

October - November - December 2012



# Civilian Military Support Group NEWSLETTER



## President's Corner

By *Danny A. Bazzell*

### *Greetings and Happy Holidays,*



*Danny A. Bazzell*

As this is my inaugural message to the Civ/Mil general membership I would like to start off my portion of the newsletter by first thanking the Civ/Mil Board of Directors for the trust they have placed in me by electing me to be your President for fiscal year 2012-2013. I would also like to thank our outgoing President, Mike Belzil, for his

leadership and guidance over the past two years. Mike has done an excellent job of building a stronger more vibrant organization and laying the groundwork for even better things to come. He has been both a mentor and a good friend and I look forward to his continued guidance in the days, weeks and months to come.

For those of you who may not know me yet, I have been a member of the Edwards Air Force Base Civilian/Military Support Group for approximately 16 years. In that time I have served as a Director for the past eight years, Director of Strategic Communications for the past four years, served a two-year stint as Secretary and served for the last two years as your Vice President.

Outside of the Civ/Mil Group, I recently began working as a Life Insurance Specialist for the Automobile Club of Southern California after having been a small business owner here in the Antelope Valley since 2003. I have been married to my lovely wife, Evangelina for 22 years and we have two sons, Sean and Kevin who are both students at Antelope Valley College.

As the integration of the missions of the Arnold Engineering Development Complex, Eglin AFB and Edwards AFB take place to form one unified command centered here at

Edwards AFB, we do not want to lose focus of our primary purpose; to support the men and women, both civilian and military, who serve and work at Edwards AFB. So, as I take the reins of the Edwards Air Force Base Civilian/Military Support Group I anticipate working closely with both the Air Force Test Center and the 412th Test Wing leadership to ensure the mission of the Civ/Mil Support Group carries on seamlessly during this transitional period at the Center.

I am eager to work with Brigadier General Brewer and his staff on revitalizing the Honorary Commander program. This is a key element in garnering the broad based community advocacy necessary to present a unified front in support of the Test Center mission as the possibility of further cuts in defense spending loom just over the horizon. The economic impact the Test Center complex has on the Antelope Valley is too large to leave to chance that should we be presented with another round of BRAC-like cuts, we would be left unscathed.

Finally, I am looking forward to expanding on the relationship forged between ourselves and the community support groups at Arnold and Eglin AFB. I believe it is critical that we align ourselves with those sister organizations as we work together to preserve the Air Force Test Center as the crown jewel of the United States Air Force that it is.

I cannot accomplish these things alone and I look forward to your input and working with you all in the coming year.

*May you all have a blessed holiday season*

Sincerely,  
Danny A. Bazzell  
President  
Edwards Air Force Base Civilian/Military Support Group

# 2013 Board Installed

by Michael Belzil

The Civ-Mil Annual Installation Banquet was held at the Grand Ballroom at the University of Antelope Valley on Thursday evening, September 13, 2012. The event was well attended by more than 100 Civ-Mil members, Edwards AFB leaders, special guests, spouses and friends. The Master of Ceremonies for the second consecutive year was Dennis Anderson. The agenda for the evening included welcoming comments by the Air Force Test Center commander, Brigadier General Arnie Bunch. The keynote address by the 412th Test Wing commander, Brigadier General Mike Brewer, was an outstanding testimonial to the importance of partnership between the base and the community.



From Left to Right, James Welling, Robert Slade, Julie Swayze, George Nagy, Cathy Hart, Danny Bazzell, Dr. Les Uhazy

Following General Brewer's comments, the incoming board members and Civ-Mil officers were installed. Assemblyman Steve Knight installed the Civ-Mil officers for 2013: Danny Bazzell, President; James Welling, Vice President; Julie Swayze, Secretary; and Bud Reams, Treasurer. The directors were installed by General Brewer: Cathy Hart, Bob Johnstone, George Nagy, Bob Slade, Mark Thompson, Les Uhazy, and James Welling.

The evening also featured the presentation of the annual project: 3 complete sets of US state and territory flags for the flag park across from Building 1 at the base. The



presentation was made to General Brewer and General Bunch. The flags, fittingly, made their initial appearance the following Friday on POW/MIA Day.

Thanks, in large measure, to the strong showing by both Civ-Mil members and base leadership, the installation banquet provided an outstanding opportunity for members to socialize with base leadership. Spirits were high and our MC ensured an entertaining event for all in attendance. Feedback over the days following the banquet confirmed all in attendance had a most enjoyable evening.



## Civ-Mil Completes the 2012 Service Project

By John A. Fergione  
Civ-Mil Newsletter Editor

Last April, the Edwards AFB Civilian-Military Support Group Board of Directors selected replacement of the flags which are displayed at times at the Flag Park for its 2012 service project. The Flag Park, which was built across from Building 1, shows the flags of all fifty states, U.S. territories and possessions. The existing flags were in bad repair due primarily to wind damage so fifty-six new flags were required.

Aida O'Connor, the Civ-Mil founder, brought this proposal to the Board of Directors. After considering it along with several other potential projects, it was selected as the most beneficial in terms of timing and cost. The Edwards AFB leadership agreed and requested Civ-Mil supply a set, or sets, of new flags.



Aida began the process of investigating potential vendors looking for the best possible quality at the best price for a 3' by 5' flag. When the negotiations were completed, and the vendor was selected, three sets of flags were purchased for a total cost of just under \$4,800.00.

The flags were shipped to the Base and Col. Amy Arwood confirmed that the flags had been received. Col. Arwood stated that the flags arrived just in time for the Prisoner of War/Missing in Action (POW/MIA) day display.



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## **Civ-Mil Support Group Elects Officers and Directors** *“Courtesy of Aerotech News and Review”*

by Raphael Jaffe  
Staff Writer

Business transacted at the August 9 meeting of the Edwards AFB Civ-Mil Support Group Directors included annual elections, reports on the Edwards improvements projects and a recap of the barbeque and the Aerospace Appreciation evening at JetHawks Stadium.

The Airman’s Attic beautification project has been completed. Civ-Mil’s success in obtaining appliances to be donated to junior grade airmen has been outstanding. Plans are being made to systematize the needed base involvement. Civ-MIL will continue to solicit contributions of furniture, appliances and clothing.

The current project is refurbishing the flags and display poles at the Building 1 Flag Park. Three sets of flags have been ordered allowing for flags to be replaced periodically, as needed. The bronze placards at the base of the poles will be cleaned. Manpower for this effort is still being formulated with base personnel.

The barbecue was a success both as a way to foster mutual involvement by base commanders and the civilian community, and as a Civ-Mil fundraiser. The preliminary report by Treasurer Bud Reams is that net profit was about \$2,400. This will be used to fund continuing base improvement projects. The Board commended Chairman Bob Slade, his wife Michelle, and all the volunteers for the smoothest barbecue to date.

Another successful activity was participation in the JetHawks Aerospace Appreciation weekend. Sponsored

boxes by most local firms and civic groups saw lots of friendly “smoozing” among attendees. And the refreshments lasted through the afternoon.

The Board elected its new Officers for 2013. Danny Bazzell moves up to President from Vice President; James Welling, now Secretary, becomes Vice President; Julie Swayze will be Secretary and Dr. George (Bud) Reams remains as Treasurer.

Members voted for seven directors to be seated in 2013. They include six who have agreed to serve again, and George Nagy as a new board member. Their contributions to “serving those who serve us” at Edwards AFB and especially when deployed are greatly appreciated.

Col. Amy V. Arwood, Director of Staff for the 412th Test Wing at Edwards, attended the meeting. She expressed great appreciation to Civ-Mil, as Edwards in its new role as the Air Force Test Center, now looks up and out.

## **Incoming Directors:**

### **George Nagy**

Nagy is a newly elected director. He is President/CEO of Mojave Desert Bank, which has four offices in the Antelope Valley. He has been involved in Antelope Valley banking since 1980. His first position after graduating from the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh with a bachelor’s degree in finance was as bank examiner for the FDIC. He served the FDIC for nine years, and left as a senior examiner. One of his sons-in-law is an Air Force major.

He currently also serves as a director of the local chapter of the American Red Cross and the Antelope Valley Board of Trade.

## **Cathy Hart**

Cathy Hart is a Local Public Affairs Manager for Southern California Edison. She leads a team of regional managers and support staff in the Antelope Valley, San Joaquin Valley, and Northeastern Sierra who work with local governments and build community relationships, providing local support for SCE and its customers in the region.

She previously served as executive director of the Antelope Valley Board of Trade (AVBOT) [2004-2007]. She served as President of AVBOT for 2009-2010 and currently serves on its Board of Directors. She has actively worked to support the aerospace and defense industries in California; and was an Honorary Commander of the 95th Air Base Wing at Edwards.

While earning her bachelor's degree, she worked as an intern for the district office of Congressman Howard P. "Buck" McKeon. She has been an Antelope Valley resident since 1983.

## **Bob Johnstone**

After retiring from the Federal Civil Service at Edwards Air Force Base in January 1996, Johnstone formed The Aerospace Office, Inc., a non-profit, public benefit corporation.

The Aerospace Office serves as an aerospace consultant to the City of Lancaster, the Antelope Valley, State of California and the local aerospace industry.

Johnstone is co-chairman of the Board of Trade Education Committee working to bring a comprehensive university to the Aerospace Valley. He also formed the Math, Science, Engineering and Technology Consortium, which he chairs, to focus elementary, high school and community college activities on more math and science programs.

He was instrumental in bringing the national Project Lead the Way pre-engineering program to the local school districts. Johnstone serves as the technical adviser to the Edwards Community Alliance and is currently on the Civ-Mil board. He has served as Honorary Commander of the Air Force Test Pilot School and 412th Test Wing command chief.

## **Bob Slade**

Slade has been a member of the EAFB Civ-Mil Support Group for more than 20 years.

As well as serving as Civ-Mil barbecue chairman, he

is a past president and currently serves on board. He is a founding member of the Flight Test Historical Foundation and serves on the Board of Directors.

Slade is a retired Los Angeles County Airport manager and a retired Kern County Sheriff's Reserve deputy. He has been President of the Lancaster Chamber of Commerce, the Rosamond Chamber of Commerce, the Lancaster Rotary and is a past Honorary Mayor of Rosamond. He has been the manager of the Edwards AFB Aero Club.

## **Mark Thompson**

Thompson is a longtime resident and active member in various organizations in the Antelope Valley community. He is currently the senior attorney with the Thompson Von Tungeln law firm.

With more than 35 years experience, Thompson is a certified specialist in the field of probate, estate planning and trust law, and diligently participates in advanced continuing legal education.

He is an active member in the State Bar of California Board of Legal Specialization, the Los Angeles County Bar Association, the American Bar Association, and the Antelope Valley Bar Association.

Thompson has been a member and served on various community organizational boards in the past, namely, the Antelope Valley Chapter of the American Red Cross, the Gift Foundation of Antelope Valley Hospital, the Rotary Club of Lancaster, the Antelope Valley College Foundation, the Antelope Valley Bar Association, the Lancaster Chamber of Commerce, the Lancaster Old Towne Site, and is an associate member of the A.V. Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors.

He is currently serving on the Edwards Civ-Mil Board and the Lancaster Performing Arts Center Foundation.

## **Dr. Les Uhazy**

Uhazy is Dean and Professor of Biology, division of Mathematics, Science and Engineering at Antelope Valley College. He is the Kern County Representative, Community Liaison Program-Edwards AFB, Air Force Materiel Command, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio.

He is a Board member of The Aerospace Office; the Edwards Community Alliance (EKERN); and the Civ/Mil Support Group. He is also the Antelope Valley College Liaison to SOAR [Early College High School]; a Director of the Palmdale Aerospace Academy; and a member of

Math, Science, Engineering and Technology Consortium; and the Career Prep Council, Antelope Valley Union High School District

### **James Welling**

Welling has been involved with the Civilian Military Support Group since 2003, and is currently Secretary.

He worked for six years as field representative to Kern County 2nd District Supervisor. He has served as honorary commander of the 412th Test Wing. He is Executive Director of the California Defense Alliance, and was an Associate Director of the Antelope Valley Board of Trade. Since 1994, he has been President/Vice President of the Boron Chamber of Commerce. He serves as Director/Vice President for the Muroc Health Care District; Integrated Regional Water Management Plan Working Committee; Base Support and Defense Industry Task Force; Mojave Resource Conservation & Development; East Kern Collaborative Group; Desert-Mountain Resource Conservation District; and Friends of Jawbone.

Installation of the Civ-Mil Officers and Directors was held on September 13 at the Antelope Valley University Grand Ballroom.



*Photo by Art Furtado*

Newly elected Directors Cathy Hart, Robert Slade, Mark Thompson, Dr. Les Uhazy, James Welling and George Nagy take the oath of office.



*Photo by Art Furtado*

Soon to be Immediate Past President Michael Belzil, Linda Reynolds, Aida O'Connor and Brig Gen Michael Brewer

## **New Members**

Since this is the first New Member welcome in our Newsletter, the following new members have joined Civ-Mil in 2012:

Antelope Valley Board of Trade (Associate)  
Antelope Valley Chevrolet (Corporate)  
Thomas and Janet Berard  
Harvey and Denise Holloway  
Thomas Lapworth  
Rhonda Nelson  
David Norris  
Linda Reynolds (Reciprocal)  
William Russell

*Welcome to Civ-Mil!*



## **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 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!*

# Aviano Honorary Squadron Commanders Association

visits Edwards AFB

By John A. Fergione

Newsletter Editor



On October 12, 2012, Edwards Air Force Base hosted members of the Honorary Squadron Commanders Association from Aviano Air Base, Italy (Aviano is a NATO base in northeastern Italy and home to the Air Force's 31st Fighter Wing). Civ-Mil President Danny Bazzell, Michael Belzil, John and Kathy Fergione, George Nagy, Civ-Mil Founder Aida O'Connor, Chris Spicher, Robert Slade, Richard Spann, Julie Swayze, Al Thompson and James Welling from the Edwards AFB Civilian-Military Support Group, were on hand to meet with the Aviano Honorary Squadron Commanders and some of the Base leadership for lunch at Club Muroc.

Aviano AB was the location of the first Honorary Commander's Program in the US Air Force. The programs later spread out to many other Air Force Bases. Edwards AFB is one of those. By designating local businessmen and other civic leaders as Honorary Commanders, the USAF can further reach out to local audiences to increase understanding and reinforce support of the U.S. Air Force in the community.

After the luncheon the Italian guests were given a tour of the Base. They also visited the Air Force Flight Test Museum.



Photo by Art Furtado



Photo Courtesy of Desert Wings

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## Operation Warm Heart, Angel Tree

By Danny Bazzell, Civ-Mil President

Dear Civ-Mil Members, friends of Edwards AFB and supporters of our military,

As you all have probably realized by now we are well into the Holiday Season.

For many years the members of the Edwards Air Force Base Civilian-Military Support Group have come together during this time of year to show their support for those men and women serving our country right here in our own backyard at Edwards AFB, by donating to one or both of the two holiday programs sponsored by the Edwards First Sergeant's Council; Operation Warm Heart and the Angel Tree Program.

## Operation Warm Heart supports two distinct programs:

### 1) *Holiday Support*

Operation Warm Heart provides support to families of Team Edwards during the Thanksgiving and Christmas Holiday periods by providing them with a check that can be used towards the purchase of groceries at the commissary.

### 2) *Emergency Relief Fund*

The Emergency Relief Fund provides help to Team Edwards members in need who have a situation which requires financial assistance, but does not qualify for help through official Air Force programs such as Air Force Aid, Advance Pay, etc.

## **Angel Tree Program**

The Angel Tree program supports the children of Team Edwards during the Christmas Holiday by providing age and gender-specific gifts to families identified by Unit First Sergeants. This program is run by the First Sergeants with the help of base officer and enlisted spouses clubs.

I would like to once again put out the call to our community to reach into your hearts and if you feel compelled to give, please help support these worthy programs with a generous monetary donation.

Checks should be made payable to "EAFB Civ-Mil" and in the memo section please note which program you are supporting so we know where to direct the funds. If you

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leave the memo section blank, we will assume it is in support of both programs and split the donation 50/50 to each cause.

Mail your checks to: EAFB Civ-Mil, P.O. Box 812, Lancaster CA 93584

***Happy Holidays***

Danny Bazzell  
President  
Edwards AFB Civilian-Military Support Group

## UP COMING EVENTS

*EAFB Annual Holiday Meal Program*  
{Operation Warm Heart}  
*Ongoing*

*Angel Tree Program*  
*Ongoing*

*Civ-Mil Membership Renewal*  
*Ongoing through January 2013*  
*Contact At Furtado or Aida O'Connor*

*EAFB Combined Honorary Commander*  
*Holiday Party*  
*January 2013*  
*More Information to Be Provided*

*Civ-Mil Spring Mixer*  
*Spring 2013*  
*More Information to Be Provided*

## 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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## BOARD DIRECTORS

Danny Bazzell: President

James Welling: Vice President

Julie Swayze: Secretary

George “Bud” Reams: Treasurer

Immediate Past President: Mike Belzel

John Fergione

George Nagy

Art Furtado

Pan Patel

Cathy Hart

Pat Russell

Roger Hemme

Robert Slade

Allen Hoffman

Richard Spann

Bob Johnstone

Mark Thompson

Terry Landsiedel

Dr. Les Uhazy

Cam Martin

*Founding Member*

*Aida O'Connor*

## Directors Emeritus

Alis Clausen

Cathy Hansen

Terry Scott

## Honorary Lifetime Directors

Clyde Bailey

Thomas 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>*