhazy.



Our cooks, David Norris, Doug Beimler and Ken Gardner, were fabulous!



Taking care of the refreshments, Directors Pan Patel and Terry Landsiedel



Treasurer Bud Reams, Frances Lane, Aida

2012 Barbecue

Hacienda Lane Ranch





EAFB Civilian Military Support Group Accomplishments



The EAFB Civ-Mil was founded in October 1989

Project	Status
Airman's Attic	Phase 1: Funded approximately one half of the carpet tiles. October 13: 2010: Installation completed. Phase 2: Funded and installed the remaining carpet tiles.
Air Show and Open House	Sponsor. Set up booths and manned them with posters showing the current history of EAFB. Placed banners and other decorations and posters for the VIP tent as well.
Armed Services Day Parade	Financed buses for Airmen to participate in the Armed Services Day Parades.
Building 1600	Purchased the large US Flag used for Building 1600 events.
Civ-Mil Wall	Annual replacement of displays. First begun in September, 1998 and accomplished major renovations to it numerous times. This wall has been on display at various places at EAFB. It currently resides at the Consolidated Support Facility in the 95th Air Base Wing Headquarters Building.
Deploying Troops	Provided numerous, over 3,000, goodie bags for deploying service men and servicewomen. (Ongoing since 2002)
Employee of the Year program	Annual since 2002
Flag Park across from Building 1	Fully funded. Provided flags and poles. Replaced all flags several times. In 2012, we will be renovating the entire park; flag poles and flags.
Honorary Commanders' Program	Formalized across the AFFTC by MGEN Curtis Bedke the AFFTC Commander, and facilitated with the help of the EAFB Civ-Mil on July 28, 2005. Aida O'Connor was the first Honorary AFFTC Commander.
Operation Higher Grounds	Higher Grounds Internet Café. Supplied the day-room furniture, 6 Computers and 2 Plasma TV's. July, 2007: Ground Breaking August, 2007: Dedication 2009: Supplied the coffee for the year
Operation Shoe Fly	Joint Air Force and Marine assistance. Provided 7,000 pairs of shoes to Afghanistan (Summer, 2004).
Operation Warm Heart	Holiday Gift Baskets for families (Annual Holiday Meal Program). Christmas presents for children (Angel Tree). Support of the US Marine's Toys-for-Tots programs. Annual support since 2000.
Picnic Tables and Benches	Several projects all over the Base from 1995 - 2006, to include: Concrete picnic tables and benches at the Flag Park. Picnic tables for the Air Force Research Laboratory (2001). Six Benches for the Yeager Sound Barrier Park Provided benches at the Century Circle display.
Welcoming Receptions	Sponsored welcoming receptions for the Chief of Staff of the Air Force, AFMC Commander and numerous other Distinguished Visitors and Civic Leaders from around the USA.

60th Anniversary of the USAF Sponsor.

Civ-Mil Advocates for Edwards AFB

“Courtesy of Aerotech News and Review”

By Raphael Jaffe
Staff writer

With the Defense budget shrinking and the Air Force reacting by mission realignments, the Edwards AFB Civilian-Military Support Group is increasing its advocacy work. Civ-Mil is cooperating with the Antelope Valley Board of Trade in its efforts to present the Edwards asset story to influential Federal and California political leaders. The Civ-Mil Board of Directors affirmed these actions at their May 10, 2012 meeting.

During the April Antelope Valley Board of Trade trip to Washington D.C. the Board of Trade and the Arnold Engineering Development Center Community Council arranged a breakfast for pertinent Congressional personnel. Civ-Mil contributed one quarter of the costs, the Board of Trade contributed one quarter of the cost, and the Arnold Community council paid the remainder of the breakfast bill.

Previously, Civ-Mil prepared and distributed two advocacy letters to local government and civic leaders. As a result, many have contacted California and Federal officials, presenting the unique advantages of Edwards for the nation’s defense needs; and the importance of maintaining it for local residents.

On a local level, Civ-Mil is preparing to select restoration of the Building 1 Flag Park as its 2012 service project for Edwards AFB. This will include a complete set of the 56 flags of the states and territories, and rehabilitation of the flag poles and markers. Plans are proceeding for the annual BBQ at the Lane Ranch on July 26; and for Civ-Mil participation in Aerospace Appreciation Week with the Jethawks on August 4.

***New Membership Year begins
October 1st.
Art Furtado at 661-965-5452.***

Civ-Mil History

Chapter 1: *The Beginning*

By Richard E. Spann

In 1988 a group of Antelope Valley civic leaders was invited by Maj. Gen. John Schoeppner, the AFFTC Commander at the time, to accompany him on a visit to Patrick AFB in Florida. Among the civic leaders present was Aida O’Connor. She was quite impressed with the Patrick Civ/Mil Group who hosted them while at Patrick. On the flight back to Edwards, she asked Maj. Gen. Schoeppner if there was a similar group in the Antelope Valley. He replied there was not, but that he had been told that if anyone could form such a group it would be Aida, which was the reason he invited her. Upon returning to Lan-

caster, Aida with the help of a small group of other leaders, including (alphabetical by last name) Clyde Bailey, Faye Harrington, Roger Persons, Patrice Scanlon, Dale Ware and Yvonne Valencia met to informally create such a group.

Aida, Clyde, Faye and Roger then met with the local government officials, Chambers of Commerce and others to ascertain who have an interest in supporting Edwards. They found out that a high level interest did exist in our local community. They held sporadic informal meetings until October 1989 when Maj. Gen. Schoeppner asked their help in hosting a group of civic leaders from another Air Force Base. Aida was able to muster over seventy-five local leaders for the meeting, vastly exceeding her expectations. After this event it was decided that it was time to formalize the group. Thus, the Edwards AFB Civilian Support Group was established in late 1989.

The group began meeting on a regular basis, adopted a rough set of by-laws, and embarked on their first project which was to provide the Base with new flagpoles and flags for each of the States as well United States Territories. Each flag was to have a plaque at its base with the name of the donor. Donors were given a first come, first served basis to buy a flag and pole. Aida announced the project on April 1, 1990 and indicated that within the month all flags and poles would be purchased. After receiving the flags and poles, a dedication ceremony was held in July with all donors and members invited for a fun filled day at Edwards.



Airman’s Attic Notice

Special thanks to Pan Patel

If you, or anyone you know, are **interested in making a donation** to the Airman’s Attic, here is some important information you should know. Pan has donated the use of a storage facility to hold items for delivery to the Airman’s Attic. The storage unit is on his property at the Devonshire Inn, 2076 West Rosamond Boulevard in Rosamond. If you have any questions or would like to coordinate storage, please contact **Pan Patel at (661) 256-3454.**

Civ-Mil History

We Need Volunteers...

At times, we get calls, with usually only a few days notice, to pickup items being donated to the Airman’s Attic. This generally involves loading a truck at a home or a storage facility and moving these donations to the Devonshire. If you would like to help us in this endeavor, please let us know and we will be glad to **add your name to our volunteer list.** We will call you, with as much advance notice as we get, when a pickup and delivery is being scheduled. The time you spend loading our (donated) truck will surely be appreciated by the young military men and women who really need these items.

Thanks in Advance!

UP COMING EVENTS

Civ-Mil Installation

September 13, 2012
More Information to Be Provided

Civic Leaders Hosting

October 2012
More Information to Be Provided

EAFB Annual Holiday Meal Program

December 2012
More Information to Be Provided

Civ-Mil Membership Renewal

December 2012 –January 2013
Contact At Furtado or Aida O'Connor

Civ-Mil Spring Mixer

Spring 2013
More Information to Be Provided

BOARD DIRECTORS

Mike Belzil: President
Danny Bazzell: Vice President
James Welling: Secretary
George "Bud" Reams: Treasurer

John Fergione	Cam Martin
Art Furtado	Pan Patel
Cathy Hansen	Pat Russell
Cathy Hart	Robert Slade
Roger Hemme	Richard Spann
Allen Hoffman	Julie Swayze
Bob Johnstone	Mark Thompson
Terry Landsiedel	Dr. Les Uhazy

Founding Member
Aida O'Connor

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."

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Tom Craft
George Fox
Aida O'Connor
Roger Persons
Andy Shillinglaw

If you are enjoying reading this Newsletter, and you're not a member of Civ-Mil, but would like more information on the organization, please contact Art Furtado at (661) 965-5452.

You may also submit your request in writing to:

**EAFB Civ-Mil
P.O. Box 812
Lancaster, CA 93584-0812
Attn: Membership Chairman**

<http://www.eafbcivmil.org>