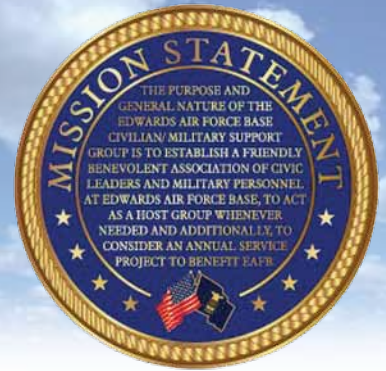


May 2012



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 Spring Social, the new Civ-Mil Web site and advocacy for Edwards Air Force Base.



Mike Belzil

Spring Social. Spring is in the air, and that means the time is drawing near for the annual Civ-Mil Spring Social. If you haven't already done so, please save the day and date, Wednesday, May 16 for this yearly event. This year's social will be a dinner meeting at the Grand Ballroom of the Antelope Valley College on Sierra Highway in Lancaster. Our theme for the evening will be "Advocacy for Edwards Air Force Base".

Our intent is to invite a number of political and community leaders to promote interaction with Civ-Mil members and base leaders. Our program is still firming up. However, we hope to have Brigadier General Nolan deliver a snapshot on current events pertaining to the emerging Air Force Test Center restructure. Please plan to join us-and bring a friend—so you can hear the latest on proposed changes at Edwards!

Civ-Mil Website. While still on the topic of change, you should know that Civ-Mil board member, John Fergione, has been diligently spearheading a project to change the look of our website at <http://www.eafbcivmil.org>. Parts of the Web site are still "Under Construction" but some of them are "Operational" today. This comprehensive revision promises to "spring" our organization into the 21st century! When it is completed, a quick visit and a few mouse clicks will provide a host of information on Civ-Mil history, the mission of Civ-Mil, a newsletter library, upcoming events, links to top stories at Edwards AFB and much, much more. Eventually, the website will accommodate member applications and renewals. Be sure to visit the website, explore its many offerings and provide us your feedback!

Base Advocacy. How often do we consider how fortunate we are to have Edwards Air Force Base as our neighbor and community partner? This jewel in the heart of the Antelope Valley enriches our lives in numerous ways. The legendary history of the base—from the Golden Days of Flight Test leading to the achievement of supersonic flight to the present day validation of future air and space vehicles—has provided our region much to be thankful for since the middle of the last century. Our rich aviation heritage continues to fuel financial advantages for our region as well.

During this year's Antelope Valley Board of Trade Outlook Conference, General Nolan provided a financial perspective on the base's financial contributions. He told the audience that the economic impact of Edwards Air Force Base includes:

**An annual payroll of \$626 million
Approximately 11,000 employees, including
2,000 military, and 9,000 contractors and
dedicated military civilians, all supporting the
Flight Test Center mission**

And, in total, approximately \$1.5 billion of activity per year occurring at Edwards that's impacting the business activities of the Antelope Valley

As impressive as the financial impact is, the future could be uncertain without focused and passionate advocacy for our base. There are indications of another round—and perhaps two—of Base Realignment And Closure (BRAC) or BRAC-like realignments. Imagine an Antelope Valley without Edwards AFB. The results to our community could be devastating.

It's absolutely essential we retain passionate advocacy for our base and the flight test mission. Our advocacy as a community may very well be the deciding factor between keeping and closing military installations in future rounds of BRAC-like activity. As a community we should do all we can to pull together as advocates for Edwards. We must embrace the changing defense dynamics to accept and welcome the present and future missions of flight test, including the formation and emergence of the Air Force Test Center. The future can be ours to win if we leverage our efforts as advocates for our base.

Final Touches for Airman's Attic

By Mike Belzil

Earlier this year, the Airman's Attic received a few final touches to help round out and finalize the Civ-Mil's Annual project. As you no doubt recall, Airman's Attic has been a 2-phased, 2-year project to complete the carpeting of approximately 8,000 square feet of floor space. In the process, Civ-Mil helped transform the Attic into an Air Force show place. The final touches addressed a languishing need by attending to an essential detail to help the staff of the Airman's Attic deliver quality services to their customers.

The remaining touches involved renovation and carpeting of a changing room and play area. These upgrades were necessary to provide a comfortable changing area for customers and an appropriate play area for customers' children in an area adjacent to the changing room. The need came to the attention of members of the Civ-Mil during a tour of the Attic late last year. Based on discussions with volunteers at the Airman's Attic, the need was identified for carpeting and drywall to renovate these two areas.

The Civ-Mil Board of Directors readily approved additional funding for carpeting and drywall supplies. The carpet tiles purchased were enough to carpet the areas with a reserve of replacement tiles for future needs. The drywall material was sufficient to complete a renovation of the children's play area. Upon completion, the new area provides a safe location for children to wait while parents are using the changing areas.

The Civ-Mil Board of Directors was delighted to facilitate these needed amenities for the Airman's Attic. The Attic is a frequent stopping spot on Distinguished Visitors tours of the base. It showcases how the base and community partner together to offer a hand up to junior members of Team Edwards and their families. The next time you are on base, please stop by to see first-hand how Civ-Mil's contributions are benefitting our men and women in uniform.

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.

We Need Volunteers...

At times, we get calls, with usually only a few days notice, to pick up 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 pick up 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!

Airman's Attic Recognition

At the Spring Mixer on May 16, the following individuals and organizations will be recognized for their contributions (Time, Labor, Monetary and/or Material) to benefit the Airman's Attic:

Danny Bazzell
Rick Buckreis
Roy Coombes
SSgt Stan Dunahoo
Ron Emard
Art Furtado
John Fergione
MSgt Randy George
Aida O'Connor
Rotary Club of Lancaster
Robertson Palmdale Honda
Robert Robertson
Primi Seden
Michele Slade
Bob Slade
SMSgt David Vanvlak

The Edwards AFB Civ-Mil Support Group, and we're sure the ultimate end-users of the donated items, are deeply grateful to the above individuals and organizations for their commitment to the young men and women of our Armed Services.

Another Civ-Mil Project - Higher Grounds Cafe



UP COMING EVENTS

Civ-Mil Spring Mixer

May 16, 2012

University of Antelope Valley

Civ-Mil Annual Barbecue

July 2012

Hacienda Lane Ranch

More Information to Be Provided

Aerospace Appreciation Night

August 2012

Jethawks Stadium

More Information to Be Provided

Civ-Mil Installation

September 2012

More Information to Be Provided

Civic Leaders Hosting

October 2012

More Information to Be Provided

BOARD DIRECTORS

Mike Belzil: President

Danny Bazzell: Vice President

James Welling: Secretary

George "Bud" Reams: Treasurer

John Fergione

Art Furtado

Cathy Hansen

Cathy Hart

Roger Hemme

Allen Hoffman

Bob Johnstone

Terry Landsiedel

Cam Martin

Pan Patel

Pat Russell

Robert Slade

Richard Spann

Julie Swayze

Mark Thompson

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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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>