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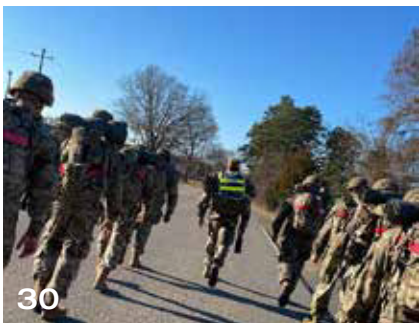
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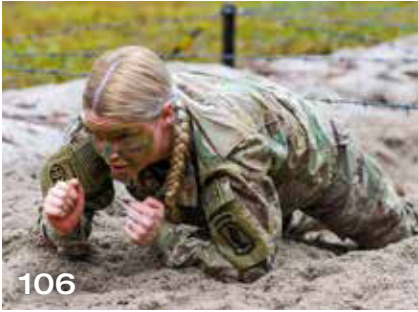
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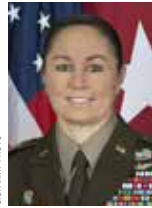
On The Cover

PAID ADVERTISEMENT: As the U.S. Army faces new challenges posed by the modern battlefield, Bell is delivering FLRAA - the next generation of Army Aviation - providing significant speed, range, and lethality to its fleet. *Caption provided by the advertiser.*

Briefings

Aviation Key Leader Assignments

The Chief of Staff of the Army announced the following general officer assignments to Aviation General Officer Steering Committee (formerly 6-Pack) positions:



U.S. ARMY PHOTO

MG Lori L. Robinson, commandant of Cadets, U.S. Military Academy, West Point, New York, to commanding general, U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command, Redstone Arsenal, AL.



U.S. ARMY PHOTO

BG Matthew W. Braman, deputy commanding general (Support), 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry), Fort Drum, New York, to director, Army Aviation, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, G-3/5/7, U.S. Army, Washington, D.C.



U.S. ARMY PHOTO

BG David C. Phillips to program executive officer, Program Executive Office - Aviation, Redstone Arsenal, Alabama. He most recently served as project manager, Future Long Range Assault Aircraft, Program Executive Office Aviation, Redstone Arsenal, Alabama.

For other Aviation general officer assignments see page 122.



U.S. ARMY PHOTO

Smith Selected for SES

The Civilian Senior Leader Management Office announced the selection of Dr. Steven A. Smith for appointment to the Senior Executive Service effective Mar. 10, 2024. Smith serves as the U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command (AMCOM), Director of Special Programs (Aviation) and U.S. Special Operations Command (USSOCOM) Program Executive Officer – Rotary Wing (PEO-RW). He replaced Mr. Geoffrey Downer who retired Sep. 30, 2023.

Ericsson Tapped as First ASD(S&T)



U.S. ARMY PHOTO

The Senate has approved Dr. Aprille J. Ericsson as the first-ever Assistant Secretary of Defense for Science and Technology (ASD(S&T)). In this role, she directs the

organization responsible for the oversight of and advocacy for the Department of Defense science and technology (S&T) enterprise. Prior to this appointment she spent more than 31 years at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) in various positions. She is the first African-American woman to receive a Ph.D. in mechanical engineering from Howard University and the first African-American woman to receive a Ph.D. in engineering at the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center (GSFC).

DOD, VA Announce Lifting of IVF Eligibility Restrictions



U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY SGT JUSTIN WARELLI

The departments of defense and veterans affairs announced on Mar. 8, 2024 they will now provide in vitro fertilization services to all eligible beneficiaries regardless of their marital status, finalizing changes promised by the federal agencies earlier this year. The new policies allow anyone who has service-connected infertility to use either department's program, lifting previous requirements that only married, heterosexual couples using their own sperm and eggs could participate. Now, eligible troops and veterans can access IVF regardless of their marital status or sexual orientation, and they may use donor eggs or sperm.

CORRECTION:

Page 44, Feb. 2024, 1LT Jessica Wright in a CH-47 Chinook not UH-1 Iroquois.

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Soaring at the Summit in Denver



Eager to get started at the 2023 Army Aviation Mission Solutions Summit in April 2023.

ART FILE PHOTO BY REBE BRIZ

Welcome everyone to the 2024 AAAA Annual Mission Solution Summit!

Our Branch Chief, MG Mac McCurry, and the entire Army Aviation Leadership will be bringing you all up to date on everything from training and operations, to acquisition and sustainment, special operations, Reserve and National Guard priorities and so much more all under the theme “Transforming Aviation Warfighting – Strengthening Our Sacred Trust.”

It is with great regret that I’ve had to ‘take a knee’ due to a medical condition, and as a result am unable to attend and participate in what I know will be an incredible Mission Solutions Summit. For sure though, our entire Aviation Community is in great hands... as you will see our AAAA Senior Vice President, MG (Ret.) Wally Golden, at the Gaylord Rockies podium leading our great organization and the incredible program of scheduled activities.

We had much welcomed last-minute news that our Under Secretary of the Army, the Honorable Gabe Camarillo, will be opening our Summit to provide the vision for the future of the Army, and indeed our Aviation Branch. Additionally, we are honored to have and grateful for our most senior Army Aviators, GEN Laura Richardson, Commander,

U.S. Southern Command who will be our keynote on Thursday, and GEN Dan Hokanson, Chief of the National Guard Bureau, as our featured speaker on Friday. To have that level of leadership presence, commitment, and participation is so valued by our entire community... and it speaks volumes about the importance of our Branch to the Army, and the importance of AAAA to serve as a catalyst and enabler for the gathering of entire Army Aviation Community.

Building on our “Four Pillars” of actualizing our mission statement to Support the Army Aviation Soldier and Family, the Summit also provides our greatest annual opportunity for realizing those Pillars – Networking, Recognition, Voice, and Support. From interacting with our Industry Partners to attending the Hall of Fame inductions and award ceremonies honoring our best and brightest, to celebrating the 50th Anniversary of our first female Army Aviator, COL Sally Murphy, Ret., graduating Flight School, to the closing concert with Randy Houser, this truly is the premier Army Aviation Family gathering.


And always positive news, since our last AAAA publication, we have set another milestone... breaking through to

over 20,000 members! This equals our previous pre-COVID all-time; with our current rate of membership increase it would not surprise me at all if we exceed our record very soon. Also want to give a big thanks to GEN (Ret.) J.D. Thurman and the other members of our Senior Executive Associates, for their enduring support and leadership. They met in Huntsville last month just before the AUSA Global Force Symposium with our Aviation General Officer Steering Committee to again dialogue about the critical Aviation Branch priorities and challenges to determine how best to support our Army and Branch through their advocacy. And finally, many thanks to LTC (Ret.) Josh Baker, Chair of our Legislative Affairs Committee, and Bill Harris who are diligently working to get the AAAA-sponsored Army Aviation Caucus next meeting scheduled, and to make sure your voices continue to be heard at the highest decision-making levels.

Hope you all have a productive and FUN Mission Solutions Summit! Know for sure that AAAA will always be there for you, “Supporting the U.S. Army Aviation Soldier and Family”.

Above the Best!

MG Walt Davis, U.S. Army Retired
36th President, AAAA
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The State of Army Aviation – As Vital as Ever!

By MG Michael C. McCurry II



U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY COL. ANDY THUGARD

It's hard to believe that it has been a year since our last summit! In that time, several significant events have created lasting impacts across our branch.

An AH-64E Apache Guardian (right) and UH-60M Black Hawk helicopter conduct a multi-ship capabilities demonstration at Fort Novosel, AL.

First and foremost, Army Aviation celebrated its 40th anniversary which included the redesignation of Fort Rucker to Fort Novosel in honor of Medal of Honor recipient CW4 (Ret.) Michael Novosel. We also named the Army Aviation headquarters building McNair Hall, memorializing MG (Ret.) Carl McNair, the founder of the Army Aviation Branch. The Army saw our 40th Chief of Staff of the Army, General James McConville, retire.

The Aviation Center of Excellence initiated Operation '83, which drives additional rigor into initial training and implements Heritage Colors for each flight school class. As a part of this effort, legacy leaders and heroes from

across the decades pass on the meaning behind the colors, and emphasize the importance of setting a foundation of technical competence to uphold the sacred trust between our aviators and the Soldier on the Ground.

The hats also represent, and are a part of, our effort to build early cohesion. The early exposure of initial term Aviation Soldiers to strong team building and identification with a group and mission builds a foundation for heading off harmful behaviors in the future. Training and Doctrine Command and the Combined Arms Center recognized the value of this approach and directed implementation of Operation '83 as we focus on

building the profession in accordance with the CSA's focus areas.

Recently, Army senior leaders made some hard decisions, including the announcement to end the Future Armed Reconnaissance Aircraft (FARA) program at the end of this fiscal year, to enable reprioritizing funding for other programs. Much of the funding from these decisions will remain in Army Aviation focused on stabilizing our industrial base. Senior Leaders also decided to accelerate the Future Tactical UAS and Launched Effects and pivot away from the legacy Shadow and Raven.

Unfortunately, over the last year Army Aviation also experienced a series of aircraft mishaps resulting

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in a standdown to flight operations. Losing any Soldier in training is tragic, and our thoughts and prayers remain with the families of our fallen angels. We held an Army-wide stand down which helped us identify experience gaps and training adjustments across the force, and we are acutely focused on mitigating our inherent risks.

Despite these setbacks, Army Aviation remains strong and vital, particularly considering all the successes our Aviation Soldiers had over the last year around the world. The branch continues to support our Army and nation and remains poised to advance multiple efforts across doctrine, organization, training, material, leadership and education, personnel, facilities, and policy (DOTMLPF-P), some of which are highlighted below.

In short, aviation units remain the most flexible and agile formation that Corps and Division Commanders have at their disposal to shape the battle and to add decisive weight to the close fight. Our Aviators, flying Soldiers, who see the battlefield in three dimensions and understand ground combat remain essential. I know that the adaptive and mission-focused mindset of our Aviation leaders at echelon will enable

success on the battlefield, whether we fight tonight, or in the future.

Doctrine

Army Aviation is aligning Aviation Doctrine with the new Field Manual (FM) 3-0, Operations (October 2022), and other Army capstone doctrine like FM 3-90, Tactics (May 2023). The revision of our capstone branch doctrinal manual, FM 3-04, Army Aviation, will better ensure we remain a fully integrated member of the combined arms team prepared to maneuver against a full range of threats during armed conflict. To reinforce air as an integral part of maneuver, the separate term air-ground operations has been retired at CAC.

FM 3-04 describes how our seven core competencies – binned into the easy-to-remember categories of See/Sense, Strike, Move, and Extend – integrate well into the Division and Corps’ close, deep, and rear operations.

The Aviation Center published significant updates to the gunnery and survivability manuals (i.e., TC 3-04.3 and TC 3-04.9) to simplify program requirements. Expect an update to ATP 3-04.25, Fundamentals of Aviation Combat Survivability, in the next year as well. This update will consoli-

date all survivability requirements into one manual. Following the stand down, we published a revision to the standard Risk-Common Operating Picture (R-COP) to account for compounding risk and to drive commander-to-commander dialogue on risk for missions in both training and combat operations.

Organization

Army Aviation will transform following the Army’s recent approval of the FY25-29 Army Structure (ARSTRUC) memorandum. The ARSTRUC converts Regular Army modular combat aviation brigade (CAB) design into tailored formations based on the mission of their parent Divisions or Corps. This update will partially mitigate the Army Aviation large scale combat gaps by adding an additional attack battalion and cavalry squadron to the Army and adding a heavy lift (CH-47) battalion providing the air assault division with the ability to air assault a BCT in one period of darkness. We are currently examining proposals for future structure changes to Compos 2 and 3.

Training

Effective training for our Aviation Soldiers must be commander-driven,

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rigorous, and realistic. We continue to refocus our institutional training by building the Aviation Tactical Instructor Course focused on training tactical mission tasks integrated with a ground maneuver element.

Our draft Aviation Training Strategy updates our flying hour model and objective crew readiness standards based on training and evaluation outlines. Gated training that integrates increasing levels of complexity in the operational environment is the right strategy to build ready aviation forces. We are also working diligently to directly tie crew proficiency to collective readiness in monthly reporting. Units must focus on evaluating training, retraining where necessary, and progress to the next level only after validating task proficiency.

The Aviation Maintenance Training Program (AMTP) ensures individual maintainers and maintenance teams develop and sustain the skills necessary to complete maintenance missions successfully. Commanders can build maintenance technical proficiency, shape professional development, and track individual progress, accurately depicting competency

across skill levels. We have multiple pilot programs ongoing across aviation formations exploring automation tools for the administration of this program.

Based upon the shortages of Instructor Pilots in the operational force, last year, I ordered the Directorate of Evaluation and Standardization (DES) to provide additional training assistance windows of opportunity to CABs. Units may request DES training assistance by submitting a request for support through their command and ACOM to HQDA. HQDA G3/5/7 (DAMO-AV) determines the priority for units to receive DES training assistance.

The William Howell Training Support Facility (TSF) at Fort Novosel officially opened on 12 April 2024, as part of the Army Aviation Branch birthday celebration. The TSF, housing additional artifacts of the museum, is a state-of-the-art, climate-controlled environment that preserves previous lessons on innovation and is used for teaching historical studies to flight students, AIT students, Warrant Officer Candidates, and during professional military education.

Materiel

Army Aviation continuously transforms to remain prepared to fight and win on the future battlefield. Despite the decision on FARA, other efforts remain active, transformative, lethal and essential for the world's premier land force.

The Army awarded the FLRAA contract in FY23, and as a part of the rebalance plan, Army Senior Leaders communicated to Congress their full commitment to FLRAA. This unique platform provides transformational power projection with increased range, speed, and endurance, over any current Army and U.S. Special Operations Command aircraft. Launched effects and Future Tactical UAS, systems designed to extend the Aerial Tiered Network, and continued fielding of improvements to our current fleets and equipment will keep our industrial base resourced and our artisans working.

Leadership and Education – Sharpening

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Army is modernizing PME across the institutional, operational, and self-development domains to ensure the force is ready for multi-domain operations and the rigors of large-scale combat. We are specifically shifting our Aviation PME to sharpen the tactical skills of our leaders.

Our Captains' Career Course curriculum incorporates large-scale combat scenarios, providing future leaders opportunities to engage and understand aviation as a maneuver force. Aviation Warrant Officer (WO) PME will undergo a significant paradigm shift in training and education. Aviation WO PME will train and educate WOs on the unique knowledge, skills, and behaviors of each Aviation MOS/SQI to ensure Aviation WOs are technically and tactically proficient to lead their specific maintenance, training, survivability, and safety efforts.

Our quarterly Aviation Warfighting Forum, co-chaired by the AVCOE CG and the FORSCOM DCG, is a collaborative venue for Corps and Division commanders and aviation leaders to discuss trends in warfighting and innovation from home station, the Combat

Training Centers, and while deployed.

Through the Army Senior Education Program-Aviation, we share insights, techniques, and challenges pertaining to Army Aviation with future 2-star Division Commanders and general officers across all components. We just completed an in-person pilot program to transition this virtual course to once again being hosted at the home of Army Aviation.

Personnel

The Army is challenged with recruiting and accessions. While Army Aviation is doing better than many branches in recruiting eligible Soldiers, we still have challenges in a few, select military occupational specialties. The good news is that we enjoy a high enlisted retention rate in Army Aviation.

We are in the final phase of implementing the FY24 Aviation Bonus that targets understrength population MOSs. Warrant Officers are the lifeblood of Army Aviation and retaining our subject matter experts in the Warrant Officer cohort ensures the passing on of experience and the very future of our branch.

Conclusion

It has been my honor and pleasure to serve as the Branch Chief the last two years, I am proud that Army Aviation, as a separate branch of the Combat Arms, remains a high-demand member of the combined arms team. Our mission remains unchanged as we generate highly skilled Aviation warfighters, build ready units, continuously transform, and steward the profession. I ask you to keep our Aviation Soldiers and their Families in your thoughts and prayers as they are still deployed across the globe. Army Aviators remain strong, adaptive, and agile as we meet the needs of the Army, the Joint Force, and our Nation now and into the future... ALWAYS upholding the Sacred Trust with the American Soldier on the ground!

Above the Best!

MG Michael C. McCurry II is the Army Aviation branch chief and commanding general of the U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence and Fort Novosel, AL.



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Obstacles: Things You See When You Take Your Eyes Off Your Target

By CW5 Michael Corsaro



U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY PAOLO BOVO

Army Aviation has put a lot of sweat equity into positive change this year and is undergoing transformation it has not seen in decades.

In UH-60 Black Hawks, U.S. Army Paratroopers assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment, 173rd Airborne Brigade conduct air assault operations as part of Bayonet 2 at the Pocek Range in Postojna, Slovenia, Feb. 28, 2024.

We are turning base to final on doctrinal changes that focus on large scale combat operations (LSCO), modernization of our professional military education (PME), and Aviation initiatives specifically developed to enhance Aviation warrant officer professional career models. As we continue to focus on Aviation safety, we are steadfast in bridging our experience gaps and ensuring the most talented aviators of our time have all the resources they need to remain combat ready to fight and win our nation's wars.

See/Sense, Strike, Move and Extend

Combat aviation brigades (CAB) have fully embraced the focus on LSCO. The 101st CAB seized the opportunity to conduct brigade level training mis-

sions over long distances, ensuring their formations remain combat ready for the challenge. The 82nd CAB at Ft. Liberty and 4th CAB at Ft. Carson are also conducting brigade-level missions over long distances, propelling our enterprise to the task. More units are developing training missions that move across long distances to engage a simulated peer threat in conflict (LSCO) then stop at simulated cities (urban operations) and fight local combatants (COIN) as part of a combined arms team, coupled with joint and coalition forces. They do all this while establishing and sustaining supply chains to support the operation. However, as we move forward with our doctrine, how will we train our new and talented aviation enterprise whose experience is mainly in COIN operations?

Training the Force

Over the last two decades, our experience has focused on COIN operations. As we asked our aviators to move into more complex and higher risk LSCO training, we saw an experience gap within our formations emerge. Bridging that gap, USAACE has driven positive change in our PME modernization initiative. We have taken our PME program to the next level.

Army Aviation PME Modernization takes the current generalized model, that focuses on upper echelon PME objectives at brigade level and above and transforms them to deliver PME objectives specifically for Aviation Warrant Officers at the right echelon - brigade-level and below. One example is the new, revised Warrant Officer Advanced Course named Advanced



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Warfighting Skills (AWS). AWS is tailored to teaching warrant officers how to employ and fight their formations in support of their commander's guidance and the division commander's intent. Aviation PME will still focus on common core objectives as set forth by TRADOC but will employ a building block methodology that delivers PME at the appropriate echelon. We owe all warrant officers the PME they need to develop expertise in their trade through tailored education.

PME modernization includes new tracked courses for our aviators that intends to give credit when warrant officers complete their appropriate tracked producing courses (IP, MTP, ASO, AMSO). This certifies the training and education that prepares an Aviation Warrant Officer for their expected duties. It supports Force Design Update (FDU) Stabilization programs and alleviates requirements to spend additional time away. We also developed a new Instructor Pilot Course (IPC). IPC will now be the Aviation Tactics Instructor Course (ATIC) proposed to begin in FY25. This transformational course will teach our IPs how to fight their aircraft with a LSCO focus. And we are not stopping there!

Current Warrant Officer PME has not specifically focused on Aviation at senior levels – until now. Our new Senior Tactical Instructor Course (STIC) focuses on battalion-level Aircrew Training Program (ATP) Management for Standardization Instructor Pilots (SP). The new Senior Aviation Safety Officer course will give insights into field safety and crash investigation processes. The new Senior Aviation Mission Survivability Officer course will focus on battalion-level programs. Our new Maintenance Examiner course (ME) will alleviate unit resource requirements and certify MEs as a Ft. Novosel residence course. And, the new Senior Unmanned Aerials System Course, Senior Air Traffic Controller, and Senior Aviation Maintenance Technician courses will focus on BDE level and beyond programs to support successful career progressions for our Aviation Technical Warrant Officers. All this is designed to train our force to maintain combat ready formations. As we bridge the experience gap with education, we still must focus on retaining our mid-grade experience levels.

Aviation Initiatives

In 2017, we saw a depletion in our CW3 and CW4 population. Army

Aviation was on the verge of an almost 800 warrant officer deficit. As these CW3s/CW4s retired or separated from the Army, Aviation Branch hired W01s to replace them. As units are seeing a deficit of CW3s/CW4s, we have developed several initiatives to help retain this valuable experience.

Our most popular initiative is our Aviation Bonus (AvB) focused on bridging experience gaps. The AvB (due to be released this year) offers Warrant Officers, in specific tracks and time-in-service, the opportunity to take advantage of multi-year aviation bonus programs. And with a deficit in our IP population, we are also continuing the Unit Trainer/Evaluator Program (UT/E).

The UT/E program is no longer a pre-requisite to be an instructor pilot. It is a commander's tool that can be used to aid in building combat readiness. I spoke about 10th CAB in last year's article, and they still lead the way in optimizing this opportunity. And our merit-based promotion initiative will allow promotions based on performance instead of sequence numbers. Files are assessed and prioritized based on order of merit, promoting the top 25%, including Below-the-Zone promotions, first. No longer will the best have to wait for a sequence number to be promoted!

Army Aviation has seen several changes this year and will continue to look for positive ways to move forward in our mission. GEN Randy George, the 41st Chief of Staff of the Army, focuses on warfighting, building combat ready formations, continuous transformation, and being stewards of our profession. You can be sure our focus remains the same. The Aviation Enterprise is here to support our warfighters, drive positive change, build the competence and discipline to ensure our formations are combat ready and focused on maximizing lethality on the battlefield while continuing to maintain the sacred trust we have with our soldiers on the ground.

Fly Army! Above the Best!

CW5 Michael A. Corsaro is the tenth chief warrant officer of the Aviation Branch with the U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence, Fort Novosel, AL.

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Talk it out – Driving Continuous Transformation Through Professional Dialogue

By CSM Kirk Coley



U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY SSG RICHARD WARELEY

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February 2024 marked the beginning of the third year of the Russo-Ukrainian War. What started as a highly dynamic war of maneuver and counter-maneuver has ground down into a gridlock of lines that has not substantially shifted since the Fall of 2022.

Despite the static nature of the lines, we have continued to learn lessons about the challenges of large-scale combat. I would caution Americans from drawing too many conclusions from what they are seeing in Ukraine since our doctrine is drastically different from those of either Russia or Ukraine, and our Army fights as part of a Joint team. With that said, there are still many universal lessons to be taken from the conflict, and none so universal as the incredible demand for adaptability, and the sobering consequences of failing to adapt in a timely manner.

Adaptability

The good news is adapting to the unexpected has been one of the hallmarks of the U.S. Army since its inception. At

a large scale, the Chief of Staff of the Army calls this adaptability “continuous transformation”. The transformation of the Army to meet changing demands is a bi-directional process. We have the formal Army Capabilities Integration and Development System which starts with strategic guidance from the President of the United States and the Secretary of Defense, but the Army also transforms from the bottom up.

This bottom-up transformation occurs through several processes, but the Center for Army Lessons Learned (CALL) is probably the best known. They lead a bottom-up effort to collect, analyze, disseminate, integrate, and archive lessons learned from the individual soldier to the theater and strategic levels.

Left: Army maintainer personnel benefit from advanced technology that PPMx brings. Pictured is PFC Abraham Ziong, AH-64D Apache helicopter crew chief for Company D, Task Force Lobos, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division

Right: U.S. Army SSG Emily Demmel (left), assigned to 2nd Battalion, 3rd General Support Aviation Battalion, instructs a Soldier while leading a simulated mass casualty exercise during Combined Resolved 24-01 at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center near Hohenfels, Germany, Oct. 28, 2023.

Professional Dialogue

While these formalized bottom-up processes are effective at driving change quickly, there are other means of identifying and disseminating lessons learned, concerns, or new and innovative ways of approaching our challenges. The professional dialogue that occurs in the Army’s many journals, and in third party publications has always been an incubator of transformative ideas, and despite what you may believe there is no rank requirement to submit your thoughts.

These journals are only as good as the content submitted to their editors.

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The quality of American military journals has varied widely throughout their history. The Army Navy Journal, one of the first regularly published journals, was a hotbed of hostility between officers in the wake of the Civil War. Numerous articles written by active and retired general officers criticized the battlefield decisions made by their fellow flag officers. Perhaps not the form we would like professional dialogue to take, but at least the articles were thought provoking. Take that in comparison with the same journal in 1882 in which there were almost no professional articles, and instead the bulk of the content was soldiers providing commentary on the quality (or lack thereof) of rations, lists of who was getting promoted, and even individual unit small arms range statistics. These were perhaps valuable bits of information to convey throughout the force but were not the kinds of insights that were likely to be drivers of change.

The state of our branch's professional discourse today is good. After a brief hiatus for most of 2023, *Aviation Digest* has released two issues with another coming soon. The articles are professional, timely, and on topic for

what Army Aviation needs to tackle in the coming years. While encouraged by the health of our professional journal, I do have a note of concern as in the 24 features from the last two issues, not a single article was written by a member of our branch's enlisted force. A casual perusal through the *Aviation Digest's* back issues shows that a scarcity of participation by enlisted soldiers is not a recent development. I see that as indicative of a possible blind spot in our professional dialogue.

Our branch is as busy as we have ever been in my 29 years of service. We have soldiers deployed around the globe in both contingency operations and in partnership exercises. Our soldiers are seeing the emerging challenges of large-scale combat and are coming up with creative ways to surmount those challenges. Large scale collective experience can only be leveraged to produce change if it is widely shared, debated and refined. While there are other avenues where this can occur, the *Aviation Digest* and *Army Aviation Magazine* are the best places to get those methods and observations noticed by those who are in positions to drive change.

Conclusion

Please set aside any concerns you may have about rank, experience, or a college degree. Rank and time in service does not convey with it a supernatural ability to have good ideas, and our professional publications have editors for a reason. They will help you get your points across professionally. If you are concerned that your ideas may not be big enough, remember that bottom-up transformation need not be large in scale to be large in impact. Aviation operations are complex, and a new take on FARPs or managing special tools during dispersed operations might be the missing piece we need to drastically increase the lethality of our branch. So, now that I have put my name on paper presenting my ideas for how I think the Army can change for the better, let's see yours.

Above the Best, Fly Army!

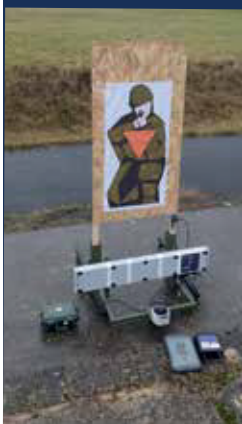
CSM Kirk R. Coley is the command sergeant major of the Aviation Branch at the United States Army Aviation Center of Excellence, Fort Novosel, AL.



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Plan for the Winds

Almost every Aviator should recognize the attached poster, which has been published and republished by the U.S. Army Combat Readiness Center (USACRC) since at least the turn of the century. It is often laughed at in a “nobody-would-do-that!” thought process.

However, there have been at least three Class A mishaps in the last two years where landing or hovering in a tailwind condition contributed to the incident and led to either loss of tail rotor effectiveness (LTE) or a requirement for more power than was available.

In these cases, the planned operation placed the crews in a position requiring an out-of-ground effect (OGE) hover, or an approach, in tailwind or quartering tailwind conditions. The USACRC recently highlighted the issues of wind awareness and LTE in the online publication Flightfax No. 128, which we encourage you to read. That article is mostly directed toward crewmembers to generate discussions about the causes of LTE, decision-making while in flight to reduce the onset of LTE, and recovery techniques. It is a good review for all aircrews, as we sometimes forget the basics.

In this article, we address unit-level planning and risk management for operations where wind conditions increase the risks associated with operations, especially gunnery and forward arming and refueling points (FARP). In the three Class A mishaps referenced earlier, the crews were limited in the way they could deal with wind conditions due to constraints imposed by the orientation of a range or the approach to a FARP. Units should consider how the wind will affect aircraft and crews during operations where crew actions are limited. If a tailwind or quartering tailwind condition exists, during hovering or low airspeed portions of the operation being planned, special considerations need to be given to some of the basics of Aviation mission risk management in the operation being planned.

When planning for aerial gunnery using hover fire with specific engagement azimuths at high temperatures, high gross weight, and high-density altitude, use the directional control margin OGE charts in AH-64 Airworthiness Release (AWR) 2020E-A34-R2 to determine which firing points are most likely to present crews with possible directional control margin issues because of known winds. Integrate your weather team and the master gunner into the planning process and day-to-day operations while gunnery is being conducted. Obvious mitigation strategies are using firing points with the most favorable winds to enhance directional control margin. If this is not possible and surface conditions permit an approach to the ground or a hover, the aircrew can more effectively determine control margin issues while climbing to engagement altitude rather than terminating their approach to an OGE hover at that altitude. If the approach must be terminated to an OGE hover, use the wind to your advantage, minimize low-speed maneuvering during the approach, then assume your firing azimuth.

When planning FARP operations in the conditions, use the directional control margin charts from the AWR for in ground effect (IGE) and prevailing or known winds at the site to understand possible risk to aircrews. If the layout of the FARP will not facilitate an approach into the wind, ensure crews and mission briefing officers are fully aware of the risk.

The second area planners have the most control over is the weight of the aircraft. When directional control margin is questionable, and OGE hover fire engagements must be conducted, they should be executed with minimum fuel



and ammunition. If external stores are installed that are not going to be used in the engagements, consider removing them for further weight reduction.

Finally, aircrews should perform comprehensive mission planning utilizing the Aviation RW Risk Common Operating Picture (R-COP) to obtain a thorough risk analysis measure of the mission. This planning tool helps to identify and measure the following risk considerations: mission, terrain, weather, power limits, training, recency of mission and airframe specific limits. This common picture of risk begins with three main sections: crew, mission, and environment and weather. Everyone involved in the risk mitigation process looks at every aspect of the common operating picture, allowing for a comprehensive analysis of the mission. The aircrew, briefing officer and final mission approval authority are afforded a step back and holistic approach to identify the greatest risk to the flight, where it may occur, and what has been done to mitigate it. All should understand that the elimination of unnecessary risk is the goal.

This article was a collaborative effort by the Aviation Division, Directorate of Analysis and Prevention U.S. Army Combat Readiness Center, Fort Novosel, AL.

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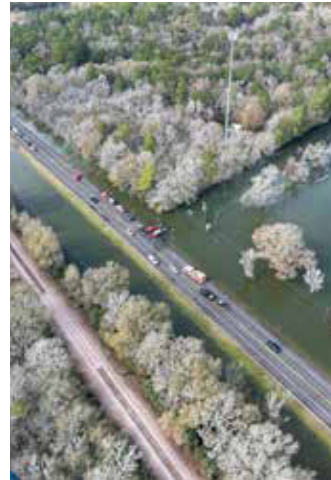
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1-158th Aviation Battalion Assists in Response to Flooding in Texas

By CPT Jeffrey Windmueller



As floodwaters spread across Texas last January, the Army Reserve Aviation Command played a crucial role supporting local and federal agencies in Defense Support Civil Authorities (DSCA) operations by providing aerial reconnaissance.

Local authorities faced overwhelming challenges in managing the crisis as torrential rains triggered flash floods across various regions in the Lone Star State. In response, the 1-158th Assault Helicopter Battalion swiftly activated its Immediate Response Authority (IRA), allowing for the rapid mobilization of its aviation assets and personnel. Helicopters from the battalion were deployed to conduct reconnaissance missions, assess the extent of the flooding, and identify areas most in need of assistance.

“The Army Reserve Aviation Command continues to be prepared to support Army North, NORTHCOM, and state-local elected officials to respond via IRA or thru official tasking for emergency response operations for all U.S. states and territories to save lives, prevent human suffering, and mitigate great property damage,” said MAJ Chris White, ARAC Homeland Operations Officer (HLO). “The ARAC footprint and assets provide the ability to deploy helicopters ahead of or in the aftermath of disaster.”

White helped coordinate the response and track events from the ARAC

headquarters in Fort Knox, Ky., as assets from the Texas Division of Emergency Management, Texas National Guard and several other government entities sprang into action during the disaster.

On January 25, Kevin Bates, Montgomery County Assistant Fire Marshal, called Department of the Army Civilian (DAC) Craig Phillips, Aviation Support Facility (ASF) Conroe Supervisor, requesting immediate support to fly over the flooded areas. The county emergency services requested helicopters to seek out other stranded people from the high-water areas and the immediate response allowed the team to notify additional evacuations of people before water isolated more residents that afternoon.

After a quick assessment, Phillips, along with MAJ Ryan Brock, the 1-158th AHB executive officer, were among the crews piloting a UH-60 Black Hawk for the mission, providing aerial views of washed out bridges, flooded homes and floating cars.

DSCA operations serve as just one element of the ARAC’s lines of effort and mission statement. While fairly rare, the

Army Reserve assets have been called upon to provide assistance like they did during Hurricane Harvey in 2017. Equipped with specialized training and equipment, the ARAC’s aircrews are capable of providing aerial missions to locate and evacuate individuals stranded by rising floodwaters or physical damage. With swift and precise actions, they can be the difference in providing critical aid to those trapped in perilous situations.

According to the United States Army Reserve operations order, the ARAC can be called into action for DSCA operations when “natural or manmade incidents occur throughout the United States having a wide range of severe effects depending on the size and scope of the incident and area of impact. Incidents larger in scope and size can exceed the capabilities of local, state, tribal, and non-Department of Defense (DoD) Federal responders and have catastrophic effects such as loss of life, injuries, and damage to property. The United States Army Reserve (USAR) maintains readiness to conduct Defense Support of Civil Authorities (DSCA) as a capability provider.” The response of the 1-158th Aviation to the flooding in Texas exemplifies the critical role the Army Reserve can play during disaster relief operations.

CPT Jeffrey Windmueller is the public affairs officer for the U.S. Army Reserve Aviation Command at Fort Knox, KY.



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▶ 128th Aviation Brigade Update



Students on a ruck march during the final field training exercise before graduating Advanced Individual Training.

128th Aviation Brigade Continues to train Soldiers to Maintain, Fight, and Win!

By COL Paul Moreshead

True to the mission of generating disciplined, physically fit, and competent Aviation Maintenance Soldiers and Leaders who embody the Army Values and embrace the Army as a profession, by contributing to the combat readiness of the Army, its allies, and other services as a member of the USAACE team . . .

. . . the 128th Aviation Brigade has excelled and is postured to continue its tradition of outstanding service for the remainder of 2024.

128th has maintained focus on cultivating a warfighter spirit into Advanced Individual Training (AIT) students. By requiring trainees to endure a rigorous Field Training Exercise before graduation, future Helicopter Maintainers are given another repetition to execute basic combat skills previously learned at Basic Combat Training. Over the three days Soldiers work together to pass several tactical exercises. The FTX concludes with a tactical Ruck March and 'React to Contact' drill led by Drill Sergeants.

Cadre of the 128th Aviation Brigade are well known for their mastery of aircraft maintenance and innovative teaching solutions. The Brigade has been fortunate it has had the ability to showcase its ability to train and deliver ready combat formations to several military and civilian entities. A guest of GEN Brito, Virginia Lieutenant Governor Winsome Earle-Sears was given the unique opportunity to observe training programs and operations of the 15T B and 15G schoolhouses. The visit showcased the rigorous training U.S. Army and ARNG Soldiers undergo as Aviation professionals, which ensures the readiness and operational effectiveness of Virginia's National Guard Aviation units. Lt. Governor Earle-Sears was able to step into a Black Hawk Maintenance Trainer, rivet sheet metal, and discuss the current state of females working in Army CMF 15. She found the experience and discussions fascinating and commended the Soldiers and instructors on their dedication to training.

The 128th Aviation Brigade continues to find ways to dem-

onstrate the excellence of Army Aviation maintenance practices and the readiness they provide to combat formations. The Brigade dominated the 2023 Aerospace Maintenance Competition with teams taking both 1st and 3rd place. C/2-210 was recently awarded an E-Drill from the Perfect Point EDM Corporation as a part of the first-place prize. Brigade teams are gearing up to compete again in 2024's competition in April.

128th Aviation Brigade ensures that it remains committed to strengthening the profession by building its people. By investing in both the Civilians and Soldiers that make up the unit, Brigade personnel have paid back the Army through their commitments to excellence and superior performance. The Fort Eustis Community has benefited from the great work of "Born Under Fire" Soldiers and recognized seven as "Volunteers of the Quarter", who contributed hundreds of volunteer hours and organized community efforts in the Joint Base Langley-Eustis and greater Hampton Roads area. Members of the Brigade led and trained the Fort Eustis Army Ten-Miler Team that finished in 11th Place in the Active-Duty Mixed Team category. Additionally, Soldiers planned and executed to the 2023 Fort Eustis Fallfest for the community. These efforts accompanied by lasting personal connections have made the one brigade of the best places to work, resulting in 27 Reenlistments since July 2023.

Born Under Fire!

COL Paul Moreshead is the commander of the 128th AVN BDE at Joint Base Langley-Eustis, VA.



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Design Approval

By Mr. Steven Braddom

This is the first of a series of Tech Talk articles focusing on some of the basic tenets of airworthiness. The DoD and the Army define airworthiness as the property of an air system configuration to safely attain, sustain, and complete flight in accordance with approved usage limits.

This article will address the foundational element of airworthiness, which is the approval of the design. All other aspects of airworthiness rely on design approval, so it is the first and normally the most time-consuming and expensive part of the airworthiness process.

In a nutshell, design approval is en-

suring that an aircraft design meets all the applicable “building code” requirements for aircraft. This is done through review of the design (are the “blueprints” okay?); testing parts, assemblies, major components, and sub-systems to ensure they work correctly; testing software and all the systems



U.S. ARMY AVIATION SFG GRAPHIC

with which they interact; and eventually flight testing all the things that can't be done on the ground.

The airworthiness requirements are derived from the Army Military Airworthiness Certification Criteria (AMACC), which contains about 850 pages of criteria (what needs to be done?), the standards that each criterion must satisfy (how well must it do it?), and the acceptable means of compliance for each criterion (how must it be demonstrated?). The AMACC contains criteria on aircraft structures, drive systems, engines and engine control systems, hydraulics systems, fuel systems, flight controls, air vehicle flight performance, aeromechanics, human systems interactions, avionics and navigation, electrical systems, electromagnetic environmental effects, system safety, software airworthiness, sustainment of airworthiness, armament and stores integration, passenger safety, materials and processes, and hosts of other criteria.

Not all AMACC requirements are applicable to a particular aircraft design, so the requirements are “tailored” to only those applicable to that design, but the list of applicable criteria is still extensive for each new design. When a modification is planned for an aircraft type (e.g. integrating a new engine, adding an electro-optic sensor, adding new aircraft survivability equipment, etc.), not only does the modification itself need to meet all applicable criteria,

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but anything that the modification might impact (e.g. is the structure on which the modification is mounted sufficient to react to all the normal and hard landing loads, or is the electrical system appropriately designed to accommodate the additional electrical load) on the already approved aircraft must also be reevaluated to ensure the modification doesn't undermine airworthiness.

The list of applicable airworthiness requirements is provided to the Program Manager's Office (PMO) and the developer in an Airworthiness Qualification Plan (AQP), and the developer responds how the requirements are to be satisfied in an Airworthiness Qualification Specification (AQS), which becomes part of the contract. As each criterion is addressed by the developer, appropriate evidence is provided through the PMO to the Aviation & Missile Center's System Readiness Directorate (SRD) for review. If SRD determines the information satisfies the requirement, that criterion is marked complete. If it does not fully satisfy the requirement, the PMO determines whether to task the developer to further address the criterion or to assess the re-

sulting risk to determine if it warrants continued investment. When all applicable criteria have been successfully met, or risks identified and accepted at the appropriate level, the design is formally approved.

For the Army, that design approval currently takes the form of a fielding airworthiness release (AWR). In civil Aviation, this approval takes the form of a Type Certificate (TC) for aircraft, or Supplemental Type Certificate (STC) for application of modifications to the aircraft type.

An additional aspect of design approval is the publishing of all applicable operator's instructions, maintenance instructions, all periodic and special inspections, and other information necessary to operate and sustain the aircraft to keep it airworthy. These collective instructions are known as Instructions for Continuing Airworthiness (ICA) and will be the subject of another article soon.

Mr. Steven Braddom is the deputy airworthiness engineer at the Systems Readiness Directorate, U.S. Army Combat Capabilities Development Command Aviation & Missile Center, Redstone Arsenal, AL.



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Testicular Hypofunction

By MAJ Salvatore Bertucci, DO

Q: I was talking with one of my friends, and he told me that he has been going to a new Men's Health clinic. He seems to have gotten a lot of benefits from it, and I was wondering if I should also go and get my testosterone "optimized?"

FS: Having low testosterone (hypogonadism) is a true medical issue that can have negative health and lifestyle effects. However, like most medical issues, it is complicated and should be managed by your flight surgeon.

Low testosterone can be caused by many underlying conditions. The most common reason is reduced testicular function, but there are many other issues that can also bring your testosterone levels down. Some examples are diabetes, obesity, HIV/AIDS, chronic narcotic or steroid use, and pituitary dysfunction. The Army requires a thorough evaluation for potential causes.

Once other diagnoses are excluded, we then check your testosterone levels. If you have normal testosterone, then the testing stops. If testosterone is low, then your physician will repeat the test a week later. Depending on the testosterone level, and at your physician's discretion, you may have a trial of a fitness program to assess and improve your sleep, exercise, and weight. Making these lifestyle changes may be enough to regulate your testosterone levels without the risk of medication side effects.

If you meet the criteria for hypogonadism, as per current U.S. medical guidelines, then your physician will likely advise you to start medications to increase your levels to a normal range. Of note, using testosterone when it is not needed, or using more than required, can cause significant damage to your health. It can create strain on your heart and hormonal systems. Even appropriate use of testosterone replacement therapy can have side effects such as stroke, heart attack, or blood clots. These side effects can jeopardize your life as well as your career. There are benefits to supplementation if you have truly low testosterone levels such as increased libido or more easily developed muscle mass, but chasing after these benefits may cause unexpected harms. These risks are higher if you have a personal or family history of conditions such as heart disease, stroke, high blood counts or prostate cancer.

For all these reasons you should seek the supervision of your Flight Surgeon while working up this problem and treating it,

if indicated. Be wary that in some "performance enhancing" clinics, atypical and less accurate labs may be ordered to assess testosterone. The required medical evaluation is clearly stated in the testicular hypofunction aeromedical policy letter and must be followed to possibly receive a favorable waiver. Your Flight Surgeon will have access to the most up-to-date policy.

It should also be noted that in the case of testosterone supplementation, not all medications are equal. Simple cases of testicular hypofunction should be treated with only testosterone treatments. That said, there are several different ways to provide testosterone for treatment. The type of treatment must consider its effectiveness as well availability and appropriateness in a deployed environment. Once started on testosterone, you will need to be on a downslip until subsequent lab tests demonstrate that your levels have normalized. If it takes more than one medication to control your testosterone levels, you will require medical management from an endocrinologist or urologist. Lastly, there are medications that, while effective, are disqualifying for flight if needed for prolonged periods, such as clomiphene. This is another reason to work with your Flight Surgeon so they can help get you on a plan for success and continue flying.

You should also be aware that all over the counter "men's health" pills, testosterone boosters, and "performance enhancers" are all considered Class 4 medications and cannot be used while maintaining flight privileges. Additionally, if your testosterone levels are found to be too high, then you will need to be grounded until your levels normalize. During this time, you will be monitored for withdrawal symptoms as well.

Testicular hypofunction is a real medical issue, that is complicated by the desire of the civilian market to "optimize" testosterone levels. Appropriate treatment that meets the requirements to maintain flight is common and will require the coordination of your Flight Surgeon for both regular flight duties as well as for deployments.

Fly safe!

Questions for the Flight Surgeon?

If you have a question that you would like addressed, email it to AskFS@quad-a.org. We will try to address it in the future. See your unit flight surgeon for your personal health issues.

The views and opinions offered are those of the author and researchers and should not be construed as an official Department of the Army position unless otherwise stated.

MAJ (Dr.) Salvatore Bertucci is a flight surgeon and Aerospace Medicine specialist at the Department of Aviation Medicine, Fort Novosel, AL.

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Driving Forward: DAMO-AV is Synchronizing Efforts to Ready Army Aviation for the Next Fight

By MG Walter Rugen

View From the E-Ring

Greetings from the Pentagon, where we are entering another budget cycle. I have been a part in some way or another of the last 10 budget cycles and this one is certainly forming up as one of the most challenging.

Army Aviation is a force in transition – continually transforming to refocus on large scale combat operations against technologically capable adversaries after two-plus decades of conducting mainly counterinsurgency (COIN) and counterterrorism (CT) operations. Oh, by the way, we are still deploying units to COIN and CT operations, so life as an aviator remains as complex as it has ever been as we remain a high demand capability for combatant commanders. As the lead integrator for all things Aviation on the Army Staff, the men and women of DAMO-AV are working hard to synchronize the efforts of the Aviation Enterprise to

generate ready forces, push critical staff actions through the Pentagon for approval, synchronize modernization, fight for flight hour resourcing, and a host of other policy and resourcing matters.

Force Design Update

As part of the Army's initiative to rebalance its force structure, the Secretary of the Army recently approved the Aviation Force Design Update (FDU) – a no-growth, COMPO 1-only CAB restructure of existing personnel and equipment to optimize the force to support the Army of 2030. The resulting force will have increased aviation capacity to deter, campaign, and prevail without purchasing additional aircraft or adding end strength.

Current COMPO 1 CAB structure consists of 11 identical brigades designed to support heel-to-toe rotations in Iraq and Afghanistan to support COIN

operations. The FDU reorganizes the existing 11 CABs into 12 purpose-structured CABs to support priority theaters and Divisions as the unit of action in large scale combat operations.

The FDU will address gaps in attack/reconnaissance, air-assault, and lift capacity by adding two additional AH-64 battalions, adding a Brigade Combat Team (BCT) Air Assault capability, and allocating additional lift capacity to Joint Force Entry (JFE) and Light Divisions by reassigning underutilized assets from Armored Divisions. The FDU also fully resources 12th CAB assigned to USAREUR-AF, helping set the theater, strengthen alliances, and maximize capacity to deter and prevail.

FDU conversions occur from FY25-FY29 within scheduled Regionally Aligned Readiness and Modernization Model (ReARMM) modernization windows to minimize readiness impacts.



Soldiers from 1st Battalion (Attack), 3rd Aviation Regiment, 12th Combat Aviation Brigade, fly two AH-64E Apache Guardian helicopters to Katterbach Kaserne, from Wiesbaden Army Airfield, Clay Kaserne, Germany, Sept. 7, 2023. The AH-64E Apache Guardian helicopter upgrade is part of the 12th CAB modernization efforts, ongoing training, and new equipment fielding.

and sustainment costs, thereby enabling further modernization. We're driving plans to improve the health of the Army Working Capital Fund with this mountain of metal.

We still have more work to do to achieve the lean efficiency we need to be effective in a resource constrained environment. We should not fear shedding COIN structure and diverting it to capabilities we need to fight and win against a peer threat.

Ongoing Fielding of Modernized Equipment

Key to ensuring the current readiness of the force is the modernization of our existing platforms. DAMO-AV coordinates the ongoing fielding of the latest variants of aircraft and other aviation equipment to units across all Components. We continue to field the AH-64Ev6 through FY28; we will enter into a new UH-60M multi-year contract and invest in upgrades for the Black Hawk fleet, and we will formally enter into production of the CH-47F Block II with a path to full rate production in the future. We will finish fielding the Gray Eagle Extended Range Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) this year and will begin fielding the Gray Eagle -25M in FY27. Software upgrades to AH-64Es will improve commonality across the fleet beginning in FY26. We will fulfill the directed requirement to field the SPIKE Non-Line-of-Sight missile to three Combat Aviation Brigades (CAB) – 101st, 16th,

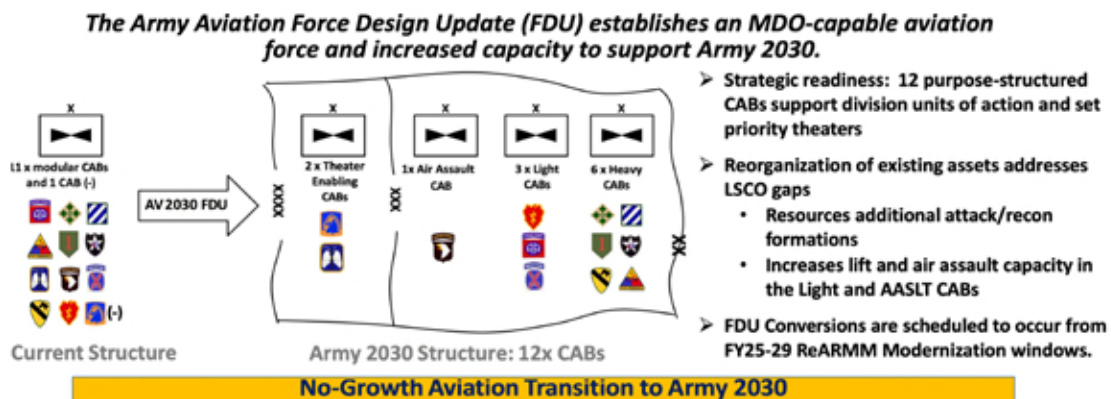
This sequencing enables deliberate and predictable execution. Additionally, all personnel move within slated manning cycles – the total quantity of personnel moving as a result of the FDU will mirror the existing average of personnel moving annually. We must aggressively act to rebalance into purpose built CABs and away from the modularity of the COIN fight to best align with our Divisions and Corps as the units of action.

Fleet Optimization

To accelerate the transformation of Army Aviation we must speed the process of divesting legacy COIN equipment and

structure. To that end, we are reducing our UH-60 Black Hawk fleet by 157 aircraft. The reason for this is that from 2004 to 2010, the UH-60 acquisition objective grew from 1,806 to 2,135 aircraft to support the surges in Iraq and Afghanistan. Since then, our end-strength has returned to 2004 levels with no commensurate reduction of the UH-60 fleet.

All the aircraft we divest will be older UH-60L or A variants and will come from COMPO 1 TDA units and the repair cycle float. The reduction amounts to a 7.5 percent decrease in the acquisition objective and will increase our readiness by reducing operating



and 12th CABs – later this year.

A host of degraded visual environment (DVE) and aircraft survivability equipment (ASE) will field in the coming years as well. These two capabilities are game changers for Army Aviation. We will own more of the environment as our relative ownership of the night degrades. And we will fight from relative sanctuary with tempo and lethality at compelling battlefield geometries.

These ongoing efforts constitute a deliberate strategy of targeted modernization to upgrade the performance and capability of our current fleets that will mitigate our capability gaps until we can field the next generation of aircraft and supporting technology such as the Future Long Range Assault Aircraft (FLRAA), Modular Open Systems Architecture (MOSA), Future Tactical Unmanned Aircraft System (FTUAS), and lethal and non-lethal Launched Effects (LE).

Integrating New Capabilities

As we continue fielding the latest variants of our existing platforms, DAMO-AV is simultaneously coordinating the efforts of the Aviation Enterprise to integrate new capabilities into the force.

A key initiative is developing a holistic plan to integrate FLRAA into the Army.

We are going to be deliberate in applying lessons learned from our Sister Services when integrating a new and complex capability and ensure we are enhancing communication and coordination early in the process so that all stakeholders are on the same page regarding priorities, timelines, and strategies.

This is a crucial effort. Success requires an all-in commitment from across the Aviation Enterprise and HQDA to deliver FLRAA on-time and on-plan to units that are fully ready to utilize it. A key step in this process that we've made more and more use of recently is ensuring Soldiers get a chance to handle new equipment throughout the development of a program to impact design and inform requirements. These Soldier Touchpoints drive down risk and help ensure we field the best possible aircraft. For FLRAA, multiple Soldier Touchpoints are scheduled for the upcoming months and will continue regularly going forward.

Simultaneously, DAMO-AV is collaborating with the G-2 Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR) Task Force, the Army Intelligence and Security Command (INSCOM), and the Aviation Center of Excellence (US-AACE) to execute a non-standard Aircrew Training Program (ATP) to quali-

fy, train, and conduct missions in BBD-7000 series aircraft for the Army's High Accuracy Detection and Exploitation (System) HADES program. Efforts are underway to resume soldier operations soon on contracts such as the Airborne Reconnaissance and Electronic Warfare System (ARES) under the provisions of the non-standard ATP without the constraints of the previous soldier touchpoints. This will enable Army Aviation to train and build capacity as we progress toward fielding a transformational system in HADES.

These are only some of the ongoing initiatives that our Branch is undertaking to meet the challenges of the 21st Century and support the Army of 2030. DAMO-AV will continue to drive hard to synchronize efforts across the Aviation Enterprise to ready Army Aviation to fight and win in large scale combat operations. I encourage anyone to reach out to the DAMO-AV team if we can be of any assistance.

Above the Best!



MG Walter T. "Wally" Rugen is the Director of Army Aviation at Headquarters, Department of the Army G-3/5/7(DAMO-AV).

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AMCOM – Strengthening the Industrial Base to Deliver Readiness in our Combat Formations

By MG Thomas W. O'Connor, Jr.



In January, the Department of Defense (DoD) published the “National Defense Industrial Strategy” that discusses some of the challenges associated with our aging industrial base that is largely unchanged since the ramp up to meet pacing threats during the cold war. Since 1985, defense spending shrank as a percentage of U.S. GDP following the inception and fielding of the Army’s “Big 5” weapons systems, including the Apache and Black Hawk helicopters. While we appreciated this “peace dividend” over the last 40 years, even during the conflicts tied to the global war on terror, the capabilities and capacity of our industrial base has remained generally static. Now, by evaluating our current and emerging threats around the world, we can see clearly that our industrial base must be ready once again to ramp up production at a pace to sustain our combat formations in large-scale, multi-domain operations. To do this, the DoD laid out four strategic priorities: resilient supply chains, workforce readiness, flexible acquisition, and economic deterrence. AMCOM is focused on strengthening our industrial base along all four of these priorities to ensure warfighters in the field have the materiel readiness required to fight and win our next conflict.

Resilient Supply Chains

If we don’t understand the risk, then our supply chains represent a considerable vulnerability in our ability to deliver readiness forward. For example, sole source contracts are clear or risk indicators, especially when faced with something like the global pandemic that we are all too familiar with. Also, sub-tier vendors dependent on sources of supply within adversarial countries present significant risk that we must fully understand to enable our leaders to evaluate the holistic supply chain risk and make mitigation decisions accordingly. In this effort we are examin-



AMCOM Commander MG Tom O'Connor and former commander of the Army Materiel Command GEN (Ret.) Paul Kern host a fireside chat Jan. 29, during a visit to an industry partner in Decatur, AL.

ing the entire supply chain, not just the original equipment manufacturers. We are evaluating suppliers and sub-tier vendors to assess risk from the raw materials all the way to the final product. Our depots like Corpus Christi Army Depot (CCAD) also serve as a strategic insurance policy against supply chain volatility, and when leveraged well by our industry partners, our depots also enable our partners to unburden their production lines by empowering the depot as a source of supply to mitigate challenges with obsolescence and long production lead times. Depot artisans enable the defense industrial base; they are not there to compete with it. Last year, CCAD artisans completed \$600 million in repair-and-return of assets - engines, transmissions, hydraulic pumps - items the Army did not have to buy new because depot artisans repaired and returned them to the field. The Army cannot do it alone; industry partnerships are vital to the success of our industrial base.

Workforce Readiness

A skilled, experienced, and ready workforce is the center of gravity of the industrial base. Our industry partners are pushing the boundaries with technology innovation and are developing solutions that we will see delivered in future weapons systems. With each development, we must also meet the requirement squarely with trained and ready artisans across the industrial base, including our depots. Over the last couple of years, AMCOM has integrated a workforce development solution called High Velocity Training. The DoD Industrial Base Analysis and Sustainment (IBAS) program provided the initial funding to establish the program, which is designed to accelerate the training for artisans by leveraging digitized weapons systems and sub-systems that bridge the experience gap by augmenting the workforce with a digital tool kit. In most cases, our depot workforce is a collection of expertise that



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simply cannot be replicated. However, our depots have capabilities that we can employ forward – we call these Depot Field Teams (DFT), and they are critical to maintaining readiness in our combat formations. In FY23, CCAD DFTs completed 99 total support missions. This means our teams supported 99 aircraft in the field, no shipping required. In one notable example, the DFT exported blue light scanning capability to the Korean

AMCOM Commander MG Tom O'Connor speaks to industry and academia partners at the Military Aviation and Air Dominance Summit held Jan. 31-Feb. 1 in Huntsville, AL. The annual event gathers experts and decision-makers from across the Department of Defense and industry to discuss initiatives and strategies needed to best equip and sustain the aviation force of the future.

peninsula to support an Apache repair, which saved the Army over \$1.8M in shipping and approximately 18 months in turn-around time. As we look to the future, we must evaluate what capability (tooling, experience, etc.) that the Army

and our partners should forward stage to set the theater. In our next major conflict, the industrial workforce must be ready to support, from the factory to the foxhole, to maintain combat readiness at the point of need.



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Flexible Acquisition

Last October, the Chief of Staff of the Army, General Randy George, defined continuous transformation as one of his key focus areas, meaning the entire Army is transforming across a continuum. Currently, the Army is transforming in contact; we are focused on a deliberate transformation a few years from now; and the Army is focused on concept driven development several years out. For AMCOM, this means the entire aviation enterprise is transforming including the defense industrial base. We are engaging in strategic, long-term contracts to help mitigate unpredictability. We are engaged with industry to develop strategies aimed at reducing production lead times. Our team is also engaged in influencing the procurement and pre-staging of raw materials in advance of need to mitigate uncertainty. The AMCOM Logistics Center is sharing five-year forecasts with our industry partners to provide predictability and accelerate acquisition lead times. As the Army fields new weapons systems, we must also increase our access to intellectual property and data sharing that will enable opportunities across the industrial base. AMCOM has worked diligently over the last several years on a permissive

advanced manufacturing policy to enable the entire enterprise to benefit from the current and emerging capabilities in this space. One of the greatest challenges realized by the collective team is with data access and governance processes. In all cases, the flexible future acquisition strategies necessitate strengthening our close partnerships with industry, academia, and government to work collectively on delivering the innovative solutions that will maintain the viable industrial base required to deliver readiness at a scale and pace that none of us have ever seen.

Economic Deterrence

Creating conditions to improve opportunities for business to win in the current economic environment. This includes private public partnerships or service agreements that provide best value for the government and present good business cases for industry. AMCOM and the entire aviation enterprise are also working with industry and our close international allies and partners to support a strong defense industrial ecosystem across the globe. No longer can we constrain our perspective on collective defense to our national territories. The world is more connected now

than ever, especially through defense alliances, agreements, and proliferated weapons systems. We are exploring opportunities to set the theaters in coordination and with our partners around the world that will deter our adversaries from future aggression.

Warfighting

Everything we do must enable the Army to execute our warfighting imperative – to deploy, fight and win the conflict. AMCOM and the aviation enterprise remain focused on delivering readiness that enables our combat formations to prevail in large-scale, multi-domain operations. The DoD outlined four strategic priorities for the defense industrial base that set the framework as we continually transform capability and capacity to meet the requirements of today and the future. At every step, we will realize success through strong, enduring relationships across the enterprise.

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MG Thomas W. O'Connor is the commanding general of the U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command (AMCOM) at Redstone Arsenal, AL.

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PEO Aviation – We Remain Ready

By BG David C. Phillips

As threats and technology evolve, some things remain constant. To start, war remains a human endeavor, it's a contest of wills between human beings. That is not changing. However, technology will punish unskilled units and commanders.

- GEN James Rainey,
Commanding General, Army Futures
Command

In a world with faster-evolving and ever-challenging threats, our Army is resolute in remaining ready. Warfighting is changing more rapidly than it has in decades, and the Army is continuously transforming based on lessons learned and a sober assessment of the modern battlefield.

Nowhere are the changes happening faster than in the upper tier of the land domain.

To address these changes, the upcoming FY25 Army budget submission includes significant changes to aviation modernization, investments in the industrial base, and increased investment in uncrewed systems. Based on lessons learned from the Ukraine War, the Israel-Hamas war, and evolving Indo-Pacific theater requirements, the Army will phase out operations of systems that are not capable or survivable on today's battlefields. The Army will increase investments in the most effective, cutting-edge, and surviv-

able capabilities and rapidly deliver these capabilities to its formations.

While these decisions re-prioritize resourcing, the changes do not alter the Program Executive Office, Aviation (PEO Aviation) mission. We are adapting to the strategic environment to continue providing the very best aviation capabilities required to deter those that would threaten our national security. PEO Aviation will continue to provide the capabilities required to fight and win today while we embrace the innovative technologies needed to modernize the aviation fleet for future large scale combat operations (LSCO).

PEO Aviation is part of a broader team of teams with committed professionals tirelessly working to provide the warfighter with transformational, highly lethal weapon systems. Together with the Aviation Center of Excellence, the Army Futures Command Cross Functional Teams, the Aviation and Missile Command, the Combat Capability Development Command's labs and centers, other Program Executive Offices, and Army Contracting Command, we are pivoting to sustain the Army aviation industrial base, upgrade the enduring fleet, develop the future fleet, and increase investments in uncrewed systems.

There will be several changes to enduring fleet modernization that will support the industrial base. Several of those changes involve the UH-60 family of aircraft.

The UH-60 Black Hawk is, and will

The UH-60 Black Hawk and CH-47F Chinook helicopter are, and will remain, an important part of the Army's helicopter fleet, they are proven capabilities and the workhorses of our enduring fleet. The Army's new plan will renew and extend production of both aircraft, while also sustaining the experienced workforce and vendor base that underpin the Army's aviation capabilities.

remain, an important part of the Army's utility and MEDEVAC helicopter fleets, it is proven capability and a workhorse of our enduring fleet. The Army will end production of the UH-60V after FY24. However, PEO Aviation will continue to support the existing UH-60V aircrews and sustain the fielded UH-60V aircraft. To meet the requirements created by ending the UH-60V program, the Army will commit to a new multi-year contract to procure UH-60M Black Hawks and invest in future upgrades for the fleet. Many of the new aircraft will be used to continue modernizing the Army National Guard Aviation fleets.

The Army's decisions also free up resources to make critical investments in the Chinook fleet. The CH-47F Chinook is the Army's only heavy lift helicopter and the aviation rebalancing decisions end uncertainty over the future of the next generation CH-47F Block II by formally entering it into production, with a milestone C decision in FY25. The CH-47F Block II includes an improved power train, improved structural design, software and avionics upgrades, and a re-designed, lightweight fuel system.

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Without reprioritizing funds in its constrained aviation portfolio, the Army faced the unacceptable risk of decline and closure of production and sustainment lines for the Chinook and Black Hawk fleets. The Army's new plan will renew and extend production of both aircraft, while also sustaining the experienced workforce and vendor base that underpin the Army's aviation capabilities. This will also provide clarity to our partners and allies involved in our security cooperation programs through foreign military sales, or those considering acquiring our aircraft in the future.

The Army will phase out operations and sustainment of the legacy RQ-7 Shadow and RQ-11 Raven Uncrewed Aircraft Systems (UAS). A deliberate ramp down of the Shadow and Raven programs will save money to expand and accelerate the Army's uncrewed aerial reconnaissance capabilities including the future tactical uncrewed aircraft system (FTUAS), launched effects, and commercially available small UAS.

The Army is also increasing research and development funding and exploring options to accelerate production and fielding of FTUAS to minimize potential capability gaps at the brigade level. The first unit issued is currently

scheduled for 4th Quarter, FY25. In addition to FTUAS, the Army is committed to investing in a diverse portfolio of launched effects and small commercial UAS that will provide significant sensing, electronic warfare, communications, and lethal capabilities.

Next, PEO Aviation will end development of Future Attack Reconnaissance Aircraft (FARA) at the conclusion of FY24 prototyping activities. For the remainder of this fiscal year, we will work on capturing the technologies to transition to other programs and lessons learned from the FARA program while stabilizing the workforce. The FARA research and development work will directly benefit other crewed and uncrewed platforms at many levels. PEO Aviation will work closely with the industrial base to ensure we can capture benefits from these innovations by leveraging the numerous lessons learned on the implementation of a modular open systems approach, model-based systems engineering, launched effects, and operational modeling. Also, planned for this spring, ground runs of the Improved Turbine Engine in the FARA competitive prototype aircraft will also inform integration on the Blackhawk and Apache.

While FARA is ending, the Future

Long Range Assault Aircraft (FLRAA) program continues to make significant progress.

FLRAA offers leap-ahead technology that will allow the Army to move Soldiers around the battlefield further and faster than ever before with speeds twice as fast and ranges twice as far as the current fleet. The FLRAA program has been in full execution mode with Bell Textron Inc., and associated industry partners since contract execution began in April 2023. The program is on track for Milestone B in 3rd Quarter, FY24 and the Army remains committed to equipping the first operational unit beginning in FY30.

As the FARA program winds down PEO Aviation will delay production of the Improved Turbine Engine (ITEP) to ensure adequate time for integrating it into the enduring fleet. The lessons learned from integration into the FARA prototypes will inform ITEP integration into the Apache and Black Hawk. The program continues to make progress and currently has six engines in testing with two engines planned for Black Hawk integration testing in the Summer of 2024.

Even though the Army's aviation modernization priorities have changed, PEO Aviation's mission has not. I am confident that our workforce will rapidly pivot where needed and adapt to our changing requirements. We will complete an orderly closeout of the Shadow, Raven, UH-60V and FARA programs, address the opportunities for the affected workforce, and transition both technologies and lessons learned for use in other efforts.

This is a major change and will require an internal workload rebalancing over the next couple years. We will plan to deliberately shift our workforce to meet the Army's priorities.

PEO Aviation will always remain a cornerstone of the greater Army Team, and leader in delivering transformational capabilities to Soldiers and the Joint force. We must continue providing our Nation with the aviation capabilities required to deter those that would threaten our national security, and when called upon, be prepared to fight and win on the battlefields of tomorrow.



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BG David C. Phillips is the U.S. Army Program Executive Officer, Aviation located at Redstone Arsenal, AL.

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2024 Army Aviation Mission Solutions Summit Schedule of Events

Monday, April 22, 2024

- 1200-1300 AAAA National Boards Combined Luncheon
Spruce 3-4
- 1300-1600 AAAA National Executive Board Meeting (Hybrid)
Valley 3
- 1630-1730 AAAA TLC Board Meeting (Hybrid)
Valley 3

Tuesday, April 23, 2024

- 0700-0800 Gaylord Rockies Sunrise Yoga
Sunrise Lawn
- 1300-1700 Badge & Ticket Pickup
Valley Foyer
- 1400-1600 AAAA Chapter Officer Workshops
Cottonwood 8-9
- 1700-1800 National Awardee Rehearsal
Colorado Ballroom
- 1830-2030 Awardee/NEG Dinner *(Invitation Only)*

Wednesday, April 24, 2024

- 0700-0800 Gaylord Rockies Sunrise Yoga
Sunrise Lawn
- 0800-0930 AAAA Scholarship Foundation Board Meeting (Hybrid)
Valley 3
- 0800-1730 PM/ACM Meeting Rooms Open
Red Rocks 1-7
- 0900-1900 Badge & Ticket Pickup
Valley Foyer
- 0900-0945 Speakers Green Room Pre-Brief & Breakfast
(Invitation Only)
Homestead 3-4

- 1000-1200 OPENING CEREMONIES, PROFESSIONAL SESSION I
Colorado Ballroom
- 1000-1005 Opening Remarks
Mr. William R. Harris, Jr., AAAA Executive Director
- 1005-1020 AAAA Supporting You and Your Family!
MG Walter M. Golden, Ret., AAAA Senior Vice President
- 1020-1025 4th Infantry Division Welcome
MG David S. Doyle, Commanding General
- 1025-1055 Transforming the Army - Under Secretary of the U.S.
Army Hon. Gabriel O. Camarillo
- 1055-1130 Medical Modernization –
LTG Mary Izaguirre, Surgeon General of the United States Army
- 1130-1200 Army Aviation Branch Chief
MG Michael C. “Mac” McCurry

- 1230-1900 Exhibit Halls Open
Adams & Aurora Halls
- 1230-1900 Networking Café Open *Sponsored by Leonardo*
Adams Hall–Booth #3119
- 1230-1700 Exhibit Hall Coffee *Sponsored by Northrop Grumman*
Adams & Aurora
- 1230-1900 Soldier Café *(Military ID Required–No Retired)*
Willow Lake 3-4-5
- Vietnam Vets Welcome / *Sponsored by Team Chinook*
- 1300-1630 Spouse Event – Floral Design Workshop
Juniper Ballroom A

- 1300--1450 Program Executive Office Aviation Industry
Coordination Session
Moderator: BG David C. Phillips, PEO
Adams Hall–Booth #3309

- 1500-1700 LEADERS Q&A Adams Hall–Booth #3309
- 1500-1530 Holistic Health & Fitness – MG John Kline, CG,
USACIMT
- 1535-1630 Industry Leaders – Moderator – LTG Douglas
Gabram, Ret.
- 1630-1700 Combat Readiness Center Update – BG Jon Byrom, CG

- 1700-1900 Opening Networking Reception *Sponsored by BAE*
Adams & Aurora Halls
- 1730-1800 Chapter Sponsored Soldiers Brief *(Invitation Only)*
Adams Hall–Booth #3309
- 1900-2200 Industry Receptions
- 1900-2200 The Boeing Company
Mountain Pass Sports Bar
- 1900-2100 Sikorsky/Lockheed Martin
Spruce Lobby

Thursday, April 25, 2024

- 0700-0800 Gaylord Rockies Sunrise Yoga
Sunrise Lawn
- 0800-0930 Scholarship & Museum Donor Recognition Breakfast
Willow Lake 1-2
- 0800-1700 Badge & Ticket Pickup
Valley Foyer
- 0800-1700 PM/ACM Meeting Rooms Open
Red Rocks 1-7
- 0800-1700 Soldier Café *(Military ID Required–No Retired)*
Willow Lake 3-4-5
- Vietnam Vets Welcome / *Sponsored by Team Chinook*
- 0800-1700 Press Room Open *Sponsored by Northrop Grumman*
Summit 10-11
- 0900-0945 Speakers Green Room Pre-Brief & Breakfast
(Invitation Only)
Homestead 3-4
- 1000-1130 Professional Session Coffee
Colorado Ballroom

- 1000-1230 OPERATIONS PROFESSIONAL SESSION II,
KEYNOTE & AWARDS
Colorado Ballroom
- 1000-1005 Opening Remarks
MG Michael C. McCurry
- 1005-1035 Keynote Address – Commander, U.S. Southern
Command
GEN Laura Richardson
- 1035-1100 Soldier & Unit Awards Presentation
MG Walter M. Golden, Ret.; Mr. Harris; Ms. Janis Arena
- 1100-1130 DA Aviation Perspective
MG Walter T. Rugen, Director, Army Aviation
- 1130-1200 ARSOAC Update – BG Scott Wilkinson, Commander
- 1200-1230 AMCOM Update – MG Thomas W. O'Connor, CG

- 1030-1130 Spouse Professional Program I
Families Forward Together - Sarah E. Minnis, Ph.D.,
Western Carolina Univ.
- 1000-1500 Your Next Mission® Hiring Event
Cottonwood 2-3
- 1215-1630 Exhibit Halls Open
Adams & Aurora Halls
- 1215-1630 Exhibit Hall Coffee *Sponsored by Northrop Grumman*
- 1215-1630 Networking Café Open *Sponsored by Leonardo*
Adams Hall–Booth #3119



2024 Army Aviation Mission Solutions Summit Schedule of Events

1230-1530 LEADERS Q&A Adams Hall–Booth #3309
 1230-1325 AI in Army Aviation – Moderator – MG Todd Royar, Ret.
 1330-1425 International Leaders – Moderator – BG Tim Edens, Ret.
 1430-1530 Army Aviation Future Training Concepts and Simulation Technology Trends – Moderator: LTC Drabczuk, Ret.

1230-1630 WORKING GROUPS Cottonwood 8-9
 1230-1355 Aviation Warrant Officer Readiness Review – CW5 Corsaro
 1400-1525 Enlisted Branch Update – CSM Coley
 1530-1630 Cav Warfighter Panel – Moderator: COL Joe Eszes, Ret.

1300-1630 Spouse Event – Paint and Sip Juniper Ballroom A
 1400-1500 Army Aviation Hall of Fame Trustees Meeting (Invitation Only)
 1830-2130 Army Aviation Hall of Fame Induction Banquet Colorado Ballroom
 1830-1930 Reception
 1830-1930 HoF VIP Inductee Assembly (Invitation Only) Homestead 3-4
 1930-2130 HoF Dinner
 1800-2200 Industry Receptions
 1800-2200 Bombardier Defense Mountain Pass Sports Bar

Friday, April 26, 2024

0700-0800 Gaylord Rockies Sunrise Yoga Sunrise Lawn
 0800-1230 Exhibit Halls Open Adams & Aurora Halls
 0800-1230 Networking Café Open Sponsored by Leonardo Adams Hall–Booth #3119
 0800-1230 Exhibit Hall Coffee Sponsored by Northrop Grumman Adams & Aurora Halls
 0800-1230 Press Room Open Sponsored by Northrop Grumman Summit 10-11
 0800-1530 Badge & Ticket Pickup Valley Foyer
 0800-1630 PM/ACM Meeting Rooms Open Red Rocks 1-7
 0800-1700 Soldier Café (Military ID Required–No Retired) Vietnam Vets Welcome / Sponsored by Team Chinook Willow Lake 3-4-5
 1000-1050 Spouse Professional Program II Juniper Ballroom B Kerry Irvin, MRT, CEO, Operation Healing Forces

0900-1100 LEADERS Q&A Adams Hall–Booth #3309
 0900-0955 PM/ACM Interface–Recon/Attack/UAS/AMSA/ACM-R/A Moderator – MG Frank Muth, Ret.
 1000-1100 PM/ACM Interface–Utility/Cargo/FLRAA/FW/ACM-Lift Moderator – MG William T. Crosby, Ret., former PEO Aviation

1000-1500 Your Next Mission® Hiring Event Cottonwood 2-3
 1100-1200 Speakers' Green Room Pre-Brief & Lunch (Invitation Only) Homestead 3-4
 1100-1600 Spouse Event – Wild Animal Sanctuary Tour TBA

1200--1400 ACQUISITION & SUSTAINMENT PROFESSIONAL SESSION III Colorado Ballroom
 1200-1205 Opening Remarks MG Walter M. Golden, Ret., AAAA Senior Vice President
 1205-1230 A Fully Integrated Force – Chief, National Guard Bureau GEN Daniel Hokanson
 1230-1300 Future Vertical Lift Update – BG Cain Baker, Dir., FVL CFT
 1300-1330 PEO Aviation Update – BG David C. Phillips, PEO
 1330-1400 Army Acquisition Update – MG Robert L. Barrie, DASM, ASAALT

1430-1630 WORKING GROUPS Cottonwood 8-9
 1430-1525 Modernized Sensors for Aerial ISR and Survivability Moderator – BG W. Ed Barker, PEO Intelligence, Electronic Warfare & Sensors
 1530-1630 Launched Effects – Moderator – Mr. Geoffrey Downer

1700-1800 Vietnam and Korean War Veterans & Family Reception (Invitation Only) Willow Lake 1-2
 1730-1830 Golden Eagles (50 Year and Above Members) Reception (Invitation Only) Willow Lake 1-2
 1800-2200 Soldier Appreciation Dinner Concert with Randy Houser Colorado Ballroom
 1800-1900 Reception
 1900-2100 Dinner/AAAA Annual Membership Meeting
 2100-2200 Soldier Appreciation Concert with Randy Houser

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2024 Army Aviation Mission Solutions



↑ ↑
ADAMS HALL ENTRANCES

EXHIBIT HALL HOURS:

Wednesday April 24
1230 - 1900

Thursday April 25
1215-1630

Friday April 26
0800-1230

SUMMIT DRESS CODE:

Attendees

Military - Duty Uniform
Civilian - Business Attire

Panel Members and Speakers

Military - Duty Uniform
Civilian - Coat and Tie

Hall of Fame Induction Banquet
Black Tie/Dress Mess/Dress Blues



↑ ↑
AURORA HALL ENTRANCES

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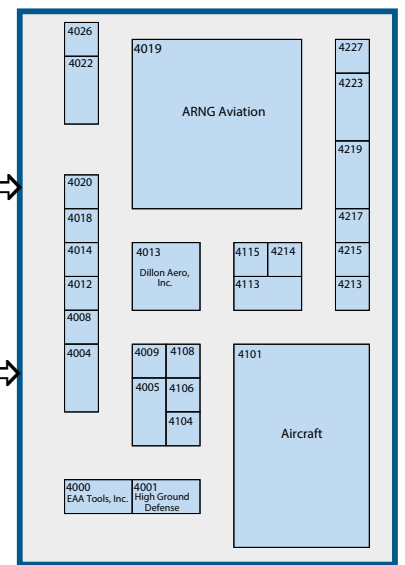
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	1728 Eaton	1729 Hydrex, Inc.	1830 Mesa Aviation	1831 Mesa Aviation	1929	2028 General Dynamics Mission Systems	2130
	1822 Farnborough	1829	1927	2128	2129 Leonardo DRS	2229 The Protective Group	2331 2430 2329 2428
1523 Kaman Aerospace Corporation	1722 Raytheon	1723 Hydrex, Inc.	1824 Mesa Aviation	1825 Farnborough	1822 Farnborough	1823 Modern Technology Solutions, Inc.	1923 Acme Worldwide Enterprises, Inc.
1517 Shield AI	1710 AeroVironment	1816 1819 1817	1916 Dynamic Graphics, Inc.	2014 Bombardier Defense	2025 2124 2023 Curtiss-Wright	2125	2223 AAR
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1600 1601			2000 LifePort, LLC	2113 FN America LLC	2123	2223 AAR	2323 2424 2329 2422
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			2100 Donaldson	2113 FN America LLC	2123	2223 AAR	2323 2424 2329 2422
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			2200 Danbury Mission Technologies	2113 FN America LLC	2123	2223 AAR	2323 2424 2329 2422
			2206 ScioTeq	2113 FN America LLC	2123	2223 AAR	2323 2424 2329 2422
			2207 Panasonic Connect	2113 FN America LLC	2123	2223 AAR	2323 2424 2329 2422
			2204 Eaton	2113 FN America LLC	2123	2223 AAR	2323 2424 2329 2422
			2205 Viewpoint Systems	2113 FN America LLC	2123	2223 AAR	2323 2424 2329 2422
			2305 Safar Helicopter Engines	2113 FN America LLC	2123	2223 AAR	2323 2424 2329 2422
			2401 2500	2113 FN America LLC	2123	2223 AAR	2323 2424 2329 2422
			2405 Greenwood Aerospace	2113 FN America LLC	2123	2223 AAR	2323 2424 2329 2422
			2409 4108 4005 4106 4104	2113 FN America LLC	2123	2223 AAR	2323 2424 2329 2422
			2518	2113 FN America LLC	2123	2223 AAR	2323 2424 2329 2422
			2520	2113 FN America LLC	2123	2223 AAR	2323 2424 2329 2422
			2522	2113 FN America LLC	2123	2223 AAR	2323 2424 2329 2422
			2526	2113 FN America LLC	2123	2223 AAR	2323 2424 2329 2422
			2528	2113 FN America LLC	2123	2223 AAR	2323 2424 2329 2422
			2530	2113 FN America LLC	2123	2223 AAR	2323 2424 2329 2422
			2534	2113 FN America LLC	2123	2223 AAR	2323 2424 2329 2422
			2536	2113 FN America LLC	2123	2223 AAR	2323 2424 2329 2422
			2538	2113 FN America LLC	2123	2223 AAR	2323 2424 2329 2422



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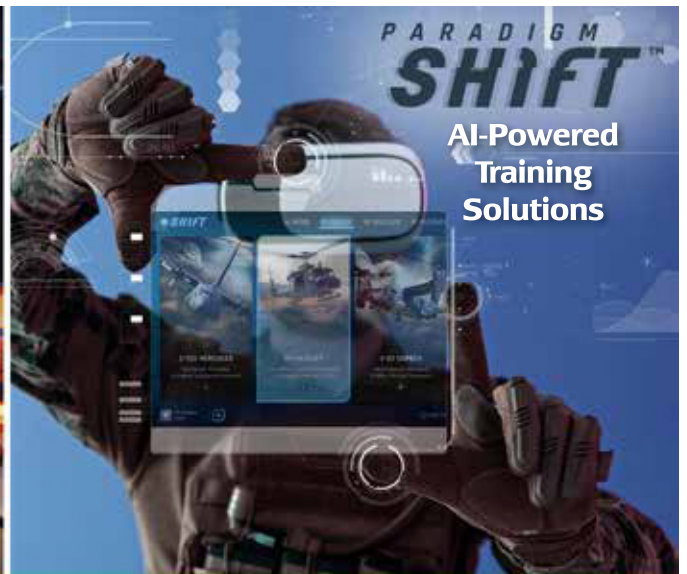


2024 Army Aviation Mission Solutions Summit Exhibitors

EXHIBITOR_NAME.....	BOOTH_NO
128th AVN BDE A&P Training Program	2430
227th Assault Helicopter Battalion.....	3108
AAR	2223
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ACES Systems, a division of Technology for Energy Corporation	3720
Acme Worldwide Enterprises, Inc.....	1923
ADS, Inc.	1701
Aero-Hose, Corp	3724
AEROMETALS.....	3713
AeroVironment.....	1710
Aevex Aerospace	1800
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AIRBUS Americas, Inc.....	1329
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Aircraft & Commercial Enterprises, Inc.....	2130
Akima	822
AllClear Aerospace & Defense.....	3420
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Alpine Aviation Group	3110
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Arete Associates	2331
Army Aviation Museum Foundation, Inc.	100
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Astronautics Corporation of America.....	2422
Astronics Test Systems.....	821
AustraAmerica Aerospace Solutions	3102
Av-DEC	3203
Aviatech Corporation	3603
Aviation & Missile Technology Consortium (AMTC)	3725
Aviation Ground Equipment Corp.....	902
Aviation Leader Q&A	3309
Aviation Service Partners Inc.....	2538
Aviation Specialties Unlimited.....	1704
AVIATRIX, INC.....	123
Avion Solutions	2428
AvionAvTask Inc.	3608
AVT Simulation	3502
AVX Aircraft Company	136
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Boneal Aerospace	1825
Booz Allen Hamilton	4022
Breeze-Eastern LLC	3501
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DigiFlight, Inc.....	223
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DIS Ampex Data Systems	1125
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Donaldson Company	2100
Dontech Inc.	3613
DRG.....	4223
DUSTOFF Association	2301
Dynamic Graphics, Inc.....	1916
EAA Tools, Inc.	4000
East/West Industries, Inc.....	120
Eaton	2204
Eclipse International	4213
Edge Autonomy.....	3327
Elbit America	1734
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University.....	1601
Engineering & Computer Simulations, Inc.	134
ENSCO Avionics	3701
Enterprise Ventures Corporation (EVC)	3305
Envelop Protective Covers a Product of Shield Technologies Corporation	3418
ESCAPE International	1817
Essex Industries.....	524
Europavia American Service.....	4020
FAA Safety Team (CO and WY) & Flight Safety Certificate Management Unit.....	3308
First Aviation Services Inc.	3215
FN America LLC.....	2113
ForeFlight.....	3605
FSI Defense	714
Fuji Filter USA Inc.....	3623
Fulcrum Concepts LLC	4113
GasTOPS.....	3618
GDC Middle East.....	3209
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General Atomics Aeronautical Systems, Inc.	729
General Dynamics Mission Systems	2028
General Dynamics Ordnance & Tactical System	2036
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Georgia Tech Research Institute	1904
Getac	2128
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L3Harris Technologies, Inc.....	901
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Leading Edge Composites Inc.....	1831

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Leonardo Electronics.....	2129
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Lynx Software Technologies	1522
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MAG	1019
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MBDA Inc.....	1236
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Mercury Systems	1511
Metro Aviation.....	1830
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Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) ..	2401

Million Air.....	3714
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Nammo Defense Systems Inc.	4217
National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency.....	4004
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Northrop Grumman	601
Odyssey Systems Consulting Group, Ltd.	3519
O'Neil & Associates, Inc.....	1829
Orbit Communication Systems Inc.....	2530
Oregon Aero, Inc.....	3505
Overwatch Imaging	3604
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PacSci EMC.....	1603
Panasonic Connect	2207
Parker	1628
Parry Labs LLC.....	1811
PartsBase.....	3619
Pathfinder Systems, Inc.....	2526
PCX Aerosystems.....	1023
PeopleTec.....	917
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RBC Aerospace.....	4227
Recoil Aerospace, Inc.....	2215
Red Cat.....	1423
Resion, LLC.....	801
Rhinestahl Corporation	3404
Robertson Fuel Systems, LLC.....	622
Rogerson Kratos	3214
Rohde & Schwarz.....	3312
Rolin Industries, Inc.....	803
Rolls-Royce	315
RTX.....	1101
S.A.F.E. Structure Designs, LLC.....	906
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Sensor Systems, Inc.....	3300
Shield AI.....	1517
Shift5.....	1600
Sierra Nevada Corporation (SNC).....	215
Sikorsky Black Hawk Trailer	135
Silvus Technologies	3205
Simulator Product Solutions LLC	3310
SkyHook Rescue Systems, Inc.....	4008
Snap-On Industrial	3117
Specmat Technologies Inc.....	3711
Spectrum Associates, Inc.....	1929
Spectrum Control.....	3201
Spirit AeroSystems	115
Spokane Stainless Technologies.....	722
StandardAero	724
Stevens Aerospace and Defense Systems...	1300
Summit 7 Systems.....	3304
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Survival Systems Aerostructures	1123
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United Rotorcraft, An Air Methods Division ..	1116
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V2X.....	1835
Valcor Engineering Corporation	3402
Vector Solutions.....	4026
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VIAVI Solutions.....	3709
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Mr. Christopher M. Stuart

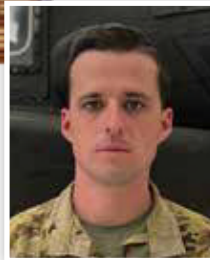
**110th Aviation Brigade
Fort Novosel, Alabama**

Mr. Christopher Stuart is the cornerstone of undergraduate and graduate academics for all rated and non-rated crewmembers in Army Aviation and our partnered nations. He consistently goes the extra mile to ensure Army Aviation maintains its TRADOC accreditation. Chris is directly responsible for academic training for over 3,000 students annually working with the Eastern and Western Army Aviation Training Sites to standardize all USAACE curriculum. His coordination includes scheduling 6,000 separate classes utilizing approximately 100 academic instructors over four separate airframes for over 30 different programs of instruction. Chris managed the TRADOC Self-Assessment Program in preparation for the FY24 TRADOC Accreditation inspection. This included evaluating 4 programs of instruction against TRADOC and USAACE regulatory requirements as well as approximately 500 separate Army Accreditation Evaluation Standards sub-criteria. Mr. Stuart is the epitome of a true aviation professional as he provides the foundation for all flight training though very diverse and demanding academic programs. Not only has he committed himself to selfless civilian leadership in his primary position, but he also mentors and participates in all operations within the 110th Aviation Brigade. His focused dedication to the standards of excellence make him the obvious choice for the 2023 Joseph P. Cribbins Department of the Army Civilian of the Year Award.



James H. McClellan Aviation Safety Award

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CW2 Jared D. Chambers

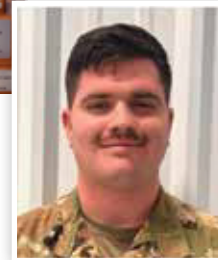
**Company B, 4th Battalion
4th Aviation Regiment
4th Combat Aviation Brigade
Fort Carson, Colorado**

CW2 Jared D. Chambers' innovation and drive made a tremendous impact in increasing safety in aviation operations at a remote out station in Eastern Syria. He proposed the construction of a new helicopter landing zone and forward area refueling and rearming point. He acted as a direct liaison between his aviation task force and the Combined Joint Task Force Chain of Command and Engineers regarding the design and construction timeline to increase aircrew safety and force protection. Mr. Chambers personally took charge of one phase of construction, emplacing T-Walls around the current HLZ, providing cover from indirect fire. This project will provide aircrews safer options to maneuver within the new HLZ, mitigating the potential for blade strikes. Each aircraft will be protected on three sides by T-Walls within their respective parking pads, offering increased protection from indirect fire. Through his efforts, future rotating units will be faced with fewer hazards while trying to launch or return to base due to his advocacy for the safety of aircrews flying in Eastern Syria and Iraq. His dogged determination and forward thinking, making this location for all that follow his unit safer, make him the only choice for the 2023 James H. McClellan Aviation Safety Award.



Gary G. Wetzel Aviation Soldier of the Year

Sponsored by Bell



CPL Trent W. McGuire

**Troop A, 2nd Squadron
17th Cavalry Regiment
101st Combat Aviation Brigade
Fort Campbell, Kentucky**

CPL Trenton McGuire, an AH-64 Apache Crew Chief, demonstrated unwavering dedication and expertise in over 2,000 hours of aircraft maintenance, leaving a lasting impact on Army Aviation and the 2-17th Air Cavalry Regiment, 101st Combat Aviation Brigade, Fort Campbell, Kentucky. His role in demanding maintenance routines, including one 500-hour phase and numerous inspections, underscores his keen attention to detail and understanding of aircraft intricacies. Notably, CPL McGuire played a pivotal role in Operation Lethal Eagle, a high-stakes training exercise, showcasing leadership, technical proficiency, and an ability to excel under pressure. His involvement in the Ultimate Destiny field exercise, testing aircraft limits with a new fuel system, further highlights his commitment to maintaining peak performance in challenging scenarios. A significant achievement was CPL McGuire's leadership during his Troop's JRTC rotation, ensuring four aircraft remained mission-capable for over 21 days of dynamic training, including addressing an engine fire with exceptional bravery. His impact extends beyond technical prowess to personal and professional development with his mentorship leading to the reenlistment of two junior soldiers. CPL McGuire's exemplary service, dedication to excellence, and leadership in critical situations make him an outstanding crew chief and Soldier and clearly identify him as the 2023 AAAA Aviation Soldier of the Year.

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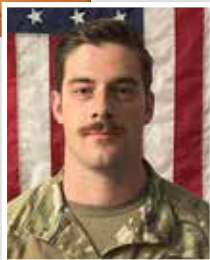


AAA 2024 National Awardees



**Henry Q. Dunn
Crew Chief
of the Year**

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SGT Zachary H. Kingsbury

**Company A, 2nd Battalion
160th Special Operations
Aviation Regiment
Fort Campbell, Kentucky**

SGT Kingsbury is a combat proven MH-47G maintainer, crew chief, and NCO who excelled within Alpha Company 2-160th SOAR (Abn). He earned Fully Mission Qualified (FMQ) status on the MH-47G six months ahead of schedule after successfully completing multiple rigorous evaluations. Two months later, he earned his Flight Engineer designation due to his superior knowledge, expertise, and leadership. This impressive feat is usually reserved for the highest performing FMQs and generally takes two years to achieve, however, SGT Kingsbury accomplished this in only 15 months. This year he led two different CONUS training missions as the section NCOIC. His expertise resulted in 268 corrected maintenance actions totaling 588.2 accident-free man hours. His leadership directly resulted in the Task Force accomplishing nearly one hundred missions, totaling 600 flight hours. He is the embodiment of the total Soldier concept who recently graduated from the Air Movement Control Officer Course, increasing the battalion's deployment capabilities by becoming qualified to certify Strategic Airlift operations. Finally, he selflessly volunteered at work and off-duty to mentor junior NCOs and crew chiefs, guaranteeing their future success while maintaining the prestigious legacy of Alpha Company 2-160th SOAR. These qualities and his professionalism identify him as the AAAA Henry Q. Dunn Crew Chief of the Year.



**Rodney J.T. Yano
Noncommissioned
Officer of the Year**

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SSG David N. Quay

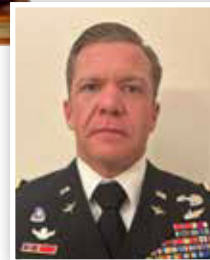
**Company B, 2nd Battalion
160th Special Operations
Aviation Regiment,
Forty Campbell, Kentucky**

Staff Sergeant David N. Quay is what aviation NCOs should strive to be. SSG Quay deployed for three months in support of overseas contingency combat operations and Operation Inherit Resolve. Performing flawlessly as the MH-47G Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge. During this deployment, SSG Quay selflessly facilitated the recovery of two fallen Night Stalkers by descending via rescue hoist from an MH-47G into a fuel infused sea, amongst helicopter debris, in the cold, dark of night to save his comrades. With disregard for his own safety, he fought heavy rotor wash, sea current, and debris to rescue the injured survivor. SSG Quay graduated from the Coast Guard National Search and Rescue school in June, performing excellently as he sharpened his skills for the betterment of his unit and Soldiers. As the Bravo Company maintenance manager and acting Platoon Sergeant, SSG Quay provided the command with redundancy and contingency capabilities, exceeding an 85% operational readiness rate with eight MH-47Gs in the face of high operational-tempo. SSG Quay's efforts made his organization a more ready and professional force in every instance. David is an incredible noncommissioned officer and Flight Engineer Instructor; his leadership and dedication make him undoubtedly the 2023 Rodney T. Yano Noncommissioned Officer of the Year.



**Michael J.
Novosel Army
Aviator of the Year**

Sponsored by Sikorsky, a
Lockheed Martin Company



CW3 Jerry L. Leehy III

**Company A, 2nd Battalion
160th Special Operations
Aviation Regiment
Fort Campbell, Kentucky**

CW3 Jerry L. Leehy III had a phenomenal year. He served as the Company Standardization Pilot for Alpha Company, 2nd Battalion, 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne), as well as one of two Flight Leads. His influence and impact in these positions reached far, extending even to the national and strategic levels. His leadership and expertise as the MH-47G Chinook Flight Lead responding to a no-notice deployment in AFRICOM ensured the success of a critically important and incredibly complex mission in support of the National Mission Force. CW3 Leehy lead a multi service, complex air assault requiring multiple evolutions of in-flight refueling, spanning 15+ hours of flight time over 1500 nautical miles, resulting in the rescue of 84 U.S. personnel. During operations in INDOPACOM, in which CW3 Leehy was again the Flight Lead, he supported the United States' strategic objectives in the area, developing relationships and enhancing interoperability with our foreign special operations counterparts. Finally, Jerry was hand selected to brief members of Congress and share his expertise and experiences as an accomplished special operations Flight Lead, providing his unique insight and helping to shape policy regarding the employment of special operations aviation. These accomplishments make him the only choice as the 2023 Michael J. Novosel Aviator of the Year.



Robert M. Leich Award

Sponsored by Airbus

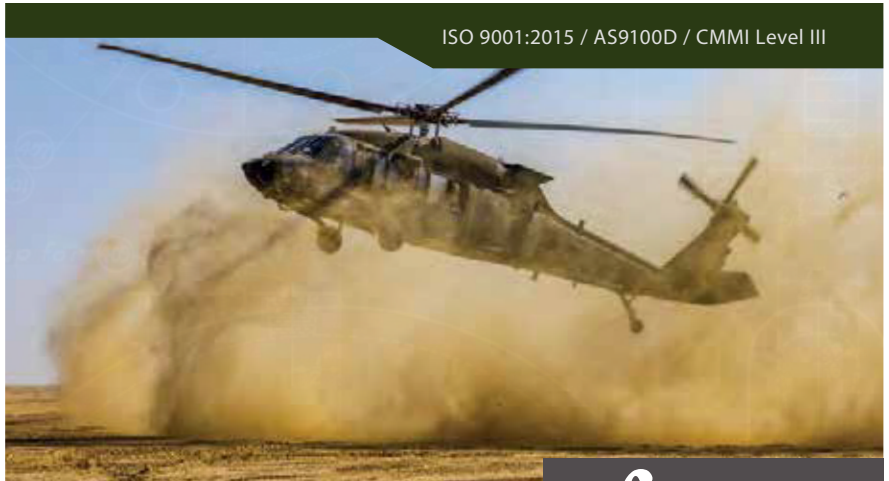


MAJ Dawn V. Herron
(Commander)

1SG Holly A. Dozier
(Senior NCO)

**Company C, 3rd Battalion,
25th Aviation Regiment
25th Combat Aviation Brigade
Wheeler Army Airfield, Hawaii**

Lightning DUSTOFF team at C Company 3rd Battalion, 25th Aviation Regiment, 25th Combat Aviation Brigade is recognized for extraordinary operational and technical contributions to the Army via their vision for and execution of MEDEVAC Projects Week and other activities. MEDEVAC Projects Week brought together Army Futures Command, 8th Theater Sustainment Command, and Stanford to execute the first known example of an Army shore-to-ship-to-shore patient transfer. Two HH-60Ms, dispatched per artificial intelligence models developed at Stanford, transferred a non-live patient over an underway Army Logistics Support Vessel. Both HH-60Ms used dynamic hoist operations in tandem with an automatic hoist stabilization system to lower and raise the patient. Starlink™ was installed on the vessel to transmit the evacuation request, and transport telemedicine tools were used to transfer patient data during the handover. The use of non-aviation capable watercraft as ambulance exchange points significantly expands medical evacuation flexibility and reach in maritime environments. This unit was highlighted in numerous publications for their commitment to saving lives and for modernizing how they accomplish one of the Army's most storied mission sets. They have shaped aviation operations at echelons above, recommended changes to doctrine, and invented, authored, and experimented in a manner like no unit before them. The C/3-25th Avn. Lightning DUSTOFF team is most deserving of the 2023 AAAA Robert M. Leich Award.



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AAAA 2024 National Awardees



AAAA Army Reserve Aviation Unit of the Year

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LTC Nicholas A. Steele (Commander) CW4 Jeffrey A. Luther (Senior WO Advisor) CSM Kansas M. Jackson (Senior NCO)

5th Battalion, 159th Aviation Regiment

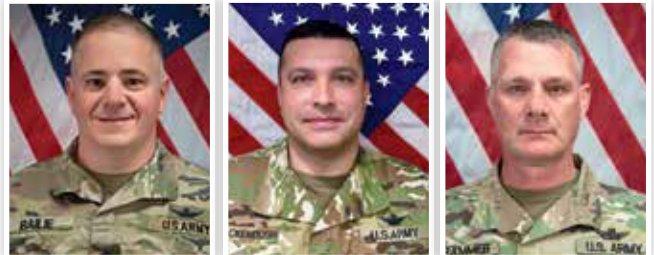
244th Expeditionary Combat Aviation Brigade, Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Virginia

From unprecedented expeditionary deployments to setting benchmarks in overseas exercises, the Dragonmasters of the 5-159th General Support Aviation Battalion demonstrated unwavering commitment to readiness and global collaboration. Meeting and surpassing the Army Reserve Aviation Command's priority objectives, the 5-159th GSAB engaged in training with active-duty counterparts, supported local units for enhanced training opportunities, and participated in recruiting events to foster community bonds between Reservists and civilian populations. These efforts laid the foundation for the command's fourth priority – supporting a Large-Scale Global Exercise in an OCONUS environment. Comprised of 50 aircraft and over 850 Soldiers, the battalion executed more than 5,700 flight hours, supporting over 160 Air Mission Requests in support of a variety of Joint and Multi-compo missions and training events throughout the United States, as well as USAEUR-AF forces and NATO partner-nations in Estonia and Spain, all while maintaining a 67% O/R rate. With a deployment overseas to support Swift Response 23, a DEFENDER Europe exercise, the unit showcased the capability of Army Reserve aviation to simultaneously self-deploy assets into multiple countries and successfully enable multi-national operations. The dedication of the Soldiers of the 5-159th GSAB underscores its pivotal role in enhancing the overall readiness and effectiveness of the Army Reserve's aviation capabilities and earned them recognition as the 2023 AAAA U.S. Army Reserve Aviation Unit of the Year.



AAAA John J. Stanko Army National Guard Aviation Unit of the Year

Sponsored by Honeywell Aerospace



LTC Paul M. Bailie (Commander) CW4 Matthias J. Quackenbush (Senior WO Advisor) CSM Dolan P. Brammer (Senior NCO)

3rd Battalion, 142nd Aviation Regiment

Ronkonkoma, New York

3-142nd Aviation Regiment, also known as Task Force Rough Rider, returned home in the middle of 2023, completing their combat deployment in support of Operation Inherent Resolve/ Operation Spartan Shield. While deployed within six months of its Notice of Sourcing, the Task Force assumed a new mission set for CENTCOM, the Crisis Response Task Force (CRTF)- Aviation Element. TF Rough Rider would lead a force comprised of 20 UH-60Ms and 8 AH-64Es, providing combat support in Iraq and Syria to Combined Joint Task Force-OIR and CRTF Quick Response Force (QRF) capabilities to CENTCOM via Army Central. At the completion of its tour, the TF had flown over 5029.8 accident-free flight hours, transported over 6,384 passengers, including 349 Distinguished Visitors, moved over 259,000 lbs. of cargo, and deployed rotary wing assets to an additional six countries in the CENTCOM Area of Responsibility (AOR). The TF's collaboration with the State Department and Regional Security Officers, reviewing and rehearsing emergency plans, creating integrated level of support allowed them to be postured to respond to current and future hostility. The Soldiers of TF Rough Rider performed with distinction and their efforts went above and beyond expectations earning them recognition as the AAAA John J. Stanko Army National Guard Aviation Unit of the Year.

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AAA 2024 National Awardees



AAA Active Army Aviation Unit of the Year

Sponsored by
L3 Harris



LTC James M. Snowden (Commander) CW5 Frank O. Escamilla (Senior WO Advisor) CSM Timothy W. Stevenson (Senior NCO)

1st Battalion, 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne)

Task Force 1-160
Fort Campbell, Kentucky

1st Battalion, 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne), Task Force (TF) 1-160, excelled in all aspects of execution, sustainment, and innovation throughout 2023. TF 1-160 flew 13,993 flight hours, accounting for 42% of 160th SOAR's flight hours. In 2023, TF 1-160 conducted joint training with partners from throughout the SOF enterprise in the United States and abroad, supported enduring combat operations in multiple countries, and executed three no-notice alert missions. Notably, in April TF 1-160 executed the longest helicopter assault force mission in Army Aviation history, flying almost 1,500 nautical miles across three different countries, requiring 17 aerial refuel rendezvous. This resulted in the rescue of 87 American and allied non-combatants from a country embroiled in civil war, despite multiple surface-to-air threat systems. The TF also conducted an operation in January in support of the National Command Authority which resulted in the elimination of a senior ISIS leader. Finally, in the face of extreme hardship following the crash of an MH-60 with the loss of five crew members and a category 3 tornado that destroyed a portion of Clarksville, TN residential areas, TF 1-160 remained true to its values and commitment to the community as volunteers and selfless servants. For these reasons, 1-160th SOAR (Abn) is most deserving of the 2023 AAAA Active Army Aviation Unit of the Year.



AAA Outstanding Army Aviation Unit of the Year

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The Boeing Company



COL J. Ashley Mills (Commander) CW5 W. Todd Skinner (Command CWO) CSM Douglas J. Krol (Senior NCO)

185th Expeditionary Combat Aviation Brigade

Jackson, Mississippi

The 185th ECAB and three of its organic downtrace units forward deployed in early 2023 to the United States Central Command (USCENTCOM) Area of Responsibility (AOR) in support of Operation Inherent Resolve (OIR), Operation New Normal (ONN) and Operation Spartan Shield (OSS). Assuming the role of Task Force Pegasus, the 185th ECAB successfully assembled a competent and capable brigade-level fighting force from National Guard units across 11 states, a Compo 1 attack battalion, two multi-national partner forces units from Italy and Spain, Compo 3 C-12 and UC-35 fixed wing detachments, and a Gray Eagle Company. The ECAB task-organized into three multi-functional battalion task forces and one support battalion task force. As the largest maneuver formation in the USCENTCOM AOR, Task Force Pegasus' 2,100 Soldiers and maintenance contractors had an operational footprint that touched every country in the AOR. Force protection challenges were heightened after the October 7, 2023 terrorist attacks on Israel by Hamas and Task Force Pegasus seamlessly shifted to crisis action planning and contingency operations. Subject matter experts from all warfighting functions were utilized from the 185th ECAB to provide liaison support at the Combined Joint Task Forces and adjacent units. The dedication and accomplishments of 185th ECAB Soldiers during a most demanding deployment clearly identify them as the 2023 AAAA Outstanding Army Aviation Unit of the Year.



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AAAA 2024 National Awardees

Top Super Chapter of the Year

Sponsored by AAAA National



Tennessee Valley Chapter Huntsville, Alabama

Chapter President:
Mr. Gary Nenninger

The TVC embodies the spirit of AAAA, with its commitment to serving the Army Aviation Enterprise. Chapter membership hit an all-time high of over 2,250 members in November. The chapter hosted more than sixteen professional and social activities in 2023 and TVC volunteers played a key role in the annual Cribbins symposium. The chapter awards committee recognized more than seventy deserving and honorable Aviation Patriots including 6 Order of St. Michael (OSM) Gold awards, 16 Silver, 25 Bronze, 15 Knight Medals and 13 Lady of Loreto Medals. Additionally, more than 42 government civilians were recognized for outstanding performance thru the chapter's Mission Area Award program. The TVC provided 10 members to assist with National Scholarship Application Evaluations, 5 more than requested. Finally, the TVC raised over \$30,000 in scholarship donations; added one Perpetual and one Memorial Scholarship, now totaling 15; and contributed almost \$80,000 to the National Scholarship Foundation. Congratulations to Gary Nenninger and team!

Top Master Chapter of the Year

Sponsored by AAAA National



Gold Standard Chapter Fort Knox, Kentucky

Chapter President:
COL (Ret.) Andrew Doehring

The Gold Standard Chapter is a top candidate for chapter of the year because of the multi-compo support it provides. The chapter has a very strong relationship with Army Active Duty, Army Reserve and Army National Guard aviation units. Through various activities and events throughout the year the chapter is able to support aviation Soldiers, Family Members, Civilians and Students. The Gold Standard Chapter has a long-standing presence on Fort Knox, Kentucky dating back to its origin as the Flying Tigers Chapter and continues to support installation functions and activities. The solid footing the chapter is on, coupled with the successes and support provided for aviation professionals, makes the chapter deserving of chapter of the year. Congratulations to COL (Ret.) Andy Doehring and chapter members!

High Accuracy Detection Exploitation System (HADES) Digital Backbone Nodal Access Units Leverage Off-the-Shelf Solutions



Nano Interface Unit (NIU3E) and Sensor Interface Unit (SIU34) serve as the core components facilitating seamless communication between various standard aircraft interfaces, including MIL-STD-1553, ARINC-429, RS-232/422/485, CANBus, Digital-to-Analog, Analog-to-Digital, Discrete IO, and Ethernet-based sensors, and the high-speed digital backbone Ethernet on the High Accuracy Detection Exploitation System (HADES) aircraft. These units provide critical support to the Digital Backbone Nodal Access Units (NAU), effectively bridging the gap between standard aircraft interfaces and the high-speed digital backbone. By integrating DornerWorks Time Sensitive Network (TSN) deterministic Ethernet IP with DDC-I Deos™ DO-178C DALA Certifiable ARINC-653 RTOS, the NIU3E and SIU34 ensure smooth communication and time synchronization of sensor data throughout the entire digital backbone.



SIU34
Sensor Interface Unit



NIU3E
Nano Interface Unit





AAAA 2024 National Awardees

Top Senior Chapter of the Year

Sponsored by AAAA National



**Prairie Soldier Chapter
Grand Island, Nebraska**
*Chapter President:
CW4 Zachary Hartmann*

The Prairie Soldier chapter has reinvigorated itself this last year. In 2023, the new board set out to provide “Recognition, Experiences, and Benefits” to the chapter. The key accomplishments are: increased membership by 28 members from 81 to 109, inducted 11 OSM / OLL / Knight, presented 9 NCO of the month & 9 Soldier of the month awards, selected Chapter Sponsored Soldier to attend the AAAA Summit in Nashville, awarded 2 \$1,000 Prairie Soldier Chapter Scholarships to members, fundraised approximately \$4,000 from M-17, M-18, and M1 Garand for events and scholarships, held Bluerock & BBQ Cookout, Aviation Ball, and a Tailgate, supported the 1-376th Aviation Ball in Lincoln, and networked with over 1,000 people regarding AAAA and its mission. Congratulations to CW4 Zachary Hartmann and team!

Top AAAA Chapter of the Year

Sponsored by AAAA National



**Jersey Chapter
Joint Base McGuire-
Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey**
*Chapter President:
COL Mike LaPoint*

The Jersey Chapter is gathering momentum as it continues to grow the diverse chapter that includes units from throughout the State and all Army components as well as defense industry. The resilient Jersey Chapter members hung tough during the year and have seen a much-welcomed uptick of enthusiasm for programs and AAAA National events participation. They also continue to vigorously support the Scholarship Program. Once again this year they conducted Army Aviation Nights at The Ballpark, Lakewood, NJ BlueClaws - proceeds donated to Kurowsky/Pohlmann Scholarship; Fall Challenge Golf Tournament at Pine Ridge Golf Course, Lakehurst JB-MDL – proceeds donated to Fisher House; Bowling Championship Tournaments at Lakehurst JB-MDL Bowling Center – proceeds to annual selection; and the Gingerbread Ball – combined professional associations event at Ocean Place Resort and Spa – proceeds donated to Fisher House. Congratulations to the chapter team headed up by COL Mike LaPoint!

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Hall of Fame 2024 Inductees



GEN James C. McConville
Retired

A combat leader who has served at every level from platoon to commanding the famed "Screaming Eagles" of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), and in assignments ranging from the Chief of Congressional Liaison, operations, and plans staff work, to personnel management, logistics, and even serving in one of our special mission units, GEN (Ret.) Jim McConville has done it all.

After graduating from Flight school at then-Fort Rucker, Alabama in 1982, he spent a great deal of his operational career in the cavalry, earning his spurs and in assignments including the 1st Cavalry Division and the 9th, 10th, and 17th Cavalry Regiments, and is a veteran of multiple combat tours to include Afghanistan and Iraq.

He is a Master Aviator who has amassed over 2,500 total hours in every Army attack and scout aircraft to include the AH-1 Cobra, OH-58D Kiowa Warrior, AH-64D Longbow Apache, and the Special Operations AH-6 Little Bird.

He served as the commanding general of the 101st Airborne from 2011 to 2014, the CG of the Combined Joint Task Force-101, during Operation Enduring Freedom, then following his assignment as the Army G-1, he became the Army's 36th Vice Chief of Staff overseeing the day-to-day operations of the Army, and on August 9, 2019, he was appointed the 40th Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army.

Through it all, people remained his number one priority. Famously, GEN McConville has repeatedly stated that "People are the Army. Without our people, we're just a bunch of combat equipment sitting in motor pools, hangars, and arms rooms."

First Army Aviator Chief of Staff, Master Army Aviator, combat commander, special operator, consummate people-first visionary leader, there is no doubt that General James C. McConville has more than earned his place in the Army Aviation Hall of Fame.



CPT Larry L. Taylor
Deceased

A Tennessee volunteer, and Armor officer and an attack helicopter leader, CPT Larry Taylor's service to the nation is to be lauded.

Born in Chattanooga, Tennessee on February 12, 1942, into a family with a record of service dating to the civil war, he answered the call. He was commissioned in 1966 as an Armor officer and made the leap to Aviation, graduating from then-Fort Rucker in 1967. 1LT Taylor went quickly to Vietnam, assigned to D Troop (Air), 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Infantry Division, flying some of the first Bell AH1-G Cobra attack helicopters in combat.

On June 18, 1968, near the village of Ap Go Cong, Republic of Vietnam, 1LT Taylor commanded a team of two Cobra helicopter gunships that responded to an urgent call for support from an encircled U.S. team. Using artillery delivered illumination, he made attack runs through heavy ground fire for 45 minutes, to deliver accurate rocket attacks on the enemy positions. After determining that the ground route was untenable for the forces to evacuate, out of ammunition and low on fuel, 1LT Taylor decided to extract the team with his two-man Cobra helicopter gunship, a feat never before accomplished. He landed amid the fire and instructed the patrol team to climb aboard anywhere they could. With the four-man long range patrol team seated on rocket-pods and skids, he evacuated them to the nearest friendly location, undoubtedly saving their lives.

Captain Taylor was a dedicated combat leader, engaged by enemy fire 340 times and was shot down five. He was awarded at least 50 combat decorations, including the Medal of Honor, the Silver Star, 43 Air Medals, a Bronze Star, and two Distinguished Flying Crosses.

Hall of Fame 2024 Inductees



MG Jeffrey J. Schloesser
Retired

Aviation Soldier, combat Division Commander, Special Operator, Embassy foreign area officer in the Middle East, and founding Deputy Director of the National Counter Terrorism Center, MG Jeffrey J. Schloesser, Retired, has dedicated his life to Army Aviation, the Army, and the Nation.

A graduate of the University of Kansas, he enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1976, attended Officer Candidate School, and was commissioned as an engineer officer in 1977.

After a tour in Germany, he graduated from flight school in 1981 and served in the 6th Cav before joining the Special Operations world of Task Force 160 for multiple tours including commanding two of their three battalions. Always a CH-47 Chinook driver, he commanded the "Innkeepers" of the 271st Aviation Company in Korea, took part in operations from Haiti as 2nd Battalion, 160th commander, to 12th Aviation Brigade commander in Kosovo as well as countless sensitive missions with the 160th.

Over his 34-year Army Career, he had an amazing breadth of assignments ranging from conventional Army, Special Operations, and Arabic Language school, to becoming a National Security Fellow at Harvard including the U.S. Embassy in Amman, Jordan as a foreign service officer and Army Strategist.

After serving as 101st Airborne Division's Assistant Division Commander for Support, during Iraqi Freedom, he became the Director of the Army Aviation Task Force on the Army Staff from 2004 to 2005. In 2006 he served as the 101st AASLT Division Commander for 33 months, including 15 months in combat in Afghanistan, also commanding NATO's Regional Command East, with over 30,000 troops from the U.S., Poland, France, and other allied countries.

Renowned as a military thought-leader and Aviation warrior who always maintained a command climate of total integrity, there is no doubt that MG Jeff Schloesser, Retired, belongs in the Army Aviation Hall of Fame.



CPT Ronald A. Radcliffe
Retired

Ronald A. Radcliffe enlisted in the U.S. Army in February 1961 and was assigned to air defense artillery. He spent one tour in Germany and one tour in Vietnam. In May 1968, he graduated from Officer Candidate School at then-Fort Benning, Georgia. He attended flight school four months later at Fort Wolters, Texas and was subsequently assigned Hunter Army Airfield in Savannah, GA in May 1969.

Returning to Vietnam in 1969, he joined the esteemed 173rd Assault Helicopter Company, of the 1st Aviation Brigade piloting a UH-1 assault helicopter and demonstrating remarkable courage and leadership. His exemplary service saw him promoted to Captain in May 1970. He moved for eight months to Germany before returning to then-Ft. Rucker, Alabama where he learned to fly the OH-6A light observation helicopter.

In October 1971, he returned to Vietnam for his third deployment, this time assigned to F Troop, 4th Cavalry, 1st Aviation Brigade. On 28 April 1972 after taking off from Quang Tri City, his fellow gunship in the flight began to take hits from small arms fire. After radioing a distress call the gunship's transmission burst into flames and crashed. Despite receiving small arms fire, Radcliffe maneuvered his aircraft to within ten feet of the burning aircraft and its exploding ordnance and landed to help facilitate a rescue. The heat was so intense it burned the hair on his face. After his crew chief and the mortally wounded gunship aircraft commander were on board, he directed his crew chief in applying first aid in an effort to save the life of his comrade.

His selfless and gallant actions, disregard for his personal safety and dedication to his fellow service members were recognized with the award of the Distinguished Service Cross. He is one of the most decorated Black Army Aviators of the Vietnam War.

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- Desert Oasis, Saudi Arabia



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All Chapter information is presented in alphabetical state order, followed by overseas locations. Each chapter entry includes the original activation date and current category. Categories are based on membership size as of January 1st of the year – Super (501 and over), Master (175-500), Senior (75-174), and AAAA (74 and below). Chapter officers are reminded that they can update their chapter board information at any time by contacting membership@quad-a.org or send a hard copy to AAAA, 593 Main Street, Monroe, CT 06468-2806; call (203) 268-2450 or fax (203) 268-5870. Membership numbers listed are as of the printing of this issue and are constantly changing.

Bill Harris/Publisher

Alabama

Aviation Center Chapter Fort Novosel, AL



Category: Super Chapter; 1528 Members
Activation Date: 11/1/1957
Website:
www.quad-a.org/AviationCenterChapter

Description: The Aviation Center Chapter is a highly active Super Chapter located at the 'Home of Army Aviation' in Fort Novosel, Alabama. Our chapter has a diverse membership that's derived from 1st Aviation Brigade, 110th Aviation Brigade, Noncommissioned Officer Academy, and 164th Theater Airfield Operations Group. In addition, our membership is supported by these tenant units and support activities: Air Traffic Services Command, Aviation & Missile Command (AMCOM) Combined Logistics Command (ACLC), U.S.

Army Aeromedical Research Laboratory, U.S. Army Combat Readiness Center, U.S. Army School of Aviation Medicine, and U.S. Army Warrant Officer Career College. Our demographics consists of enlisted flight operations and air traffic control training students, flight training students, aircraft qualification courses, aviation maintenance officer course, survival, evasion, resistance, and escape (SERE) training, permanent party Soldiers, DACs, contractors, and retirees. The Chapter will host quarterly general membership meetings, an annual golf tournament in support of fund drive for the AAAA Scholarship Foundation, and support local community spring and fall festivals.

Officers:

- COL Marcus A. Gengler, President
- CW5 Sam R. Baker, III Ret., Senior VP
- MAJ William J. Lewis, Secretary
- CW2 Bryan J. Nelson, Ret., Treasurer
- LTC Mark C. Taylor, Ret., VP Membership
- MSG Dawn Steele, VP National Guard & Reserves
- CSM Micheal D. Sutterfield, Ret., VP Scholarship

Mr. Tildon Kye Allen, VP Awards
CW5 Demetrio Castro, VP Awards
CW5 Jerry Mosley, VP Awards
COL Ray D. Gentyzel, Ret., VP Industry Affairs
CW5 Bryon K. McCrary, Ret., VP Programs
MSG Michael Patrick, VP Enlisted Affairs
CSM Shawn C. McKay, Ret., VP Government Affairs
CW3 Michael F. Monaghan, Ret., VP Publicity
CW4 Robert N. Cooper, Ret., VP Veterans Affairs

Tennessee Valley Chapter Huntsville, AL



Category: Super Chapter; 2188 Members
Activation Date: 2/1/1976
Website:
www.quad-a.org/TennesseeValleyChapter

Description: The Tennessee Valley Chapter (TVC) of the Army Aviation Association

of America (AAAA) remains the largest and most involved professional military association serving the Redstone Arsenal and the greater Tennessee Valley/North Alabama region. The Chapter is passionate about providing its membership with unique and useful Aviation professional development and networking programs, events, and social activities. TVC Leadership maintains a close relationship with the Huntsville/Redstone community including the Army Materiel Command, AMCOM, and PEO Aviation. Indeed, the chapter is the first place for Aviation system commands and Huntsville professional and community organizations to turn to for support of their events. The TVC has built a well-earned reputation supporting the aviation government and commercial Army Aviation enterprise. Each quarter we recognize outstanding support to the Aviation Enterprise by awarding functional Mission Area Awards to our civilian workforce. Through engagement and selfless service, our membership takes to heart the mission of the AAAA, to support the United States Army Aviation Soldiers and their families.

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 COL John J. Maher, Senior VP
 Ms. Shannon L. Murphy, Secretary
 COL Gerald R. Davis, Jr. Ret., Treasurer
 COL William Thomas Breeze, Ret., VP
 National Guard & Reserves
 LTC Jason L. Galindo, Ret., VP Operations
 LTC Tom T. Huff, Ret., VP Scholarship
 CW4 Steven L. Sanders, Sr. Ret., VP Awards
 1SG Matthew D. Shattuck, Ret., VP
 Communications
 LTC John S. Bolton, Ret., VP Civilian Affairs
 LTC Jeffrey A. Crabb, Ret., VP Industry Affairs
 LTC Greg Oelberg, Ret., VP Programs
 COL Michael P. Cavalier, Ret., Member
 at Large
 Ms. Christine L. Henderson, Member at Large
 COL Joseph B. Jellison, Ret., Member
 at Large
 Ms. Bonnie M. Nennering, Member at Large
 COL Norb Patla, Ret., Member at Large
 COL Curtis D. Potts, Ret., Member at Large
 Mr. Louis Scipioni, Jr., Member at Large
 COL Michael N. Thome, RET, Member at
 Large
 COL Gary W. Toney, Ret., Member at Large
 COL Nicholas Dille, VP Chapter Logistics
 LTC Bradley N. Bruce, Ret., VP Community
 Relations
 COL Joe S. Minor, VP CribbinsAPS
 CSM Leon Hite, Jr. Ret., VP Enlisted Affairs
 Mr. Mark Marcus, VP Government Affairs
 CW4 Michael J. Durant, Ret., VP Member
 Enrollment
 MAJ Christian Abney, VP Military Affairs
 MAJ Janice L. Sanders, VP Publicity
 COL Johnathan B. Frasier, Ret., VP
 Veterans Affairs
 COL Brian R. Tachias, Sr. Ret., VP Young
 Professionals Outreach

Yellowhammer Chapter

Hope Hull, AL



Category: AAAA Chapter; 44 Members
 Activation Date: 8/1/2016
 Website:
www.quad-a.org/YellowhammerChapter

Description: The Yellowhammer Chapter provides a platform for Alabama Army National Guard Aviation and Industries of Central Alabama that promote the Army Aviation Enterprise to share knowledge and experience, foster professional networks, and enhance the exchange of ideas.

Officers:

BG Johnny R. Bass, Ret., President
 MAJ Zachary L. Burton, VP Member
 Enrollment

Alaska

Northern Lights Chapter Fort Wainwright/Fairbanks, AK



Category: AAAA Chapter; 63 Members
 Activation Date: 10/1/1971
 Website:
www.quad-a.org/NorthernLightsChapter

Description: Located in the Interior of Alaska at Fort Wainwright, we support two

active duty aviation battalions (1-52 GSAB (CH-47/UH-60) and 1-25 ARB (AH-64), a Gray Eagle Company (D/25 AVN), and a National Guard Detachment (UH-60).

Officers:

Mr. Eric W. Collier, Senior VP
 Mr. Robert D. Marcinkowski, Treasurer

Arizona

Arizona Chapter Mesa, AZ



Category: Master Chapter; 317 Members
 Activation Date: 12/1/1985
 Website:
www.quad-a.org/ArizonaChapter

Description: The Arizona Chapter provides a forum for aviation professionals to share experiences and gain knowledge. We supports local high school and college ROTC students and promotes Army Aviation in the Phoenix and Maricopa County areas. We annually help fund a ROTC student to attend the national AAAA Conference and routinely recognize both military and civilian personnel who have had positive impacts on Army Aviation. We conduct fundraising events to support local charities and to fund annual AAAA scholarship awards. We have an increasing participation from and support activities with the local Arizona National Guard aviation unit.

Officers:

LTC Robert Solano, President
 COL James Barker, Ret., Senior VP
 Mrs. Katie Yursky, Treasurer
 LTC B. J. Wiley, Ret., VP Scholarship
 Mr. Scott Lenzmeier, VP Awards
 CW5 Steve A. Lapping, Ret., VP Programs
 Mr. Scott R. Swinsick, VP Golf Tourney
 LTC Jack H. Denton, VP Member
 Enrollment
 LTC Justin Douglas, VP Military Affairs

Old Tucson Chapter

Cortaro, AZ



Category: Senior Chapter; 100 Members
 Activation Date: 5/1/1987
 Website:
www.quad-a.org/OldTucsonChapter

Description: Supporter of the greater Tucson area, our Old Tucson Chapter is especially lucky to support Army Aviation, families and the community through the Western ARNG Aviation Training Site (WAATS). Meetings and events take place all around town with an emphasis in the community. We are a chapter with a solid volunteer effort layered heavily with a love for Army Aviation that is unmatched anywhere else! Be sure to check us out!

Officers:

CW4 Latny L. Salt, President
 Ms. Jacqueline Gordon, Senior VP
 SSG John A. Maez, Secretary
 SGM Daniel J. Snyder, Treasurer
 SFC Paul Eckles, VP Membership

Thunder Mountain Chapter Fort Huachuca, AZ



Category: AAAA Chapter; 62 Members
 Activation Date: 10/1/2006
 Website: www.quad-a.org/ThunderMountainChapter

Description: The Thunder Mountain Chapter is located at Fort Huachuca, AZ. The chapter provides support to U.S. Army Aviation Soldiers, Families, and Retirees assigned to Fort Huachuca, AZ or living in the surrounding areas. The units which are directly supported by the chapter are the 2d Battalion, 13th Aviation Regiment and D Company, 304th Military Intelligence Battalion. The 2-13th Aviation Regiment falls under the U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence, Fort Novosel, AL and conducts all Unmanned Aircraft Training for Army Aviation. D Company, 304th MI BN is the Special Electronic Mission Aircraft (SEMA) unit falling under the US Army Intelligence Center of Excellence and conducts all pilot and mission package operator training for RC-12 variant aircraft training. Chapter membership consists of U.S. Army Active Duty, National Guard, Reserve, and Civilian Army Aviators as well as several Defense Industry personnel. Chapter membership number as of December 2023 is 67 personnel.

Officers:

Mr. Raymond Rivera, Jr., President
 SSG Miguel A. Ortiz, Ret., Senior VP
 Mr. Christopher Odum, Treasurer
 CSM Chasitie Lee, VP Membership
 SFC Kayla Hubbard, VP Scholarship
 CW5 Karl S. McKenzie, VP Programs

California

Grizzly Chapter Fresno, CA



Category: AAAA Chapter; 50 Members
 Activation Date: 8/1/2017
 Website:
www.quad-a.org/GrizzlyChapter

Description: The Grizzly Chapter of the Army Aviation Association of America is dedicated to supporting the Soldiers and Families of the Army Aviation Community in California. We plan to provide a wide array of support to the Aviation Community through scholarships, community service and networking. We will recognize excellence of those in the Aviation Community in the Central Valley and Northern California region and recognize their contributions and sacrifices in supporting the people of the State of California.

Officers:

COL Shiloh Briggs, President
 LTC David Lovett, Senior VP
 MAJ Joe Gentry, Secretary
 MAJ Marco Acevedo, Treasurer
 MAJ Joseph Burke, VP Scholarship
 SFC Lindsey Denee Tillman, VP Awards
 CSM Janet L. Graves, VP Enlisted Affairs

High Desert Chapter Fort Irwin, CA



Category: AAAA Chapter; 65 Members
 Activation Date: 3/1/1991
 Website:
www.quad-a.org/HighDesertChapter

Description: The High Desert Chapter is comprised of OC/Ts of Eagle Team and Eagle Team Flight Detachment and aviators from 2916th Aviation Battalion "Raptors", including MEDEVAC, VIP, SOKOL, and Gray Eagle. Aside from being a professional forum, we also provide comradery and cross-organization coordination in a very small and remote Army post.

Officers:

LTC Eric Megerdooian, President
 LTC Patrick J. Taylor, Senior VP
 CW3 Edward A. Smith, Secretary
 SFC Frank L. Young, Jr., Treasurer
 CPT Tyler Scott Meadows, VP Operations
 CPT John Anthony Moreno, VP Member
 Enrollment

Southern California Chapter Huntington Beach, CA



Category: Master Chapter; 319 Members
 Activation Date: 4/1/1959
 Website:
www.quad-a.org/SouthernCaliforniaChapter

Description: Southern California chapter encompasses the Southern half of the state approximately from Vandenberg AFB on the West to Bakersfield on the East and all points South, to and including San Diego. Over 40% of the members are industry members, another 40% are active, guard, and reserve personnel, and the remaining 20% are individuals. 10% of the members are Life Members. The chapter's center of mass and focus on the Army Aviation Soldier, is the Los Alamitos JFTB and Army Airfield located in Los Alamitos, CA, Orange County, located 35 miles south of Los Angeles. The primary units supported include company-size elements of the 6-52 Aviation Regiment, US Army Reserve, and those of the 40th Infantry Division, CAARNG. Two battalions of the 40th ID's CAB, the 1-140th Assault Helicopter Bn, and the 640th Aviation Support Bn are located at the Los Alamitos Army Airfield.

Officers:

LTC John F. Hendrickson, Ret., President
 LTC Thomas E. Lasser, Ret., Senior VP
 COL Russell W. Chung, Ret., Secretary
 MAJ Matthew S. Jackson, VP National
 Guard & Reserves
 COL Russell W. Chung, Ret., VP
 Scholarship
 CSM Ronald D. Cabrera, VP Awards
 Mr. Michael N. Letson, VP Member
 Enrollment

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Colorado

Pikes Peak Chapter Fort Carson, CO



Category: Master Chapter; 270 Members
Activation Date: 6/1/1959
Website:
www.quad-a.org/PikesPeakChapter

Description: The Pike's Peak Chapter AAAA is comprised of Army Aviation Units from Fort Carson and the surrounding areas to include Colorado Army National Guard and Army Reserves. We represent AAAA to our local communities through annual events and partnerships with local businesses, leaders and members of the local community, and our military members. Our chapter's history stretches back to the beginning of Army Aviation in the Pikes Peak region of CO, and includes Aviation elements of the 4th Infantry Division, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, 10th Mountain Division, and 7th Infantry Division. Acknowledging AAAA's commitment to supporting the United States Army Aviation Soldier and Family, the Pike's Peak Chapter similarly exists to support the more than 3,000 Ivy Eagles assigned to 4CAB, 4ID. Specifically, the Pikes Peak Chapter draws on its unique Mountain Post location and unit lineage to curate events that foster camaraderie, enhance unit pride, and contribute to participants' professional development as members of the Army Aviation community.

President:

Mr. Joshua M. Bryan, President
LTC Kristopher Troy Gillett, Senior VP
CW5 William S. Kearns, Senior VP
CW5 Corey N. Mallard, Secretary
MAJ Austin T. Moore, Treasurer
CW4 Kenneth E. Lett, VP Scholarship
CSM Chad E. Keirns, VP Awards

Connecticut

Connecticut Chapter Stratford, CT



Category: Master Chapter; 415 Members
Activation Date: 3/1/1973
Website:
www.quad-a.org/ConnecticutChapter

Description: The Connecticut Chapter is located in Monroe, Connecticut. And supports the following Units; 1109th TASMG, Connecticut National Guard, 1st BN, 169th Aviation Regiment, Windsor Locks, CT, Connecticut ARNG Support Facility, Windsor Locks, CT, Set. 6, OPN Set. Airlift Agency (OSA-A) Windsor, Locks, CT. Defense Contract Management Agency (DCMA), Stratford, CT. The chapter is made up of Military and Civilian personnel.

Officers:

Mr. John H. Palumbo, President
CW4 Charles H. Brady, Ret., Senior VP
Mr. Ronald B. Kwalek, Secretary
Mr. Matthew Lisk, Treasurer

Mr. Douglas C. Shidler, Past President
LTC Paul B. Hoar, Ret., VP Scholarship
Mr. Jay Hurlley, VP Communications
Mr. Domingos Fernandes, VP Programs
CSM Anthony V. Savino, VP Enlisted Affairs
Mr. Tom Nicolett, VP Government Affairs
Ms. Christina Beale, VP Member Enrollment
COL William P. Shea, Ret., VP Military Affairs

Florida

Central Florida Chapter Oviedo, FL



Category: Super Chapter; 584 Members
Activation Date: 3/1/1989
Website:
www.quad-a.org/CentralFloridaChapter

Description: The Central Florida Chapter is made up of former Aviation Soldiers and volunteers mostly with ties to Simulation because of the proximity of PEO STRI. Our footprint includes Orlando, Tampa and Miami and everything in between. We support mainly two aviation locations Clearwater and Brooksville where both USAR and ARNG reside. The chapter's success is based on a core of volunteers and social attendees with Vietnam and Desert Storm routes who attend every social. Our battle rhythm has been tweaked over the years but routine and continuity though Google drives and a savvy social media campaign truly is the reason for our success.

Officers:

Mr. Michael G. Younce, President
Mr. Chris C. Wanitshka, Senior VP
CW4 Steve T. Grady, Ret., Secretary
Mr. Robert M. Puglisi, Treasurer
COL Kevin A. Vizzarri, Ret., Past President
Mr. Robert Biggers, VP Industry Affairs
COL John M. Ferrell, Ret., VP Member Enrollment
MSGT Sean Osmond, VP Publicity
COL Marcus L. Varnadore, USAR Ret., VP STRI Affairs
LTC Steven D. Belton, Ret., Advisor

Embry Riddle Eagle Chapter Daytona Beach, FL



Category: AAAA Chapter; 25 Members
Activation Date: 1/1/1978
Website:
www.quad-a.org/EmbryRiddleChapter

Description: Our Chapter's goals are to help individuals learn, network, and succeed in the aviation sector of the army. We have both military and civilian members primarily comprised of ROTC cadets and prior service aviators. Located in Daytona Beach on the campus of Embry Riddle Aeronautical University, we have many Civilian General Aviation members. Our main focus is to support the ROTC Eagle Battalion cadets.

Officers:

Ms. Hannah Miller, President,

Flying Gator Chapter St. Augustine, FL



Category: Senior Chapter; 96 Members
Activation Date: 2/1/1990
Website: www.quad-a.org/FlyingGatorChapter

Description: The Flying Gator Chapter's mission is to build camaraderie within the membership and U.S. Army Aviation in Florida, develop partnerships with local charitable organizations, and establish a scholarship program to provide college opportunities to talented young adults in our area. This chapter wants to be involved in our community. **Units Supported:**
- 1-111th GSAB; - HHC/1-111th; - Det 1/B Co./1-111th; - C Co./1-111th; - D Co./1-111th; - E Co./1-111th; - B Co./2nd-151st S&S; - B Co./1st-185th BN; - Det 4/B Co./351st ASB; - Det 1/B Co./2nd-245th TAB; - 2-111th AOB

Officers:

COL Brett Rhodenizer, President
MAJ Joshua D. Peek, Senior VP
CW2 Ian Fajardo, Secretary
CW4 Adam Denny, Treasurer
MSG Michael A. Lee, VP Membership
LTC Michael J. Rung, VP Scholarship

Georgia

Follow Me Chapter Columbus, GA



Category: AAAA Chapter; 46 Members
Activation Date: 4/25/2018
Website:
www.quad-a.org/FollowMeChapter

Description: Location is at Fort Moore, GA (Formerly Fort Benning). We are primarily made up between the Ranger Flight Company and the Ranger Air Ambulance Detachment, the only two aviation units on Fort Moore, GA. Members are primarily made up of current and former members of each unit.

Officers:

MAJ Dustin Duncan, President
MAJ Benjamin J. Krzeczowski, Senior VP
CPT Richard O. Dobson, III, Secretary
SFC Neil Roy, Treasurer
Mr. Brian Terry, VP Membership

Greater Atlanta Chapter Marietta, GA



Category: Master Chapter; 269 Members
Activation Date: 1/1/1968
Website:
www.quad-a.org/GreaterAtlantaChapter

Description: Greater Atlanta Chapter supports all Army Aviators and their families both past and present in the North Georgia area. We are dedicated to advancing and educating the units of the 78th Avia-

tion Brigade on the future of Army Aviation and the benefits of AAAA.

Officers:

COL Barry B. Simmons, President

Savannah Chapter Hunter AAF, GA



Category: Senior Chapter; 171 Members
Activation Date: 11/1/1966
Website:
www.quad-a.org/SavannahChapter

Description: The Savannah Chapter is in Savannah, Georgia, and supports the Soldiers and Aviators on Hunter Army Airfield from the 3rd Infantry Division. The Chapter assists the 3rd Combat Aviation Brigade, 3rd Battalion - 160th SOAR, 224th Military Intelligence Battalion, and the Georgia National Guard's 78th Aviation Troop Command.

Officers:

CSM Jason D. Huff, President
1SG Christopher J. Cashell, Ret., Treasurer

Hawaii

Aloha Chapter Wahiawa, HI



Category: Senior Chapter; 174 Members
Activation Date: 2/1/1958
Website:
www.quad-a.org/AlohaChapter

Description: The Aloha Chapter represents the Hawaiian Islands and includes all AAAA members and units of US Army Hawaii (US-ARHAW) as well as retired Hawaiian residents and their families. Additionally, all Hawaiian Army National Guard and Army Reserves Service Members within the state fall under the Aloha Chapter. This blanket ensures the Aloha Chapter demographic is diverse with Soldiers constantly moving on and off the Islands and state resident members founded in rich Hawaiian culture and progressive Island atmosphere. The Aloha Chapter's reach to the Pacific is tied directly to the USARHAW Pacific Pathways mission and guarantees the chapter's ability to extend influence and learn from experiences throughout the Pacific Islands, Asia, Australia, and all of the US. The Chapter's focus is to capitalize on this reach and bring AAAA members together to stay connected and build strength on the heritage of Army Aviation in Hawaii.

Officers:

COL Dave P. Brostrom, Ret., President
COL Matthew J. Scher, Senior VP
MAJ Anthony Tankiewicz, Secretary
1LT Anthony M. Golden, Treasurer
CW5 Dan Lynn, Committee Chair
CPT Sean Lucas, VP Operations
CPT Ariel Day, VP Awards
CSM Brandon Roush, VP Enlisted Affairs
CPT Patrick M. Brito, VP Events & Marketing
CW4 Charles A. Villanida, VP Member Enrollment

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Idaho Idaho Snake River Chapter Boise, ID



Category: Senior Chapter; 140 Members
Activation Date: 5/1/2008
Website:
www.quad-a.org/IdahoSnakeRiverChapter

Description: The chapter is located in Boise, Idaho at Gowen Field. An organization that supports Idaho soldiers and their families by participating in events that foster camaraderie and fellowship throughout the military community - both past & present, provides scholarship programs to aid youth in their education and to participate in activities that strengthen family unity. Feeder units are 1-183 AHB, Det 2/168 GSAB (MEDEVAC), DET 1/CO D/1-112th AVN S&S BN (LUH), and DET 35 (C-12). The Idaho Aviation Group consists of approximately 400 Soldiers.

Officers:
CW4 John C. Jacobs, President
CPT Katherine R. Smith, Secretary
CW4 Nathan B. Spaulding, Treasurer
SFC Ryan Q. Nelson, VP Scholarship
SFC Michael J. Signorio, VP Awards
SFC Wes Lee Obenauer, VP Member Enrollment

Illinois Land of Lincoln Chapter Peoria, IL



Category: AAAA Chapter; 21 Members
Activation Date: 4/1/1996
Website:
www.quad-a.org/LandofLincolnChapter

Officers:
COL Leonard H. Jansen, Ret., President
CW5 David W. Hammon, Treasurer

Kansas Flint Hills Chapter Manhattan, KS



Category: Senior Chapter; 90 Members
Activation Date: 4/1/1959
Website:
www.quad-a.org/FlintHillsChapter

Description: The Flint Hills chapter is located in the Flint Hills region of central Kansas supporting the 1st Infantry Division and surrounding Kansas National Guard units.

Officers:
COL Chad Corrigan, President
MAJ Luke A. Bryan, Senior VP
CSM Robert N. Christensen, Secretary
CPT Joseph Ellison, Treasurer
MAJ Justin M. Martini, VP Awards

Frontier Army Chapter Fort Leavenworth, KS



Category: Senior Chapter; 90 Members
Activation Date: 8/1/1969
Website:
www.quad-a.org/FrontierArmyChapter

Description: We are a senior chapter stationed at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. Most of our members are retired aviation officers because there are no aviation units assigned on post. We do have 50-70 Aviation students attended CGSC and SAMS each year that participate in our AAAA activities.

Officers:
COL Jim Tenpenny, Ret., President
COL Paul E. Berg, Senior VP

Iowa Iowa Chapter Cedar Rapids, IA



Category: Senior Chapter; 97 Members
Activation Date: 6/1/1981
Website:
www.quad-a.org/iowachapter

Description: We are the Iowa Chapter for AAAA. We are based out of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and are working towards building our membership. We support the Iowa Army Reserve in multiple locations.

Officers:
Tony Allou, President
Kelley Kirtz, Treasurer
Kevin Johnson, Secretary
Kevin Nelson, Senior VP
Aaron Runge, VP Member Enrollment

Kentucky Air Assault Chapter Fort Campbell, KY



Category: Super Chapter; 679 Members
Activation Date: 12/1/1959
Website:
www.quad-a.org/AirAssaultChapter

Description: The AAAA Air Assault Chapter includes Active Duty Soldiers from the 101st Combat Aviation Brigade and the 160th Army Special Operations Aviation Regiment, retired Aviation Soldiers and Civilians. The Air Assault Chapter welcomes current, former, and retired aviation Soldiers, aviation support personnel, and all others interested in Army Aviation to become members of the organization. Our Chapter actively supports and sustains our Soldiers, their families, and their assigned unit activities. The Air Assault Chapter provides reduced costs for younger soldiers to attend organizational events with their families. We also provide scholarship funds to soldiers, senior NCOs, officers,

and their families. Our chapter provides recognition Awards for Aviation Soldiers, aviation support personnel, and spouses.

Officers:
COL Henry C. Ruth, III Ret., President
COL Stephen C. Smith, Ret., Senior VP
CW5 George C. Arzente, Ret., Secretary
CW5 Jeff Gregg, Ret., Treasurer
Mr. Walter Gerald Adams, VP
Membership
MAJ Scott W. Hollingsworth, Ret., VP
Scholarship

Bluegrass Chapter Frankfort, KY



Category: AAAA Chapter; 48 Members
Activation Date: 3/1/2007
Website:
www.quad-a.org/BluegrassChapter

Description: The 63rd Theater Aviation Brigade, based in the picturesque city of Frankfort, KY, is a distinguished military unit renowned for its exceptional aerial capabilities and unwavering dedication to service. Situated amidst the rolling hills of the Bluegrass region, where thoroughbred horses gallop and world-famous bourbon is distilled, the brigade embodies the spirit of Kentucky's rich heritage and natural beauty. Comprised of highly trained aviators and support personnel, the 63rd TAB stands as a testament to excellence, prepared to uphold its mission with precision and valor. The 63rd TAB supports 751st TC, 202nd Band, 133rd MPAD, B Co 2-147th AVN, C Co 1-376th S&S, B Co 351st ASB, C Co 2-238th AVN, Det 4 C Co 2-245th AVN.

Officers:
CPT Christopher M. Englen, President
COL Michael Armstrong, Senior VP
1LT Joseph Miller, Secretary
CPT Jacob E. Conner, Treasurer
CW2 Amanda N. Marlow, VP Scholarship
MAJ Jessica M. Miller, VP Awards
LTC Gabriel D. Spicer, VP Programs
1LT David B. Judd, VP Member Enrollment

Gold Standard Chapter Fort Knox, KY



Category: Master Chapter; 185 Members
Activation Date: 8/1/1959
Website:
www.quad-a.org/GoldStandardChapter

Description: The Gold Standard Chapter is located at Fort Knox, KY and represents Central Kentucky and Southern Indiana. The chapter ends 2023 with 196 members consisting of Active Duty, Army Reserve, Army National Guard, Civilian, Defense Industry and Students. The chapter supports many aviation units, primarily 8-229th Aviation Regiment (AHB), the Army Reserve Aviation Command (ARAC), Human Resources Command Aviation Branch Personnel Management (Officer, Warrant Officer, NCO and Enlisted), 244th

Expeditionary Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Theater Support Command, 5th Corps, Aviation Support Facility - Fort Knox, and C Co (TAC), 6-52nd Aviation Regiment (TAB), C Co (Medevac) & F Co (ATS), 5-159th Aviation Regiment (GSAB) and 638th Aviation Support Battalion (INARNG).

Officers:
COL Andrew D. Doehring, Ret., President
CW5 Chris A. James, Ret., Senior VP
MAJ Stephen Kramer, Ret., Treasurer
CW3 Timothy A. Dailey, VP Scholarship
COL Brad P. Luebbert, Ret., VP Activities
MAJ Ryan G. Whipple, VP Programs
SSG Matthew Lee Zink, USAR, VP Member Enrollment

Louisiana Bayou Chapter Camp Beauregard Pineville, LA



Category: AAAA Chapter; 25 Members
Activation Date: 2/15/2017
Website:
www.quad-a.org/BayouChapter

Description: As part of the Aviation family, we firmly stand behind the AAAA mission: "Supporting the Army Aviation Soldier and Family". Bayou Chapter's goal is to afford membership benefits and opportunities to local personnel with an eagerness to advance the purpose of the Association. The decision to create a new chapter generated a lot of excitement from units based in Pineville. It was not hard to get the first 25 members to sign up. After one membership drive, we reached 39 members, 29 of which will be brand new AAAA members. Within a week, we were able to organize and conducted a start-up meeting, nominated and elected officers, and formed committees. Our facility has a very diverse mission set. We are home to an UH-60A/L Medevac Company, Air Traffic Control Company, Maintenance Det, UH-60M Air Assault Det, LUH-72 MEP Service & Support Det (Raid/Counter Drug), and a TUAS Det. All of these units are formally attached to a Theater Airfield Operations Group (TAOG). Having a AAAA Chapter provides an excellent source of bringing all these people from different professional aviation backgrounds together. Some key highlights that excite new members are that AAAA offers great opportunities to network as a professional in the total Army Aviation community. It also provides an opportunity to recognize Soldiers who do extraordinary things. Another reason that generated a lot of excitement was the scholarship program. AAAA actively helps Service Members find employment after their career in Army Aviation has ended. The PCEP program provides Industry Members opportunities to access highly-skilled and disciplined personnel who can be productive members of their work force. This type of marketing can definitely give Soldiers an edge when applying for civilian jobs. AAAA also gives the Army Aviation community a voice in government. The biggest reason for excitement is AAAA enables Service Members to provide support for our brother and sister Soldiers, Families, and AAAA members through AAAA activities. Having a local

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chapter will increase esprit de corps. It will bring a sense of cohesion and support. Having the means to conduct activities, such as socials, meetings, events together provides an excellent vehicle for building good team relationships. There are multiple deployments on our horizon, spread out far and near. Being part of this association will mean that no matter where you go in the world, you will still have a place in Bayou Chapter. Sometimes that sense of belonging can turn a bad day into a good one. This sense of unity is the primary reason we want to start our own Chapter. Our goal is to build a strong and successful chapter that will provide members access to these wonderful benefits for many years to come.

Officers:

MAJ Chad Allen Hines, President
LTC Joseph W. Deville, Jr., Senior VP
CPT David A. Carroll, Secretary
CW4 Jesse Curtis, Treasurer
CW4 Jeffrey N. Ballew, VP Awards

Ragin' Cajun Chapter Fort Johnson, LA



Category: AAAA Chapter; 37 Members
Activation Date: 4/1/1973
Website: www.quad-a.org/RaginCajunChapter

Description: We are the Rajun' Cajun Chapter! We are located here at Fort Johnson with members ranging from active duty to retired. We are composed of units here on the installation being sourced mainly from the 1st Battalion 5th Aviation Regiment.

Officers:

LTC Edward A. Williams, Ret., President
CW2 Jeffrey Speck, Secretary

Voodoo Chapter Hammond, LA



Category: Senior Chapter; 104 Members
Activation Date: 6/1/2002
Website: www.quad-a.org/VoodooChapter

Description: Voodoo Chapter is a relatively small chapter that's over 20 years old now, and still supporting Soldiers and their families. The Soldiers of Voodoo are a continuously deploying bunch that have strong ties with their neighbors and communities. They have been regularly supporting operations at home and abroad since the early 2000's. The members and their families have been fortunate in taking advantage of the robust scholarship program that Voodoo Chapter has grown, awarding up to 12,000.00 a year in Scholarships. We are all excited to be part of this chapter and part of Army Aviation Association of America and will continue to grow and help our members, their families and the communities in which we live.

Officers:

MAJ Brian J. Lagarde, President
COL John P. Plunkett, Senior VP
SGM Rudolph M. Cambre, Ret., Treasurer
SSG Stephen L. Gifford, Jr., VP Member Enrollment

Maryland Mid-Atlantic Chapter Aberdeen, MD



Category: Master Chapter; 349 Members
Activation Date: 9/1/1966
Website: www.quad-a.org/Mid-AtlanticChapter

Description: The Mid-Atlantic Chapter supports the U.S. Army Aviation Soldier and Family Army Aviation across Maryland and Delaware. The Chapter is affiliated with the Maryland Army National Guard's State Army Aviation Office (SAAO), 29th Combat Aviation Brigade (CAB) Headquarters and 1100th Theater Aviation Sustainment Group (TASMG), CECOM C4ISR, 20th CBRNE Command, and Aberdeen Test Center based at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland. The Chapter is also affiliated with the Delaware Army National Guard (DEARNG) through DEARNG's State Aviation Office based at Delaware National Guard JFHQ New Castle, DE and 244th ECAB, headquartered at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, NJ.

Officers:

COL Charles H. Schulze, Ret., President
COL David M. Paolucci, Senior VP
CW3 Mark E. Escherich, Secretary
1SG Matt T. Gwin, Treasurer
LTC Michael G. Olmstead, Ret., VP Membership
CW5 Albert B. Isenock, RET, VP Scholarship
CW3 Teri C. Thomas, VP Awards

Massachusetts Minuteman Chapter Hanscom AFB, MA



Category: Master Chapter; 193 Members
Activation Date: 12/1/1991
Website: www.quad-a.org/MinutemanChapter

Description: AAAA Minuteman Chapter Supports the United States Army Aviation Soldier and their Families in Massachusetts and beyond. Army Aviation Units within Massachusetts consist of the 3/126 AVN, DET 12 OSA, 224th and the 638th. These units are supported by Army Aviation Support Facilities (AASF) One and Two, located in Bourne and Westfield MA.

Officers:

CW5 Matthew Cummings, President
CW4 Daniel E. MacSwain, Senior VP
1LT Siobhan J. Murphy, Secretary
CW4 Brian Gannon, Ret., Treasurer
MAJ Daniel P. Quinn, VP Scholarship
SPC Michael Anderson, VP Awards
CW4 Timmy L. Tompkins, VP Programs
CW4 Thomas E. McNulty, VP Retired Affairs

Michigan Great Lakes Chapter Grand Ledge, MI



Category: Senior Chapter; 163 Members
Activation Date: 4/1/2000
Website: www.quad-a.org/GreatLakesChapter

Description: The Great Lakes Chapter is your local resource for all things Army Aviation. Here in Michigan, we work closely with the 3-238th GSAB in Grand Ledge, the C-12 detachment in Lansing, the AASF#2 in Selfridge, and the UAS unit in Grayling. AS a member of the Army Aviation family, we take pride in being your professional organization.

Officers:

SGT Cody Rambo, President
Mr. Anthony T. Kruckeberg, Secretary
CW3 Bryan Zischke, Senior VP
WO1 John S. Votzke, Treasurer
MAJ Todd M. Osborne, Jr., VP Awards
CW4 Ronald F. Ziehmer, VP Membership
CW3 Aaron L. Cartwright, Sr., VP Scholarship

Minnesota North Star Chapter St. Paul, MN



Category: Master Chapter; 179 Members
Activation Date: 3/1/1991
Website: www.quad-a.org/NorthStarChapter

Description: The AAAA North Star Chapter is located in St. Paul, MN. The organization supports the 34 Expeditionary Combat Aviation Brigade which consists of HHC/34 ECAB, 2-147 Assault Helicopter Battalion, and 834 Aviation Support Battalion.

Officers:

LTC David Wagner, President
LTC Joshua Roetman, Senior VP
MAJ Jonathan P. Andrews, Treasurer
CPT Brandon S. Hale, VP Scholarship
SFC Caleb T. Oberg, VP Enlisted Affairs
CW5 Steven M. Shoemaker, Ret., VP Retired Affairs

Mississippi Magnolia Chapter Jackson, MS



Category: Senior Chapter; 114 Members
Activation Date: 5/1/2001
Website: www.quad-a.org/MagnoliaChapter

Description: The Magnolia Chapter represents 12 Aviation units, 3 flight facilities, 1

AVCRAD, and 1 TASMG throughout Mississippi. The Chapter officers are made up of representatives from several of these units and therefore exists all over the State.

Officers:

LTC Len A. Fortenberry, President
MAJ Kenneth George Strickland, III, Senior VP
CW4 Robert S. Herrington, Secretary
MAJ Brandon L. Dixon, Treasurer
CW3 Anthony J. Impastato, II, VP Member Enrollment

Missouri Lindbergh Chapter Defiance, MO



Category: Master Chapter; 196 Members
Activation Date: 8/1/1960
Website: www.quad-a.org/LindberghChapter

Description: The Lindbergh Chapter's history dates back to August of 1960. The Chapter started the annual Cribbins Product Support Symposium has grown to be one of the significant annual AAAA events. The membership of the chapter encompasses Army Aviation family members across the Bi-state area of Missouri and Illinois centered around the Saint Louis metropolitan area. The current strength is right around 200 members who support our four annual membership events each year. We continue to have several Scholarship winners each year.

Officers:

Mr. David J. Weller, President
Mr. Timothy Hughes, Senior VP
Ms. Vicki L. Schmitz, Secretary
Mr. Michael G. Tesi, Treasurer
Mr. Robert Stenberg, VP Scholarship
Ms. Jan J. Garmon, VP Member Enrollment

ShowMe Chapter Sedalia, MO



Category: AAAA Chapter; 61 Members
Activation Date: 5/1/1998
Website: www.quad-a.org/ShowMeChapter

Description: The ShowMe Chapter represents the Army Aviation community of the Missouri Army National Guard. ShowMe represents 35th Combat Aviation Brigade and its subordinate battalions, 1-135th Assault Helicopter Battalion and the 935th Aviation Support Battalion. The ShowMe Chapter also represents the 1107th Aviation Group and the Missouri AVCRAD. The Missouri AVCRAD is the premier AVCRAD of the National Guard.

Officers:

LTC Derrick S. Jennings, President
MAJ Robert Hedgepath, Senior VP
CW5 Greg McManus, Ret., Vice President
COL Paul Howerton, Secretary
MAJ Benjamin A. Hansen, Treasurer

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Montana

Big Sky Chapter Helena, MT



Category: AAAA Chapter; 60 Members
Activation Date: 3/1/2018
Website:
www.quad-a.org/BigSkyChapter

Description: The Big Sky Chapter is based out of Helena MT, and supports all current and prior Army Aviation members for the State of Montana. It directly supports the 1-189th GSAB as the only Army Aviation unit in Montana. There are members of the Big Sky Chapter who served elsewhere and either made their way home to Montana or decided to make Montana their home and they come from all areas of Aviation. We have a variety of ranks and ages currently serving as members and will continue to strive for improved membership numbers by holding more AAAA activities and membership drives. Getting the information out to those non-members and the benefits of being an AAAA member are significant.

Officers:

COL Robert Oleson, President
LTC Noah Genger, Senior VP
CPT Thomas Meredith, Secretary
MAJ Dustin Horswill, Treasurer
CW3 Patricia Osborn, VP Scholarship
1SG Dan Johnson, VP Awards
CPT Kevin Stein, VP Member Enrollment

Nebraska

Prairie Soldier Chapter Grand Island, NE



Category: Senior Chapter; 109 Members
Activation Date: 7/14/2009
Website:
www.quad-a.org/PrairieSoldierChapter

Description: The Prairie Soldier Chapter is primarily made up of Nebraska Army National Guard Aviation soldiers, retirees, and family members. Units supported are located in Lincoln and Grand Island Nebraska. Unit's include 1-376th S&S BN HHC, A Co, and D Co with UH-72s. G Co 2-104th GSAB MEDEVAC with UH-60s. B Co 2-135th GSAB with CH-47s. Det 1, Co A 641st and Det 43rd OSA with the C-12, and Det 4, Co B 640th ASC.

Officers:

CW4 Zachary Hartmann, President
CPT Jeb Myers, Senior VP
MAJ Derek Zulkoski, Secretary
CPT Andrew Hunt, Treasurer
CW4 Stephen C. Gonifas, VP Membership
1SG Ronald Kary Schroeder, Retired, VP Scholarship
CW5 Paul Arthur Robinson, VP Fund Raisers
1SG Wade Kopetzky, VP Enlisted Affairs

Nevada

Battle Born Chapter Reno, NV



Category: Senior Chapter; 78 Members
Activation Date: 3/1/2018
Website:
www.quad-a.org/BattleBornChapter

Description: The Battle Born Chapter continues to grow since its inception in 2018. Mainly comprised of Nevada Army National Guard Members and retirees within the State's Aviation community. Assigned units include companies from the: 1-189th GSAB, 2-238th GSAB, and 3-140th AVN REGT; OSA-A Det 45th; and HHC 991st Aviation Troop Command. Several other leadership positions within the state are held by past and current Aviators also active in the chapter.

Officers:

LTC Michael Bordallo, President
CW3 Jacob Houser, Secretary
CPT Jacob Pestana, Treasurer

New Hampshire

Live Free or Die Chapter Concord, NH



Category: AAAA Chapter; 53 Members
Activation Date: 06/1/2023
Website:
www.quad-a.org/livefreeordiechapter

Description: Concord New Hampshire supporting c Co 3/238th AV, A Co. 1/169th AV, OSA Det 18, LUH unit this fall, retirees, and local business.

Officers:

COL David R. Mattimore, President
CW5 George Quinby Munson III, Senior VP
SFC Aaron DeAngelis, Secretary
SFC Joseph Phinney, Treasurer
CW4 Brian D. O'Leary, Ret., VP Membership
CW3 Michael Fletcher, VP Programming
CPT Ginger Munson, VP Scholarships

New Jersey

Jersey Chapter Neptune, NJ



Category: AAAA Chapter; 12 Members
Activation Date: 3/1/1959
Website:
www.quad-a.org/JerseyChapter

Description: Jersey chapter is located in Ocean County, NJ. Members' backgrounds vary from military members to government civilian employees and support contractors working for the C5ISR Center Flight Activity located in the JBMDL, Lakehurst, NJ.

Officers:

COL Mike LaPoint, President
Mr. John G. Klubnick, Sr., Senior VP
Mr. Robert M. Zanzalari, Vice President
LTC Eric J. Tolska, Secretary
Mr. Jin Park, Treasurer
Mrs. Catherine C. Roache, VP Member Enrollment
Ms. Nicole K. Zaretski, VP Social Media

New Mexico

Zia Chapter Santa Fe, NM



Category: Senior Chapter; 84 Members
Activation Date: 7/1/2007
Website:
www.quad-a.org/ZiaChapter

Description: Zia Chapter is a mix of retired and national guard Army Aviation Soldiers as well industry partners who live in New Mexico. Members are primarily from Albuquerque, Santa Fe, and Las Cruces where the New Mexico Army National Guard has aviation units garrisoned with Lakodas, Blackhawks, and Fixed Wing Aviation units. We focus on a mix of activities including those down south near the Las Cruces facility and other activities up north servicing the Santa Fe facility.

Officers:

MAJ Michael A. McGahie, President
SFC Ryan Haworth, Senior VP
Mr. Guy C. Gleason, Secretary
CW4 Trudy Truax, Ret., Treasurer
LTC Linda M. DuMoulin, VP Scholarship
1SG Ashley Azzalina, VP Awards

New York

Black Knights Chapter Warwick, NY



Category: AAAA Chapter; 53 Members
Activation Date: 2/1/1988
Website:
www.quad-a.org/BlackKnightsChapter

Description: The Black Knights Chapter is a chapter centered around West Point and the branch-related activities of the Academy. The purpose of the chapter is to provide mentorship to cadets who want to branch Aviation and to establish a strong of Aviation professionals in the Hudson Valley, NY area.

Officers:

COL Richard Melnyk, President
MAJ Caitlin M. Withenbury, Secretary
LTC Andrew T. Bellocchio, Treasurer
LTC Connie M. Lane, VP Member Enrollment
MAJ Jill Rahon, VP Scholarship

Empire Chapter Rochester, NY



Category: AAAA Chapter; 52 Members
Activation Date: 8/1/1992
Website:
www.quad-a.org/EmpireChapter

Description: Represent National Guard Aviation in upstate and western New York. Supporting: 642nd ASB, C 171 (MEDEVAC), B 3-126th (CH-47's), 27th BSB (UAS)

Officers:

LTC Eric R. Fritz, President
MAJ Michael Thomas Jamieson, Senior VP
CW5 Mark A. Vahey, Treasurer
CW2 Jared Twigg, VP Membership
LTC Jeffrey Kneer, VP Scholarship

MacArthur Chapter

New York / Long Island Area, NY



Category: Master Chapter; 212 Members
Activation Date: 2/1/1992
Website:
www.quad-a.org/MacArthurChapter

Description: The MacArthur Chapter was formed in 1985 by the soldiers assigned to the 42nd Aviation Bn, NYARNG located at MacArthur Apt, Islip NY. Initially the chapter was comprised of about 20 Officers and Enlisted soldiers. Since then our membership has increased to over 200 and includes many corporate members. Supported units include NY Army Aviation Support Facility #1 Ronkonkoma NY, 3rd BN 142 Aviation, HHC(-) 3rd BN 142 Aviation, B CO 3rd BN 142 Aviation, B Co.(-) 642 Support Battalion (ASB).

Officers:

MAJ Salvatore W. Garcia, President
BG Jack A. James, Senior VP
CW4 Timothy Scott Dahlen, Sr. Ret., Secretary
CW5 James G. Freeman, Ret., Treasurer
CW4 Neal L. Humphries, VP Membership
CW3 Kevin Craig, VP Scholarship
CW4 Robert Hansen, VP Awards
CPT Richard Siracusano, III, VP Communications
SSG Carl J. Vecchio, Ret., VP Industry Affairs

Mohawk Chapter Latham, NY



Category: AAAA Chapter; 62 Members
Activation Date: 1/1/2016
Website:
www.quad-a.org/MohawkChapter

Description: The AAAA Mohawk Chapter is located in Latham, New York, and supports current and former Army Aviation members from the Greater Capital District. Supported units include NYARNG's Joint Force Headquarters, Latham, NY; 42nd Infantry Division, Troy, NY; 42nd Combat Aviation Brigade, Latham, NY; 3-142 Assault Helicopter Battalion, Latham & Ronkonkoma, NY; Det. 2, Co. A, 1-224 Search and Security Battalion, Latham, NY; and Det. 5, Co. C, 2-245 Aviation (C-12), Latham, NY. The purpose of the Mohawk Chapter is to execute and implement the objectives of the

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National Association within the Chapter's territory. This includes the Capital District of New York State, plus such nearby interested parties not otherwise affiliated with other organized efforts of AAAA in their Regional or National segments. The major emphasis of the Mohawk Chapter will be to support the Army Aviation Soldier, the Army Aviation community, the National Army Aviation Scholarship Foundation, and activities that further the interest in Army Aviation.

Officers:

LTC Paul Michael Bailie, President
COL Jason C. Lefton, Senior VP
LTC Henry T. Chandler, Secretary
2LT Ajay Raghavendra, VP Membership
MAJ Charles S. Ackley, Jr., VP Scholarship
MAJ Forest J. Thrush, VP Awards
CW2 John M. Grassia, VP Communications
CW3 Louis A. Malizia, Jr., VP Programs

North Country Chapter Fort Drum, NY



Category: Senior Chapter; 76 Members
Activation Date: 3/1/1989
Website:
www.quad-a.org/NorthCountryChapter

Description: The AAAA Mohawk Chapter is located in Latham, New York and supports current and former Army Aviation members from the Greater Capital District. Supported units include NYARNG's Joint Force Headquarters, Latham, NY; 42nd Infantry Division, Troy, NY; 42nd Combat Aviation Brigade, Latham, NY; 3-142 Assault Helicopter Battalion, Latham & Ronkonkoma, NY; Det. 2, Co. A, 1-224 Search and Security Battalion, Latham, NY; and Det. 5, Co. C, 2-245 Aviation (C-12), Latham, NY. The purpose of the Mohawk Chapter is to execute and implement the objectives of the National Association within the Chapter's territory. This includes the Capital District of New York State, plus such nearby interested parties not otherwise affiliated with other organized efforts of AAAA in their Regional or National segments. The major emphasis of the Mohawk Chapter will be to support of the Army Aviation Soldier, the Army Aviation community, the National Army Aviation Scholarship Foundation, and activities that further the interest of Army Aviation.

Officers:

CW5 James O. VanMeter, President
CSM Christopher D. Cooper, Senior VP
CW2 Veronica L. Fallon, Secretary
Mr. David Kerr, Treasurer
MAJ Derek Brown, VP Scholarship
SGT Jasen Modell, VP Awards
SSG Joshua Payne, VP Fund Raisers
MAJ Daté O. Dakitse, VP Member Enrollment
LTC Sean Stapler, SR AV Leader

North Carolina Iron Mike Chapter Fort Liberty, NC



Category: Master Chapter; 209 Members

Activation Date: 3/1/1959

Website:

www.quad-a.org/IronMikeChapter

Description: Located at Fort Liberty, North Carolina, home of the Airborne and Special Operations Forces, the Iron Mike Chapter supports a large and diverse Aviation community consisting of the 82nd Combat Aviation Brigade, the United States Army Special Operations Aviation Command, and aviators conducting operations in support of FORSCOM, the XVIII Airborne Corps, USASOC, and the 82nd Airborne Division.

Officers:

COL Bryan Morgan, President
LTC Ryan I. Moore, Senior VP
CW5 Charles W. Roberts, Ret., Treasurer,
MAJ Tanya Tersillo, VP Awards,

Tarheel Chapter Raleigh, NC



Category: Senior Chapter; 134 Members
Activation Date: 12/1/1977
Website:
www.quad-a.org/TarheelChapter

Description: The Tarheel Chapter is proud of our "First in Flight" heritage, supporting our Army Aviation Soldiers and family members now for over 45 years. We are considered a Quad-A Senior Chapter and represent about 150 current and former North Carolina Army National Guard members across the great state of North Carolina. We are based primarily out of our unit locations in Morrisville, Raleigh and Salisbury, NC. However the chapter reaches across the entire state to support its varied and geographically dispersed aviation community. The 449th Combat Aviation Brigade, 1-130th Attack Battalion and 2-130th Airfield Operations Battalion and their subordinate units are the focus of our support. All which have been extensively engaged in training and deployments over the last several years. The 449 TAB was awarded the AAAA Unit of the year in 2019 and the 1-130 ARB was the National Guard Unit of the year in 2020. The Tarheel chapter continues to build momentum with our new chapter officer team. We want to maintain the gains made over the last several years especially through support to the scholarship program. We have donated over \$100,000 to scholarships including what will be about \$15000 this year. We have been more consistent with our Order of St. Michael Awards and look forward to awarding many more to deserving candidates. We also look forward to more social interaction, personal engagements and attendance at National Conference Events. Especially our annual golf tournament which is our big money generator for local and national scholarships. Most importantly we continue to be proud our all the units and aviation Soldiers we represent across our great State!

Officers:

LTC Mark E. Pickett, President
LTC Mark VanVeldhuizen, Senior VP
CW3 Carl A. Glover, Ret., Secretary

MAJ Bethany Barden, VP Communications
MAJ Charles Green, VP Membership
MAJ Timothy Joel Thomas, VP Scholarship

Ohio

Wright Brothers Chapter Columbus, OH



Category: Master Chapter; 259 Members
Activation Date: 2/1/1991
Website:
www.quad-a.org/WrightBrothersChapter

Description: The Wright Brothers Chapter of the Army Aviation Association of America was established in 1991 to commemorate and document the contributions of Army Air Crews from Ohio in the defense of their country, and to recruit and support future generations of Aviators. Mission: Promote Army Aviation in Ohio. Motivate Army Aviation Personnel to increase their knowledge, techniques, and skills. Recognize outstanding contributions to Army Aviation. Exchange ideas and disseminate information promoting Army Aviation to the media/community. Provide special group programs of benefit to the individual members. Stimulate good fellowship between Army Aviation-related personnel. Foster a public understanding of Army Aviation and inspire public interest and support in Ohio. Cement relationships between all Aviation Units, Army Aviation Support Facilities, Local Industry, and Wright Brothers Chapter members in Ohio. Conduct quarterly meetings and events in support of Army Aviation interests.

Officers:

LTC Kristopher J. Johnson, President
MAJ John D. Howard, Senior VP
SFC Daniel Hingston, Treasurer
CPT Jeffrey S. Gyurcsik, Ret., VP Scholarship
SFC Bernard J. Miesse, Ret., VP Social Events

Oklahoma

Thunderbird Chapter Tulsa, OK



Category: Master Chapter; 213 Members
Activation Date: 1/26/2012
Website:
www.quad-a.org/ThunderbirdChapter

Description: The Thunderbird Chapter supports Army Aviation professionals and their families across greater Oklahoma and the surrounding areas. The membership body consists of a cross-section of the Army Aviation community which is represented by members from the Oklahoma Army National Guard, ROTC Cadets from five colleges and universities within the state, a large population of military retirees, and multiple partners from the defense industry supporting several military installations within the region.

Officers:

LTC Chad C. Mihalek, President
MAJ Scott E. Collins, Jr., Senior VP
SFC Vernon Smith, Treasurer
CSM William C. Ritter, VP Membership
CPT Michael B. Senn, VP Scholarship
MAJ John R. Pollard, VP Awards
1SG James A. Mahan, VP Communications

Oregon

Oregon Trail Chapter Salem, OR



Category: Senior Chapter; 150 Members
Activation Date: 5/1/1995
Website:
www.quad-a.org/OregonTrailChapter

Description: Oregon is one of two States without an Active Duty post, but that has not stopped us from building a large and active Aviation support group. We shifted our focus to supporting our families (Movie Night, Christmas parties, scholarships, school visits), Aviators/Soldiers (social events, coffee, OSM, MOB parties, State Conference hospitality suite, membership drives, Lifetime membership knife presentation, disable aviation vet events), while taking an active role in preserving our aviation history (OV-1 Mohawk project, AAAA articles).

Officers:

LTC Nathan P. Edgecomb, President
CSM Patrick Casha, Treasurer
SSG Elana Cleveland, VP Awards
CW3 Michael S. Newgard, VP Membership
Mrs. Helen Dumbrava, VP Scholarship
Ms. Larissa Hamilton, VP Member Enrollment
CPT Taylor Frye, VP Pendleton
MAJ Timothy Heater, VP Salem Area

Pennsylvania

Delaware Valley Chapter Philadelphia, PA



Category: Master Chapter; 263 Members
Activation Date: 4/1/1969
Website:
www.quad-a.org/DelawareValleyChapter

Description: The Delaware Valley (Philadelphia) Chapter is centered around the Ridley Park Boeing facility that produces the CH-47 Chinook for the U.S. Army and various International customers, and the V-22 Osprey for the USMC, USAF, and US Navy. Additionally, in the region, the Delaware Army National Guard is nearby along with several aerospace industry leaders and partners. The chapter holds an annual golf event to raise financial assistance which provides scholarships to college-level members of AAAA.

Officers:

LTC Christopher P. Downey, Ret., President
Mr. Patrick Donnelly, Senior VP

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Mr. Ryan Blue, Secretary
1SG John R. Keim, Jr. Ret., Treasurer
Mr. Jim Nietupski, VP Membership
Ms. Cathy Anthony, VP Scholarship
Mr. Dave R. Eck, VP Programs

Keystone Chapter Indiantown Gap, PA



Category: Master Chapter; 237 Members
Activation Date: 10/1/1981
Website:
www.quad-a.org/KeystoneChapter

Description: The Keystone AAAA Chapter is comprised of current and retired PAARNG soldiers across PA ranging from the 28th ECAB to EAATS. The Keystone Chapter supports Soldiers stationed in central at Fort Indiantown Gap with AASF1 and Johnstown in Western PA with AASF2.

Officers:

LTC Greg Gobel, President
CPT Nathan A. Bevans, Senior VP
CPT Abby V. Yox, Secretary
CPT Diego Wilson, Treasurer
1LT Dane Boltz, VP Scholarship
MAJ Rory Joseph Lipsett, VP Awards
CPT Stephen Perneli, VP Communications
CW4 Terrance E. Bale, Ret., VP At Large
CW5 Dale A. Yoder, VP At Large
1SG Matthew D. Stohrer, Sr., VP Enlisted Affairs
CPT Matthew Nieberding, VP Member Enrollment
COL Howard R. Lloyd, Jr. Ret., VP Retired Affairs
CW5 Richard G. Adams, II, VP WO Affairs

Rhode Island Narragansett Bay Chapter North Kingstown, RI



Category: AAAA Chapter; 54 Members
Activation Date: 8/1/1992
Website:
www.quad-a.org/NarragansettBayChapter

Description: The Narragansett Bay Chapter of the Army Aviation Association of America is committed to supporting the Soldiers and families of Rhode Island Army Aviation. The Chapter is centered around the 1st Battalion 126th Aviation Regiment. The Battalion participated in both OIF and OEF, continues to support contingency operations such as Operation Spartan Shield and Operation Inherent Resolve, and has a history that traces back to World War II.

Officers:

COL John S. MacDonald, President
MAJ Jarred Rickey, Senior VP
CW3 Rachel Giblin, Treasurer
CW4 Gregory S. Jones, VP Scholarship
SFC Jason R. Garland, VP Enlisted Affairs

CPT Tyler W. Donovan, VP Member Enrollment
CPT Matthew J. Schultz, VP Member Enrollment
CW3 David Edmund Powers, II, VP WO Affairs

South Carolina Jimmy Doolittle Chapter Columbia, SC



Category: Master Chapter; 200 Members
Activation Date: 3/1/1997
Website:
www.quad-a.org/JimmyDoolittleChapter

Description: The Jimmy Doolittle Chapter is the only AAAA Chapter in South Carolina and supports 1200 Soldiers and their families. The Jimmy Doolittle Chapter is the bridge from the past, present, and future of Aviation in South Carolina. We strive to connect our rich heritage in the state as well as nation as we continue to support the Aviation Soldier and Family's.

Officers:

COL John W. McElveen, President
CPT Joshua R. Blizzard, Senior VP
CPT James A. Smith, Secretary
1LT Connor Thornton, Treasurer
CW4 James Brian Cox, VP Membership
CPT Victor R. Wakefield, III, VP Awards
SFC William R. Carlson, VP Scholarship

Tennessee Volunteer Chapter Smyrna, TN



Category: Master Chapter; 211 Members
Activation Date: 10/1/2005
Website:
www.quad-a.org/VolunteerChapter

Description: Volunteer chapter is primarily composed of active and retired members of the Tennessee Army National Guard, and more specifically 1-230th Assault Helicopter Battalion (formerly 1-230th Air Cavalry Squadron) and subordinate units. The chapter has operations in three primary locations in the state, Jackson, Nashville, and Louisville (Knoxville airport). Units supported include A, B, D, E, Companies of 1-230th AHB, Company C(-) 2-151st AVN REGT S&S, an Air Ambulance detachment from 1-171st AVN REGT MED, an Air Ambulance detachment from 1-111th AVN REGT, an Air Ambulance detachment from 2-135th AVN REGT, a maintenance company detachment from Co B 777th AVN BN, and a maintenance company detachment from 248th SP BN.

Officers:

LTC John Lodes, IV, President
CPT Taylor Barrett, Secretary
MAJ Brian T. Lennon, Treasurer
MAJ Phillip W. Draper, VP East
MAJ David R. Swan, VP Middle
CW3 Richard L. Rogers, VP West

Texas

Corpus Christi Chapter Corpus Christi, TX



Category: Senior Chapter; 157 Members
Activation Date: 1/1/1964
Website:
www.quad-a.org/CorpusChristiChapter

Description: The Corpus Christi Chapter, located in Corpus Christi, Texas was established in Jan 1964. The core membership is made up of current and past employees of the Corpus Christi Army Depot (CCAD) and other Army units, which employ nearly 3000 employees; consisting of Active Army, Department of the Army Civilians, Contractors, Industry Partners, Aviation veterans and retirees, and others who have a desire to support the Army Aviation community. It also supports other AAAA members throughout the state. The chapter has a full slate of chapter officers to include a Chapter President, Senior VP, Treasurer, Secretary, and VP's for Scholarships, Activities, and Publicity and Marketing.

Officers:

Ms. Suellen D. Dennett, President
Mr. Marc Gonzalez, Senior VP
Mr. Wesley Thomas, Secretary
Ms. Jahna D. Fulton, Treasurer
CPL Joel Torres, VP Programs
Mr. Samuel E. Villalobos, VP Marketing
Mr. Kevin S. Rees, P.E., VP Member Enrollment

Jack H. Dibrell/Alamo Chapter San Antonio, TX



Category: Senior Chapter; 161 Members
Activation Date: 4/1/1960
Website:
www.quad-a.org/JackHDibrellAlamoChapter

Description: The AAAA Jack H. Dibrell/Alamo Chapter includes past and present members 36th Combat Aviation Brigade and surrounding former crew member throughout central and south Texas. The Chapter welcomes current, former, and retired crew members, aviation support personnel, and all others interested in Army Aviation to become members of the organization.

Officers:

COL Robert Guevara, President
CW4 Pedro J. Vargas-Lebron, Senior VP
LTC Jose L. Reyes, Ret., VP Industry Affairs,

North Texas Chapter Fort Worth, TX



Category: Super Chapter; 500 Members

Activation Date: 10/1/1964
Website:
www.quad-a.org/NorthTexasChapter

Description: The North Texas Chapter is located in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex area. It is comprised primarily of defense contractors working at Bell Helicopter, Airbus Helicopter, Elbit, Howell Instruments, SKF Aerospace, DynCorp International, GE and L-3 Communications. The membership also includes military retirees, members of the Army Reserves (2-149th GSAB) located at JRB Fort Worth and Texas Guard located in Grand Prairie, Texas (old Navy Dallas facility). The chapter actively supports the Army Aviation Scholarship Foundation with six perpetual scholarships and eight matching funds scholarships.

Officers:

COL Carl R. Coffman, Ret., President
Mr. Craig J. Dupuy, Senior VP
COL Michael E. Demirjian, Ret., Secretary
Mr. Noma C. Martini, Ret., Treasurer
LTC Terrance L. Reiningger, Ret., VP Scholarship
COL Gary L. Cunningham, RET, VP Programs
CW4 Anne Wiley, Ret., VP Member Enrollment

Phantom Corps Chapter Fort Cavazos, TX



Category: Master Chapter; 244 Members
Activation Date: 11/1/1958
Website:
www.quad-a.org/PhantomCorpsChapter

Description: The Phantom Corps Chapter is located at Fort Cavazos in central Texas. Supported aviation units are 1st AIRCAV; 166 AVN BDE; 15th MI(AE) and aviation personnel in the Corps / Division BCTs and HQs.

Officers:

CSM Douglas K. Greene, Ret., President
CW5 Jeff L. Wagner, Ret., Senior VP
MSG Perry L. Molden, Jr., Secretary
CW2 Joann L. Courtland, Treasurer
MAJ Nicholas Craig, , VP Scholarship
CW4 Brandon C. Vance, VP Awards
SSG Craig T. Monaghan, , VP Member Enrollment

Rio Grande Chapter El Paso, TX



Category: Senior Chapter; 104 Members
Activation Date: 9/1/1972
Website:
www.quad-a.org/RioGrandeChapter

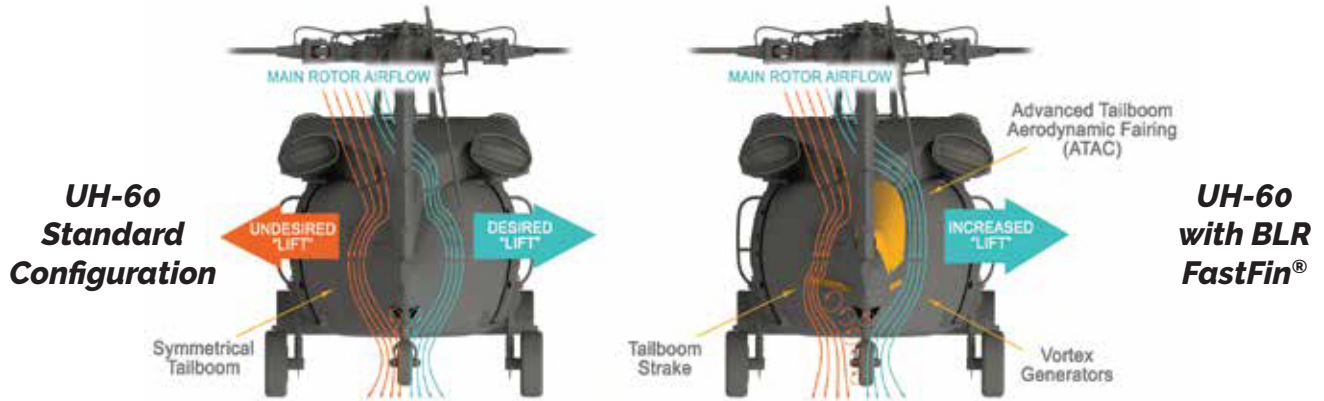
Description: We are a small Chapter supporting an Aviation Brigade that is very active supporting the Army's needs, all across the world. We also support a very unique MI organization who has a one-of-a-kind mission. We are happy to be supporting the soldiers and families of this great branch.



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Officers:

SGM Michael R. Teague, President
LTC George W. Benter, IV Ret., Senior VP
1SG Eric Pantoja-Torres, Secretary
SFC Edwin Marquez-Rosado, Treasurer
CPT Garret James Pluhar, VP Awards
MAJ Victor A. Munoz, VP Member Enrollment

Utah

Utah Chapter West Jordan, UT



Category: Senior Chapter; 121 Members
Activation Date: 2/1/2008
Website: www.quad-a.org/UtahChapter

Description: The chapter is located at the Utah AASF, West Jordan, UT. Units Supported: 97th Aviation Troop Command, 1-211th (ARB), 2-211th (GSAB), Det 4 B/1-112th (LUH-72), and Det 4/50 641st AVN REG (C-12) We currently have 904 Aviation Soldiers.

Officers:

COL Trent Rasmussen, President
CW4 Matthew L. Garrand, Senior VP
CW3 Frederick R. Bittner, Treasurer
COL John W. Dzieciolowski, VP National Guard & Reserves
CW5 Stephen Rugg, Ret., VP Awards

Vermont

Green Mountain Boys Chapter Green Mountain, VT



Category: Senior Chapter; 80 Members
Activation Date: 11/1/2021
Website: www.quad-a.org/GreenMountainBoysChapter

Description: The Green Mountain Boys Chapter of AAAA is made up of Aviation soldiers from Vermont and the New England area as well as industry and retired members. 2021 was our inaugural year, and we look forward to building a community that supports the various deployments from the Vermont Army National Guard aviation units!

Officers:

CPT Samuel T. Slater, President
MAJ David Johnston, Senior VP
CPT Ryan Farina, Secretary
MAJ John Lescure, Treasurer
MAJ Dan Davis, VP Scholarship

Virginia

Colonial Virginia Chapter Fort Eustis, VA



Category: Master Chapter; 385 Members
Activation Date: 7/1/1958
Website: www.quad-a.org/ColonialVirginiaChapter

Description: The Colonial Virginia Chapter is located in Tidewater Virginia centrally located between Virginia Beach, Hampton, Newport News, and Yorktown. Predominant units supported are U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC); U.S. Army Future Command, 128th Aviation Training Brigade, and Aviation Development Directorate-Eustis, ADD-E. The diverse functions of the units served by the Colonial Virginia Chapter includes a MACOM, capabilities integration and futures planning, science and technology, research and developmental testing, maintenance training, and a United States Army Reserve unit.

Officers:

LTC Ryan M. Miedema, Ret., President
LTC Sam Redding, Senior VP
Mr. George Travis Rabb, Secretary
SFC Steven Lamar Burge, Ret., Treasurer
Mr. Bob Tamplet, VP Scholarship
LTC William R. Cristy, Ret., VP Awards
LTC David C. Meyer, Ret., VP Industry Affairs

Stonewall Jackson Chapter Sandston, VA



Category: Senior Chapter; 91 Members
Activation Date: 4/1/1996
Website: www.quad-a.org/StonewallJacksonChapter

Description: The AAAA Stonewall Jackson Chapter serves the Richmond and Central Virginia region serves the Virginia Army National Guard aviation units, Soldiers, civilian employees, and family members. Located at the Army Aviation Support Facility in Sandston, VA. Supporting: 2-224 AVN, 1/A/1-169 AVN, 1/A/2-151 AVN, 1/C/2-245

Officers:

COL Matthew Craig Lewis, President
LTC Alva L. Pace, Ret., Senior VP
SFC David DeWeese, Secretary
CW2 Jacob Grubbs, Treasurer
CW3 Darrell Busquets, VP Awards
CW3 Matt Wildman, VP Member Enrollment
1LT Valerie Gwen Harter, VP Programs
CPT Ethan J. Bradshaw, VP Scholarship

Washington-Potomac Chapter Arlington, VA



Category: Super Chapter; 1057 Members
Activation Date: 8/1/1958
Website: www.quad-a.org/Washington-PotomacChapter

Description: This "Super Chapter" of 1000 members covers the National Capitol Region. We are best known for supporting AAAA Scholarships and our unique and diverse membership of Active/ARNG/USAR units, Soldiers, Army Civilians, Industry members, Contractors, and Retirees. Emphasis is placed on supporting local Aviation units and their activities. The WPC encourages, supports and promotes exemplary performance of Army Aviation Soldiers, community leaders, and its AAAA members Throughout 2023, the WPC focused on advancing the four primary AAAA pillars (Network, Recognition, Voice, and Support) throughout the National Capitol Region through a variety of accomplishments. 1) Network: ■ The WPC held 11 in-person monthly membership meetings/networking events. ■ On 18 FEB 23, the WPC helped coordinate and a Board member attended the 100 Black Men Virginia Peninsula Chapter's Career Day held in Newport News, VA. This event included active duty and retired Army Aviator guest speakers who talked about what Army Aviation has meant to them in an effort to advance overall interest in Army Aviation. ■ Had multiple Board members attend the 2023 AAAA Summit Chapter Officer Workshop and dial into other workshops held throughout the year so as to better support our members. 2) Recognition: ■ In 2023, the WPC continued to aggressively work to recognize deserving members: ■ Instituted the DAC of the Quarter awards recognition program which had been dormant for many years. In doing so, recognized 1 very deserving DAC and expect to carry this over to 2024. ■ Recognized 6 very deserving Soldier/NCOs of the Quarter as part of our active recognition program which will continue into 2024. ■ Processed and presented 31 total AAAA individual awards (11 x SOSM, 17 x BOSM, and 3 x KOSM). ■ In 2023, created and forwarded 17 AAAA magazine articles which helped recognize individual awards and unit events (OSMs, Changes of Command, Changes of Responsibilities, etc) occurring throughout our chapter. Additionally made 36 posts to the WPC facebook page. 3) Voice: ■ Coordinated and aligned 9 sponsors for the NGB Aviation Luncheon during the 2023 AAAA Missions Solution Summit which paid for lunch and supported the National Guard Aviation leadership in their discussion of Aviation branch issues. ■ On 23 MAR 23, had 8 Board members attend a lunch with the AAAA President, MG(Ret) Crosby, to provide feedback on AAAA National operations and highlight/discuss chapter events. 4) Support: ■ In an effort to better support our membership, in 2023 the WPC initiated a Military Transition Seminar program where our Chapter's industry leaders present and discuss real world military transition topics not necessarily covered in enough detail during the Army's transition assistance programs. We held 2 seminars which covered a variety of transition topics (resumes, interviews, company structures, duty titles, finances, VA, etc), as well as helped with networking. ■ The WPC provided 40 evaluation volunteers (6 more than last year), and actively raised/transferred \$42,673 to the AAAA SFI permitting the awarding of 29 scholarships ranging \$2,000 - \$4,000

each. ■ The WPC sponsored a TAAB Soldier (SPC Aaron Oseliamoah) to attend the 2023 AAAA Mission Solutions Summit. ■ In 2023, the WPC continued the 2022 AAAA National lifetime membership initiative, by internally funding 2 more lifetime memberships for deserving chapter members as a way to recognize and motivate outstanding volunteerism within the chapter. Finally, the WPC held 12 Chapter Board meetings and staffed two brand new chapter officer positions (TLC and Unit Awards VPs) showing a continued excitement of volunteers within the chapter.

Officers:

COL Ronald G. Lukow, Ret., President
MG Rudolph Ostovich, III Ret., Senior VP
LTC Terry Mullis, II, Secretary
LTC Frank A. Tedeschi, Ret., Treasurer
CW4 Matthew DuWayne Vennie, VP Operations
COL Stephen T. Burns, Ret., VP Scholarship
CW5 Daniel R. Curry, Ret., VP Awards
CW5 Michael R. Zanders, VP Communications
MAJ Ronald A. Putnam, Ret., VP Industry Affairs
LTC David W. Crocker, VP Programs
SGM Derrick Kuhns, VP Enlisted Affairs
LTC Michael W. Server, Ret., VP Member Enrollment
CW4 Matthew Ingmire, VP for TLC
Mr. Edward Tibbs, VP Unit Awards

Washington

Mount Rainier Chapter Fort Lewis, WA



Category: Master Chapter; 352 Members
Activation Date: 6/1/1965
Website: www.quad-a.org/MountRainierChapter

Description: Mount Rainier Chapter is the U.S. Pacific Northwest based Master Chapter that serves its Army Aviation Community especially its 290+ members. This Chapter is a mix of currently serving or retired Active Duty, Wash. Army National Guard, Army Reserve, DAC, Civilian Contractors who many of which work and or live in-around Gray Army Airfield at Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM; formerly Fort Lewis and McChord AFB). Our Chapter has a storied history since Fort Lewis was a power projection platform for Army Aviation since the Vietnam era and our membership includes the esteemed COL (R) Bruce "Snake-6" Crandall and COL (R) William Reeder, author of 'Through the Valley: My captivity in Vietnam.' Units supported include the 16th CAB and subordinate units, 4th BN /160th SOAR, 96th Aviation Troop Command, 168th GSAB and subordinate units.

Officers:

CW5 Teresa M. Burgess, Ret., President
SGM James R. Blackhart, Ret., Treasurer
SSG David Michael Goodhue, Ret., VP Scholarship
CW5 Barry Sledd, VP Awards
Ms. Brittany Black, VP Member Enrollment
Wisconsin



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2024 AAAA Chapter Directory

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Badger Chapter Madison, WI



Category: Senior Chapter; 158 Members
Activation Date: 5/24/2012
Website:
www.quad-a.org/BadgerChapter

Description: The Badger Chapter supports aviation servicemembers and their families for units across Wisconsin, including the 1-147 Assault Helicopter Battalion, C Co. 1-168 GSAB, Det 1 Co. B 638th ASB, Det 1 Co. G 2-104th AVN, Det 2, Co D 1-112th AVN, the Det 5 Co. A 2-614 AVN REGT (FW) and Det 1 Co. D 173 BEB (TUAS).

Officers:

LTC Daniel J. Allen, President
LTC Nils D. Henderson, Senior VP
1LT Austin M. Smith, Secretary
CPT Patrick J. Peterson, Treasurer
CW4 Craig Hatfield, VP Scholarship
CPT Meredith Porter, VP Awards
MAJ Joshua Allan Felber, VP Industry Affairs
MAJ Lucas J. Sivertson, VP Government Affairs
MAJ John P. Langeberg, VP Member Enrollment

Wyoming

Cowboy Chapter Burns, WY



Category: AAAA Chapter; 55 Members
Activation Date: 4/1/2008
Website:
www.quad-a.org/CowboyChapter

Description: Cowboy Chapter is located in Cheyenne, Wyoming. Current chapter members consist of current drilling members of the Wyoming Army National Guard and retired aviators from around the country. We support three primary aviation units, Golf Company 2/211th AVN, Alpha Company 2/149th AVN, and DET 6. We are currently in the process of sending a portion of G/2-211th AVN and DET 6 on deployments in the next six months. We provide support for the state of Wyoming and surrounding states with missions such as Firefighting, Search and Rescue, Flood Support and CASEVAC Standby for wildfire operations.

Officers:

CW4 Steven J. Atencio, President
CW3 Paul Buettner, Senior VP
SSG Matthew Jacob Connary, Secretary
CPT Dustin J. Wambach, Treasurer
MSG Jason L. Cox, VP Membership

OCONUS

Bavarian Chapter Hohenfels, Germany



Category: AAAA Chapter; 31 Members
Activation Date: 8/1/1994
Website:
www.quad-a.org/BavarianChapter

Description: The Bavarian Chapter is located in southern Germany affiliated with JMRC. The Unit conducts rotational Unit readiness and helps observe, coach, and train for deployment readiness. Currently there are approximately 50 members mostly service members and DOD civilians. Our Chapter enjoys street biking, golfing, and skiing. The Bavarian Chapter includes the Falcons which is in charge of coaching Aviation Units throughout the Army. We also conduct coaching with multi-national Units to enhance interoperability. The Falcons utilize the UH-72A Lakota helicopter to conduct observation throughout Europe.

Officers:

LTC Beau Rollie, President
MAJ Chris Curran, Senior VP
CW4 Thomas E. Weekley, Secretary
CPT Sean M. Carson, Treasurer
CW5 Nate Stewart, VP Scholarship
CW5 Daniel J. Layman, VP Member Enrollment

Desert Oasis Chapter Saudi Arabia



Category: AAAA Chapter; 24 Members
Activation Date: 7/1/2016
Website:
www.quad-a.org/DesertOasisChapter

Description: The Desert Oasis Chapter, headquartered at Al Nahkla Residential Resort, Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, supports aviators assigned to the Office of the Program Manager - Saudi Arabian National Guard Modernization Program (OPM-SANG) and those retirees living in the greater Riyadh area and working with the Ministry of the National Guard Aviation Division.

Officers:

COL Steven B. Templeton, President
LTC Phillip J. Ewell, Senior VP
CW4 Paul A. Krampe, Secretary
SFC Patrick K. Gore, Treasurer
MAJ Jeremy G. Larson, VP Operations
CW3 Stephen Daniels, VP Member Enrollment

Griffin Chapter Katterbach, Germany



Category: Senior Chapter; 111 Members
Activation Date: 1/1/1976
Website:
www.quad-a.org/GriffinChapter

Description: The Griffin Chapter is headquartered in Katterbach, Germany and co-located with the 12th Combat Aviation Brigade Headquarters. Currently the chapter includes an active duty membership that extends across six separate Army installations and retirees that have chosen Germany as their home.

Officers:

COL Ryan D. Kendall, President
CPT Keary Q. Salls, Secretary
Mr. Heath Morecraft, Treasurer
MAJ Ryan Kline, VP Scholarship
MAJ John C. Barnes, VP Awards
CSM Kyle Clutter, VP Enlisted Affairs
LTC Jeffrey B. Meinders, VP - Katterbach
MAJ James Raymond, VP Member Enrollment
MAJ Joshua A. Meyer, VP Wiesbaden

Morning Calm Chapter Seoul, Korea



Category: Senior Chapter; 136 Members
Activation Date: 5/1/1958
Website:
www.quad-a.org/MorningCalmChapter

Description: The Morning Calm Chapter directly supports the only permanent forward deployed aviation brigade, stationed at Camp Humphreys and Seoul, South Korea. The chapter consists primarily of permanently assigned Soldiers of the 2nd Infantry Division.

Officers:

LTC Ty Huffman, President
CW5 Colin Page, Senior VP
MAJ Brandon Lee Andreasen, Secretary
MAJ Peter E. Nickoloff, Treasurer
1LT Wesley Ryan Bayles, VP Awards
LTC James E. Brant, VP Programs
LTC Billy D. Blue, III, VP Member Enrollment
CW5 Andre Kidd, VP WO Affairs

Rising Sun Chapter Camp Zama, Japan



Category: AAAA Chapter; 39 Members
Activation Date: 12/1/1995
Website:
www.quad-a.org/RisingSunChapter

Description: The Rising Sun Chapter is the sole chapter situated in Japan, headquartered at Camp Zama. Despite its modest size, this organization wields significant influence as the exclusive Army Aviation unit stationed in Japan. Operating within the expansive INDO-PACCOM area of responsibility, the battalion is consistently requested to conduct VIP air movements and the transportation of delegations at the highest echelons. Re-established in 2016, the Rising Sun Chapter comprises 39 members and operates under the direct jurisdiction of the US Army Japan, providing support to all US Forces in Japan.

Officers:

LTC Nicklaus Carlin Franck, President
MAJ Matthew C. Vane, Senior VP
1SG Eric K. Douse, Treasurer
CW4 Jacob W. Schmidt, VP Programs
CSM Marcell Scott, VP Enlisted Affairs

Winged Warriors Chapter Soto Cano Airbase, Honduras



Category: AAAA Chapter; 39 Members
Activation Date: 3/1/2008
Website:
www.quad-a.org/WingedWarriorsChapter

Description: The Winged Warrior AAAA Chapter consists primarily of Soldiers from 1-228th AVN Regiment, currently stationed at Soto Cano Airbase in Honduras. 1-228th is a small General Support Aviation Battalion, with only 158 Soldiers and 63 Contractors. Soldiers stationed here are on a one year PCS unaccompanied assignment.

Officers:

LTC Todd Haralson, President
MAJ Robert B. Forney, Senior VP
MAJ Hiram A. Figueroa-Cruz, Secretary
1LT Allison Raiff, Treasurer
CW4 Benjamin Thorley, VP Scholarship
CPT Katie Rummery, VP Awards
CSM Jason Guenther, VP Programs
1LT Noah J. Malo, VP Publicity

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ARMY AVIATION Magazine is proud to present the winners of our annual photography contest. 62 qualified AAAA members, submitting 96 Army Aviation related photographs taken during CY 2023, competed for the top 12 places. We congratulate the winners and thank all of the contestants for their efforts and service. We invite all AAAA members to participate in our 2024 contest. Visit the AAAA website, quad-a.org for details and submission requirements.

Bill Harris, Publisher

First Place – “Epitome of Loyalty” by CW2 Maggie A. Eveland Lexington, Kentucky
Company A, 8th Battalion, 229th Aviation Regiment aircrew gunnery tables live fire. April 29, 2023; Fort Knox, Kentucky

Second Place – “Building the Future of Aerial Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance” by Ms. Lisa C. Godenick Herndon, Virginia

Sierra Nevada Corporation’s RAPCON-X Global 6500 under modification for the Army A-ISR program. September 8, 2023; Hagerstown, Maryland

Third Place – “Lakota in the High Desert” by CW5 Jared S. Jones Salt Lake City, Utah

CW3 Watt and SSG Medina conduct a joint training mission in the UTTR, supporting F-35s from the 419th Fighter Wing. The Utah National Guard was fielded some of the brand new LUH-72B helicopters earlier in the year. August 4, 2023; Utah Test & Training Range, Utah

Fourth Place – “Frosty Vigilance” by SGT Sean P. Ohlendorf Wiesbaden, Germany

Pre-flighting a Black Hawk helicopter assigned to 1st Battalion, 214th Aviation Regiment, 12th Combat Aviation Brigade. December 12, 2023; Graz, Austria





Honorable Mention - “In the Basket” by Mr. Collin F. Magonigal Huntsville, Alabama

An MH-47G Chinook links up with a KC-130 for refueling operations while conducting developmental testing of the Active Parallel Actuator Subsystem (APAS). January 6, 2023; over Huntsville, Alabama



Honorable Mention - “Aircraft Decontamination” by SSG Preston B. Malizia Pensacola, Florida

SPC Velasco, a 15R assigned to the 1-3rd Attack Battalion, 12th Combat Aviation Brigade decontaminates an AH-64 Apache Helicopter during aircraft decontamination training. September 5, 2023; Katterbach Army Airfield, Germany



Honorable Mention - “Dawn Arrival” by CW4 (Retired) Daniel M. McClinton Carrollton, Texas

A UH-60M belonging to the 1st Battalion 108th AVN REGT arrives at the Smokey Hill Air National Guard Range, KS at first light. August 5, 2023; Smokey Hill Range, Kansas



Honorable Mention - “To the X” by CPT Frank E. Spatt Camp Humphreys, Republic of Korea

Soldiers from 4th Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division exit a UH-60M Black Hawk helicopter belonging to Company C, 2nd Battalion, 2nd Aviation Regiment, 2nd Infantry ROK/U.S. Combined Division during an air assault as part of Exercise Warrior Shield. March 14, 2023; Goldmine Training Area, Republic of Korea

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Honorable Mention – “Sweet Dreams”
by 1LT Emma R. Frasier Fairbanks, Alaska

*March 22, 2023; Ladd Army Airfield, Fort Wainright, Alaska
Flight crews from Company B, 1st Battalion, 52nd Aviation Regiment,
Sugar Bears, tuck in their aircraft under a natural light show.*



Honorable Mention – “Orientation Flight”
by CW2 Frederick R. Bittner Tooele, Utah

*September 14, 2023; U42 South Valley Regional Airport, Utah
SSG Sarah Winterton prepares for her Orientation Flight in an AH-64D
Apache, Utah National Guard*



Honorable Mention – “Helicopter Search and Rescue Team”
by SSG Kelby D. Shifflett Washington, Oklahoma

SSG Kelby Shifflett conducts rescue hoist training with civilian rescue swimmers during a monthly training event utilizing rescue personnel from Oklahoma’s Task Force 1 Helicopter Search and Rescue Team. September 7, 2023; Tulsa, Oklahoma



Honorable Mention – “Calm Before the Storm”
by CPT Frank E. Spatt Camp Humphreys, Republic of Korea

AH-64E Apache helicopters belonging to 4th Battalion, 2nd Aviation Regiment, 2nd Combat Aviation Brigade, 2nd Infantry ROK-U.S. Combined Division line up on a cargo pad for refueling and rearming during the Combined Joint Fires Coordination Exercise. March 20, 2023; Kunsan Air Base, Republic of Korea

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U.S. SOUTHCAM PHOTO

GEN Laura Richardson

The Aviator Leading Change at U.S. Southern Command

By Beth Storey Taylor

We must leverage all instruments of national power to assist struggling democracies to deliver for their people. We've got to be able to meet them at the speed of need and the speed of relevance.

- GEN Laura J. Richardson, Reagan National Defense Forum, December 2023

When GEN Laura Richardson assumed command of the U.S. Southern Command (SOUTHCAM) in 2021, she reached a pinnacle of achievement for a military officer; but for a female Army aviator to fly that high, becoming SOUTHCAM's first female combatant commander, the achievement was truly remarkable. That milestone, however, was only one in a series of accomplishments by a woman who seemed to be on a glide path toward achievement, leadership, and innovation from the very beginning.

The oldest of four siblings, Richardson was a champion swimmer at the age of 8, a private aviator at 16, an All-American swimmer in college, and a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter pilot who flew combat missions during the first year of the Iraq War.

"I am the daughter of great parents who always told me I could do anything," she has been quoted as saying. And indeed, she has lived her life overcoming challenges, gender norms, and work/life demands ever since.

After college at Metropolitan State University in Denver, Colorado, she was commissioned into the U.S. Army and trained as an aviator – experience that sharpened her leadership and decision-making skills as well as her technical proficiency and sense of responsibility to both the Army and her country.

Richardson's educational path took her to the National Defense University where she obtained a Master of Science Degree in National Resource Strategy, while her military assignments featured



Then-LTC Laura Richardson at the controls of a UH-60 Black Hawk while serving as the commander of 5th Battalion, 101st Aviation Regiment, 101st Combat Aviation Brigade, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) during Operation ENDURING FREEDOM in Iraq.

positions of increasing responsibility from company to Theater Army level. Her achievements over more than three decades of service include Commanding GEN of U.S. Army North, Deputy Commanding GEN of the 1st Cavalry Division, and Commanding GEN of the U.S. Army Operational Test Command, as well as staff positions as the Army's Aide to the Vice President at the White House in Washington, D.C., and the Army's Legislative Liaison to Congress at the U.S. Capitol.

Balancing Career and Family – A tale of Two Aviators

Richardson is married to retired LTG Jim Richardson, a Master Army Aviator specializing in Apache attack

helicopters. The two met at Ft. Rucker, Alabama, when Laura was a second lieutenant attending flight school. According to both GENs, it was love at first sight, and they married less than a year later.

Sensitive to the needs of dual military families, the Army managed to find the couple assignments together over the course of 37 years, allowing both to stay in the military. Today's Army Married Couples Program makes it even easier for dual military couples to stay together while serving.

Although the Richardsons attest to performing a lot of give and take over the years, they believe that supporting each other as each progressed through the ranks – while at the same time

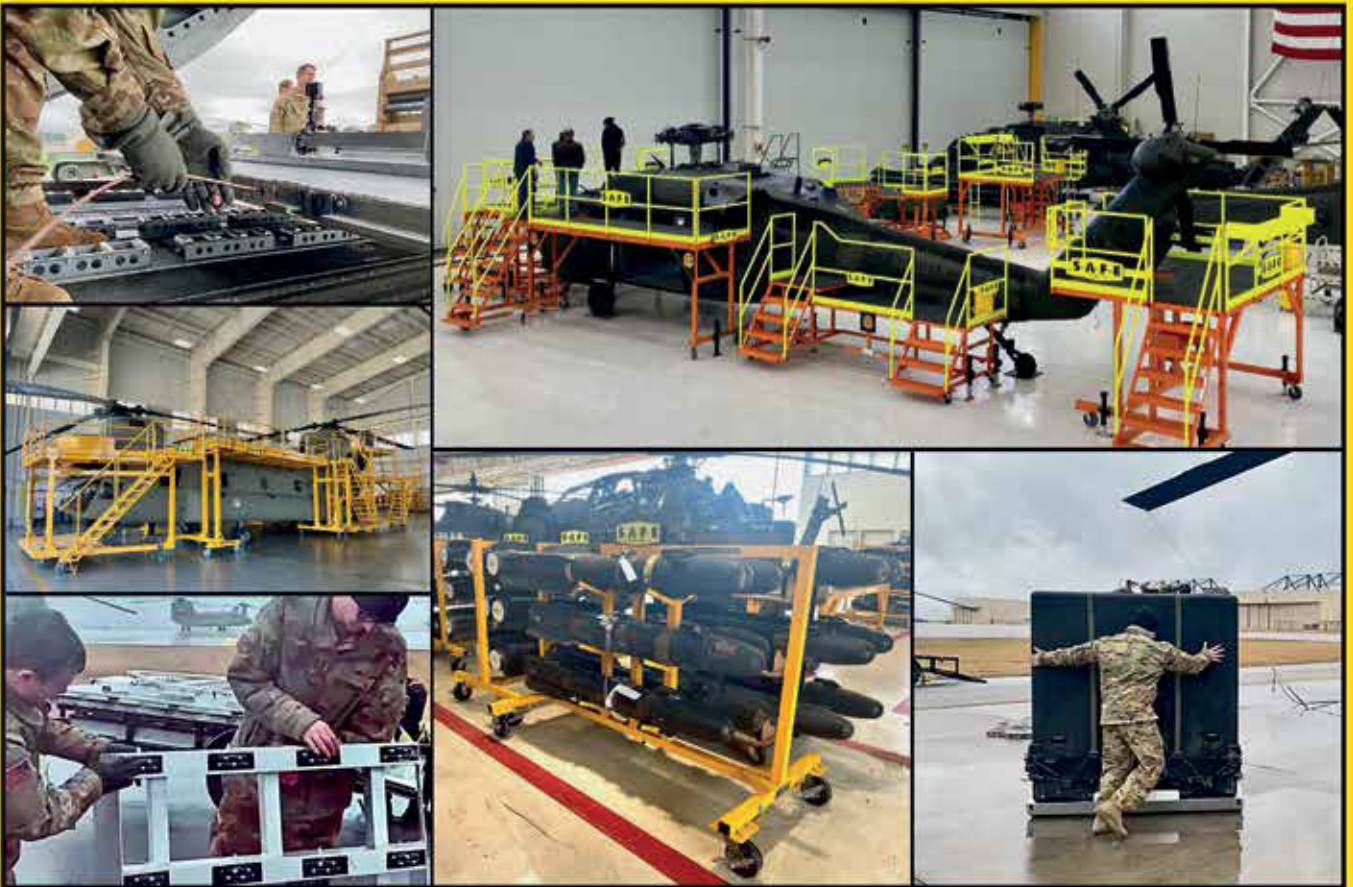
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GEN Laura Richardson, commander of U.S. Southern Command, is briefed during exercise PANAMAX 2022 at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, August 10, 2022. PANAMAX is a U.S. Southern Command-sponsored multinational command post exercise aimed at reinforcing and enhancing the long-term security of the Panama Canal and the Western Hemisphere.



GEN Laura Richardson, commander of U.S. Southern Command, poses for a photo with Colombian Army aviators Sept. 7, 2022, during an official visit to Colombia.

raising their daughter, Lauren – made them stronger as a couple and as a family.

They consider themselves to be a team, an outlook that was especially important when they both flew helicopter missions during the Iraq War. The lessons learned from their aviation training helped them continue to work together as partners, as leaders, and as Soldiers serving our great nation.

Twenty-First Century Challenges

When U.S. Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin handed GEN Laura Richardson the SOUTHCOM guidon in 2021, she reached forward as a symbol of achievement for military women everywhere, accepting the job of leading a combatant command through some extremely challenging times.

Established since 1963, SOUTHCOM is a joint command, headquartered in Doral, Florida and oversees five component commands and three joint task forces located in multiple geographic areas.

As one of the Department of Defense's six geographic combatant commands, SOUTHCOM's area of responsibility (AOR) encompasses 31 Latin American and Caribbean nations. The command's mission is to provide contingency planning, military operations, security cooperation, humanitarian assistance, defense of the Panama Canal, and force protection for U.S. military resources throughout the AOR. The com-

mand's Joint Task Force-Bravo in Soto Cano, Honduras, provides Army aviation capability throughout the region.

Today's complex threats and challenges span all domains and the spectrum of conflict, and the strategic importance of this region to U.S. national security cannot be overstated. The safety of our homeland is directly linked to the resilience, stability, and security of our Latin American and Caribbean partners.

When Richardson assumed command of SOUTHCOM, our National Security Strategy had recently declared China to be the pacing threat, while irregular migration strained economies in South and Central America, and the COVID-19 pandemic sickened vast populations, throwing an estimated 170 million people into poverty. Other destabilizing factors such as climate change, food insecurity, disinformation from authoritarian regimes, and the nefarious activities of Transnational Criminal Organizations, contribute to a vicious cycle of insecurity that continues to plague the region. Many previously thriving democracies are now struggling.

Richardson has charted a course to aggressively counter the multiple threats through engagement activities, campaigning, and the integration of deliberate multi-domain operations and exercises alongside our Allies, partners, non-governmental, and private sector organizations whom she calls **Team Democracy**. This past year, a record 13,500

participants from 36 nations were integrated into SOUTHCOM exercises.

Richardson believes that continued strong engagement as well as investment and advancements in the areas of robotics, cyber technology, artificial intelligence, and machine learning will overmatch our adversaries and assist the region's struggling democracies to emerge as global leaders in science and technology. Economic growth will, in turn, support and enhance national and regional stability.

Aviation Today

"Our aviation branch plays a critical role in our national security," Richardson states. "To win the next fight we must maintain a calibrated force posture, enable multi-domain formations, and converge to attack the adversary's integration. I am very proud to be a part of the aviation branch, and as commander of U.S. Southern Command, I continue to benefit from the tremendous capability the Aviation Branch provides."

GEN Laura Richardson is the very model of a modern Army aviator: versatile, innovative, and leading change at SOUTHCOM to ensure the future of Western Hemisphere security, stability, and prosperity.

Beth Storey Taylor is with the United States Southern Command Public Affairs Office located in Doral, FL.



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The Army Aviation Hall of Fame – 50 Years of Honoring the Best of the Best

By CSM Tod Glidewell, U.S. Army Retired

Fifty-one years ago, at the recommendation of Colonel Ted “Wild Turkey” Crozier, the leadership of the Army Aviation Association of America (AAAA) decided to sponsor a Hall of Fame. That following year, on June 6, 1974, the first group of individuals was inducted into the Army Aviation Hall of Fame in a ceremony at then, Fort Rucker, now Fort Novosel, Alabama.

2024 will mark the 50th year since that first induction and as of this year 189 individuals have been inducted into the Army Aviation Hall of Fame. This body represents a broad spectrum of our Aviation community including - 115 officers, 38 warrant officers, 24 enlisted, 9 Aviation industry members, and 3 government employees. Twenty-two mem-

bers of the Hall of Fame have received the Medal of Honor. The Hall of Fame is an actual hall, located in the Aviation Museum at Fort Novosel, Alabama, where portraits and citations of the inductees document their immeasurable contributions to Army Aviation.

Although there have been numerous changes throughout the years the goal remains the same as outlined in the United States Army Aviation Hall of Fame (USAAHOF) website at https://www.quad-a.org/Public/Awards/Hall_of_Fame.aspx

In early 2021, then AAAA President, MG (Ret.) Tim Crosby and the National Executive Board (NEB) directed that a group review the USAAHOF policies and procedures. Following the completion

of their work, the group out briefed the Aviation Branch Chief and the National Executive Board before publishing the updated criteria for selection into the United States Army Aviation Hall of Fame:

The USAAHOF was established to recognize and honor significant individual heroism or outstanding individual achievement or act(s) in Army Aviation service and/or support over an extended period that significantly contributed to the advancement of Aviation combat capabilities, individual and unit performance, doctrine, or technological advancements that left an indelible impact on Army Aviation.

Criteria

The nomination criteria for the USAAHOF which is a direct quote from the USAAHOF website are as follows:

- Retired or prior Active Duty, National Guard, Army Reserve Soldiers, and DoD/DA career civilians who were directly involved in Army Aviation activities (combat and/or non-combat) and made a significant contribution to Army Aviation over an extended period.
- An individual who has dedicated his or her lifetime to industry, science/technology, activities, technical or doctrinal advancements or has been directly involved in the invention, development, and production of a significant product that enhanced Army Aviation combat capability.
- Aviation Branch personnel who received the ‘Medal of Honor’ for Army Aviation-related action will be automatically inducted into the USAAHOF. There are no other automatic inductions.
- All candidates must have demonstrated a clear and consistent pattern of excellence covering the period or activity for which they were nominated.

Submissions

Submissions instructions are outlined under the USAAHOF policies and procedures. Submissions must be received


Congratulations to the Army Aviation Hall of Fame Inductees



50 Years of Recognizing the Best of the Best

not later than June 1 of each year. All packets are then reviewed and voted on by the USAAHOF Board of Trustees (BOT) to develop an order of merit list. The top 15 or 40% of packets on the order of merit list are moved to the next round of voting. During the second round of voting, the nominations are voted by the AAAA National Executive Board, each of the AAAA Chapter Presidents and all current USAAHOF members. The Aviation Branch Chief, the Branch Chief Warrant Officer, and the Branch Command Sergeant Major are also invited to vote during this round. The results of the second round of voting produce a second order of merit list, which the BOT once again review to determine the top three for induction and the fourth as an alternate. The top three packets are reviewed by the branch historian to ensure accuracy of content. The alternate is utilized should one of the top three packets disclose disqualifying information. Once the branch historian is complete, the three packets are forwarded to the Aviation Branch Chief for concurrence of the nominees.

Upon competition, the Chairman of the Board of Trustees and AAAA staff will begin the notification and coordination process for induction. Historically,



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the inductions coincides with the AAAA Annual Summit. The AAAA sponsors and underwrites all costs of the Hall of Fame, including the portraits that hang in the Hall at the Fort Novosel Army Aviation Museum, the production costs for this event, and all associated travel and lodging for our Inductees.

The Board of Trustees is always looking for ways to improve the Hall of Fame to recognize those who have given so much to Army Aviation. During this 50th Anniversary of the Hall of Fame, we encourage the Army Aviation enterprise, AAAA, and local chapters to work together with Hall of

Fame members to share their experiences, for the betterment of the Army Aviation Community and USAAHOF. We hope you will mark your calendars and join us Thursday night, April 25, 2024, in Denver for the 50th Anniversary of our first Hall of Fame induction banquet. It will be a night to remember as we will induct five members, two of whom are Medal of Honor recipients. Hope to see you there.

Above the Best!

CSM (Ret.) Tod Glidewell is a 2021 inductee to the Army Aviation Hall of Fame and chairman of the Board of Trustees.



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50 Years Ago – Women in Army Aviation: The Road to Combat, Part I

By Mark Albertson

Editor's Note: Throughout 2024 we will be celebrating the inclusion of women in Army Aviation with articles about the 50-year history.



WIKIPEDIA COMMONS/US AIR FORCE PHOTO

Since 1972, the integration of women into the armed forces grew from two percent of personnel to 11 percent by 1992, a more than five-fold increase. That said, this increase was hardly the same across the board. At that time,

women in the Marine Corps were some five percent of personnel, as opposed to 13% in the Air Force.¹

The eventual acceptance of women into the armed forces becomes easier to understand in the context of the year, 1972, itself.

In 1972, the military faced a crisis of confidence and was facing significant cynicism, and even derision from large segments of the American public as a result of the unpopularity of the Viet Nam War.

The result was that many men in uniform did not reenlist or were mustered out. In addition, many of those not in

U.S. Army Captain Valerie Nostrant, crawling under barbed wire at a training area in Grafenwoehr, Germany, December 12, 2021. There was a time when such training was considered undignified for women.

uniform chose not to enlist. This, together with the eventual curtailing of the draft, necessitated a rebuilding of the armed forces, in particular the Army and Marine Corps. With this, momentum started to build to include women in the reshaping of the military.

At this stage of the saga, women were still prevented by law from serving in combat roles. At one point, there was a thought that women assigned to non-combat duties could free up more men for combat units and decrease the need for men to be assigned to less physically demanding tasks. This was quite reminiscent of World War II, when Jacqueline



Jacqueline Cochran in the cockpit of a Curtiss P-40 Warhawk. She wrote to Eleanor Roosevelt, 1939, urging that women pilots be inducted to non-combat air duties, leaving men for combat flying.

Cochran made her proposal to Eleanor Roosevelt in 1939 to start the Women Airforce Service Pilots program.²

Some consideration of maintaining the draft was still being talked about, but the unpopularity of the draft at that time made it likely to only make a bad situation worse.

As mentioned above, there were also the legal issues involved.

At that time according to the “Summary of Women in the Armed Forces”, research by Ellen C. Collier, of the Library of Congress, Congressional Research Service, “Current law requiring draft registration of males only and proposals for an Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution have raised these same issues. Opinion in the United States is deeply divided on the fundamental issues involved: Would national security in the future be jeopardized or strengthened by increasing the proportion of women in the armed forces, then sending them into combat? Should women have equal opportunities and responsibilities in national defense, or do role and physical differences and the protection of future generations justify continuation of the combat ban?”¹

In 1979, the Department of Defense urged the repeal of the law that forbid women from serving in the Navy and Air Force combat ships and aircraft and by September 1990 223,154 females were in uniform: 83,162 in the Army; 73,581, USAF; 57,102, Navy; 9,319, Marines.

The history of Congressional action includes:

- 1948, The Armed Forces Integration Act, 62 Stat. 356-75, provided women with a permanent status in the military.
- 1967, P.L. 90-130, enabled the growth of female enlisted strength above the previous two percent cap.
- 1969 saw an administrative advancement in the establishment of a Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) for women in the Army, Navy and Air Force, which opened in 1972.
- In 1973, Supreme Court decision,

Frontiero v. Richardson (411 U.S. 677), male spouses of female members of the military were now accorded “dependent” status, just like female spouses of male soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines.

■ In 1974, P.L.93-106 opened the way for women to attend the Army, Navy and Air Force Academies. Women were already attending the Merchant Marine and Coast Guard academies.

■ In 1978, two other events occurred that saw a greater reliance on women: P.L.95-485, the elimination of the Women’s Army Corps as a standalone entity; and Section 6015 of Title 10 of the U.S. Code was updated – no longer were women prevented from serving on Naval vessels, and could be assigned to ships, even permanently, that is, on vessels not being assigned to combat areas. This included six months of temporary duty on other vessels.

■ 1980, P.L. 96-513 legislated that male and female commissioned officers were to be treated equally.

And by 1982, women performed any tasks and duties that their male counterparts did in the Coast Guard; except, of course, those pertaining to combat conditions.

In the April Looking Back column of the online version of Army Aviation Magazine, *armyaviationmagazine.com*, the issue of a decline in male births will be explored; as well as providing a look at comparisons with other nations in other wars.

Endnotes:

1. “Summary,” Women in the Armed Forces, Congressional Research Service Issue Brief, by Ellen C. Collier, November 20, 1991, 3
2. “50 Years Ago – Women in Army Aviation: The Beginning,” Army Aviation, Vol. 73, No. 1, Army Aviation Publications, Inc., Monroe, Ct (CT), January 31, 2024, 52-53

Mark Albertson is the award-winning Historian and a contributing editor to ARMY AVIATION magazine.



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It's a Small World and a Shared Desire for the DFC

By Richard Sheehan, Demon 26

Editor's Note: This is the next in a series of articles throughout the year taken from the pages of The VHPA AVIATOR, the newsletter of the Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association. Preserving the Legacy! Enjoy.
CW4 (Ret.) Joe Pisano, RVN 1970-1971

The VHPA Aviator issue 39-06 from 2020 had an article by Mark Keeney about an across the border Cobra mission. I thought "Mark Keeney," that name sounds familiar. When I saw the picture of Mark standing by his Cobra, I immediately recognized Mark as a classmate from Class 69-12 at Ft. Wolters. The article noted Mark had missed out on a DFC, although other pilots on the mission had received a DFC. He was also missing an OER from his tour. In fact, the same thing had happened to me.

When I left Vietnam in June 1970, I never saw my final OER from the 134th AHC. I was RIF'ed at Ft. Carson in 1973 having still not seen the OER. When I requested all my military records prior to joining the Idaho Army National Guard in 1980 I finally saw it. In that OER my commanding officer MAJ John R. Dickerson mentions that my crew and I were responsible for saving the life of a flight platoon leader. He further stated, "For his heroic action, during that incident, CPT Sheehan was recommended for the Distinguished Flying Cross." I had never been awarded a DFC and wondered what I could do. I was told at

that time the two-year time limit had passed and no action could be taken.

I contacted Mark Winters in Florida, only 30 miles from where I live, in January 2021 and asked how he was able to get his DFC after all these years. He explained that Title 10 USC Section 1130 now allows a member of Congress to request an award be made even though the two-year time limit had expired. With Mark's help, I was able to begin preparing a packet for Florida Senator Scott and get the process started.

The gathering of the information was complicated by COVID-19 restrictions closing many Government offices. I discovered the name of the pilot who was the A/C of the ship I had rescued was CW2 Doug Schultz and contacted him. He told me that the platoon leader that almost died that day was CPT Jack Coleman. I have never been able to locate CPT Coleman, but Doug filled in all of the lapses in my memory of the April 12, 1970, incident. I told Doug that I was going to try the Title 10 process to see if I could get the DFC that was mentioned in my final OER from Vietnam.

Doug was very encouraging and even asked if he could submit the DA 638 (Recommendation for Award) for me. I then had to locate the 134th Commanding Officer John R. Dickerson. I found him in Ocean Park, Washington. He had trouble remembering the incident when we first spoke. After seeing copies of the

OER he had written, as well as the statement of the action from Doug, he was on board and said he would be happy to endorse and recommend approval of my DA 638.

I next had to find written proof that all the officers in my extended Chain of Command were deceased and could not endorse the 638. I also found unit reports of the incident as well as maps of the area. I found most of this and obtained copies from the National Archives in DC. This was complicated by the Archives being closed by COVID-19 restrictions. After six months of gathering information and creating a packet, I thought that I was finally ready to start the Title 10 USC section 1130 process.

On July 19, 2021, I met with a representative of Senator Scott in his Tampa office. By October 2021 I had a case number assigned by the Congressional Actions Office. In September 2021 the Awards and Decorations Branch (ADB) informed Senator Scott that they were requesting my military records for review.

On June 27, 2022, thirteen months after starting this process, ADB again contacted Senator Scott telling us that there was no record of a DFC being awarded and that for a retroactive award recommendation to be considered a new and current DA Form 638 needed to be submitted. From the onset of this process, we were sure that there had never been a DFC awarded to me and the recommendation sub-

mitted should have been for a retroactive award from the start. When Senator Scott passed this information on to me, I immediately completed the new 638 and sent it out to be signed again by the recommending officer and my prior Vietnam Commander.

In July 2022 the new DA Form 638 was received at ADB. On 7 January 2023 I received a package directly from the Chief of the ADB with an Air Medal Award with numeral 28 and a letter telling me that Army Decorations Board had met for consideration and the DFC request was subsequently downgraded to the Air Medal with Number 28. After all of this work and time I was very disappointed. The person that recommended this DFC was one of the pilots that I rescued that day in 1970. My commander at that time also recommended approval on the DA 638. To have just denied the DFC might have been appropriate but to downgrade it to an Air Medal was a slap in the face. I already have 27 Air Medals for the 1,200 hours of combat flying I did in Vietnam.

When I notified Doug and Mark

of the results of the quest for my DFC, Doug sent me a letter. In it he stated that there were three of us that recognize that the actions I took that day did save Jack's life; him, me and God. He further stated that "from this old vet to you THANK YOU." His kind words and sincere thanks meant more to me than any medal ever will.

Lessons Learned

For anyone contemplating using the Title 10 USC Section 1130 process here are a few recommendations. When choosing a Member of Congress find one that is very familiar with the process. They don't have to be from your state of residence. This is more important than what committees they serve on. Senator Scott is on the Armed Services Committee and is the ranking member on the Subcommittee On Personnel.

If Senator Scott's office had been more familiar with this process, we would not have been spinning our wheels with the type of recommendation that was submitted. Ask to see copies of everything that your member of

Congress sends forward with the request for consideration of an award. I never had any idea what Senator Scott had sent along with my paperwork. All the responses from ADB had been coming to me through the senator's office until the final paperwork with ADB's decision.

When I asked Senator Scott's office why this process had not continued, his office told me that after the Senator sent his recommendation in with my paperwork that it became an issue between myself and ADB. This is not the way that the process is supposed to work according to AR 600-8-22, Military Awards. I have seen many news releases from Congressional offices where they are personally awarding an individual's award from a successful Title 10 action they had supported. If you are willing to put lots of effort into this process with no guarantee of success, go for it. Be smart about it to improve your chances of success.

Richard Sheehan is a VHPA life member living in Bradenton, FL.



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 Jane Froehlich-
 IHO Emma "Cass" Garfola
 Janet M. Powers Fund-
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 Janet Penny
 Jaros C. Rickmeyer
 Jenny & Paul Gale

Jessica & Chuck Wright
 Jill & James Tyler-IHO COL Hoecherl
 Joanne E. Hansrote
 John Haire
 William R. Harris, Jr.
 John M. Riggs
 Johnson Outdoors
 Jon Graft
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 Karen White-IHO CW5 Frank E. White
 Kathleen O'Connor
 Kathryn Taylor
 Kathryn's High Tea
 Kenneth Todd Royar
 Kevin Valdes
 Kimbereley Smith-IHO COL Terry M Peck
 Krista Mills
 Kyle Poppell
 Lance J. Culver
 Larry Jess
 Larry Martin Jonas
 Latny & Jonathan Salt
 LaVerne Humpert-
 IHO LTC Gabriel Spicer
 LaVerne Sue Humpert-
 IHO Gabriel Spicer
 Leslie H. Weinstein-IHO Joyce Hesson
 Lockheed
 LuAnn Holmes-
 IHO Ernest & Clara Holmes
 M1 Support Services
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 Marilyn C. Rickmeyer
 Marilyn C. Rickmeyer
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 Mary & John Burke
 Matthew D. Shattuck
 MG and Mrs. Carl H McNair, Ret.
 Michael C. Flowers
 Michael P. Goodwin
 Michael Schruppf-IHO
 MG R. Molinelli & LTC G. O'Grady
 Michelle Yarborough-
 IHO CW4 Thompson
 Missy & Brenton Logan
 MyHy Liquid Hydration Mix
 Nathan S. Champion
 Network for Good
 Northrop Grumman-IHO COL Hoecherl
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Plant the seed and watch the talent harvest grow.

Donate now to the scholarship fund
and reap the rewards in the future.



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AAAA Chapter Affairs

By LTC (Ret.) Jan Drabczuk

I greatly appreciate the support from LTC Eric Fritz, the Empire Chapter President, for authoring and sharing this information with our membership.

The Empire Chapter



The Empire Chapter is a distinguished entity representing National Guard Aviation across upstate and western New York.

It plays a pivotal role in supporting various units including the 642nd Aviation Support Battalion, Company C 171st (MEDEVAC), Battalion B 3-126th (CH-47s), and the 27th Brigade Support Battalion (UAS). These units provide invaluable support to the Department of Defense both domestically and internationally. Notably, Battalion B 3-126th was honored as the Aviation Unit of the Year in 2008 for their outstanding service in Operation Enduring Freedom. Founded in 2002, the Empire Chapter initially covered all upstate New York members until 2015 when the Mohawk Chapter was established in Albany, NY to better serve members in that region.

Key Events and Initiatives

The year 2023 has presented numerous challenges for the Empire Chapter, particularly with the deployment of the 642nd ASB and B 3-126th to the Middle East. In response, the Chapter has dedicated its efforts to supporting the families of deployed members through various initiatives, including the sponsorship of events like the Rochester Airshow, offering a family-friendly environment to enjoy the Thunderbirds.



Empire Chapter members enjoying the holiday party.

The Chief Warrant Officer 5 Steve Skoda Memorial Golf Tournament, hosted annually at The Mill Creek Golf Club in Churchville, NY, stands as a testament to the Chapter's commitment to community engagement and remembrance. This event draws nearly 100 participants from the Chapter, their families, and the local community, serving as a fundraiser and a tribute to the professionalism and sacrifice of its namesake aviators, who tragically lost their lives on January 21, 2021.

Additionally, the Empire Chapter organizes an annual Trout and Salmon Fishing Tournament on Lake Ontario, which supports local businesses and the Chapter's scholarship fund through a competitive and enjoyable experience for members and their families.

Scholarship Initiatives and Membership Growth

The Empire Chapter is proud to offer the AAAA Scholarship initiative, providing \$1,000 annually to support the higher education of members and their families. This initiative reflects the Chapter's commitment to the educational advancement of its community. The success

and growth of the Empire Chapter over the past four years can be attributed to the leadership's dedication and the support from the AAAA national office. Despite experiencing a membership low in 2020, the Chapter's proactive recruitment efforts were recognized in 2021 with the 5th place "Top Gun" award for adding new members, a significant achievement among AAAA Chapters.

Conclusion and Invitation

The Empire Chapter remains dedicated to fostering a supportive environment for Soldiers, aviators, their families, and the wider community. The Chapter welcomes inquiries, support, and participation in their ongoing efforts to advance the future of Army Aviation.

Feel free to contact me if you need help with your Chapter, establish a new Chapter, Executive Board support, would like your Chapter featured in the AAAA magazine or to obtain clarification of National procedures.

LTC (Ret.) Jan S. Drabczuk
AAAA VP for Chapter Affairs
jan.drabczuk@quad-a.org

AAAA Chapter News

Air Assault Chapter

PHOTO BY MAJ (RET) SCOTT HOLLINGSWORTH



MG Clair A. Gill, Deputy Director of Regional Operations and Force Management, The Joint Staff J3, receives a token of appreciation from Chapter President, COL (Ret.) "Hawk" Ruth. Gill was the guest speaker at the 1st quarter meeting of the Air Assault Chapter, on February 8, 2024 at Fort Campbell, KY.

Aviation Center Chapter

CHAPTER PHOTO BY SAIL BAKER



Aviation Center Chapter President, COL (Ret.) Marcus A. Gengler, presents AAAA Chapter Certificates of Achievement and a one-year AAAA membership to SFC Brandon Hickey (left) and SSG Darrell Bettis on Feb. 23, 2024 at Fort Novosel, AL for having been selected to receive the Command Sergeant Major David L. Spears Non-Commissioned Officer Academy Leadership Award.

Badger Chapter

CHAPTER COURTESY PHOTO



The Badger Chapter sponsored its annual AAAA Ball on Jan. 20, 2024 at the Experimental Aircraft Association Museum in Oshkosh, WI. Guest speaker, BG Matthew J. Strub, Deputy Commanding General, U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence and Assistant Adjutant General for the State of Wisconsin, addressed the more than 250 chapter members and guests in attendance.

Bluegrass Chapter



CHAPTER COURTESY PHOTO

The chapter sponsored the third annual 63rd Theater Aviation Brigade Aviation Ball on Jan. 27, 2024. Over 220 attended the ball which is done in conjunction with the safety stand down event that includes all rated and non-rated crewmembers in the Kentucky National Guard. Numerous awards were presented to include the induction of LTC Jonathon Wesley (left) and CW5 Tony Villier (center) into the Bronze Honorable Order of St. Michael by chapter president, CPT Christopher Englen.

Bavarian Chapter



CHAPTER COURTESY PHOTO

The Bavarian Chapter hosted the 3rd annual Falcon Fest, a celebration of the partnership with the German Bundeswehr and German culture on Dec. 8, 2023 at the Joint Multi-national Readiness Center hangar in Hohenfels, Bavaria. Approximately 200 attendees, including JMRC leadership, local elected officials, families and friends of the JMRC Aviation Detachment and the Bundeswehr unit, enjoyed the entertainment and annual baking competition.

Thunderbird Chapter



CHAPTER COURTESY PHOTO

The Thunderbird Chapter hosted its 9th Annual St. Michael's Ball and Dining Out on Feb. 10, 2024 at the Osage Casino in Tulsa, OK. The more than 240 attendees witnessed

the induction of (l to r) CW4 William Shufeldt, LTC Christopher Lackey, LTC Chad Mihalek, and CW4 Robert Hernandez (not pictured) into the Bronze Honorable Order of St. Michael by Oklahoma State Aviation Officer COL Robert Walker. Retired MG Michael Thompson (below right) then presented retired BG Jon Harrison with the Distinguished Service Medal for his dedication to the Oklahoma Army National Guard and Army Aviation.



Washington Potomac Chapter



CHAPTER COURTESY PHOTO

The 2023 Chapter Scholarship Dinner was held Nov. 9, 2023 at the Army Navy Country Club, Arlington, VA. More than 165 attended the chapter's largest annual fund raising event each year where this year's scholarship awardees are recognized and money is raised for next year's scholarships. This year, MG Wally Rugen, HQDA G-3/5/7 Aviation Director, was the guest speaker. Pictured are scholarship awardees and/or their family members which represented 24 of the chapter's 28 scholarship awardees.

AAAA SALUTES THE RECENTLY DEPARTED

COL Joel J. Mikuta, Ret.
Deceased 10/28/2023

COL James D. Rockey, Ret.
Deceased 6/28/2023

LTC Guy L. Copeland, Ret.
Deceased 8/28/2023

LTC Jephtha I. McNair, Jr. Ret.
Deceased 10/13/2023

LTC Harold Silver, Ret.
Deceased 5/12/2023

LTC Milton H. Walker, Ret.
Deceased 10/30/2023

WO1 Stewart D. Wayment
Deceased 4/27/2023

Mr. Kent N. Schvaneveldt
Deceased 1/31/2024

Mr. Andy Wilson
Deceased 6/1/2023

Ms. Mary H. Gorman
Deceased 6/17/2023



The Membership Corner



AW PHOTO BY FERIE BOEZ

It's the Summit !!!! And there will be a Contest!
I hope you are reading this article while you are at the 2024 Army Aviation Mission Solutions Summit!

Attendees at one of the spouse professional sessions at the 2023 Mission Solutions Summit in Nashville gather around presenter Dr. Tracey Pérez Koehlmoos (immediately right of the podium) following her presentation.

Summit is the amazing event in which we can celebrate all things Army Aviation. I thought I would share some advice and tips for Spouses to help you enjoy your Summit experience. These are not just my suggestions; I asked some friends to share their tips as well.

1. Download the AAAA Summit Events App. The app provides agenda, details about the sessions, and information about the speakers. Use the "My Planner" feature to bookmark the events you do not want to miss. Be sure to use the Map feature as your Soldier will be busy; do not count on them to show you around.

2. Comfortable shoes!! You will be walking a lot. Probably WAY more than you expect to. At a previous Summit, it was over a mile from my hotel room to the convention/exhibit floor entrance. I do NOT expect that to be the case in Denver but be prepared.

3. Spend time on the exhibit floor. LW said "it always amazes me how big Army Aviation is, and I love to see all the different gadgets that Army Aviation has to offer – and it gives me more opportunity to see what our

Soldiers do and how they impact Army Aviation." And many of the booths will be giving away "swag" items. Most of the cooler items are held behind the counter or under the table so you might have to ask. When our kids were younger, I would collect enough pens to last the school year. In addition to pens, I've seen chip clips, notebooks, chargers, charging cords, cups, squeeze toys, stuffed animals, and even contests for iPads. (see below for our contest)

4. Attend the Spouse Professional Programs. Whether you are new to Army Aviation or a "seasoned spouse", we hope you will learn something. We have two great speakers lined up this year: Sara E. Minnis, Ph.D, and Kerry Irvin. The programs are a great way to make new friends, which brings me to...

5. Network! I challenge you to make one new friend while you are at Summit. I met a lady at a Summit a few years ago who has become a very close friend. (looking at you LS!) We met at one of the Working Groups – which I encourage you to attend along with the Professional Sessions. These events are a great way to educate yourself about Army Aviation.

7. Industry Receptions. GO!! So much fun and another great way to meet new people.

8. Take lots of pictures. Please share and tag with #24Summit. Feel free to send me your pictures! They might show up in a future issue of the magazine.

And now for the contest:

Whoever brings the best swag item to the Spouse Professional Programs will win a \$50 Amazon gift card! The only requirement is that it must be an item you acquired for free at Summit 2024. We will keep a record of what everyone brings to the first Spouse Professional Session and decide the winner as a group at the second Spouse Professional Program on Friday. So go forth and collect some swag!

Thank you to MB, LW, and TJW for sharing your suggestions. We hope these tips can contribute to your enjoyment of Summit. And if you see me at Summit, be sure to say hello!

CW4 Becki Chambers
AAAA Vice President for Membership

New AAA Life Members

Air Assault Chapter
Mr. John S. Smith, II
Badger Chapter
SSG Torre Peterson-Waldvogel
High Desert Chapter
SFC Austin E. Leach
Idaho Snake River Chapter
SGT Jessica A. Adamson
Mount Rainier Chapter
CW5 Paul Dulfer
Phantom Corps Chapter
CW4 Joshua R. Robinson
CW2 Edward Whittle
Tarheel Chapter
MAJ Harrison G. Green

New AAAA Members

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1LT Phillip D. Lopez
SGT Dakota Maatman
Mr. Brandon Singleton
Mr. John S. Smith, II
CW3 Codi Walker
Aloha Chapter
SGT Damien Ramirez-Stacy
CPT Cory Young
Arizona Chapter
PFC James Charles Beaugard
PV2 Jared T. Christian
SSG Dustin W. Frank
Mr. Domenick Galindo
Mr. Tyson Messick
Mr. Brian Schaeffer
Mr. Cody Setter
Mrs. Jeanette Smith
Mr. Justin Smith
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WO1 Zachary M. Barr
SSG Darrell A. Bettis
Mr. Rolf Beutler
WO1 Alexander N. Boyd
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WO1 Christopher G. Brewer
WO1 Paden J. Clark
2LT Demetris R. Coasey
2LT Lane G. Collins
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CPT Shelby L. Dean
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WO1 William J. Dunn
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1LT Hanna M. Enfield
CW5 Elden Engelhard
WO1 Jesus O. Espinosa
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WO1 Jacob P. Gentry
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WO1 Spencer R. Harmon
WO1 Landon A. Henry
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2LT Austin A. Hines
WO1 Andrew D. Holmes
2LT Miles M. Hubert
WO1 Kayla M. Hurst
2LT Emily Jane Imhof
WO1 Brandon T. Jones
2LT Jerry C. Jones
WO1 Todd M. Kirchner
2LT Alyssa M. LeMay
1LT JunWei Lim
CPT Zachary Lim
WO1 Hamidou Maiga
2LT Eli S. Marshall
WO1 Michael R. Merritt

Mr. Ryan Nagy
WO1 Cameron C. Nena
WO1 Lam D. Nguyen
WO1 Hayes S. O'Brien
2LT Jared J. OConnell
WO1 Patrik W. Orutt
WO1 Sarah E. Pancoast
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WO1 Calvin J. Ponzio
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CPT Mallory E. Reckerd
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2LT Brian I. Roberts
2LT Caitlyn A. Rogers
WO1 Mario I. Roman
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WO1 Kelcey M. Roth
WO1 Kameron M. Schaumleffle
2LT Jack R. Schichtel
WO1 Andrew E. Shelton
2LT Diego T. Sheng
WO1 Aaron M. Smith
2LT Noah S. Smith
2LT Zachary D. Smith
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WO1 Gabriel Toribio
WO1 Ulises Toscano
Mr. Misha Troshin
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2LT Morgan T. Ulu
1LT Alix N. Varni
2LT Julia A. Vitale
2LT Marc K. Voorhees
2LT Jordan Wilcox
CPT Marco Zippari
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PFC Caleb Mitchell Sturbaum
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Big Sky Chapter
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Flint Hills Chapter

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Gold Standard Chapter
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CW5 Paul Dulfer
Mr. Chuck Ehlert
WO1 Lee D. Holland
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PFC Laurel Ann Martin
Mr. Mark Russell
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Northern Lights Chapter
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SSG Jordan M. Mooney
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Mr. Randy Ware
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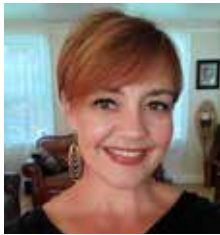
NETWORK | RECOGNITION | VOICE | SUPPORT

AAAA Family Forum By Judy Konitzer

The Army Aviation and AAAA First Ladies Sound Off! By Sadie McCurry and Donna Meick

Sadie McCurry and Donna Meick are both sincere and genuinely supportive of our Aviation Soldiers and their families. We are fortunate to have them at the helm of our Aviation community. Judy

Sadie McCurry



MCCURRY PERSONAL PHOTO

Greetings from Fort Novosel, the Home of Army Aviation! As Army families we are accustomed to change, and I am excited for the change of

location for this year's AAAA Summit. Each year the organizers and presenters do a fantastic job providing an information-and-entertainment-packed event for everyone within the Army Aviation community. This year will be no different. With the 2024 Summit being set in Denver, Colorado, I imagine we will get to see some new faces and sights, thereby opening the magic of an AAAA Summit to some who have never been able to attend.

I always look forward to a few events. The Spouse Professional Programs on Thursday and Friday are a great way to connect with other Spouses in our community and learn leadership and personal development skills. Then there are the "fun" events like the Paint and Sip, the Floral Design Workshop, and the Wildlife Sanctuary Tour. Of course, the Army Aviation Hall of Fame Induction Banquet is not to be missed. And it's always fun to unwind at the end of the Summit with the Soldier Appreciation Dinner Concert, this year featuring Randy Houser.

As always, there will be a multitude of exhibits, presenters and learning opportunities. While technology continues to advance and change, one of the

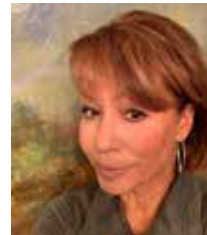
very best things about our community is the amazing humans who make it all come together. To Mac and me, this is the very heart of Army Aviation and is the reason we so look forward to attending the Summit each year. We love to see old friends who we would not get the chance to see without this gathering. And we love to meet new people who are the upcoming movers and shakers in the Aviation community.

Just this morning, my "battle buddies" and I had the opportunity to host a group of Captain's Career Course Spouses in my home for brunch. As we chatted and shared experiences with the younger Spouses, we all saw ourselves in these young adults. They are heading out to different duty stations with their Soldiers, bringing with them a multitude of hopes and dreams. They are excited to explore new places, embrace what this Army life has to offer, and continue the legacy of serving the country as military Spouses. At the same time, they are balancing careers, growing families, and continuing their own education. It is heartening to see that our community is in such good hands. I could not be more delighted!

Mac and I have absolutely loved being back here at the home of Army Aviation for the past 18 months. We look forward to the rest of our time with the team before heading off to a new adventure. Until then we embrace the motto that meets everyone who passes through the gates here: "Welcome Home!" I hope to see you in Denver.

Above the Best!

Donna Meick



MEICK PERSONAL PHOTO

To our Aviation Family spouses, I send my very best wish wishes to you all, in this my 'inaugural' message. Having grown up as an 'Army Brat,' it is so gratifying

to have had the opportunity to re-join and become part of our incredible Aviation family and community for the past seven plus years. I hope you all are looking forward to this year's AAAA Summit in Denver.

The work that Bill Harris, Janis Arena, and the entire AAAA National Team do to develop the programs and orchestrate the conduct of our annual gathering is truly remarkable. It is such a wonderful time to establish and renew relationships within our Aviation family. It is also so inspiring to be a part of the celebration of the accomplishments of our Army Aviation Soldiers and their families (Army Aviation Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony, AAAA National Awards presentations, Soldier Appreciation Concert), and to enjoy and recognize the significant contributions of the AAAA Industry teams and partners. I hope you enjoy the Industry sponsored social events and the AAAA arranged spouse events and forums, which are always informative and fun!! Enjoy this annual gathering of our wonderful Army Aviation family!!

Judy Konitzer is the family forum editor for ARMYAVIATION; questions & suggestions can be directed to her at judy@quad-a.org.



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2024 Army Aviation Mission Solutions Summit

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CATEGORIES: Manufacturing Maintenance & Product Overhaul, Survivability Equipment

Contact: Hunter Marshall
 Director, Army Business Development
 hunter.marshall@leonardo.us

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Each month, one 2024 ARMY AVIATION Magazine advertiser will be spotlighted. If chosen, your company may submit newsworthy information that will appeal to the Army Aviation community. To qualify, your company must have a signed 2023 insertion order for print advertising (1 Ad Minimum). Selected company will be randomly chosen by the 15th of the month prior.



AAA Legislative Report

By LTC (Ret.) Patrick "Josh" Baker
AAA Representative to the Military Coalition (TMC)
josh.baker@quad-a.org

2024 Defense Appropriations Conference Report

Below is the 2024 Defense Appropriations Bill roll up of the Army Aviation portfolio which the president signed into law on March 23, 2024.

PROCUREMENT (Proc)									
Program	Requested	NDA (Authorizations)				Defense Appropriation Bill			Comment
		HASC Mark	SASC Mark	Conference	HAC-D Mark	SAC-D Mark	Conference		
Future UAS Family	\$53,453	\$53,453	\$53,453	\$53,453	\$53,453	\$53,453	\$0	\$0	Early to need
Small UAS (SUAS)	\$20,796	\$20,796	\$20,796	\$20,796	\$20,796	\$30,769	\$20,796	\$30,769	Accelerate short range recon fielding
Apache Block 3 Reman	\$718,578	\$718,578	\$718,578	\$718,578	\$718,578	\$536,502	\$718,578	\$653,107	Program decrease
Apache Block 3A Reman (AP)	\$110,360	\$110,360	\$110,360	\$110,360	\$110,360	\$110,360	\$110,360	\$110,360	
Blackhawk M Model (MYP)	\$668,258	\$668,258	\$668,258	\$668,258	\$668,258	\$788,258	\$668,258	\$728,258	Additional National Guard A/C
Blackhawk M Model (AP)	\$92,494	\$92,494	\$92,494	\$92,494	\$92,494	\$92,494	\$92,494	\$92,494	
Blackhawk L & V Models	\$153,196	\$153,196	\$153,196	\$153,196	\$153,196	\$153,196	\$153,196	\$153,196	
Chinook	\$202,487	\$379,987	\$202,487	\$379,987	\$195,329	\$379,987	\$379,987	\$423,887	Additional Helicopters, SOCOM loss
Chinook (AP)	\$18,936	\$41,436	\$18,936	\$41,436	\$18,936	\$18,936	\$18,936	\$18,936	
UH-72B Lakota Helicopter	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$20,000				\$10,000	Program Increase
Gray Eagle Payload	\$13,650	\$13,650	\$13,650	\$13,650	\$13,650	\$13,650	\$13,650	\$13,650	
Gray Eagle Mods2	\$14,959	\$14,959	\$14,959	\$14,959	\$82,959	\$82,959	\$14,959	\$82,959	MQ-1C 25M capability improvement
Apache Mods	\$113,127	\$113,127	\$113,127	\$113,127	\$113,127	\$113,127	\$113,127	\$113,127	
Chinook Mods	\$20,689	\$20,689	\$20,689	\$20,689	\$35,689	\$35,689	\$50,689	\$50,689	Ballistic protection systems
Blackhawk Helicopter Mods	\$35,879	\$65,879	\$35,879	\$53,879	\$53,379	\$40,879	\$56,379	\$56,379	Generator, powered acendors, litter basket
Network and Mission Planning	\$32,418	\$32,418	\$32,418	\$32,418	\$44,418	\$33,168	\$45,168	\$45,168	Common server, flight scheduling SW
COMMS, Nav Surveillance	\$74,912	\$74,912	\$74,912	\$74,912	\$74,912	\$74,912	\$74,912	\$74,912	
Degraded Visual Environment	\$16,838	\$16,838	\$16,838	\$16,838	\$16,838	\$16,838	\$16,838	\$16,838	
Aviation Assured PNT	\$67,383	\$67,383	\$67,383	\$67,383	\$67,383	\$67,383	\$67,383	\$67,383	
GATM Rollup	\$8,924	\$8,924	\$8,924	\$8,924	\$8,924	\$8,924	\$8,924	\$8,924	
UAS MODS	\$2,258	\$2,258	\$2,258	\$2,258	\$2,258	\$2,258	\$2,258	\$2,258	
ASE	\$161,731	\$161,731	\$161,731	\$156,501	\$126,792	\$156,501	\$121,562	\$121,562	Carryover, B Kit unit cost adj.
Survivability Countermeasures	\$6,526	\$6,526	\$6,526	\$6,526	\$6,526	\$6,526	\$6,526	\$6,526	
CMWS	\$72,041	\$72,041	\$72,041	\$72,041	\$72,041	\$72,041	\$72,041	\$72,041	
CIRCM	\$261,384	\$261,384	\$261,384	\$261,384	\$261,384	\$261,384	\$261,384	\$261,384	
Common Ground Equipment	\$25,752	\$25,752	\$25,752	\$25,752	\$25,752	\$27,752	\$27,752	\$27,752	Aviation GSE
Aircrew Integrated Systems	\$22,097	\$22,097	\$22,097	\$22,097	\$22,097	\$22,097	\$22,097	\$22,097	
Air Traffic Control	\$21,216	\$21,216	\$21,216	\$21,216	\$21,216	\$21,216	\$21,216	\$21,216	
Launcher, 2.75 Rocket	\$2,125	\$2,125	\$2,125	\$2,125	\$2,125	\$2,125	\$2,125	\$2,125	
RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT TEST & EVALUATION (RDT&E)									
Program	Requested	HASC Mark	SASC Mark	Conference	HAC-D Mark	SAC-D Mark	Conference	Conference Comment	
Future Vertical Lift Technology	\$73,844	\$76,344	\$73,844	\$76,344	\$93,844	\$93,844	\$99,344	Various	
Air Platform Applied Research	\$48,163	\$53,163	\$48,163	\$49,663	\$53,163	\$49,663	\$54,633	Reverse Engineering, multispectral sensors	
Air Platform Advanced Tech	\$14,165	\$14,165	\$14,165		\$14,165	\$14,165	\$14,165		
Future Vertical Lift Advanced Technology	\$158,795	\$168,795	\$158,795	\$173,795	\$206,045	\$173,295	\$223,545	Various	
Aviation Advanced Development	\$1,502,160	\$1,464,160	\$1,502,160	\$1,500,804	\$1,493,804	\$1,466,310	\$1,507,160	All electric flight control system	
Small Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (SUAV)(6.4)	\$5,144	\$5,144	\$5,144	\$5,144	\$5,144	\$5,144	\$5,144		
Future Tactical UAS	\$53,143	\$24,096	\$53,143	\$53,143	\$63,143	\$96,143	\$67,143	Battlefield comms, APNT	
Aircraft Avionics	\$13,673	\$13,673	\$13,673	\$13,673	\$13,673	\$13,673	\$13,673		
Air Traffic Control	\$1,134	\$11,134	\$1,134	\$11,134	\$11,134	\$11,134	\$11,134	Integrated mission planning	
Aircraft Survivability Equipment	\$24,900	\$24,900	\$24,900	\$24,900	\$24,900	\$24,900	\$24,900		
Small Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (SUAV)(6.5)	\$31,284	\$31,284	\$31,284	\$27,361	\$24,769	\$27,361	\$24,769	LRR insufficient justification	
Aviation Ground Support Equipment	\$1,167	\$1,167	\$1,167	\$1,167	\$1,167	\$1,167	\$1,167		
Aircraft Certification	\$2,718	\$2,718	\$2,718	\$2,718	\$2,718	\$2,718	\$2,718		
Blackhawk Product Improvement Program	\$1,507	\$1,507	\$11,507	\$23,007	\$33,514	\$33,514	\$41,014	Block 2 dev, rotor blade modernization	
Chinook Product Improvement Program	\$9,265	\$9,265	\$19,265	\$21,765	\$14,265	\$15,765	\$20,765	RAM, engine enhancement, qualification	
Improved Turbine Engine Program (ITEP)	\$201,247	\$191,062	\$201,247	\$191,062	\$176,956	\$176,956	\$189,106	Program delays	
Aviation Rocket System Product Improvement	\$3,014	\$3,014	\$3,014	\$3,014	\$3,014	\$3,014	\$3,014		
Unmanned Aircraft Systems Universal Products	\$25,393	\$25,393	\$25,393	\$25,393	\$25,393	\$25,393	\$25,393		
Apache Future Development	\$10,547	\$35,547	\$20,547	\$18,047	\$15,547	\$18,047	\$23,047	Strap down pilotage, modernization	
Aircraft Engine Component Improvement Program	\$146	\$146	\$146	\$146	\$146	\$146	\$146		
Airborne Recon Systems	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$5	\$0	\$5,000	Imaging cold environments	
MQ-1C Gray Eagle UAS	\$6,629	\$6,629	\$6,629	\$6,629	\$6,629	\$6,629	\$6,629		

RED- Program Funding Decrease **GREEN-** Program Funding Increase

Industry News *Announcements Related to Army Aviation Matters*

Editor's note: Companies can send their Army Aviation related news releases and information to editor@quad-a.org.

Bell Announces Weapon Systems Integration Lab



BELL COURTESY PHOTOS

Bell Textron Inc., a Textron Inc. (NYSE:TXT) company, announced on Mar. 11, 2024 the grand opening of its Weapon Systems Integration Lab (WSIL) in Arlington, TX. The state-of-the-art facility will aid in the safe, rapid, and efficient integration and test of a next generation fly-by-wire tiltrotor and mission systems using a modular open systems approach (MOSA) for the United States Army's Future Long-Range Assault Aircraft (FLRAA). Pictured: (from left to right): Nikkie Hunter, Arlington City Council Member; Michael Jacobson, President and CEO, Greater Arlington Chamber of Commerce; State Representative Chris Turner; COL Jeffrey Poquette, Program Manager, FLRAA; Lisa Atherton, President and CEO, Bell; Mayor Jim Ross, City of Arlington; Trey Yelverton, Arlington City Manager; Ryan Ehinger, SVP & Program Director, FLRAA, Bell.

Boeing's Calhoun Stepping Down

Boeing's CEO David Calhoun announced on Mar. 25, 2024 that he would leave the company by year's end. Boeing's board chairman, Larry Kellner, is not opting to run for reelection to the board, Calhoun said. The board has elected board member Steve Mollenkopf to succeed Kellner and lead the board's process of selecting Boeing's next CEO.

AAR Welcomes Berberet



AAR GEPHOTO

On March 20, 2024, AAR, Inc. held a global fireside chat, where Chairman, President and CEO John M. Holmes introduced team members to the company's new Senior Vice President of

Component Services, Jim Berberet, who joined AAR on March 1 as part of AAR's acquisition of Triumph Group's Product Support business.

Plumb Tapped for CDAIO



DOO PHOTO

Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin announced on Mar. 14, that Dr. Radha Plumb will serve as the next Chief Digital and Artificial Intelligence Officer. She is currently serving as the Deputy Under Secretary of

Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment.

Contracts – (From various sources. An "*" by a company name indicates a small business contract / "***" indicates a woman-owned small business)

General Dynamics Mission Systems Inc., Huntsville, AL, was awarded a \$30,221,168 modification to contract W58RGZ-18-C-0043 for the Tactical Airspace Integration System and Integrated Mission Planning and Airspace Control Tools; work locations and funding will be determined with each order, with an estimated completion date of March 17, 2025.

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AAAA Awards



Order of St. Michael Inductees

Silver

- Arizona Chapter**
Gregory Staloch
- Aviation Center Chapter**
CSM Denep A. Garciamarquez

Bronze

- Aviation Center Chapter**

- LTC John "Joe" Peña
- Colonial Virginia Chapter**
- SFC Lawrence A. Escarcega
- SSG Jacob T. Maynard
- Delaware Valley Chapter**
- CW4 Erik J. Johnson
- David W. Rickards
- LTC Jeffrey L. Timmons
- Desert Oasis Chapter**
- MSG Matthew K. Bowe
- SFC Thomas D. Foster
- Flint Hills Chapter**
- SFC William R. Hicks
- Gold Standard Chapter**
- LTC George E. Chew, Ret.
- CW4 Gregory Ecker
- LTC Kevin P. James
- SFC Bradley R. Johnson
- LTC Stephen D. Morrow
- COL Andrew D. Morrow, Ret.
- CW3 Nathan R. O'Donnell
- CW5 Luciano Rocero
- SSG Nicholas R. Rockefeller, Ret.
- LTC Thomas Samson

- LTC Nicholas Steele
- MAJ Christopher White
- Griffin Chapter**
- MAJ Juan Nieves
- High Desert Chapter**
- CW3 Adam P. Connaughton
- Iron Mike Chapter**
- CW4 Jason J. O'Brien
- Mohawk Chapter**
- MG Thomas F. Spencer
- Morning Calm Chapter**
- 1SG Anthony J. Scandozza
- Phantom Corps Chapter**
- CPT Dana Spinks
- Prairie Soldier Chapter**
- CPT Bradley Larson
- Savannah Chapter**
- CSM John H. Frey III
- Thunderbird Chapter**
- CW4 Robert P. Hernandez
- CW4 William J. Shufeldt, Jr.
- Volunteer Chapter**
- SFC Giovanni DeZuani
- CPT Hulon M. Holmes

Knight Inductees



- Iron Mike Chapter**
LTG Paul T. Calvert
- BG Joseph A. Hopkins III
- Minuteman Chapter**
Michael Wall

Our Lady of Loreto Inductees



- Tennessee Valley Chapter**
Angela F.V. Smith

ORDER OF ST. MICHAEL INDUCTEES

Arizona Chapter



LTC (Ret.) Kent Schvaneveldt is inducted into the Silver Honorable Order of St. Michael posthumously by LTC Robert Solano, commander of the Defense Contract Management Agency at Boeing in Mesa, AZ on Feb. 14, 2024. Accepting his Induction is his widow, Lori. Schvaneveldt was recognized for his longstanding support of Army Aviation in and out of uniform to include his 18 years at DCMA at Boeing where he oversaw production and managed contracts for the AH-64 Apache and H-6 Little Bird aircraft. He volunteered to serve overseas multiple times in Afghanistan and, most recently in Germany, until he was forced to return home in November due to a terminal illness. He passed away on Jan. 31, 2024. May he rest in peace.

tracting Management Agency, Boeing AH-64E Production Plant, in Mesa, Arizona on Dec. 15, 2024. Staloch was recognized for outstanding support of Army Aviation over his more than 35 year career with Boeing culminating with his achievements as the program manager at the Boeing AH-64E Production Plant.

Iowa Chapter



On Feb. 4, 2024, Iowa Aviation held a Safety Standdown for their Safety Month, and during that event recognized 3 flight engineers/standardization instructors from the CH-47 unit, with the Order of St. Michael Award. Inducted were **SGM (Ret.) Todd Isely**, **SGM Layne Marti**, and **1SG Nicholas Yarham**. Combined they have 96 years of experience and over 13,000 hours of flight time. All unique and outstanding in their own ways, and all of which have been extremely valuable to the coaching, teaching, mentoring, and safety of crewmembers throughout the state of Iowa.

Iron Mike Chapter



LTG Paul T. Calvert, U.S. Army Forces Command Deputy Commanding General, is inducted as a Knight of the Honorable Order of St. Michael by COL D. Shane Finison, FORSCOM G-37 Aviation Director on Feb. 13, 2024 at Fort Liberty, NC. Calvert was recognized for his 37 years of active duty continuously supporting Army Aviation, and his leadership as the chair of the FORSCOM Monthly Aviation Readiness Review which resulted in significant readiness improvements across all lines of efforts in the aviation force.



Mr. Greg Staloch is inducted into the Silver Honorable Order of St. Michael by Mr. John Graham Program Integrator, Defense Con-

DEPLOYED?

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FALLEN HEROES

AAAA is saddened to announce the recent loss of two Aviation Soldiers.

Two New York Army National Guard aviators were killed on Friday, March 8, when the UH-72 Lakota light utility helicopter they were flying crashed near Rio Grande City, Texas at 2:50 p.m. local time. A Border Patrol agent was also killed in the crash, and the aircraft crew chief was badly injured.



CW2 Frankoski



CW2 Grassia

Killed were:

CW2 Casey Nicole Frankoski, 28, Rensselaer, NY; and
CW2 John Michael Grassia, 30, Schenectady, NY

The Soldiers were assigned to Detachment 2, Company A, 1st Battalion, 244th Aviation Regiment, based at Army Aviation Flight Facility #3 at Albany International Airport in Latham and were operating as part of Joint Task Force North, a military unit which supports Customs and Border Protection operations on the southwest border.

The accident is presently under investigation.
 May they rest in peace.

(Information from Defense Department news releases and other media sources.)

IN MEMORIAM

It is with great sadness that AAAA announces the passing of a member of the Army Aviation Hall of Fame.



AP/FILE PHOTO

Chief Warrant Officer Four Elmer Melvin "Mel" Cook

Elmer Melvin "Mel" Cook (CW4, U.S. Army Retired) passed away peacefully in his sleep on Leap Day, February 29, 2024, at home in Alexandria, VA, with his wife Bette and son Joe by his side. He succumbed, at age 97, to congestive heart failure.

Born on October 7, 1926, in Delavan, IL, Mel was a descendant of military men who fought in every war in which this country has been engaged. Mel continued the legacy and served 32 years in the U.S. Army through three wars – World War II, Korea, and Viet Nam – entering the military as a Private in 1945 and retiring in 1980 as a CW4.

Cited by a former Director of Army Aviation as "the epitome of the finest traits and capabilities of our flying warrant officers," bound by exceedingly high professional principles and attitudes, "Mel" Cook always commanded the respect of his superiors, and peers.

Rated in 1960, the Master Army Aviator was just that – a Master Pilot. "Mel" was aircraft commander for the CG of the 1st Aviation Brigade – a singular honor indeed. Still later during '74-'80, he was IP and aircraft commander for the Secretary of the Army in the Priority Transport Division, Davison U.S. Army Airfield, Military District of Washington compiling 5,100 accident-free hours while transporting countless senior officials of the Executive Branch, the Department of Defense, and the Department of the Army.

Intelligent, dependable, and always the true professional, CW4 Cook distinguished himself during 1965-1968 as a Personnel Management Officer in the AWO Branch, OPO, DA. Charged with the most onerous responsibility of all, administering AWO assignments to Vietnam, impartiality, fairness, and complete dedication characterized all of his actions in working with this 7,000 AWO program. Involvement in the planning and implementation of a complete readjustment in worldwide aviator assets at war's end, he also was a key participant in the development of the Army's eventual Aviation Warrant Officer Career Program.

After retirement, Mel served 18 years as the Director of Play at Army Navy Country Club, Arlington, VA and was inducted into the Army Aviation Hall of Fame in 1980.

Visitation was held on March 8 at the Jefferson Funeral Chapel, Alexandria, VA. A funeral service will be convened at the Old Post Chapel with interment at Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, VA, at a later date.

May he rest in peace.



People On The Move

Aviation General Officer Promotions/ Assignments

The Chief of Staff of the Army announces the following Aviation general officer assignments:



U.S. ARMY PHOTO

MG Thomas W. O'Connor Jr., commanding general, U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command, Redstone Arsenal, Alabama, to director, Force Development, G-8, U.S. Army, Washington, D.C.



U.S. ARMY PHOTO

BG Amanda L. Azubuike, deputy commanding general, U.S. Army Cadet Command, Fort Knox, New York, to chief of Public Affairs, Office of the Secretary of the Army, Washington, D.C.



U.S. ARMY PHOTO

BG Philip J. Ryan, commander, Special Operations Joint Task Force-Levant, Operation Inherent Resolve, Jordan, to commanding general, U.S. Army South, Joint Base San Antonio, Texas.

Activations

Keeping the Comradery Alive!



PERSONAL PHOTO PROVIDED BY STEVE MUNDT

A group of old Army Aviation Warriors, most of whom have worked in the Pentagon, get together once a month for lunch at the Army Navy Country Club in Arlington, VA. This photo is from their last luncheon on March 6, 2024. Pictured from left to right are COL (Ret.) Ron Hill; COL (Ret.) Buzz Lasch, COL (Ret.) Vince Bailey, COL (Ret.) Curt Herrick, LTC (Ret.) Jim Burke, MG (Ret.) Andy Andreson, BG (Ret.) Steve Mundt, COL (Ret.) Sy Berdux, Dick Thompson, COL (Ret.) Wimpy Pybus, LTC (Ret.) Pete Peduzzi, and LTC (Ret.) Willie Hardwick.

Flight School Graduates

AAAA provides standard aviator wings to all graduates and sterling silver aviator wings to the distinguished graduates of each flight class ... *another example of AAAA's SUPPORT for the U.S. Army Aviation Soldier and Family.*



AAAA congratulates the following officers graduating from Flight School XXI at the U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence, Fort Novosel, AL.

21 Officers February 22, 2024

Class 24-008

Commissioned Officers

- 1LT Hunt, Trevor D. -DG
- 1LT Barr, William H. * -HG
- 1LT Barlow, Cameron J.
- 1LT Broyles, David M.
- 1LT Edelberg, Benjamin
- 1LT Erickson, Leah L.
- 1LT Law, Terrance W.
- 1LT Robertie, Genevieve N.
- 1LT Tabasso, Phoenix C.
- 1LT Wehrkamp, John J. *

Warrant Officers

- WO1 Selewacz, James T. -DG
- WO1 Smith, Augustus T. -HG
- WO1 Albert, Justin C.
- WO1 Koonts, David D.
- WO1 Martinez, Krystian R. *
- WO1 Musil, William R.
- WO1 Phillips, Jacob C.
- WO1 Robinson, Anthony C. *

- WO1 Robinson, Jacob W.
- WO1 Sauer, Bruce L.
- WO1 Silva, Sebastian T. *

57 Officers March 7, 2024

Class 24-009

Commissioned Officers

- 1LT Burns, Mackenzie M. -DG
- 2LT Bang, Junwoo -HG
- 1LT Perovich, Nicholas J. * -HG
- 1LT Serviss, Dakota M. * -HG
- 1LT Torrez, Jacob E. -HG
- 1LT Beall, Michael A. *
- 1LT Bella, Jake T.
- 1LT Bigelow, Michael S.
- 1LT Crino, Dominic P.
- 2LT Friedman, Joseph L. *
- 2LT Guyette, Noah N. *
- 2LT Howard, Jake B.
- 1LT Kean, Kimberly A.
- 1LT Kerchner, Ella C.
- 2LT Marin Torres, Amene L.
- 1LT Moore, Joshua C.
- 1LT Morris, Matthew S.
- 2LT Nault, Cameron L.
- 1LT Post, Kelly J.
- 2LT Shields, Anthony R. *



FSXXI Class 24-008

ALL PHOTOS U.S. ARMY PHOTO, FORT BUCKNER PUBLIC AFFAIRS

- 1LT Sproull, William R.
- 1LT Stillman, Austin J. *
- 2LT Trombetti, Michael J.
- 1LT Williams, Tyler G. *
- Warrant Officers**
- WO1 Hockensmith, Chaz D. -DG
- WO1 Bush, Caleb M. * -HG
- WO1 Davidson, Jennifer A. -HG
- WO1 Farnen, Elijah T. * -HG

- WO1 Mancera, Miguelangel -HG
- WO1 Tymchyshyn, Alexander J. -HG
- WO1 Athey, Brandon T.
- WO1 Baumann, Michael L. *
- WO1 Blome, Ryan K.
- WO1 Bodolay, Justin W.
- WO1 Britt, Jacob A. *
- WO1 Campbell, Ty D.
- WO1 Cherry, Zachary B. *



AAAA

NETWORK | RECOGNITION | VOICE | SUPPORT



FSXXI Class 24-009

WO1 Denoux, Matthew P.
 WO1 Gonzalez, Santiago D.
 WO1 Hester, Jervon W.
 WO1 Imboden, Benjamin J.
 WO1 Jacobsen, Andrew J. *
 WO1 Jewell, Ty O.

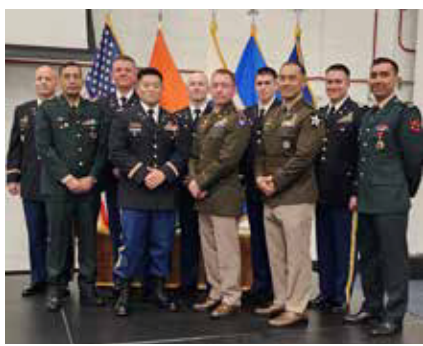
WO1 Luke, Evan A. *
 WO1 Miller, Gregory A. *
 WO1 Polidoro, Richard W.
 WO1 Reynolds, Michael
 WO1 Robeson, York R.
 WO1 Rodriguez, Monserate

WO1 Schofield, William H.
 WO1 Sharpe, Gentry R.
 WO1 Sowa, Markie L., Jr.
 WO1 Stratton, Kyle P.
 WO1 Turley, Jordan R.
 WO1 Walker, Devon T.

WO1 Willis, Jeremy D.
 WO1 Yeater, Jonathan T.

 -DG: Distinguished Graduate
 -HG: Honor Graduate
 * = AAAA Member

Non-Rated Warrant Officer Graduates



AAAA congratulates the following officers graduating from the Aviation Maintenance Warrant Officer Basic course at the U.S. Army Aviation Logistics School, Joint Base Langley-Eustis, VA.

10 Graduates, 6 March 2024
Classes 001-002 2024
 WO1 Michael Dunn -DG 001-24
 WO1 Allen Laws -HG 001-24
 WO1 Taylor Pruss -DG 002-24
 WO1 Johnathon Rickman -HG 002-24
 LTC Ankit Sihag
 MAJ Harish Jakhar
 WO1 Roger Kim
 WO1 Christopher Booth
 WO1 Joshua Latham
 WO1 Luis Martinez



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AAAA

ADVANCED INDIVIDUAL TRAINING (AIT) GRADUATIONS

AAAA congratulates the following Army graduates of the indicated Advanced Individual Training (AIT) courses at the 128th Aviation Brigade, Joint Base Langley-Eustis, VA and the U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence, Ft. Novosel, AL.

Aviation Maintenance Technician (151A)

Class 009-23

WO1 Corey Doff Keese * -DG
1LT Mohamed Amine Akka
1LT Eisa A. Al Arquibi
WO1 Michael John Linhardt
WO1 Joshua Adam Rooks
WO1 Sean Michael Ward

Class 010-23

WO1 Lee Donald Holland * -DG
2LT Abdulaziz Khalifa A. A. Al Malki
CW2 Steven Daniel Bryant
WO1 Kenneth George Douglas
MAJ Ahmed El Khouldi

AH-64 Attack Helicopter Repairer (15R)

Class 001-24

PV2 Joseph Michael Bobulis * -DG
SPC Stephen Harvin Anderson
PFC Christian Paul Barndt

PV2 Andrew James Bassett
PV2 Domenic Anthony DeFrank
PV1 Coalition Younger Flowers

PFC Joseph Ellis Thomas Hughes
PV2 Nicholas Matthew Kuster
PFC Lesley Victoria Leung

PFC Roman Alexander Mendoza
PV2 Brandon Meza Hernandez
PFC Avery Thomas Prouty

Class 002-24

PV2 Dominic Lee Sumption * -DG
PFC Matthew Cory Alexander, II
PV1 Nicholas Dean Bird

PV2 Daniel Braeden Chenard
PFC Justin Dale Comans
PFC Noah Lee Crowley

PFC Justin Daniel Hanson
PFC Joshua Raymond Peacock
SPC Daniel Scheck

SPC Nicholas Gregory Schmid
SPC Shee Sho
PV2 Vincent James Torres

Class 003-24

PV2 Joshua Alexander Yustinich * -DG
SPC Aistedave Ganotisi Alexander
SGT Thomas Alanson Gillies, II

SPC Ryan Joseph Israel
PV1 James Edward Kershner
PFC Eric Jacob Kogan

SGT Jonathan Elijah Purcell
PV1 Angelo Damien Ramirez
PFC Mario Alexis Sevilla Mora

PV2 Jan Abdil Terron
PV2 Ronnie Edward Thompson, Jr
PFC Joshua Michael Wilbanks

Class 004-24

PV2 Mikayla Grace Kelly * -DG
PV2 Jacob Remington Davis
PFC Nathan Adam Eldredge

PV2 Caleb James Fleuter
PFC Ethan Daniel Gildner
PV2 Connor Gabriel Long

PV2 Jose Reinaldo Martinez
PFC Christopher P. McMahon, Jr
PV2 Ashley Michelle Molina

PV2 Benjamin Michael Noggy
SPC Elisjsha Malacki Sexton
PV2 Yoel Sosa Mendez

CH-47 Medium Helicopter Repairer (15U)

Class 051-23

PV2 Bryan Cabanas * -DG

PV2 Aaron P. K. A. Alailefaleula

PFC Gavin Michael Boyce
PFC Zachary Joseph Broxton
PFC Owen Winter Denlinger

PV2 Alexander Jesus Jara
PFC Alison Nikole Matuszewski
PFC Dakota Shay Padgett

PFC Winston Rong
PFC Dakota James Smith
PFC Brandon Vargas-Ronces

Class 052-23
SPC Erik Antonio Maheu * -DG
PV2 Toby Jay Alford

PFC Andrew Edward Miner
PV2 Joshua Lyle Mitchell
PV2 Braden Nicholas Punzel

PV2 Hunter Loyde Smith
PFC Richard Peyton Stagge
PFC Samuel David Thompson

PV2 Thomas James Torres
PV2 Daniel Thomas Williams

Class 053-23
PFC Jonathan Luis Almiron
PV2 Bradley Michael Baita

PV2 Olivia Grace Connell
PFC Steve Keywayne Edwards
PV2 Floyd Carlton Gray, Jr

PFC Shawn Dayton Herber
PV2 Garin Douglas Lowry

Class 001-24
PFC Luke Tudor Hengeveld * -DG
SPC Nicholas Quinn Alexander

SGT Joseph William Deptula
PFC Tully James Fetters
PFC Dakota Justin Lee Fliger

PFC Masan Gene Hommer
SPC Charles Zachary Jones
SPC Brennon Jon Keller

Cpl Brendan Adam Lenardt
SPC Brett Donald Riley
PV2 Andrii Salo

SPC Dylan Arthur Seeger

Class 003-24
PV2 Hunter Michael Strunk * -DG
PFC Elijah James Baker

PFC Jakob R Henderson
SSG Chad Eric Mayhue
SPC James Wilson Roberts, III

PV2 Jonathan Ruben Rodriguez
PV2 Ethan Bryan Salas
SPC Samuel Edward Standaert

SPC Nicholas Guy Stoddard

UH-60 Helicopter Repairer (15T)

Class 001-24
PFC Laurel Ann Martin * -DG
PV2 Saul Alarcon Avilez

PFC Drake Hunter Bennett
SPC Brian Reece Boutwell
PFC Charles Dylan Ray Campbell

PV2 Zachary Joshua Carpenter
PV2 James Mitchell Casper
PV2 Mitchell Lloyd Crawford

PFC Joshua Paul Gosselin
PFC Sabien James Haas
PFC Aidan Teran Hall

PFC Destiny Joy Karch

Class 002-24
SPC Mykhailo Iosyfowych * -DG
PFC Braden Tanner Hunter

PV2 William Neil Hutcherson
PFC Landon James Kaiser
PV2 David Billy Knight

PFC Jose Alexis Landeros, Jr
PFC Brann Edward Lozano
PV2 Jonathan A. M. Saldana

PFC Christopher James Mcmanus
PV2 Marshall Lane Norcross
PFC Dawson James Pedersen

PV2 Jason William Reuter

SPC Daniel Jacob Gartin

SPC Alexander Young Hall
PV2 Alexander Luke Huffman
PV2 Preston Scott Rice

PV2 Donald Jacob Riopelle
PFC Andres F. S. Rodriguez
PFC Kade Alexander Smith

PV2 Walden Lance Famoso Tac An
SPC Jerry Brandon Wade
PFC Logan James Wolfe

Class 004-24
PFC Angel Silvestre Sanchez * -DG
SGT Dakota James Anderson

SGT Colin Jeffery Barr
PFC Julio Cesar Ray Luna
PFC Angel Nathaniel Mariscal

PFC Fernando J. M. Villegas
SPC Gabriel S. Morningstar
PFC Alexander Tod Olcizia

PFC Jaxon Earl Pack
Cpl Christopher Michael Pitts, Jr
SPC Tori Lynn Rosas

PV2 Daniel Michael L. Spranger
PV2 Randy James Witte

Class 005-24
PFC James Charles Beauregard * -DG
PFC Reiley Cole Conover

PFC Evan Michael Ellis
PV2 Lazzaro C Estrada Cabrera
PFC Evan James Faulk

PFC William Charles Griffis
PFC Caleb Caid Hernandez
PFC Andrew Erik Hidalgo

PFC Samuel Alexander Holguin
PV2 Justin Martin Langford
PFC Julio Cesar Ray Luna

PV2 Bryce William Smith
PV2 Titus Paul Tornblom

Class 006-24
PFC Christopher Dale Webb * -DG
PFC Catherine Ionilla Norton Berg

PFC Daniel Lee Carter
PV2 Cameron James Davis
PFC Johnathan J. Drummond

PV2 Thomas James Gillerson, IV
PFC Adam Michael Lewis
PV2 Manuel Miguel Maldonado

PV2 Garrett Michael Nemitz
SPC Morgan Timothy Porter

Class 007-24
PFC Benjamin David Brodsky * -DG
PFC Manuel Alexis Alvarenga

SPC Anson Lee Baker
SPC Josephthurston R. Campbell
PV2 Camilo Sol Cook

SPC Logan John Girmus
PFC Ian Joseph Hagee
PFC Adonis Osovalde Jefferson

SPC Dhiren Kamlesh Kisani
PFC Thomas Allan Kuepper
SPC Ambrosio Imiano Martinez

SGT Juan Miguel Maysonetberrios

Class 008-24
PFC Caleb Mitchell Sturbaum * -DG
PV2 Jade Elizabeth Del Moral

PFC Wyatt Monroe Sperry
PV2 Samuel Andrew Tester
PFC Christian O Neal Trone

SPC Angela Rose Tucci
PFC Zachary Tyler Viburs
PFC Matthew Daniel Warner

PFC Jadin James Dante Williams
SPC Robert David Wright
PV2 Dylan Gene Ziegler

Class 009-24
PFC Ryan Christopher Devries * -DG
PV2 Conroy Jeffrey Thomas Bates

PV2 Shane Jacob Carlson
PV2 Tyler Ray Caswell
PV2 Matthew Gajdur

PFC Noah James Hendricks
PV2 Nathaniel Logan Humphrey

PFC Eric E. Landaverdenagore

PFC Logan Charles McClain
SPC Darren Matthew Miller
PFC Cameron James Muckridge

PFC Haridev Namboodkandyshishkumar

Class 010-24
SPC Chandler James Newell * -DG
PFC Sean Christian Newberry

PV2 Allen Asher Piskoty
PFC Kishaun David Pitts
SGT Justin Rittenhouse Thero

PV2 Anthony Aven Russell
PFC Lide Chandler Schmidt
PFC Darin James Schneider

PFC Morgan Alan Shore
PFC Carter Wade Smith
PV2 Jimmy Javier Solorzano

SPC Cory Scott Wade

Aircraft Powerplant Repairer (15B)

Class 019-23
PFC Kaleb Ray Nay * -DG
PV2 Trevon Thomas Brown

SPC Jared Christopher Bussiere
PV2 Hunter N. Robert Dunlop
PFC Micah Ray Hicks

SPC Vonkurt Paul Redley
PFC Darrick Lee Thomas Sones
PFC Albert Ronnie Valentine, Jr

Aircraft Powertrain Repairer (15D)

Class 0014-23
PFC Clinton William Lewis, Jr -DG
PFC Samuel Adeloye

PFC Elijah James Dutra

Aircraft Electrician (15F)

Class 020-23
PV2 Taylor Ray Pulliam * -DG
PV2 Devin Hyun Cho

PFC Jade Santos Hackett
PFC Carlos A. Hernandez Lopez
PFC David Michael Lamp

PFC Gavin Emile Lepine
PV2 Benjamin Eric Rouse
PV2 Thomas James Sagan

Class 021-23
PFC Devin Ray Santiago * -DG
PV2 Michael Anthony Selner, III

PV2 Ashton David Sova

Aircraft Structural Repairer (15G)

Class 001-24
PFC Carson Dean Beck
PFC Garrett Christian Butler

PFC Gavin Matthew Corry
PV2 Edward Joseph B. Lapira
PFC Michael Marius Radu

PV2 Rene Rangel, III
PFC Michaela Nicole Rember
PV2 Juan Antonio Rivera

PV2 Leonard Wesley Sheppard
PV2 Fernando Solorio Tovar
SPC Chad Nathan Thomas

PV2 Leslyann Grace Watson
SPC Eric Michael Watts

Aircraft Pneumatics Repairer (15H)

Class 001-24
PFC Anthony Lee Minx * -DG
PVT Dominick Tyler Bryant

PV2 Miguel Angel Lopez, Jr

Avionic Repairer (15N)

Class 023-23

PV2 Thomas Andrew Angell * -DG
PVT Alexis Michele Agama
PFC Jaciel Bautista Dezha
PFC Katherine Elizabeth Qian Black
SPC Jennifer Lynn Boettinger
PV2 Willard Jay Donohue

PFC lanah Eloisa Gonzalez Watson

PFC Elijah Nasir Griffin

Class 024-23
PFC Austin Thomas Lee Norton * -DG
PFC Gus Taylor Klaniecki

PFC Aaron Jay Nuw
PFC Chandler James Newell * -DG
SPC Francis Kyle Alexis Ramas

SPC Damian Isaiah Ramirez
PV2 Marcos Janiel Rivera Segarra
PV2 Cameron Tanner Williams

AH-64 Armament/Electrical/Avionic Systems Repairer (15Y)

Class 031-23
PV2 Jared Thomas Christian * -DG
PV1 Aaron Mario Barrios

SPC Dylan R Brayerton
PV2 Christopher S. C. Epperson
PFC James Freddy Ezell, Jr

PV1 Alonso Gonzalez
PV2 Thomas Aaron Johnson
PFC Xavier Elijah Zane Lawrence

SPC Dylan Ray Lofty
SPC Johnathon Sethallen Mccabe
PFC Jack Mitchell Strathouse

PV2 Jonathan David West
-DG: Distinguished Graduate
-HG: Honor Graduate
* = AAAA Member

UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS (UAS) GRADUATIONS

Tactical Unmanned Aerial Systems (TUAS) Operations Technician

AAAA congratulates the following Army graduates of the Tactical Unmanned Aerial Systems (TUAS) Operations Technician, MOS 150U at Fort Huachuca, AZ.

TUAS Technician 8 Graduates, 29 February 24

WO1 Alwin Agosto-Melendez
WO1 Derrick Brown
WO1 Nolan Brown

WO1 Evan Couture
WO1 Ronald Deschinsky
WO1 Tessa Jandris

WO1 David Ruiz
WO1 Andrew Wilcox

UAS REPAIRER

AAAA congratulates the following Army graduates of the Unmanned Aircraft Systems Repairer Course, MOS 15E at Fort Huachuca, AZ.

Shadow UAS Repairer Course 5 Graduates, 28 February 24

SPC Oleksandr Kimbirskeyi
PFC Samuel Hampton
PFC Jacob Leppold

PFC Colten Rogers
PFC Joshua Streeter

UAS Operator

AAAA congratulates the following Army graduates of the Unmanned Aircraft Systems Operator Course, MOS 15W at Fort Huachuca, AZ.

Shadow UAS Operator Course 8 Graduates, 6 March 2024

SPC Joan Jalomo
PFC Jonathan Roberson
PFC Emerson Rosales

PV2 Cameron Hooks
PV2 Cadin Pederson
PV2 Dillon Poole

PVT Syrenna Twilley
SGT Eric Gustafson

Art's Attic

By Mark Albertson



Art's Attic is a look back each issue at 25 and 50 years ago to see what was going on in ARMY AVIATION Magazine. Contributing editor Mark Albertson has selected a few key items from each decade's issues. Art Kesten is our founder and first publisher from 1953 to 1987. He is also the founder of the AAAA in 1957 and served as its Executive Vice President. The cartoon, right, was created back in 1953 by LT Joe Gayhart, a friend of Art's and an Army Aviator, showing the chaos of his apartment-office in New York City where it all began.



25 Years Ago April-May 1999

Bonus Pay

The Army is offering up to \$12,000 annually in bonus pay to qualified AH-64 pilots who accept participation in the Aviation Continuation Pay program. Upwards of 525 aviators are eligible for this bonus program, which requires that they continue to serve through their 14th year of service as commissioned officers.

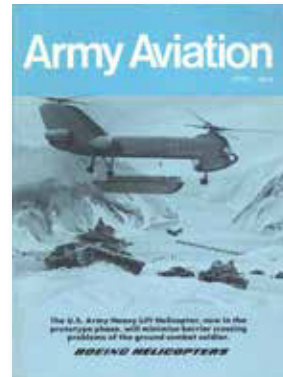
Army Aviation Standard of Excellence

PFC Garfield M. Langhorn hailed from Cumberland, Virginia, born September 10, 1948. He joined the Army in Brooklyn, New York and, was later assigned to Troop C, 7th Squadron (Airmobile), 17th Cavalry, 1st Aviation Brigade. His unit was operating in Pleiku Province, South Vietnam, January 1969. PFC Langhorn was a radio operator when his unit was inserted into the landing zone near Plei Djereng. Objective was to rescue a pair of downed Cobra pilots. The relief force found them dead; then, was ambushed. Langhorn radioed and vectored in helicopter support. But during the action, a grenade landed near Langhorn, who promptly smothered it with his body to protect the wounded. For sacrificing himself so as to protect his comrades on January 15, 1969, PFC Langhorn was accorded the Medal of Honor. He was posthumously inducted into the Army Aviation Hall of Fame, April 2, 1998.



Donation

MG Dave Robinson (Ret.) (left), presents a check for \$13,410 to MG Ben Harrison (Ret.), Army Aviation Museum Foundation President. Every year AAAA donates what amounts to \$1.00 per member to the Museum Foundation.



50 Years Ago April-May 1974

Stratford, Connecticut

Fourth from the left stands Strom Thurmond. The Republican senator from South Carolina was visiting the Sikorsky plant in Stratford. He is shown examining a main helicopter rotor head. With Senator Thurmond, left-

to-right, Gerald J. Tobias, Sikorsky Aircraft Division President; Edward B. Kenny, staff member, Senate Armed Services Committee; Kenneth E. Horsey, Sikorsky's Vice President for UTTAS and Ray D. Leoni, Program Engineering Manager.



Milestone

The Boeing Vertol Company passed a major milestone with its Heavy Lift Helicopter program. Located at the Boeing Center



is a full-scale cargo handling system integrated test rig. This machinery is used to verify physical and functional capabilities of the many HLH cargo handling systems components. It has already tested 50-ton loads.

Dear Editor:

"We need to correct the photo/squib on PFC Linda Plock. She's a member of the 24th Med. Co. [Air Amb.], Nebraska-ARNG, a unit that has won AAAA's Outstanding Reserve Component Aviation Unit Award." "Then, too, she was an honor graduate at USAAVNS [and has a B.A. degree from the University of Nebraska as well]." "This is an outstanding young woman who has made all of us in the Nebraska ARNG proud." "She will continue in the Guard here at Lincoln and will continue her college studies in Botany and Oriental Studies as well." "Please give her the full pat on the back she merits."

Celebrating the 50th
Anniversary of the Army
Aviation Hall of Fame

50
YEARS
1974-2024

The Army Aviation Hall of Fame, sponsored by the Army Aviation Association of America, Inc., recognizes those individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to Army Aviation.

The actual Hall of Fame is located in the Army Aviation Museum, Fort Novosel, AL.

The deadline for nominations for the 2025 induction is June 1, 2024

Contact the AAAA National Office for details and nomination forms at (203) 268-2450 or visit www.quad-a.org

Army Aviation Hall of Fame

Chief Warrant Officer Four Michael Joseph Novosel, Senior

By Mark Albertson

Michael J. Novosel, Sr., was one of many courageous DUSTOFF pilots to serve in Vietnam. However, he was one of the very few who would emerge from Southeast Asia as a recipient of this Nation's highest recognition for valor.

Compared to most Medal of Honor recipients, CW4 Novosel was a graybeard, having served in World War II as a B-29 Superfortress pilot, and the Korean War. He gave up his commission as Lieutenant Colonel in the USAF Reserves in 1963 and joined the Army as a Chief Warrant Officer Four. Yet age had done nothing to temper the courage of this proud son of Croatian immigrants. In March 1969, Novosel was back in Vietnam for a second tour, assigned to the 82nd Army Medical Detachment, 45th Medical Company, 68th Medical Group, flying a Bell UH-1 Huey with the call sign DUSTOFF 88.

On October 2, 1969, Kien Tuong Province, along the Cambodian border, Novosel and his crew –co-pilot, Warrant Officer Tyrone Chamberlain; medic, SP4 Herbert Heinhold; and crew chief, SP4 Joseph Horvath – had been flying for seven hours. They thought their day was over, but it turned out that it was just beginning when they got word of the desperate plight of a pocket of wounded South Vietnamese soldiers. They immediately headed back for the border.

As DUSTOFF 88 entered the battle zone minus gunship support, the enemy fire was intense, causing Novosel to abort twice. He next came in low, skimming the tall grass. As the wounded stood up, they were hauled aboard. With nine or ten packed inside Novosel headed to a nearby Special Forces base. There, the wounded were dropped off, fuel tanks were topped and Mike and crew headed back time and again to the hot LZ to rescue the remaining troops.

After having dropped off more wounded, DUSTOFF 88 lifted off for one last errand of mercy. Again, Novosel came in low to pick



U.S. ARMY/PAFLE PHOTO

up the wounded hiding in the tall grass. One of the crew spotted a man behind them waving a rag. Instead of turning, Mike hovered his Huey backwards, tail first, with rotor wash flattening the grass. Finally locating the soldier, the crew grabbed hold and began hoisting the trooper aboard when suddenly 30 yards ahead, an enemy soldier popped up from the grass . . . brandishing an AK-47 and opened up on the aircraft. Bullets peppered DUSTOFF 88, piercing the windscreen. Novosel was hit. A bullet struck his control hand, forcing the stick back. Another round bounced off the rubber sole of his boot, turning his foot inwards, forcing the other foot outwards, cramping control of the pedals. The Huey reared up. The soldier in the doorway slipped out, getting hung up on the skids, straddling one of the runners with his legs.

Novosel and his co-pilot, regained control of the helicopter as the crew pulled the wounded man aboard and DUSTOFF 88 headed for home. That day Mike Novosel and his crew were credited with rescuing 29 wounded South Vietnamese. In recognition of these heroic actions President Richard M. Nixon, presented the Nation's highest award for valor to CW4 Novosel on June 15, 1971, in a ceremony at the White House.

In total over two combat tours in Vietnam, Mike Novosel logged 2,038 combat hours in 2,345 missions, resulting in the evacuation of 5,589 wounded soldiers.

At that time, 48-year-old CW4 Michael Novosel was the oldest Army Soldier to receive the Medal of Honor during the Vietnam War. When he retired in February 1985, he was the last Army pilot on active duty who had been in combat during World War II.

He was inducted into the Army Aviation Hall of Fame at Fort Rucker, Alabama, June 14, 1975 and died on April 2, 2006 at the age of 83. Mike was further honored on April 10, 2023, when Fort Rucker, AL was renamed Fort Novosel.

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