

December 2010



Civilian Military Support Group NEWSLETTER



President's Corner

Civ-Mil extends a warm welcome to Brigadier General Robert C. Nolan II. General Nolan assumed command of the Air Force Flight Test Center on October 5, 2010. He is no stranger to Edwards AFB, as his first Edwards assignment dates back to his days as a student at the USAF Test Pilot School in 1992. General Nolan and his wife, Debbie, have returned to Edwards from US Northern Command at Peterson AFB, CO. The Nolans have already met many Civ-Mil members through several military and community events they have either attended or hosted. The Civ-Mil membership wishes the Nolans every success at Edwards and we look forward to continuing our long-standing tradition of forging a strong bond with the Flight Test Center commander.



I would also like to wish our membership a very happy holiday season. As we look back upon 2010, we have much to be thankful for. Our organization made great strides on this year's annual project by raising enough funding to complete the first phase of carpet installation at the Airman's Attic. We are committed to delivering the second and final phase in 2011, by raising the remaining funds to complete the carpeting project. Thanks to the generosity of you, our members, Civ-Mil is making a difference in the quality of life for the Military, Air Force civilian, and the family members at Edwards. The Civ-Mil officers and board joins me in wishing you a prosperous new year.



Tree lighting brightens Edwards holiday season

by Kenji Thuloweit, 95th Air Base Wing Public Affairs, Edwards AFB

On a chilly winter night, Edwards families, workers and residents turned out in force to celebrate this year's holiday tree lighting in front of the Base Exchange, Dec. 7.

Col. Gregory E. Schwab, 95th Air Base Wing commander, along with children of deployed service members, pushed the "on" switch to light up the tree.

The 95th Force Support Squadron set up the annual event, which featured a fire engine from Edwards Fire Department, music and, of course, a visit from Santa Claus.

However, the main attraction of the night was probably the 28 tons of machine-made snow brought in by the 95th FSS for the annual snowball fight.

After the tree was lit up, children and parents alike charged toward the snow like a scene from the movie "Braveheart".

"I think the turnout is fantastic," said Sandra Davis, Oasis Community Center director. "The children were just waiting to get to the snow. It didn't matter who was before them. They just wanted to play in the snow and that's what it's all about."

"This is a very well-known tradition around the base," said Tess Warmka, base resident. "I think the snowball fights are best for the big kids and the tree lighting is the best for the little kids - and the free hot chocolate!" Along with the tree lighting celebration, the annual holiday cards were set up and judged in front of the tree on FitzGerald Blvd. The Girl Scouts from Edwards took first place.

*The holiday tree and cards will be on display through
New Year's Day.*

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Brig. Gen. Robert C. Nolan II assumes command of AFFTC

by Kenji Thuloweit, 95th Air Base Wing Public Affairs, Edwards AFB

Brig. Gen. Robert C. Nolan II became the 22nd commander of the Air Force Flight Test Center in a ceremony Oct. 5 in Hangar 1600.

After a final review of his troops, Maj. Gen. David J. Eichhorn relinquished the center's colors to Gen. Donald J. Hoffman, commander of Air Force Materiel Command, who presided over the ceremony. General Hoffman then handed the flag to General Nolan, signifying the transfer of command.



General Hoffman remarked on the history and accomplishments of Edwards and said a final goodbye to General Eichhorn.

"When you look at great organizations and you reflect on their accomplishments, you also reflect on the leaders of those organizations," said General Hoffman. "Today, with mixed emotions, we say farewell to Dave and Anita Eichhorn for the great leadership they provided to Team Edwards and the many things they have done during their tour that they have helped nurture along."

After taking possession of the AFFTC guidon, General Nolan addressed several hundred members of his new workforce who attended the ceremony.

"Take a look around this massive hangar and you will see examples of America's power, symbols of our freedom," General Nolan said. "I am not talking about these impressive airplanes. I am talking about America's true power the men and women seated and standing before me." "Men and women who have freely dedicated their lives, talents, physical abilities and intellectual capital to our vital mission. The vital mission of taking care of this installation, of proving new aircraft, of pushing the boundaries of technology and of training those who will follow us. I am humbled and privileged to become part of this historic mission again."

General Nolan comes to Edwards from Peterson Air Force Base, Colo., where he served as director of Standing Joint Force Headquarters, U.S. Northern Command.

He graduated from the U.S. Air Force Test Pilot School at Edwards in 1993.

As AFFTC commander, General Nolan's area of responsibility includes the development, test, and evaluation of manned and unmanned aircraft systems in both experimental and proven aerospace vehicles. He supports the conduct of test and evaluation programs for the Department of Defense, the Defense Advanced Research Project Agency, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and the U.S. Air Force, Army, Navy and Marine Corps.

General Nolan will oversee a workforce of more than 10,000 government civilian, contractor and military personnel.

2010 Board and Officers Installed

The Civ-Mil Annual Installation Banquet was held at the Club Muroc at Edwards AFB on Thursday evening, September 30, 2010. The event was well attended by more than 120 Civ-Mil members, Edwards AFB leaders, special guests, spouses and friends. The Master of Ceremonies for the evening was Palmdale Councilman Mike Dispenza, and he kept the evening light and lively.

The agenda for the evening featured the presentation of the colors by the Blue Eagles Honor Guard; a stirring version of the National Anthem sung by Staff Sergeant Oscar Lopez; the Pledge of Allegiance led by Pat Russell; an inspirational message by Civ-Mil Vice President Danny Bazzell; the invocation by Chaplain Ohlman of the 95th Air Base Wing; welcoming remarks by the Air Force Flight Test Center Commander, Major General David Eichhorn; and the keynote address by California Assemblyman Steve Knight.

Following Assemblyman Knight's comments, the incoming board members and Civ-Mil officers were installed. The directors for the class of 2013 are Cathy Hansen, Cathy Hart, Bob Johnstone, Bob Slade, Mark Thompson, Les Uhazy, and James Welling. The Civ-Mil officers for 2010-2011 are Mike Belzil, President; Danny Bazzell, Vice President; James Welling, Secretary; and Bud Reams, Treasurer.

Thanks, in large measure, to the strong showing by both Civ-Mil members and base leadership, the installation banquet provided an outstanding opportunity for our membership to socialize with the Base's leaders. Spirits were high, our MC ensured an entertaining event for all, and the Club Muroc staff catered a delicious meal. By all accounts, the evening's program was well organized and very successful. All in attendance had a most enjoyable evening.



Holiday Meal Program

by Danny Bazzell

Can you believe December is already well underway and 2010 is quickly drawing to a close? With the Holiday Season in full swing we are reminded of our men and women in uniform who serve our country and the cause of freedom worldwide.

In virtually any military organization in the country, it is the senior NCOs who take on the task of looking out for the welfare of the younger enlisted men and women in their ranks. Edwards AFB is no different, and it is the First Sergeants' Group that takes on the task of making sure all our young enlisted troops are taken care of and looking after their needs.

This year, the First Sergeant's Group has identified approximately 65 military families at EAFB who could use a helping hand to make this holiday season a little brighter.

This is where we, the members of the EAFB Civ-Mil Support Group, have the opportunity to step in and lend assistance by contributing a monetary donation in support of the First Sergeants' Group and their desire to see that these 65 families have a blessed and happy holiday.

We are looking to raise and donate a minimum of \$1,200 towards the holiday meal program this year. Your generous donation of \$25.00 or more will not only help to provide a delicious holiday meal for each of these families but will also provide a gift for the children of these men and women who serve so faithfully.

We are not looking for donations of actual gifts; we are seeking monetary contributions so that the needs of each family can be met as best determined by their senior NCOs. If you have actual gift items you wish to donate we encourage you to support the USMC "Toys for Tots" campaign currently underway at retailers throughout the area.

Donations should be mailed to:

EAFB Civ-Mil
PO Box 812
Lancaster, Ca 93584-0812

Please make checks payable to: EAFB Civ-Mil and mark on your check that the donation is for the "Holiday Meal Program." We thank you in advance for your generosity and wish you and yours the best this holiday season.



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Air Force photo by Kenji Thuloweit

People showed up in droves for this year's annual holiday tree lighting Dec. 7. The night also featured tons of machine-made snow for children of all ages to play in. Santa Claus and a fire engine from Edwards Fire Department also made appearances for the delighted audience.

Edwards Civ-Mil Gives Airman's Attic a New Look

Edwards AFB News, October 14, 2010

by Diane Betzler, Staff Writer

Edwards' Civ-Mil Support Group takes on a mission each year to support projects that will help all active duty Airmen, but because of the high cost of this year's project, the group will have to fulfill its mission in two stages.



"We committed to raise enough money to carpet the Airman's Attic," said Danny Bazzell, vice president and director of Strategic Communications for the Edwards Air Force Base Civilian-Military Support Group.

Mr. Bazzell estimates the cost to carpet the Attic will run about \$15,000, which is why the project will be completed in two stages.

"We've raised enough money so far to cover about half of the 6,000

square-foot space that is going to be carpeted and decided not to make the Attic wait until we raise the rest of the funds needed to complete the job,” he said.

Several Civ-Mil members, along with Nicole Parker and Japhia Logan, the two women volunteers who run the Airman’s Attic, joined forces with Col. Gregory J. Schwab, 95th Air Base Wing commander; Chief Master Sgt. Christopher S. McCollor, 412 Test Wing command chief; Chief Master Sgt. Bill Thomaston, 95th Air Base Wing command chief; Mr. Bazzell; Senior Master Sgt. David Vanvlack, Air Force Operational Test and Evaluation Center Det. 1; Master Sgt. Da-



vid Holzer, 31st Test and Evaluation Squadron; Bob Slade, past president and current director of Civ-Mil and his wife Michele, met at the Airman’s Attic Oct. 13, where they rolled up their sleeves and began installing new carpet tiles.

“The mission of the Airman’s Attic is to help the enlisted Airmen and their families who live on base. The Attic has everything from clothes, household appliances, furniture and toys, and everything there is free to the enlisted Airman.” said Mrs. Parker.

“Just imagine being a young Airman with a wife and child on the way,” said Mrs. Slade. She said the Airmen and their families appreciate everything the Attic has to offer.

“We always welcome donations to keep our inventory going and we’re always looking for volunteers to help run the Attic,” said Mrs. Parker, who has been managing the Attic for nearly three years.

“We need volunteers who have base access,” added Ms. Logan.

“We’re the one organization on base where volunteers can bring their children to work with them,” Mrs. Parker said. She said volunteers won’t have to worry about child care when volunteering their time at the Attic.

“Though they are responsible for watching their own children,” Mr. Bazzell said.

The Airman’s Attic is open Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

“We’re not open on holidays Mrs. Parker said. She said the Attic follows the day school schedule.

Although Mr. Bazzell said the troubled state of the economy makes

it more challenging to raise money these days, it’s obvious the organization is not about to let that stop them from supporting Edwards’ Airmen.

He said Civ-Mil expects to raise the remaining needed funds to purchase the rest of the carpet by next summer.

Sergeant Vanvlack, who represents the Top-3 enlisted ranks at Edwards, thanked Civ-Mil for their support and contributions to the Airman’s Attic.

“The support you have given us from the barbecues and fundraisers and everything else that you’ve done to finance this project is amazing,” Sergeant Vanvlack told the Civ-Mil group.

“We do this (offer an Airman’s Attic) to support our Airmen and your support of our cause is heartfelt and means a lot to us,” he said.

Chief McCollor, also a member of the Top-3, said he made it through the junior ranks and said it’s now his turn to give back to his fellow enlisted military brothers and sisters.

“We support all enlisted military here at Edwards,” he said, adding that there is also Army and Marine enlisted stationed at Edwards.

What drives the Civ-Mil group to support the country’s military? “That’s simple,” Mr. Bazzell said.

“We’re here to support our men and women who are out there protecting us.”

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, there is some important information you should know. Pan has donated a van to coordinate pick up of large or oversized items. Pan has also 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 W Rosamond Blvd, Rosamond. If you have any questions, would like to coordinate storage or schedule a pick up by the van, ***please contact Pan Patel at (661) 256-3454.***



UP COMING EVENTS

Civ-Mil Membership Renewal

December 2010 – January 2011

Contact Art Furtado or Aida O'Connor

EAFB Annual Holiday Meal Program

December 2010

Contact Danny Bazzell

Delta IV Launch

Vandenberg AFB

January 17, 2011

Civ-Mil Spring Mixer

Spring 2011

Information to Follow

BOARD DIRECTORS

Mike Belzil: President

Danny Bazzell: Vice President

James Welling: Secretary

George "Bud" Reams: Treasurer

Judy Bauer

Pan Patel

John Fergione

Chuck Medicus

Patricia Russell

Rex Moen

Cathy Hart

Art Furtado

Roger Hemme

Robert Slade

Cathy Hansen

Mark Thompson

Al Hoffman

Jack Stewart

Bob Johnstone

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."

Director Emeritus

Terry Scott, Alis Clausen

Honorary Lifetime Directors

Clyde Bailey, Tom Craft

Roger Persons, Aida O'Connor

George Fox, Andy Shillinglaw

Membership Drive for 2011 Continues

The 2011 EAFB Civ-Mil Support Group Membership Drive and renewal began October 1, 2010. Members should have received both e-mail and letter notifications. If you have not received a renewal notice within the past few months, please contact us immediately. 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 two years:

Renewal or New Individual Membership: \$60

Joint Membership (husband-wife membership): \$100

Corporate Membership: \$125

Upon receipt 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. To date approximately half our membership has renewed. If not already done, please send in your payment so you can be included on invitation lists for our 2011 events. If you have any questions regarding membership, please call Art Furtado or Aida O'Connor.

