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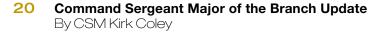
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#### On The Cover

PAID ADVERTISEMENT: As a new era in Army Aviation enters, Bell is ready to equip the next generation of combat aviators with advanced learning technology, a superior aircraft solution and state-of-the-art training for the "classroom in the sky" experience. Caption provided by the advertiser.

#### Briefings



#### Caine Confirmed as CJCS

Retired U.S. Air Force Lieutenant General Dan "Razin" Caine was confirmed by the Senate on April 11, 2025 to be the 22nd chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Caine is a decorated F-16 combat pilot who served in command and staff positions in multiple special operations commands, and as the associate director for military affairs in the CIA.

#### First IERW Part 141 Class Completes Stage One Exams



On April 16, 2025, the U.S. Army Part 141 Initial Entry Rotary Wing (IERW) Class 1, successfully completed their Stage One Knowledge Exams with a 100% pass rate. They are truly off to a strong and impressive start. In addition to this academic milestone, today was also the Class 1 Hat Ceremony – a moment of tradition and identity. Wearing the signature Olive Drab Green, this class represents a new generation of Army Aviators – dedicated, determined, and mission-ready. For more on the Part 141 IERW training program see page 128.

#### Distance Waiver No Longer Needed to Stay with Tricare Prime

Beneficiaries who live within 100 miles of a military hospital or clinic but at least 30 minutes away by car no longer need to request a waiver to stay with Tricare Prime. Under the Tricare contracts that went into effect, land a patients who move to a location outside that access standard for

into effect Jan. 1, patients who move to a location outside that access standard for primary care can choose to receive care at the DoD facility or, if they already receive care there, keep their primary care manager without seeking a waiver. Beneficiaries who meet the criteria will receive a letter notifying them that their homes are outside the access-standard measure, but if they don't respond, they will remain with their current primary care managers, or PCMs, at their military treatment facility. Those who want to change primary care managers, however, can do so by following instructions in the letter.

#### Attention all Vietnam Vets - VHPA Monument Dedication at Ft. Novosel

Mark your calendars – Wednesday, 10 September 2025 at 1000 and plan to be at Fort Novosel (Rucker), your ORWAC and WORWAC alma mater, for the unveiling and dedication of the Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association

monument to the helicopter pilots and crew members who fought and died in the Vietnam War. The ceremony will include a Vietnam Huey fly-by, another Vietnam Huey on static display, a welcome back to Fort Rucker by MG Clair Gill (Aviation Branch Chief), and a keynote address by one of our own, GEN Bryan "Doug" Brown who graduated with Flight Class 71-2, flew with the 129th AHC in Vietnam, rose through the ranks to become the commander of the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (SOAR), the "Night Stalkers," and finished his career at the pinnacle of Army Aviation and Special Operations as the longest serving commander of USSOCOM,. The ceremony will take place in the Memorial Park adjacent to the Army Aviation Museum & Foundation just inside the Daleville, AL gate.

#### Army Aviation Hall of Fame

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#### President's Cockpit

#### Welcome to the 2025 AAAA Annual Summit!

s I scribe my last message as your AAAA National President, all indications are that we will have an exceptional Summit, just given the level of attendee registration and the record exhibit commitments from industry and our other partners; and the strong support from our Army and Aviation Branch leadership to develop and deliver a comprehensive and meaningful agenda and program of activities which showcase the strength of the entire Army Aviation community and family.

In addition, we will also induct our newest Army Aviation Hall of Fame members, recognize our many outstanding individual and organizational Aviation awardees, and importantly, simply spend time together socially and professionally as a committed community.

This is what the AAAA Missional Solutions Summit is all about, the sole Army Aviation event that brings together our entire community to engage on how best to support our Army, our Branch, and most importantly, our Army Aviation soldiers and families. "Army Aviation: Ready to meet Tomorrow's Challenges Today" is a most appropriate theme and I want to thank our Branch Chief, MG Clair Gill, for all his support and guidance, along with all the other members of the Aviation General Officers Steering Committee, in the lead up to this years Summit

I also would like to thank the Branch Chief and the other Aviation GOSC leaders for joining MG (Ret.) Todd Royar, Mr. Bill Harris, and myself at the April 9 're-boot of the Congressional Army Aviation Caucus on Capitol Hill. Well over 125 folks attended the networking reception in the Rayburn Building, to hear from our Caucus Co-Chairs, Ranking Member on Appropriations, Hon. Rosa DeLauro, (D-CT-3), and Hon. Dale Strong, (R-AL-5) along with MG Gill who laid out the Branch priorities, along with remarks from each of the Aviation GOSC leaders.

Well, as I alluded to above, "commanders come and go, and it doesn't hurt the organization any!" Hard to believe that my term as your AAAA President is ending... time goes by in the blink of an eye. What a privilege it has been! I want to thank the National Executive Group (NEG) team; we could not have a more dedicated, engaged, and supportive group of committed, 'Soldiers for Life.' MG (Ret.) Wally Golden, our Senior VP (about to become your AAAA President), thank you for everything and especially for stepping in for me at last



AAAA National President, MG (Ret.) Walt Davis, addresses attendees at the April 9, 2025 Army Aviation Congressional Caucus. For more on the Caucus, see page 124.

year's event in Denver. BG (Ret.) Tim Edens our Treasurer, and MG Todd Royar our National Secretary, thank you also for all your efforts in keeping this great organization focused, successful and relevant. CW4 (Ret.) Becky Chambers our VP for Membership has done a record-setting job driving us to over 20,000 members and LTC (Ret.) Jan Drabczuk, our VP for Chapters, has managed his own record by growing our AAAA chapters to an all-time high of 83. Amazing results from an amazing team. Again, thank you all... and that goes to the entire AAAA National Executive Board which includes our many Committee Chairs ... your committed service to the Association is remarkable!

And finally, my personal thanks to Mr. Bill Harris, our Executive Director, Janis Arena, CW4 (Ret.) Joe Pisano and the entire AAAA professional staff. You all are the Association's center of gravity and heartbeat... the reason that 'we are who we are'...completely committed and dedicated to the mission of our great Association and making things happen! Thank you!

As a soon to be a Past AAAA President at the conclusion of this Summit, I will remain engaged as Chairman of the Nominating Committee and look forward to contributing however I can to this great organization whose sole focus is "Supporting the U.S. Army Aviation Soldier and Family"

Above the Best!

MG Walt Davis, U.S. Army Retired 36th President, AAAA walt.davis@quad-a.org

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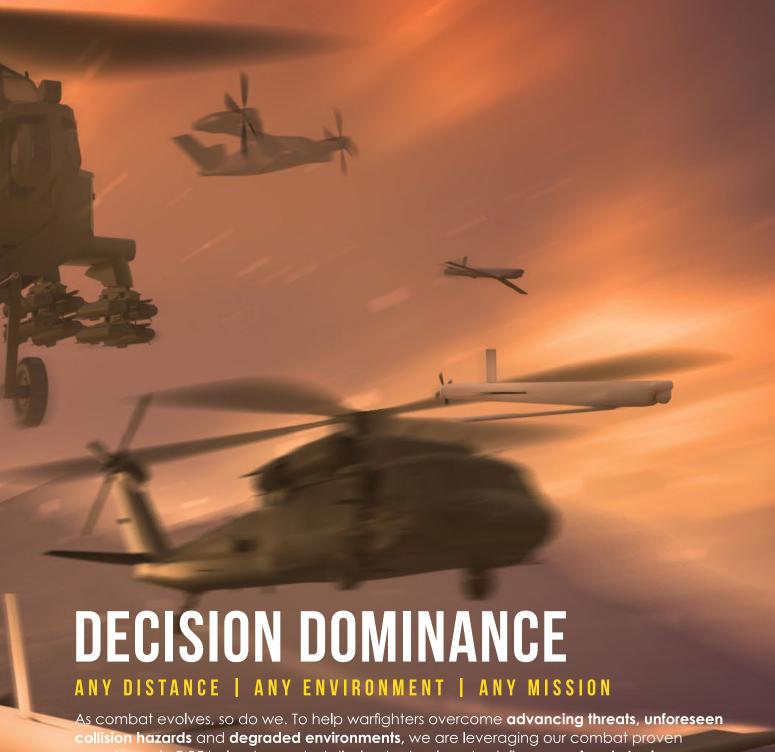
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#### Army Aviation Branch Chief Update

#### Investing in a Bright Future: An Army Aviation Branch Update By MG Clair A. Gill



You've heard it a lot frequently: The nature of warfare remains the same throughout time; however, the character of war, or how an army applies force inherent to armed conflict, evolves with time.

A 3D printed, small-unmanned aircraft system, developed by the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) in its EagleWerx innovation center, takes its initial flight on Oct. 10, 2024, at Fort Campbell, KY. The drone is set to be tested during Operation Lethal Eagle in spring of this year.

Armies worldwide are noticing the changing character of war and all stand at a decision point about their future in warfare. Every day, nations are making decisions regarding investments in increased human-machine integration, unmanned systems, and artificial intelligence. The world has watched - sometimes via grainy social media videos - the impact of these disruptive technologies in locations such as Nagorno Karabakh, Ukraine, and Gaza. The change to warfare is undeniable.

The U.S. Army is closely watching and studying the changing character of war, all the while transforming to maintain a future footing. The sensed change in warfare demands adaptation, and to paraphrase H.G. Wells, "we must change or die." Our challenge is that we have only one Army, and it must continue to be ready now all the while prepar-

ing for tomorrow's uncertain future, and the fight for advantage is now. Like the rest of our Army, your Aviation Branch has been taking steps to transform in contact while continuing to prepare for the daunting certainty of future combat.

Over the last year, Army Aviation has worked tirelessly to retain our readiness to fight and win tonight, while simultaneously taking steps toward a future that will host streamlined units of tactically agile Aviation Warfighters capable of fighting in every environment.

#### The State of the Branch

Our ability to change in response to the evolving character of war is best seen in what we do in the present. The current state of our branch is measured through operational accomplishment, tempered with future development. And our future development is built upon the cornerstone of Army Aviation, our Soldiers. We are making exciting investments in continuous development of our Aviation Warfighters. This year, we took steps to revise and refine key professional experiences for our aviators that are sure to enhance tactical competence across every formation.

Flight School Next (FSN) is a flagship initiative that promises to deliver a more robust initial education and flight training experience for future Army aviators, increasing flight time while emphasizing fundamental pilotage skills. An FSN "pilot" program started in April 2025, and over the next year, 48 students will experience this trial training pipeline that will inform our future cognitive learning, our curricula, and our equipment. I am certain FSN will also help Army Aviation realize significant savings, all of which will serve as an opportunity /invest-



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ment into future development.

We also just initiated the first iterations of the Aviation Tactics Instructor Course (ATIC), formerly the Instructor Pilot Course. The change from IPC to ATIC was undertaken to increase tactical focus across Army Aviation. More simply, traffic pattern proficiency is foundational, but it does not win wars: and we need to fundamentally change the focus of our training. ATIC seeks to better develop platoon-level Instructor Pilots (IPs) who will train more tactically-focused aviators and develop platoons to operate as a part of a joint and combined-arms team. Changes brought about by ATIC and FSN promise to directly impact the warfighting readiness across Army Aviation.

Aviation Warfighter education is one facet of change, but force structure is also changing. Over the last year, the Army divested legacy UAS equipment such as the RQ-7B and RQ-11. In response, Army Aviation has rapidly grown new capability and training opportunities specific to UAS, placing emphasis on small UAS (in coordination with the Maneuver Center), while continuing to invest and test/develop tactical UAS. Our Army gained new experiences, refined our unmanned capability, and simultaneously put Aviation Soldiers at the cutting-edge of UAS technology. This is a clear window into the future.

Aviation Branch has also completed initial iterations of deliberate, risk-informed Force Design Updates (FDU) beyond the UAS community. These FDUs, much like our current efforts in UAS, seek to harvest the best of our legacy fleet and optimize our formations for Multi-Domain Operations (MDO). The on-going effort looks to find the best operational utility for the current force, at the same time preparing formations to eventually receive emergent capability. Deliberate planning and implementation of the FDUs allow the Army to remain ready now, while creating formations and concepts to employ future capabilities, such as the Future Long Range Assault Aircraft (MV-75) and associated autonomous systems.

Another area of intense focus for Army Aviation has been our future operating environment: the lower tier of the air domain/upper tier of the ground domain – it is becoming very congested! In conjunction with our center of excellence (COE) teammates from Mission Command, Fires, and Maneuver, the Aviation Branch is analyzing the

airspace challenge and working practical procedural and technical solutions for the entirety of our Army. AVCOE recently conducted both an Airspace Summit and OPT to facilitate Army Aviation's lead role in airspace management (and control), providing optimal operating conditions for co-use by joint and multi-national partners.

Finally, and perhaps most critical, Army Aviation has been making a concerted effort to train and educate our next generation Soldiers on the identity of an Aviation Warfighter. The Aviation Warfighter culture remains grounded in our core identity as committed, disciplined aviation technical and tactical Soldiers. Aviation Soldiers are just like Infantrymen, Sustainers, or Engineers, as all work towards victory in the land domain - we just happen to fly. Furthermore, as seen by our recent release of the Aviation Training Strategy, Army Aviation is working to supplement our warfighter culture with a refined approach to collective training to better support large-scale operations in the land domain, requiring all Aviation Soldiers to grow and become more conversant in land warfare.

#### Conclusion

It has been a fast-paced year for the branch, but the alternative to change is atrophy, which is unsafe and dangerous. In 1999, GEN Shinseki (34th Army Chief of Staff) said, "if you don't like change, you'll like irrelevance even less." As we look to the future, we remain steadfast in providing the See/Sense, Strike, Move, and Extend capabilities to the Joint and Army combined arms teams. To keep pace with the speed and direction of technology, we continue to assess and invest in systems that will make us more lethal combined arms teammates. Army Aviation seeks to embrace future challenges with the spirit and determination that have defined the branch, since its inception. We know better than any branch that future success demands transformation today. We should not simply experience the change, but rather we must lead change and be the difference maker for our nation. Hope to see you at the AAAA Summit.

Above the Best! Fly Army!

MG Clair A. Gill. is the commanding general of the U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence and the Army Aviation Branch Chief located at Fort Novosel, AL.



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#### Chief Warrant Officer of the Branch Update

#### You Have The Controls

By CW5 Mike Corsaro

Thank you for being "All you can Be" by being "ALL IN" in all you do!

It has been an honor to be part of such an amazing team who have all the capabilities, talent, and skill to answer the call as integral members of our Combined Arms Team! I could not be more honored to be part of such an exceptional team of Active, National Guard, and Reserve Soldiers committed to our total Army effort.

Although it seems like yesterday, it has been almost two years since assuming the role as your Command Chief Warrant Officer of the Branch (CWOB) for Army Aviation. It has been the most challenging and rewarding experience to be part of such positive transformation our branch has not seen before – and we are not done yet!

#### **PME**

The U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence (AVCOE) is transforming our Professional Military Education (PME) and training to focus on our emerging challenges. Transformation in Contact is like building the helicopter while flying it. As we move forward, our PME also must project an Aviation culture that focuses on doctrine and permeates our role in LSCO.

We have revised our Warrant Officer PME, emphasizing tactical and technical proficiency. The training and education a Warrant Officer receives at each stage of their career will be directly relevant to the duties and responsibilities they are expected to perform at their grade, in their specific assignments, and with the required Skill Qualification Identifiers.

A key focus has been modernizing PME to address emerging challenges. We will see our PMEs fully operational by FY27, emphasizing ground and Aviation doctrine and our role in Large Scale Combat Operations (LSCO). Updates are rolling out across all courses. WOBC is evolving for all MOSs, with 150A/U



Chief Warrant Officer 5 Michael A. Corsaro, Aviation branch chief warrant officer, greets Army aviation students who are slated to participate in a contractor owned and operated Flight School Next pilot program at Fort Novosel, Ala., March 28, 2025.

now proceeding directly from WOCS, eliminating redundant training and TDY requirements. WOIC for CW2s will concentrate on Aviation Warfighting Skills, tailored to each MOS's role in the division fight. WOAC will focus on career progression and warfighting skills, with new track courses like the Aviation Tactical Instructor Course (ATIC) transforming our legacy Instructor Pilot Course (IPC) into a tactically focused program designed to develop platoon-level IPs to teach us how to fly and fight our aircraft as part of the combined arms team. WOSC is also being transformed to better support ground warfare. For the first time, we have Senior Courses specifically developed to support ground warfare in an LSCO environment through singleship, multi-ship, and collective training.

In conjunction, these PME changes support the Aviation Warfighter Culture by building individual expertise critical in Army Aviation. Part of our culture is valuing the things that support the ground force commander and as a member of the combined arms team, that means technical and tactical proficiency. We must understand not only our part

of the fight but how it fits with ground commander's scheme of maneuver.

#### **Programs and Initiatives**

AVCOE has carefully examined our capability to train warfighters to meet our future demands. Our *Flight School Next (FSN)* initiative will establish a sustainable strategic pathway for flight training, produce more proficient aviators, and assess cost savings. We will transform the current initial entry rotary-wing (IERW) training to create a better initial entry aviator with the skill they need to progress to the advanced airframes. AVCOE solicited market interest, hosted an Industry Day, and in April 2025, started an FSN pilot program in a trial training pipeline.

Along with changes to FSN, AVCOE will implement a new Active-Duty Service Obligation (ADSO) Adjustment and graduation policy to align with the future FSN flight school program. Instead of graduations held at the end of advanced aircraft training and completion, aviators will now receive their aviator wings at the completion of the FSN Common Core phase of training. This new policy



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update not only changes when a student officially becomes an aviator, but it also adjusts the start date for their ADSO. The updated policy will be published in May 2025 and implementation backdated to those that graduated FSXXI Common Core phase after 1 Oct 2020. Aviators can expect HRC and AVCOE to adjust service dates after the new policy is published.

As we look to the future, AVCOE understands our formations' challenges when training their aviators. With a talented force that is short on instructors, AVCOE developed the Mobile Assistance Training Team (MAT-Team) to assist in ATP Support. This program uses AVCOE available assigned IPs at Fort Novosel to temporarily support training in FORSCOM aviation units. Starting in April 2025, AVCOE offers IPs to the Army to assist Combat Aviation Brigades (CABs) with their training. The MAT-Team program started in April 2025. CABs should submit support requests through AVCOE G-3.

#### You Have The Controls!

These are only a few of the programs and initiatives AVCOE has worked over the last two years; there are so many more! However, now it is time to transfer the controls. Please join me in welcoming CW5 Scott Slider to our team as he will take the seat this summer as our 11th Chief Warrant Officer of the Branch! A servant leader who is exactly what our branch needs to bring us to the next level of warfighting excellence!

Now, as my wife Suk and I move into our next adventure, I would like to thank each of you for all you do! Whether you are the maintainer on the floor, the pilot on the controls, the 151A working beyond their paygrade, the UAS systems technician integrating capabilities with the BCTs, the Airspace synchronization specialist, or you are one of the phenomenal leaders of our Aviation enterprise – know that none of this could happen without you. I want to sincerely thank you for being ALL IN! You truly are Above the Best!

Fly Army! Above the Best!

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

Editor's Note: We thank CW5 Corsaro for his dedicated support and wish him and his wife Suk all good things in the future.

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#### Command Sergeant Major of the Branch Update

# Army Aviation Support and the Changing Landscape of Modern Warfare By CSM Kirk R. Coley



ver the last year, the Commanding General and I have been steadily communicating that the character of warfare is changing, a fact brought home consistently in nearly every global news feed.

A Soldier performs maintenance on the CH-47 Chinook helicopter engine.

Everyone watching the war in Ukraine knows that almost every aspect of the battlefield has evolved. As a result, every military in the world has sensed a need to change in response to the fighting on display. The U.S. Army and its senior leaders have joined the chorus of voices demanding a dynamic evolution in how we fight as a more complete and future-ready force.

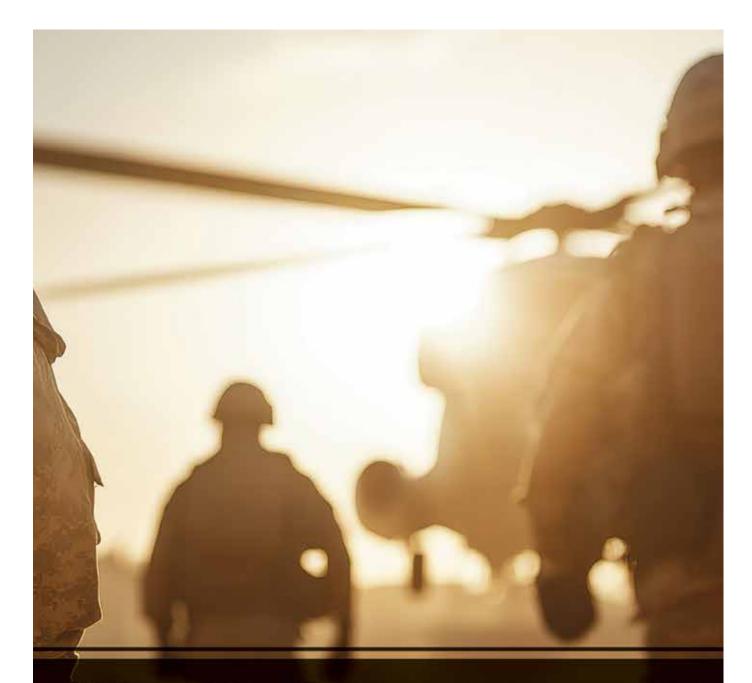
In the CG's article, you will read that, "Aviation Branch has been taking steps to transform in contact (TiC) while continuing to prepare for the daunting certainty of future combat." It may

seem that current transformation across the branch focuses on manned and unmanned systems. However, more than signature programs have changed. For instance, many have probably noticed that techniques, tactics, and procedures (TTPs) are also starting to evolve across every formation in FORSCOM, as many become aware Army Aviation must be prepared to fight across vast distances, and from time-to-time with minimal support in heavily contested environments. Over the last twelve months, the "backbone" of Army Aviation has been working diligently to ad-

dress changing maintenance and support needs, refine Soldier education efforts and development, and grow to doubledown on Aviation Warfighter Culture.

#### Tactical Realities Changing Aviation Support

I know that aircrew and support personnel alike are aware of the dangerous changes to the modern battlefield. These recent battlefield developments have forced Army Aviation Soldiers to consider new approaches on how to conduct business. For instance, contested environments and long-range preci-



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Soldiers from the 4th Infantry Division perform maintenance on the main rotor head of the UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter.

sion fires have given way to new and complex TTPs, like the Large-Scale Long-Range Air Assault (L2A2).

L2A2, and other events, has our units covering extreme distances in fewer periods of darkness, thus dictating new maintenance practices. Noncommis-

sioned Officers and Soldiers from the 101st Air Assault and 25th Infantry Division Combat Aviation Brigades (CAB) have already experienced this new demand on maintenance firsthand and responded terrifically. Front loading inspections and coupling every available

maintenance and sustainment asset together demanded great teamwork and planning from every unit in the CAB. It has been amazing to watch so many respond with professionalism and dedication. Furthermore, these developments serve as an example of likely maintenance practices in support of large-scale combat operations (LSCO).

#### New Developments Based on Mission Changes

I know that every Soldier knows mission changes can dictate a lot in the Army. The mission-oriented demands on aircraft and personnel, as seen in L2A2, coupled with data to inform decision making, could one day expand conditions-based maintenance in Army Aviation. Such a development will not happen overnight, but the branch is heavily researching the realities of conditions-based maintenance in future LSCO. Other implications surrounding maintenance in LSCO means Army Aviation must begin to reanalyze every aspect of our maintenance practices and training, both in the institution and unit.

Army Aviation senior leaders are beginning to reconsider unrealized benefits from the consolidation of certain Avia-







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tion Military Occupational Specialties (MOS) or even cross-training maintenance personnel to gain operational efficiencies. Again, this is not happening overnight, but it is being studied. Our branch UAS personnel, specifically 15E and 15W Soldiers, are currently experiencing an example of such cross training. The point is maintenance capability should never suffer because a single MOS might not be present or in abundance. The Directorate of Training and Doctrine and other agencies, such as scholars from William and Mary, are working to capture and analyze data points to inform further decisions.

We are hopeful analysis into specific aspects of aviation maintenance will work to inform how we can best leverage the Aviation Maintenance Training Program (AMTP) and even lead to Common Aviation Maintenance (CAM) practices. After all, LSCO in the future fight means our maintainers, not contractors, need greater skillsets. Programs like AMTP and CAM will help get us there. The possibilities are limitless, and future operations could even include tele-maintenance, remote LARs, or leveraging UAS in support of DART and other operations.

Tactical realities and talk of future force overwhelm our discussions. It is good to remember that we kept Soldier issues in mind as well. For instance, we were able to establish a Personnel Development Skill Identifier EA1 for identification of CH/MH-47 Flight Engineers. The branch also requested a review of non-rated crewmember special duty assignment pay, specifically for MOS 15T and 15U that meet specific duty criteria. Aviation Branch is also revising initial entry training with the inclusion of Augmented and Virtual Reality tools. Know that senior leaders constantly discuss the welfare, education, and development of every Aviation Soldier, as you are central to the Branch.

#### **Doubling Down on Aviation Warfighter Culture**

While it is obvious the Aviation Branch is really focused on operational needs and realities, we also recognize mission success or failure rests on the back of our organizational culture. The Aviation Warfighter culture being discussed by the CG remains cemented in our core identity as committed and

disciplined Aviation Soldiers. Even as Aviation Branch Soldiers, our focus must be similar to Infantry, Engineers, and others, victory in land war. Army Aviation is working to supplement our warfighter culture with a new approach to collective training to better prepare for LSCO in the land domain, but we need all Aviation Soldiers to grow and better understand land warfare.

#### Conclusion

It has been a busy year for the branch, full of change and even uncertainty, but our enlisted Soldiers and NCOs have proven strong, resilient, and capable. As we look to the future, we must remain committed to serving as the "backbone" of the Aviation Branch. As we seek to embrace future challenges through smarter maintenance practices, crosstraining, and innovation, it can only happen with you, the Aviation Warfighter. Stay resilient, stay focused, and change with us to win today and tomorrow!

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.





# Precision Maintenance for Mission Readiness

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#### Reserve Component Aviation Update

#### Moving Forward in the Darkness

By COL Aaron Schilleci

"The present situation is to be regarded as one of opportunity for us and not of disaster..."

Dwight Eisenhower, 16 December, 1944

As we gather for our annual AAAA Summit, it would be easy to fall into the "woe is me" trap. Our Army's manpower may shrink, force structure may certainly be at risk, and most certainly our budget will shrink—correspondingly, we will have less freedom of maneuver in what we do than which we are accustomed. However, as General Eisenhower pointed out at the beginning of the Batlle of the Bulge, every failure brings opportunity. It's our challenge as leaders to find those opportunities, develop them, and convince our subordinates that all is not lost and we must lead our teams with perpetual optimism.

There are a few reflections we can practice toward that end.

#### Exhale. Relax. Keep things in perspective.

As many combat veterans reading these words are well aware: 1. You're not getting shot at. 2. There are no troops in contact right now. 3. Nothing is on fire. With those bases of comparison – life is good. The Army has gone through periods of contraction (post-WWII, post-Vietnam, post-Gulf War I), and somehow still managed to field a world-class fighting force when the need arose. We will do so again. When the Comanche program was canceled in 2004, many in Army Aviation thought our world had ended. Apparently not – the M-TADS was developed and fielded, and we became the indispensable combat enabler in Iraq and Afghanistan.

#### Continue to innovate and experiment.

Doing things the old way may not be affordable in our current fiscal environment, so why not try something different? Look to our UAS brethren as an example. Last February, their entire tactical capability was eliminated (Raven and Shadow), and from the ashes is rising a multiverse of innovation and experimentation that looks like chaos but tastes like creativity. Now is the time to unleash bold critical thinking to find new ways to field, train, and maintain. What does a joint FARP look like in the INDOPACOM LSCO environment – it's time to answer these complex questions.

And don't be afraid to think big. Maybe it's time to re-look the balance between manned and unmanned aircraft, the balance of powered aircraft versus high altitude balloons and platforms, big aircraft versus smaller machines.

#### Our glass is definitely half-full.

We've still got the best machines on the planet, the smartest and most tech-savvy Soldiers in our history, and leaders with



U.S. Army 2-285th Aviation Regiment conducts external cargo pickup zone operations in support of the 278th RSS during an XCTC training exercise, June 5, 2024, Fort Cavazos, TX.

years of combat experience. If the Army shifts into the direction of shedding force structure, we historically divest older airframes, Soldiers who cannot meet basic standards, and leaders out of their prime – leaving us a leaner and sharper Army.

#### Teamwork.

We must fully recognize and accept our peer threat is China and not fall into the trap of internal competition. We must think from the joint and interagency perspectives and determine intersections of opportunity to gain and maintain relevance. If PACOM is the pacing theater, we must determine how to best assist and enable our 25ID, 2ID, and yes, even our Navy and Marine Corps brothers and sisters. In doing so, we gain proficiency and learn lessons otherwise unachievable.

Finally, let's recognize that **optimism is a contagious combat-multiplier**. As aviation leaders we must be willing to persevere when times are tough and demonstrate resilience to our Soldiers. From another historical context, Eisenhower's optimism was also indeed contagious, first with Patton, and then with the other field commanders (well, maybe not so much with Montgomery). Within a few weeks, the Allies had blunted the Axis advance toward the Meuse and destroyed Hitler's last reserves under Ike's leadership. Exploitation and pursuit followed, along with ultimate victory.

Let's follow Ike's example and spread a little optimism around.

COL Aaron Schilleci is the chief of the Aviation and Safety Division, Army National Guard, Arlington, VA.

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#### 128th Aviation Brigade Update

## 128th Aviation Brigade Courseware and the Aviation Enterprise

By Mr. William Cristy



The 128th Aviation Brigade is a proud member of the U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence and the broader Army Aviation Enterprise.

Students from the 128th Aviation Brigade conducting maintenance training.

As the primary training unit for entry-level enlisted maintainers, staying up to date with industry and operational advancements is critical. This ensures that relevant updates are incorporated into the curriculum of the 10 enlisted Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) Advanced Individual Training (AIT) courses taught at Fort Eustis.

While the Brigade's primary focus is on developing Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities (KSA), hands-on maintenance tasks reinforce these competencies and expose young Soldiers to the aircraft they will eventually maintain – from top to bottom, tip to tail, and across all integrated systems. Depending on their MOS, AIT students spend 12 to 24 weeks

learning to read maintenance manuals, use common and precision tools, twist safety wire, and more – all while being immersed in the Army Aviation branch's safety culture. Like all training units, the Brigade continuously reviews its lessons and Programs of Instruction (POI) to ensure it produces the best-trained graduates for the operational force.

A key aspect of refining lessons and course material involves collaboration with multiple elements of the Army Aviation team. Contributors include Program Executives Offices, Army Capability Managers, the Aviation Center's Directorate of Training and Doctrine, MTOE units worldwide, and subject matter experts. These stakehold-

ers provide essential insights that guide the Brigade's Training Development teams in shaping the future of maintenance training for each MOS. Through these partnerships, the Brigade stays informed about updates to aircraft, Aircraft Survivability Equipment, Ground Support Equipment, and Technical Manuals. Additionally, feedback on training gaps is collected from newly assigned instructors arriving from tactical units, recently departed instructors out in the operational force, and direct surveys sent to Soldiers.

While training focuses primarily on KSA, different MOS specialties require unique approaches. MOS 15F, 15N, and 15Y, emphasize troubleshooting, where-

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593 Main Street, Monroe, CT 06468-2806 Email: aaaa@quad-a.org (203) 268-2450 as others, such as 15R, 15T, and 15U, may require Soldiers to conduct Maintenance Operational Checks (MOC) to determine whether a component needs to be removed and replaced. For these MOS, advanced repairs may take place at higher maintenance levels, meaning some training occurs within operational units rather than at the schoolhouse. Conversely, MOS 15B, 15D, 15H, and 15G often involve more repair work at lower levels of maintenance. Given these distinctions, feedback from the field varies significantly, ensuring that training remains relevant and mission focused.

Some argue that if a Soldier can read a manual and use tools, they can figure out how to maintain equipment. However, this assumption does not always apply to entry-level mechanics, and modernized systems often necessitate changes in basic skill-building exercises during initial training. Over the years, various modernization efforts have influenced the training curriculum. For example, the introduction of carbon fiber components required new training materials, while the shift from analog gauges to Multi-Functional Displays (MFDs) necessitated changes in instruction. Other transitions include switching from Unit Level Logistics System-Aviation (Enhanced) (ULLS-A(E) to Aircraft Notebook (ACN), updates to UH-60 anti-vibration equipment, and advancements in blade composition. The Brigade remains vigilant in identifying new technologies and procedures that warrant curriculum updates. Looking ahead, we are excited about potential developments such as the T901 engine, Spike NLOS missile, updated ASE, CH-47F Block II, AGPU 1.1, and the Future Long Range Assault Aircraft (FLRAA).

Change is constant in the Army Aviation community, and with current global events accelerating innovation, adaptability is more crucial than ever. The 128th Aviation Brigade stands ready to meet these challenges head-on. By staying engaged with our Army Aviation Enterprise partners and delivering the highest-quality, most relevant training possible, we will continue to remain Above the Best!

Born Under Fire!

Mr. William Cristy is the executive officer of 1-210th Aviation Regiment, 128th Aviation Brigade, Joint Base Langley-Eustis, VA.



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#### **DEVCOM** CODC AVMC Tech Talk

#### Whirl Mode Stability By Dr. Thomas L. Thompson

raniff Airways Flight 542, a Lockheed Electra L-188 turboprop aircraft (Figure 1), departed Houston for Dallas on the evening of September 29, 1959.

There were a few scattered clouds with no lightning and only light turbulence. As the aircraft neared its destination, residents near Buffalo, TX, about 100 miles south of Dallas, reported seeing a fireball in the sky and hearing thunderlike noises. Wreckage of the aircraft, scattered over a large area south of town, pointed to an in-flight breakup of the L-188. Less than six months later, on March 17, 1960, Northwest Airlines Flight 10, another L-188 aircraft, departed from Chicago, IL for Miami, FL. About two hours into the flight, the aircraft crashed near Cannelton, IN. Study of the wreckage showed that the outboard engines, along with portions of the left and right wings, had separated from the airplane in flight.

Accident investigations concluded that the engine mounts for both aircraft had developed cracks, which reduced the stiffness of the mounts and made the aircraft susceptible to whirl mode flutter, an aeroelastic phenomenon caused by coupling of the propeller aerodynamic forces and moments with the flexibility of the engine mounts and wing structure. Destructive oscillations of the outboard engines resulted, leading to catastrophic failure of the wing. Lockheed fixed the problem by retrofitting the L-188 fleet with strengthened engine mounts and wing structures.

The L-188 Electra crashes and their findings compelled aircraft designers and regulatory agencies to develop and establish requirements, design practices, analyses, and test methodologies to ensure that turboprop airplanes, as well as rotorcraft, are free of whirl mode instabilities. Aeroelastic stability is an



airworthiness requirement that must be addressed early in development and demonstrated in flight testing.

During development of the YAH-64 prototype Apache helicopter in the mid-1970s, Lou Silverthorn, a young dynamics engineer for Hughes Helicopters, alerted Apache designers to a whirl mode stability problem that he had identified using a finite element structural dynamics computer program. Silverthorn's analysis showed that the instability was due to the soft rotor mast-base support structure and coupling of main rotor cyclic pitch changes with hub rolling and pitching motion. Ground Test Vehicle (GTV) results confirmed an unstable whirl mode at a rotor speed of 108% rpm, which did not meet the System Specification requirement that the aircraft should be free of aeroelastic instabilities below 120% rpm. Designers implemented two changes that improved whirl mode stability. The first change increased the stiffness of the rotor support structure. The second, which added 20 degrees of sweep to the outboard 20 inches of the blade, reduced blade loads in high-speed flight but also helped move the whirl stability boundary to a higher rotor speed. Subsequent ground and flight tests demonstrated that the production aircraft was free of whirl instabilities within the envelope required by the Apache System Specification (120% rpm and 3.5g normal load factor).

During testing of the Bell XV-3 tiltrotor aircraft in 1956, a coupled rotorwing whirl instability was encountered in airplane mode. Bell and NASA conducted joint research to better understand the problem, develop analyses, and conduct wind tunnel and flight testing. The research, which showed that whirl stability is more complicated for tiltrotors than propeller aircraft because of the additional flapping degree of freedom allowed by the gimbaled rotor hubs used on tiltrotor aircraft, provided a strong foundation for the aeroelastic designs of the Bell-NASA XV-15 and Bell-Boeing V-22 aircraft. Those aircraft incorporated low-aspect ratio, thick wing sections to provide the necessary stiffness to ensure whirl mode stability at airspeeds greater than 300 knots. Current research aims to identify rotor design changes that will allow tiltrotors to meet whirl mode stability requirements with slender, thinner wings for improved flight performance.

To ensure aircraft are free of aeroelastic instabilities, military and civilian airworthiness authorities require offerors to demonstrate stability at airspeeds up to 15% beyond the approved flight envelope. Offerors satisfy the requirement by providing a combination of supporting analyses and flight data.

Dr. Thomas L. Thompson is the Chief Engineer for Aeromechanics at the Systems Readiness Directorate, U.S. Army Combat Capabilities Development Command Aviation & Missile Center, Redstone Arsenal, AL



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#### Ask the Flight Surgeon

#### Anesthesia Considerations

By MAJ Karl Swinson, M.D. and CPT Zamarripa, M.D.

I am an Army Pilot who might undergo right shoulder surgery. Before that, the doctor wanted to try joint injections to see if they relieve my pain. This doctor told me that I had a rotator cuff tear.

I have been dealing with this pain for five years without problems performing my duties, but it is getting to the point where physical therapy and over-the-counter medicines are not controlling the pain. I know there are regulations regarding whether I can still fly after surgery. What must I do as a pilot to ensure I can continue performing my duties?

**FS:** From your description, it sounds like you have significant right shoulder pain that has been evaluated by a healthcare

provider who specializes in orthopedics. First, you must notify your flight surgeon, who will assess you to decide if your condition is still safe to fly. If not, the flight surgeon will issue a temporary DD2992 "downslip" pending your treatment. If you are still safe to fly, your surgeon will likely ask you when the procedure will be undergone and which to undergo. Since you did not describe pain shooting down your arm or weakness in the extremity, the flight surgeon likely will not issue a down slip. However, the

flight surgeon still needs to know what procedure you are undergoing.

#### Q: What is the Treatment?

**FS:** Your orthopedic surgeon is initially recommending steroid injections. This can help control the pain initially as you undergo physical therapy, which is the mainstay of treatments for partial rotator cuff tears. Your orthopedic surgeon will inject the shoulder joint with a steroid and then send you to physical therapy for rehabilitation. You should only do the exercises prescribed by physical therapy during this period. You may be able to continue to fly if your flight surgeon determines that you have sufficient strength and mobility to operate an aircraft safely.

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physical therapy after 3 months or your partial tear progresses to a complete tear, the next step is surgery. For partial tears, this will usually be with an arthroscopic repair where the orthopedic surgeon will place a camera through your skin into the joint space and shave away the injured tissue with a shaving instrument to decompress the joint and allow the rest of the joint to heal. An open repair for a more considerable partial or a complete tear involves opening your shoulder joint and joining the torn edges with a tendon from somewhere else in your body.

#### **Aeromedical Disposition**

For joint injections and other procedures that require only local anesthesia, where only a tiny area of the skin is numbed with a shot of medication, you will be restricted from flying duties for a minimum of 12 hours after the procedure or until the anesthetic has worn off, whichever is longer. Since, in your case, you were not issued a down slip for your shoulder issue, you are ok with returning to flying duty after this period has elapsed if you have experienced no other side effects from the injections.

For shoulder surgeries requiring general anesthetic, the term for when you have to take a medicine to "put you to sleep" during the surgery, or regional anesthetic, where a large nerve bundle injects a medication to numb an entire area such as an arm or leg, there is a mandatory grounding period for at least 48 hours after the procedure. A rotator cuff repair, whether open or minimally invasive, will almost always require one of these two methods of anesthesia.

It is important to note that you are not automatically cleared to return to Aviation duties when this 48-hour period is over. For an arthroscopic rotator cuff repair, you will likely be on strong pain medication for a few days afterward and in a sling for 2-3 weeks. You will need to speak with your aeromedical provider, who will likely recommend you for a recovery period away from work, known as convalescent leave, and issue a down slip. This period is generally 14-30 days, based on the recommendation from your orthopedic surgeon. Of note, this leave period is a recommendation from the flight surgeon and must be approved by your command.

When your convalescent leave is over, you have stopped strong pain medication. You are out of the sling. Your flight surgeon will re-evaluate you, likely recommending an additional recovery period. During this period,

you will be on a temporary profile while you "rehab" or work your way back up to complete duties with physical therapy. From start to finish, you should expect to be grounded for at least six weeks.

For an open repair, the timeline is even longer. You will be in a brace for 6 weeks after surgery and usually in physical therapy for 4-5 months until full mobility has returned. Generally, once you are released from physical therapy and cleared by the provider who performed your surgery, you will be removed for flying duty from your flight surgeon and receive your up slip.

#### 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.) Karl Swinson and CPT (Dr.) Joshua Zamarripa are flight surgeons at Lyster Army Health Clinic at Fort Novosel, AL.







# Army Aviation is Adapting to the Changing Character of Warfare

By BG Matt Braman and Brian Sebold

reetings from the Pentagon, where we are reminded that the only constant is change. The Army as a whole is undergoing its most significant period of transformation since the end of the Cold War. Once again, the driver of change is the evolving geopolitical and operating environment. We are observing in real time on the battlefields of Ukraine and the Middle East the changing character of warfare, defined by near-constant sensing and targeting, dispersed operations over large areas, and the exponential growth in unmanned systems utiliza-

tion. Army Aviation is adapting to continue to provide unmatched capability to the Soldier on the ground and the Joint Force. We are extending our reach and lethality utilizing the Transform in Contact (TiC) initiative for rapid, iterative experimentation and fielding transformational capability.

### **Airspace Management**

In any future conflict, we can expect airspace management to be far more complex. The skies will be heavily populated by both friendly and enemy drones, launched effects, air-defense

systems, aircraft, rockets and artillery, and electronic warfare systems to name a few. We must evolve from an approach of airspace deconfliction to one of rapid integration to converge effects. A new approach will require the rapid exchange of information to sync and deconflict operations. We will need the right aviation expertise at echelon within ground units, coupled with updated software to better integrate airspace users throughout the battlefield.

To tackle this issue, the Army is executing its *Airspace Control Sprint*. The Airspace Sprint is pulling together

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various Centers of Excellence, Cross Functional Teams, Project Executive Offices and others to determine how in the short term the Army will deliver incremental airspace management capabilities - planning, command and control, situational awareness, etc. - to TiC formations at the tactical level to inform requirement development, synchronize emerging capabilities, and integrate across the DOTMLPF spectrum. The Airspace Control Sprint will drive short-term deliverables within the two-year TiC horizon and establish linkages to more transformational, long-term deliverables.

### UnmannedAircraftSystems(UAS)

In line with its airspace management efforts the Army is significantly increasing its investment in UAS. UAS allow commanders to sense and observe more of the battlespace, penetrate electronic warfare and anti-air systems, attack in asymmetric ways, and defend against enemy surveillance and attack. UAS provide a warfighting capability that must be integrated in every type of formation and at every echelon to enhance fires and maneuver on the modern battlefield.

We are employing a layered approach to integration with a mix of low- and high-end systems that execute different missions. While Corps require a limited number of exquisite systems and requisite expertise, battalions and below must be able to execute operations with lower-end, cost-effective systems in higher quantities and with Military Occupational Specialty (MOS)-agnostic operators. Not every formation needs the same mix of UAS capabilities. A unified network, open hardware and software architecture, and common controllers will support interoperability while ensuring units have access to the most advanced and relevant technology supporting their unique missions and formations.

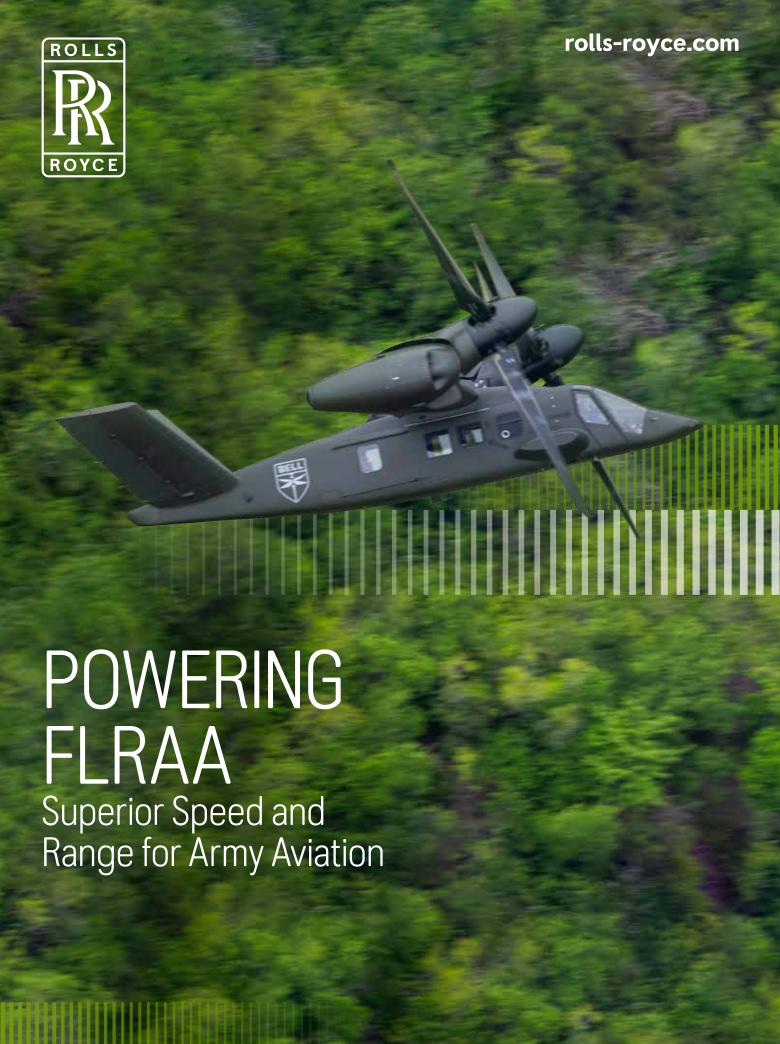
To fully realize this vision, we must continue to leverage commercial innovation to provide Soldiers with the most relevant technology, quickly, economically, and at scale. Speeding up and optimizing our approach to acquisition is imperative to success. We need to get away from long programs of record and move toward awarding multiple contracts for shorter durations, and then recompete those contracts more frequently.

If you look at where we were just 5 years ago in terms of what UAS was fielded, our current efforts represent a wholesale change in approach. The key initiative once again is TiC. Under TiC, the Army is focused on generating near-term (18-24 months) solutions to battlefield threats by enabling units to rapidly test organizational changes while integrating emerging technology. For UAS, the Army is utilizing commercial-off-the-shelf (COTS) systems to facilitate a "buy, give, inform" model to get those systems into the hands of Soldiers to begin training while informing future requirements. In fiscal year (FY) 24, the Army initiated a pilot program that provided three TiC Brigades with \$15 million to purchase COTS UAS to fill gaps and allow unit experimentation and innovation. In FY25, the Army is expanding the program to purchase more COTS UAS and generate more user-level feedback.

The Army is fielding multiple programs of record at multiple echelons as part of TiC to include the *Short Range Reconnaissance (SRR)* small UAS (sUAS) at the platoon level. To date, the Army has fielded 1,138 systems and will begin fielding its second tranche of SRR later this year. The *Medium Range Reconnaissance (MRR)* sUAS will begin fielding at the company level this year. Also approved for fielding beginning in FY27 is the *Long Range Reconnaissance (LRR)* sUAS at the battalion level.

In addition to the sUAS programs of record, the Army is leveraging COTS UAS to fulfill directed requirements (DR) at various levels, to include fielding a company-level sUAS DR to units in Europe and Hawaii to experiment and inform requirements for the MRR program of record. The Army is also fielding a Brigade-level UAS DR to immediately fill a capa-





bility gap beginning later this year. Each of these UAS provide unique ranges and capabilities to create the layered approach to integration we need to pursue while also utilizing the buy, try, inform model of TiC to enable experimentation and innovation. We will scale what works and move on from what doesn't. In this way we will enable our formations to continuously refresh their capabilities to adapt to real-world threats and opportunities.

The Army continues to develop its Future Tactical UAS (FTUAS) which will be a brigade-level, runway-independent system to provide reconnaissance, surveillance, targeting, attack (RSTA) on-the-move capability. We also continue to operate and sustain our Gray Eagle fleet at the Corps and Division levels. The Gray Eagle served well in the counterinsurgency fight over the last 20-plus years. Increased capability payloads, open architecture and modern data links will allow the Gray Eagle to support large scale combat operations while the Army pursues solutions to provide additional deep sensing combined with short takeoff and landing capabilities.

### **Launched Effects**

Similar to UAS, the Army is developing Launched Effects (LE) to provide a range of capabilities through variations of platforms, payloads, and mission systems. LE will provide tactical and operational flexibility through a system of systems comprised of air vehicles, payloads, autonomous behaviors, network components, and control software. Also similar to UAS, we will operate LE at every echelon in both air and ground units. Implementing LE into our aviation formations will drastically increase our lethality and survivability by enabling greater standoff from enemy air defense systems.

#### **FLRAA**

Concurrent to our TiC efforts, Army Aviation is busy setting the conditions to field the Future Long Range Assault Aircraft (FLRAA). Given the requirements of the modern battlefield, FLRAA provides transformational capability that will greatly improve Aviation's ability to support the Joint and Combine Arms Teams in large scale combat operations. More than just its game changing speed and

range, FLRAA is being developed with open systems architecture principles that will allow it to adapt in near real time to threats while drastically cutting sustainment costs. By leveraging the lessons learned by our Sister Services who have experience operating tilt-rotor aircraft, the Aviation Enterprise is working across the DOTMLPF spectrum to ensure units are ready to utilize FLRAA to its full capability the moment the first aircraft are delivered.

Through innovative solutions to complex problems and fielding new and transformational capabilities, Army Aviation is leveraging the lessons observed on the battlefields of Ukraine and the Middle East to adapt in real time to the changing character of warfare.

Above the Best!



BG Matt Braman is the Director of Army Aviation at Headquarters, Department of the Army G-3/5/7 (DAMO-AV) and Brian Sebold is the DAMO-AV

Chief of Strategic Communications.



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### Special Focus > Aviation Leadership Update



# Supply Chain Resilience and Readiness Impacts

By MG Lori Robinson and MAJ Chloe Flores

s I near my one-year mark in command of U.S. Amy Aviation and Missile Command, I have gained a deeper understanding of the current supply chain environment along with the associated risk posed at each link. Our adversaries may try to break the links apart, but together we can keep the chain strong and resilient. This risk spans across people, processes, and materials. A break in any link of the chain can induce readiness issues or supply shortages that may manifest immediately or perhaps won't be seen until years later. Each link in the supply chain builds upon the challenges of the surrounding links, creating a cascading effect that amplifies friction and often induces delays. These issues increase lead times and reduce production capacity.

The interconnectedness of the supply chain becomes clear through several critical issues: raw materials, skilled artisans, production and administrative lead times, and airworthiness qualification. I am committed to ensuring AMCOM is a good customer to our industry partners, and I am confident our defense industrial base will meet our demand with delivery of on time parts.

### Raw Material and A Skilled Workforce

The global supply chain continues to face significant challenges exacerbated by the COVID pandemic. Many subtier suppliers permanently closed their operations, leaving gaps in critical production processes. Persistent shortages of some raw materials have hindered production lines as lead time for materials can stretch up to two years.

Once the raw materials are obtained, it then takes skilled artisans to complete the production. A nationwide shortage of machinists, electricians, welders, and numerous other skilled trades challenges our ability to ramp production quickly. An artisan in any one of these trades can require specialized training for 5-7 years to become a competent

### SUPPLY CHAIN RESILIENCE



Journeyman in these highly technical tasks. To tackle the artisan shortage, it is essential to enhance recruitment efforts and modernize training methods.

For AMCOM, it is particularly important at Corpus Christi Army Depot. CCAD partners with local community colleges and high schools to attract talent and showcases Aviation maintenance career opportunities. Additionally, CCAD is exploring technology-focused training methods such as alternate and virtual reality to appeal to learning preferences of younger generations.

### Administrative And Production Lead Time

Time is generally something we would like more of on most days unless we are talking about Administrative Lead Time and Production Lead Time. In these cases, we strive to lean these processes to the shortest time possible. Administrative lead time includes the time it takes to submit proposals for evaluation and the negotiation of a contract. Production lead time accounts for the time it takes to attain the materials or sub-component and produce the part. On some components,

these lead times combined are 2-3 years and are influenced by many of the links in the supply chain.

When these factors prevent the establishment of long-term contracts, much time and effort is spent in a continual contracting loop. This is another area we must partner together to present and accept proposals that drive administrative lead time down because we know production lead time is impacted on the other side. The Joint Manufacturing Technology Center at Rock Island, IL is the Army's center of excellence for additive and advanced manufacturing. They are currently undergoing audits and are on target to secure Aerospace Standard 9100 certification by this summer, which is required for Aviation grade manufacturing. We are looking for opportunities to drive down production lead time, particularly in the area of castings which can add up to 18 months, to address another chain in the link.

#### **Airworthiness Qualification**

As the Army's airworthiness authority, I am committed to providing safe aircraft for our Aviation Warfighters to fly. AM-

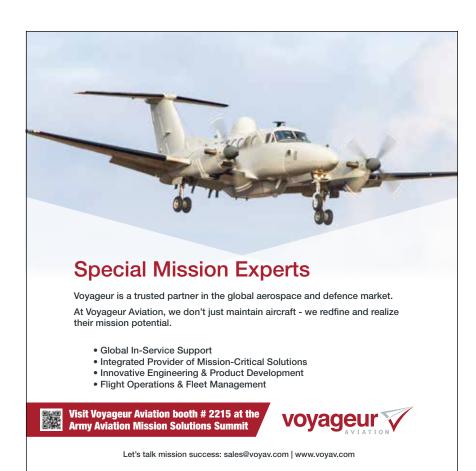








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COM works hand-in-hand with the Systems Readiness Directorate within the U.S. Army Combat Capabilities Development Command Aviation and Missile Center. SRD is widely recognized in the field for Maintenance Engineering Calls, which authorize procedures to extend inspection criteria or allow specific repair methods that restore an aircraft to Fully Mission Capable status.

However, SRD also plays a vital role in qualifying new supply sources and conducting first article testing to ensure the quality and reliability of Aviation components. First article testing is required each time a new manufacturing plant is built, a production facility is moved to a different location, or to qualify new sources altogether. To build resilience in the supply chain, we must move beyond sole source suppliers. This process demands stringent evaluations to ensure compliance with Aviation safety standards and airworthiness requirements but must be agile enough to move at a pace consistent with the demand we see in the system.

As advanced manufacturing capabilities become more prevalent, the same rigorous process will apply to qualifying new materials, processes, and machinery and is an area we must explore if we want to fight and repair forward during Large Scale Combat Operations. It is also another tool to build resiliency in the supply chain for hard to procure items that drive readiness. Part of being a good Army customer is negotiating solid Public Private Partnerships with industry partners for repair procedures at CCAD that can immediately impact readiness.

Each component of the supply chain is a critical link. One extreme weather event or fire at a casting house can induce stress on current stockage and disrupt forecasts for years. We work hard every day at AMCOM, together with our industry partners, to keep the supply chains of both the organic and defense industrial bases strong. Our adversaries may try to break the links apart, but together we will keep the chain strong and resilient.



MG Lori Robinson is the commanding general and MAJ Chloe Flores is the Executive Officer to the Commanding General, U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command located

at Redstone Arsenal, AL.

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### Special Focus > Aviation Leadership Update

# Program Executive Office, Aviation: Ensuring Maneuver Dominance for the Future Fight

By BG David C. Phillips





s the Army accelerates its most significant modernization in over four decades, Army Aviation remains a critical cornerstone of our nation's ability to project power and dominate the multi-domain battlespace. In today's volatile and increasingly complex global security environment, PEO Aviation is laser-focused on delivering the very best and most lethal capabilities that our Soldiers need to deter aggression and, when necessary, fight and win decisively against any adversary.

The team-of-teams at PEO Aviation today is not simply procuring new aircraft; we are solving the Army's toughest problems to fundamentally transform how the Army fights. We must continue to drive a paradigm shift, moving beyond platform-centric, linear program thinking to a capability-focused approach that prioritizes interoperability across formations, agile and aggressive acquisition approaches, and innovative technologies that enable rapid technological insertion – incorporating Soldier feedback and lessons learned from the battlefields of today.

### Streamlining Acquisition for Rapid Capability Delivery

The days of lengthy, bureaucratic acquisition processes are over. We are leveraging every available tool – from Urgent and Middle Tier Acquisition authorities to innovative contracting mechanisms like Other Transaction Authorities – to accelerate the delivery of critical capabilities to the warfighter. PEO Aviation has fully embraced the adaptive acquisition framework with an emphasis on speed, flexibility, and execution. Working with industry, this agile approach ensures we can stay ahead of emerging threats and maintain our technological edge in a constantly evolving operational landscape around the world.

### **Driving Affordability: Maximizing Every Dollar**

Stewardship of taxpayer dollars is paramount. We are relentlessly pursuing affordability through competitive prototyping, Left: Anduril's Ghost-X uncrewed aircraft system provides a medium range reconnaissance capability to select Transform-in-Contact BCTs at the company level.

Right: Bell's V-280 Valor technology demonstrator in flight, showcasing the advanced capabilities of tilt-rotor technology flying twice as far, twice as fast as current rotary wing capability vertical lift.

rigorous digital engineering, and rapid prototyping/fielding. Through innovative approaches with industry to negotiate for intellectual property and data rights upfront, we are building a strong foundation for long-term sustainment and competition, ensuring maximum value for every dollar invested.

### **MOSA:** The Foundation for Future Dominance

MOSA is more than just a buzzword; it is the bedrock of our modernization strategy. By embracing open systems architecture, we are unlocking unprecedented levels of interoperability, flexibility, and resilience. MOSA empowers us to rapidly integrate new technologies, enhance cybersecurity, and simplify sustainment – ultimately delivering more lethal and survivable aviation platforms to our Soldiers.

Two recent examples are the Future Long Range Assault Aircraft comprehensive data rights and open systems approach; and the work to build in open systems in the Army's rapidly expanding uncrewed aircraft systems (UAS) and launched effects. The appropriate data rights and open systems will ensure that future warfighters can upgrade command and control systems at pace with our ground forces; and adjust capabilities like data links, waveforms, and autonomous capabilities for UAS at the point of need on the future battlefields.

### **Securing the Supply Chain: A Proactive Approach**

We must not ignore the vulnerabilities inherent in a reactive supply chain. PEO Aviation is taking the initiative, conduct-

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ing continuous sector analysis, strengthening partnerships across government and industry, and prioritizing Supply Chain Risk Management in all our acquisition programs. This proactive posture with industry will ensure we can anticipate and mitigate disruptions, safeguarding our readiness and operational effectiveness.

Future-proofing our aviation and UAS supply chain requires a proactive and multifaceted approach. We must embrace technological advancements like advanced manufacturing while staying ahead of evolving global policies and regulations. We must build a resilient network by diversifying sourcing and fostering strong partnerships across industry.

### Transformational Capabilities for the Future Battlefield

From next-generation UAS and game-changing launched effects to advanced aerial ISR platforms, PEO Aviation is working with industry to invest in the capabilities that will define the future of the Army:

■ *UAS*: Observations from recent conflicts highlight the growing need for

configurable, attritable, and layered UAS capabilities. We are working with units in the field to help build and field purpose built attritable systems, as well as increasingly sophisticated and resilient UAS that provide critical situational awareness and extend the reach of our ground forces at echelon.

- Launched Effects: This revolutionary capability will transform how we deliver effective, threat-focused capabilities to penetrate and dominate contested airspace, delivering precise and decisive effects across our formations at the point of need.
- Advanced Aerial ISR: Our investments in the cutting-edge High Accuracy Detection and Exploitation System (HADES), as well as sensor and processing technologies alongside PEO IEW&S will provide the Army with unparalleled intelligence gathering capabilities, enabling commanders to make informed decisions with greater speed and accuracy.

### FLRAA: A Quantum Leap in Aviation Capability

The Future Long Range Assault Aircraft, the MV-75, represents a genera-

tional leap forward in Army Aviation. With its unparalleled speed, range, and survivability, FLRAA will fundamentally alter the operational calculus, providing unmatched freedom of maneuver for the Army and the Joint force; and enable rapid force projection across extended distances. This transformational capability will ensure the Army remains the world's most dominant land force for decades to come.

- Transformational Speed and Reach: FLRAA will deliver combat power twice as far and twice as fast as current platforms, fundamentally altering operational possibilities.
- *Increased Survivability:* Advanced defensive systems, reduced signatures, and enhanced agility will enable FLRAA to operate effectively in contested airspace.
- Improved Aeromedical Evacuation: FLRAA will double the "Golden Hour" radius, significantly improving the Army's ability to provide critical medical care to wounded Soldiers.
- Rapid Technological Advancement: Digital engineering and MOSA will enable rapid upgrades and technology insertions, ensuring FLRAA remains at the cutting edge of aviation technology.

### Conclusion

The future of warfare demands a highly capable, agile, and lethal Army. During large scale combat operations since 1991, the Army's aviation capabilities have played a pivotal role in providing maneuver and fires for Soldiers on the battlefield and solving some of the hardest problems for the Joint force. Whether it is future long-range, large-scale air-assaults, rapid casualty evacuation, precision fires, or providing the first UAS systems to Transformation-in-Contact Brigade Combat Teams, PEO Aviation is meeting this challenge head-on. We will continue to deliver cutting-edge capabilities that our Soldiers need to win on the future battlefield. We are committed to aggressively providing the decisive edge, ensuring the Army remains ready to deter aggression and, if necessary, fight and win decisively against any adversary, anytime, anywhere.



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



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# Special Focus > Aviation Leadership Update



# Future Vertical Lift Modernization Update By BG P. Cain Baker

CW2 Thomas Simmons, A Troop 1-17 Air Cav, 82nd Combat Aviation Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division, uses an End-User Device to dynamically control a Launched Effect (LE) surrogate in his AH-64E Apache during Project Convergence Capstone 5 (PC C5) at the National Training Center (NTC), 11 Mar. 2025.

ver the past year, the U.S. Army's Future Vertical Lift (FVL) Cross-Functional Team (CFT) made significant strides in continuing to modernize both manned and unmanned Aviation systems while working with our teammates across the Army and industry, aligning with the Army's vision of "Continuous Transformation." This broad team drove innovation across multiple time horizons, balancing near-term experimentation, Soldier demonstrations, and prototyping, with long-term capability development to enhance lethality and survivability. From advancing the Future Long Range Assault Aircraft (FLRAA) to integrating cutting-edge technologies such as autonomous collaborative behaviors into our unmanned systems, the FVL CFT worked closely with industry partners, our acquisition partners and labs, and Soldiers in the field. These efforts reflect the Army's commitment to maintaining the decisive edge in maneuver warfare, ensuring that future Aviation platforms not only meet today's demands but also anticipate the challenges of tomorrow's battlefield.

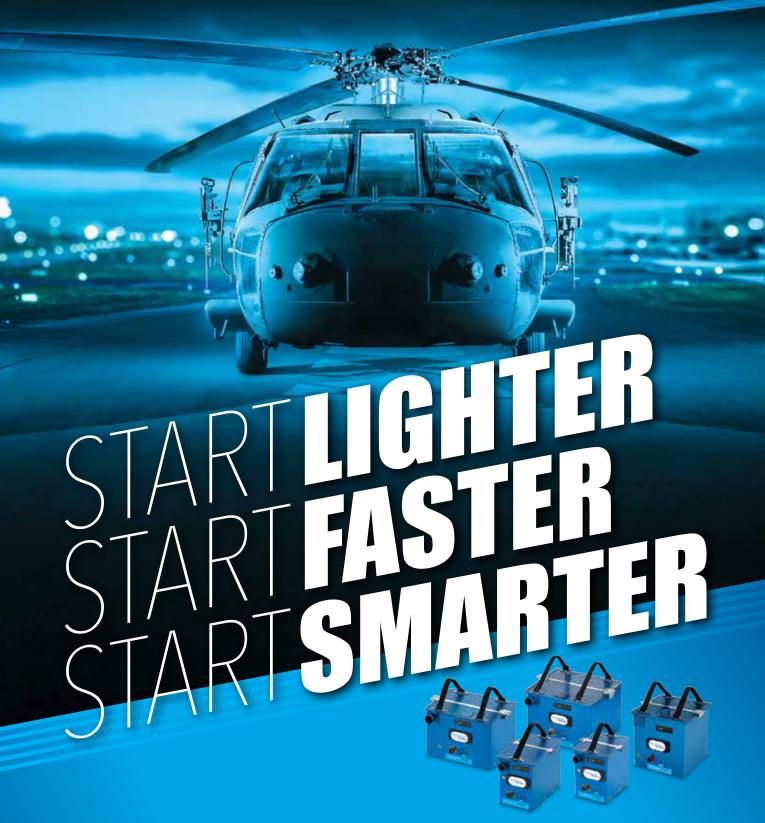
### **FLRAA Capability Update**

FLRAA is poised to transform modern warfare by flying twice as far and twice as fast as current helicopters, with enhanced agility and payload capacity. This leap in performance will expand the battlefield's depth, enabling rapid decentralized operations over vast distances and allowing ground forces to converge on objectives from unexpected directions while reducing the number of logistic requirements. During the recent Project Convergence Capstone 5 (PCC5), our data analysts investigated the potential impact of FLRAA on missions conducted as part of the PCC5 scenario. As table 1 depicts, the FLRAA-equipped battalion completes the lift 2 hours and 50 minutes faster than the UH-60M, thereby massing forces on the objective quicker.

FLRAA	UH-60M
Mission P	arameters
Total Distance	Flown – 378 NM
Environmenta	Factors Even
Mission Stats	Mission Stats
Total Time: 1h 52m	Total Time:4h 43m
Speed: 205 Kts	Speed: 126 Kts
FARPs Required: 0	FARPs Required: 2
Total Fuel: 693 Gallons	Total Fuel: 478 Gallons
Aircraft Stats	Aircraft Stats
# Seat: 12	# Seats: 11
Range: 200 NM Combat Radius	Range: 102 NM Combat Radius
Speed: Max 280Kts/Cruise 230Kts	Speed: Max 150Kts/Cruise 120Kts

In addition, FLRAA's clean-sheet design incorporating fly-by-wire and a Modular Open System Approach (MOSA) makes it ideally suited to rapidly incorporate maturing

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technologies to maintain the battlefield advantage. Leveraging these attributes, the evolving FLRAA Version 2 requirement includes focus areas of improved avionics with enhanced data storage and local computing infrastructure; pilotage enhancement allowing heads-up / eyes-out for terrain flight at cruise airspeeds and in Degraded Visual Environments (DVE); autonomy upgrades taking over more routine aircraft control, system management, and mission execution tasks; and Launched Effects (LE) integration. Also, as an Army Digital Engineering (DE) Pathfinder program, FLRAA serves as a cornerstone for DE integration with opportunities for advancements in requirement development, predictive maintenance and model-based sustainment, and a multitude of other missionenhancing capabilities that will impact other enduring Aviation systems and the Army at large.

### **Experimentation & Launched Effects (LE)**

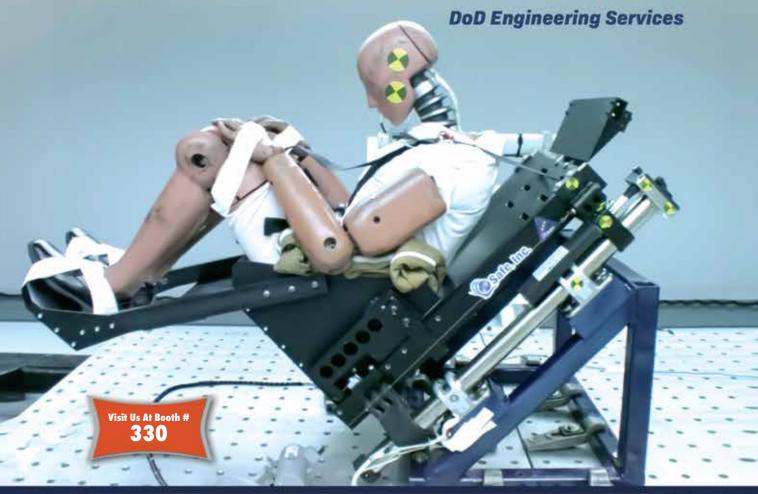
Throughout last year, the western test ranges provided a crucial environment for collaboration with industry partners, government agencies (including the Army Test and Evaluation Command (ATEC) and the Joint Modernization Command (JMC), and our internal data analysis team. These collaborative efforts informed and refined requirements and Joint warfighting concepts for LE employment. This year's testing focused heavily on LE systems, specifically optimizing their autonomy and collaborative behaviors, strengthening their communication network resilience, and enhancing their ability to operate in denied environments. Key tests and exercises, including Experimental Demonstration Gateway Event (EDGE); Positioning, Navigation, and Timing Assessment Experiment (PNTAX); Vanguard; and most recently PCC5, provided valuable insights into the current state of the art in autonomous systems development within both industry and government science and technology laboratories. These events contributed directly to our understanding of how to leverage autonomy to enhance scale and reduce the cognitive burden on operators. We observe continued and incremental improvements in the performance and behaviors of these autonomous systems but also realize there is more work to be done.

Last summer, we also conducted a Launched Effects (LE) waveform experiment at Eglin Air Force Base, partnering with the Redstone Test Center and the C5ISR Center. This experimentation evaluated LE-specific waveform characteristics in both open and contested environments. Combined with research and analysis from TRAC, MIT Lincoln Laboratories, high-fidelity modeling, and other sources, these findings informed the LE working group (comprising 25 Army organizations) as they updated the LE Abbreviated Capabilities Development Document (A-CDD).

### Transformation in Contact (TiC) Brigade UAS Directed Requirement (DR)

Our formations and commanders in the field cannot wait for the eventual perfect solution, but one that gives minimum viable capability soonest so units can begin training on and integrating that warfighting capability. As part of an interim capability for Future Tactical Unmanned Aerial System (FTUAS) to fill the RQ-7 Shadow divestment gap, a TiC Brigade UAS DR was approved and now the Army is working the funding to field multiple

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U.S. Army Flight Paramedics assigned to 3rd General Support Aviation Battalion, 82nd Combat Aviation Brigade train with and assess an in-flight casualty to better the design for the current aircraft that is being utilized for in-flight treatments.

tranches to six Brigade Combat Teams plus training course systems following Program Executive Office-Aviation's vendor selection. The intent of the TiC Brigade UAS DR is to educate and inform Army force development, including Human Machine Integrated Formations, and deliver capability while supporting a perpetual and continuous transformation. FTUAS developmental testing and competitive selection process is ongoing, with First Unit Equipped (FUE) programmed for FY27.

### **Aerial Tier Network Extension (ATNE)**

To enhance survivability and create multiple dilemmas for the enemy on the modern battlefield, we are dispersing our forces and increasingly relying on unmanned systems. These necessitate significantly improved voice and data communications reaching the tactical edge. Aerial Tier Network Extension (ATNE) provides this critical capability by extending and thickening data and voice networks, supporting Mission Command and key capabilities like Human-Machine Integration (HMI), Aviation, Fires, Intelligence, Logistics, and more. ATNE also overcomes line-of-sight limitations, providing network connectivity to operators and platforms beyond the horizon, and can host various Modular Mission Payloads (MMPs) to meet commanders' mission requirements. Over the past year, several ATNE Soldier User Demonstrations (SUD), including those supporting the 25th and 101st Infantry Divisions, provided valuable feedback. This information directly influenced updates to the Integrated Tactical Network (ITN) Abbreviated Capabilities Development Document (A-CDD), as well as updates to the A-CDDs for LE and FTUAS programs.

### **Airspace Control Sprint**

The proliferation of friendly and adversary unmanned aerial systems (UAS) and loitering munitions, and the challenges posed by cyber and electronic warfare capabilities, present increasing challenges to managing airspace. In these saturated skies, procedural controls for airspace management may no longer sufficiently mitigate risks of collision and may also unnecessarily restrict the



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A U.S. Army Bradley Fighting Vehicle launches a Coyote Block 3 Launched Effect (LE) during Project Convergence-Capstone 5 (PC-C5) on Fort Irwin, Calif., in March 2025.)

application of Army and Joint Aviation and fires assets.

The Army is exploring new approaches to managing

airspace that address these concerns. At the direction of Army senior leadership, the FVL CFT is leading the Airspace Control Sprint Operational Planning Team (OPT), which spans 22 organizations across the Army and Air Force. The OPT's problem statement is: In the next

12 months, how do we deliver an incremental airspace management (which includes planning, C2, situational awareness, and offensive & defensive Fires) capability to TiC formations at the tactical level that will synchronize emerging capabilities in the Air Ground Littoral as well as further inform requirements development and DOTMLPF integration of future systems? Solution development of planning and rehearsal software will be integrated with NGC2.

#### Conclusion

The modernization of Army Aviation continues at a rapid pace, driven by the imperative to maintain overmatch in an increasingly complex and contested battlespace. The Future Vertical Lift Cross-Functional Team's efforts this past year, from FLRAA's advancements to the progress on ATNE and the critical exploration of airspace control solutions, demonstrate a commitment to delivering tangible capabilities to the warfighter. These initiatives, coupled with rigorous experimentation and Soldier-informed feedback, are not only shaping the future of vertical lift, but also fundamentally transforming how the Army fights and wins. By embracing innovation, collaboration, and data-driven decision-making,

the Army is ensuring its Aviation forces remain at the forefront of battlefield dominance for decades to come.



BG P. Cain Baker is the Director of the Future Vertical Lift Cross-Functional Team at Redstone Arsenal, AL.



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# **2025 Army Aviation Mission Solutions Summit**Schedule of Events

### Monday, May 12, 2025

1200-1300 AAAA National Boards Combined Luncheon 1300-1600 AAAA National Executive Board Meeting (Hybrid) 1630-1730 AAAA TLC Board Meeting (Hybrid)	Bayou Canal Canal	E
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### Tuesday, May 13, 2025

1300-1700	Badge & Ticket Pickup	Delta BCD Lobby
	0	Dolla DOD LODD)
1400-1600	AAAA Chapter Officer Workshops	Governors C
1700-1800	National Awardee Rehearsal	Delta A
1830-2030	Awardee/NEG Dinner (Invitation Only)	

### Wednesday, May 14, 2025

0800-0930 0900-1630 0900-1730	Badge & Ticket Pickup  AAAA Scholarship Foundation Board Meeting (Hybrid)  Press Room Open Sponsored by Odyssey  Ryman Stu  PM/ACM Meeting Rooms Open Delta Island Meeting Room  Professional Session Coffee Sponsored by Govini	Canál E Idio A/B
1000-1005	OPENING CEREMONIES, PROFESSIONAL SESSION I KEYNOTE & AWARDS Opening Remarks Mr. William R. Harris, Jr., AAAA Executive Director Supporting the U.S. Army Aviation Soldier and Family!	Delta A
1020-1025	MG Walter L. Davis, Ret., AAAA President 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) Welcome	

	Mr. William R. Harris, Jr., AAAA Executive Director
1005-1020	Supporting the U.S. Army Aviation Soldier and Family!
	MG Walter L. Davis, Ret., AAAA President
1020-1025	101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) Welcome
	BG Travis L. McIntosh, Deputy Commander (Support)
1025-1055	Keynote Address: U.S. Army Vice Chief of Staff
	GEN James J. Mingus
1055-1125	Soldier & Unit Awards Presentation
	MG Davis, Ret.; Mr. Harris; MSG Art Agnew, Ret., Ms. Janis Arena
1125-1155	Technology and Close Combat in the Twenty-First Century
	Dr. Jack Watling, Senior Research Fellow, Land Warfare-Military
	Sciences, Royal United Services Institute for Defence & Security
1155-1230	Ready to Meet Tomorrow's Challenges Today!
	MG Clair A. Gill, Army Aviation Branch Chief

1230-1730	Your Next Mission® Hiring Event Exhibit Hall Open	Ryman Ballroom Ryman Hall BC
	Networking Café Open Exhibit Hall Coffee <i>Sponsored by Northrop</i>	Ryman Hall B / 3220
	Soldier Café Sponsored by Team Chinoc	
	(Military ID Required-No Retired, Vietnar	n Vets Welcome)

	( )	,	,
1300-1600	LEADERS Q&A		Ryman Hall B / 2533
1300-1330	TRADOC Update - LTG	a David J. Francis, D	CG, TRADOC
1335-1425	PM/ACM Interface-PM	Attack / ACM-R/A	AP-RDD /FVLCFT
1430-1515	PM/ACM Interface-PN	I UAS / ACM-UAS / I	FVL CFT

1300-1400	-1400 Industry Leaders – Moderator – LTG Neil Thurgood, Ret.	
1400-1600	Spouse Event – Gaylord Cooking Demo	Governors C
	Opening Networking Reception	Ryman Hall BC
1630-1730	Chapter Sponsored Soldiers Brief (Invitation Only)	
1730-1830	International Defense Networking Reception	Delta C
	(Invitation Only)	
1900-2200	Industry Receptions	
1900-2100	Sikorsky/Lockheed Martin Open Reception	Water's Edge
1900-2200	Boeing Team Apache/TeamChinook Open Reception	on EventCenter
1900-2300	BAE Open Reception	Fuse

Delta D

### Thursday, May 15, 2025

1300-1500 WORKING GROUPS

	Exhibit Hall Coffee Sponsored by North, Networking Café Open Scholarship, TLC & Museum Donor F Badge & Ticket Pickup PM/ACM Meeting Rooms Open Soldier Café Sponsored by Team Chir (Military ID Required-No Retired, Viet Press Room Open Sponsored by Od	Ryman Hall B / 3220 Recognition Breakfast Governor C Delta BCD Lobby Delta Island Meeting Rooms ABCDF nook Delta B nam Vets Welcome) yssey Ryman Studio A/B
0920-1230 0920-0930 0930-0935 0935-1035 1035-1100 1100-1130 1130-1230	Desert Storm Distinguished Flying Cr Opening Remarks MG Walt Davis, Runmanned Aircraft Systems / Launch Range Assault Aircraft — Owning the Moderator — MG Gill, Army Aviation E ARSOAC Update — COL Roger Wales DA Aviation Perspective BG Matthew W. Braman, Director, Arr	et., AAAA President ned Effects / Future Long Upper Tier Land Domain Branch Chief ki, Commander my Aviation neuver Commanders ch, Mission Command iderson, CG, NTC;
1000-1500	Your Next Mission® Hiring Event	Ryman Ballroom

	Your Next Mission® Hiring Event Spouse Professional Program I – Hunting the Go the most out of this military life. – Dr., Fran Gill	
1230-1630	WORKING GROUPS	Delta D

1230-1430 Aviation Warrant Officer Readiness Review – CW5 Corsaro 1435-1630 Enlisted Branch Update - CSM Coley

1300-1630 Spouse Event - Paint & Sip Governors C



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# **2025 Army Aviation Mission Solutions Summit**Schedule of Events

1300-1600 LEADERS Q&A Ryman Hall B / 2533 1300-1355 Al in Army Aviation — Moderator: BG Kevin Chaney, DPEO C3N 1400-1455 Army Avn Future Tng Concepts & Simulation Tech Trends — Moderator: LTC Drabczuk, Ret. 1500-1600 International Leaders — Moderator — LTG Thomas Todd, Ret.	1105-1205 Unmanned Aircraft Systems – TiC Today for Tomorrow Moderator – MG Frank Muth, Ret. COL Danielle Medaglia, PM UAS; COL Rick Polen, Ch., UAS Directorate, DAMO-AV; COL Nick Ryan, ACM UAS *COL Moseph Sauda, Director, Joint C-sUAS University, Fires CoE
1400-1500 Army Aviation Hall of Fame Trustees Meeting (Invitation Only) 1830-2130 Army Aviation Hall of Fame Induction Banquet Delta A 1830-1930 Reception Delta A Lobby 1830-1930 HoF VIP Inductee Assembly (Invitation Only) Bayou E 1930-2130 HoF Dinner Delta A	1030-1500 Spouse Event – Recording Studio Tour w/Lunch Delta Portico  11301400 PROFESSIONAL SESSION III Delta A 1130-1135 Opening Remarks MG Walt Davis, Ret., AAAA President
Friday, May 16, 2025  0800-1230 Exhibit Hall Open Ryman Hall BC 0800-1230 Networking Café Open Ryman Hall B / 3220 0800-1230 Exhibit Hall Coffee Sponsored by Northrop Grumman Ryman Hall BC 0800-1230 Press Room Open Sponsored by Odyssey Ryman Studio A/B 0800-1230 PM/ACM Meeting Rooms Open Delta Island Meeting Rooms ABCDF	1135-1205 AMCOM Update — MG Lori Robinson, CG 1205-1230 Transforming Medical Readiness LTG Mary Izaguirre, The Surgeon General, U.S. Army 1230-1300 Army Futures Command MG Michael C. McCurry, Chief of Staff 1300-1330 Future Vertical Lift Update — COL Joseph Swinney, Dir. Ops 1330-1400 PEO Aviation Update — BG David C. Phillips, PEO
0800-1400 Badge & Ticket Pickup Delta BCD Lobby  08301030 Program Executive Office Aviation Industry Coordination Session Moderator: BG David C. Phillips, PEO Ryman Hall B / 2533	1430-1500 LEADERS Q&A 1430-1500 Flight School Next – MG Gill, Aviation Branch Chief
0800-1600 Soldier Café Sponsored by Team Chinook (Military ID Required-No Retired, Vietnam Vets Welcome) 0900-1000 Spouse Professional Program II Bayou D Ms. Kerry Irvin, MRT, CEO, Operation Healing Forces  1000-1205 WORKING GROUPS Delta D 1000-1100 Modernized Sensors for Aerial ISR and Survivability Moderator — Mr. Laurence Mixon, Special Assistant to PEO Intelligence, Electronic Warfare & Sensors	1700-1800 Vietnam & Korean War Veterans/Family Reception (Invitation Only)  1730-1830 Golden Eagles (50 Year & Above Members) Reception (Invitation Only)  1800-2200 Soldier Appreciation Dinner Concert with Craig Morgan Delta A 1800-1900 Reception Delta A Lobby 1900-2100 Dinner/AAAA Annual Membership Meeting 2100-2200 Soldier Appreciation Concert with Craig Morgan

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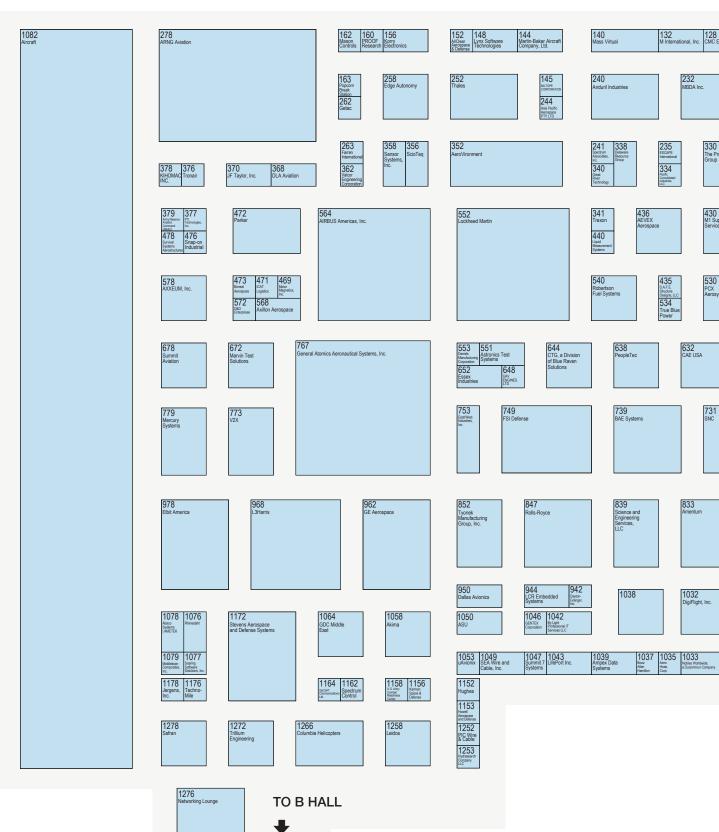




2025 Army Aviation Mission Solutions Summit

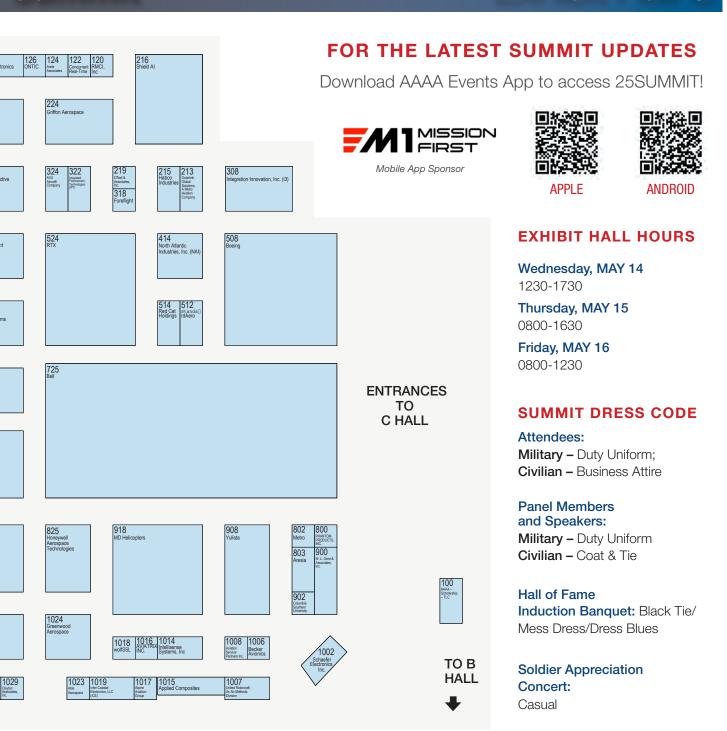


# **2025 Army Aviation Mission Solutions**



### **Summit**

### Exhibit Hall C



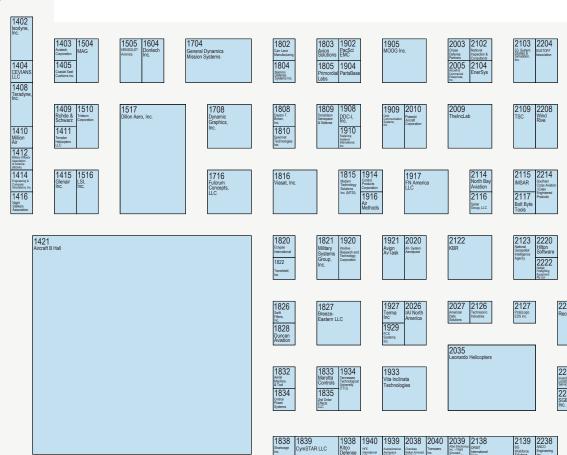
### Hall C Booths 100 - 1280



### **2025 Army Aviation Mission Solutions**









# **2025 Army Aviation Mission Solutions Summit**Exhibitors

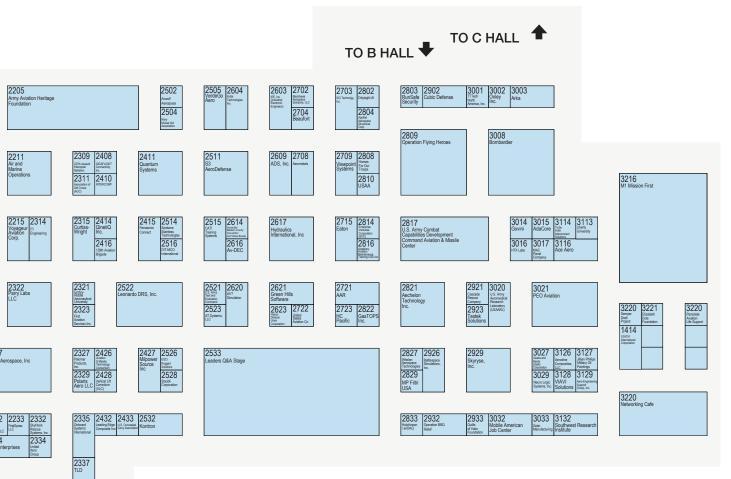
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Abaco Systems   AMETEKAble Aerospace	1023
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Summit

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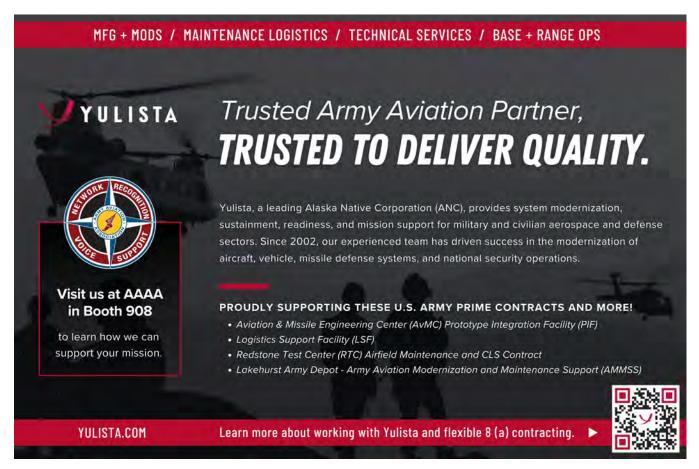


# **2025 Army Aviation Mission Solutions Summit**Exhibitors

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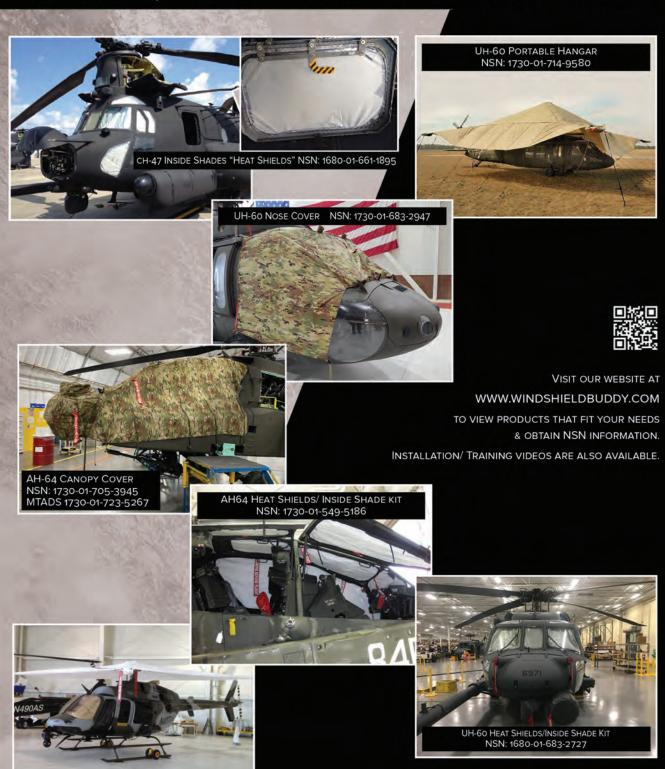
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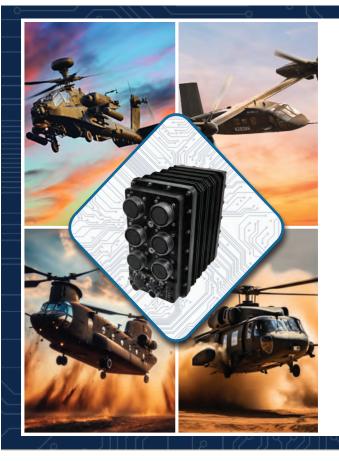


# **2025 Army Aviation Mission Solutions Summit**Exhibitors

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- · Lockheed Martin RMS Outstanding Small Business





### AAAA 2024 National Awardees



Utility Helicopters Project Office Redstone Arsenal. Alabama

Mr. Allen W. OBrion

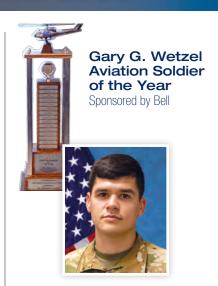
Mr. Allen "OB" OBrion made exceptional contributions to Army Aviation as the Assistant Product Manager for Black Hawk Training Aids, Devices, Simulators, and Simulations (TADSS), Utility Helicopters Project Office, Program Executive Office (PEO) Aviation. Responsible for cost, schedule, and performance goals for a \$500M+ TADSS portfolio of 264 devices worldwide, including 75 maintenance / avionics / electrical trainers. 154 procedural trainers, and 35 Black Hawk Aircrew Trainers (BAT), he directly engaged with senior stakeholders from the U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence, headquarters Department of the Army G-3/5/7; PEO Simulation, Training and Instrumentation; National Guard Bureau; and Active and Guard units. During the award period, he fielded 7 BATs and executed a \$14.3M upgrade to the entire BAT fleet, vastly improving the visual fidelity of the simulator. His team fielded an additional 22 maintenance/procedural trainers to units across the globe including 12 trainers to Australia and, in conjunction with USAACE Directorate of Simulation, reaccredited and upgraded 17 simulators. He also resourced 2 Launched Effects Crew Station Working Groups at Redstone Arsenal, AL with subject matter experts and aircrew operators from active Army units, Mr. Obrion's achievements identify him as the AAAA 2024 Joseph P. Cribbins Department of the Army Civilian of the Year.



**CW3 Bradley A. Cook** 

1st Battalion, 212nd Aviation Regiment 110th Aviation Brigade Fort Novosel, Alabama

CW3 Bradley A. Cook serves as Battalion Aviation Safety Officer for the largest UH-60M battalion in the U.S. Army, 1-212th Aviation Regiment at Fort Novosel, AL. CW3 Cook not only advises the commander to ensure the safest possible Aviation operations, but also tracks safety trends, responds to any crew that had a precautionary landing across four states and inspects training areas across the largest training area in Army Aviation. He effortlessly provided well-thought out and researched options to commanders to ensure the safest Army Aviation operations possible. His advice is invaluable for a unit and location that executes up to 120 launches per day over 21 hours per day, five days per week. This all takes place at the busiest heliport in the Department of Defense. The battalion flew more than 40,000 flight hours, approximately 5% of the U.S. Army's total flying hours, and training over 1,100 UH-60M crew members. Brad was one of the first on the scene of an AH- 64 Apache crash in August 2024, not only saving lives but preserving the scene for investigation. CW3 Cook is a true steward of the profession and actively recruits future Army Aviators and is the true choice for the 2024 James H. McClellan Aviation Safety Award.



**SPC Ronald W. Roberts** 

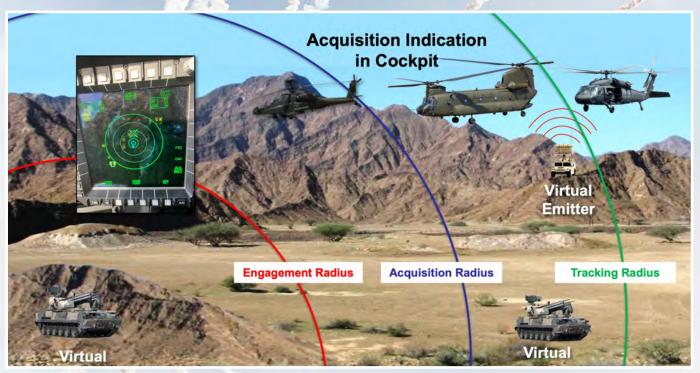
96th Aviation Support Battalion, 101st Combat Aviation Brigade Fort Campbell, Kentucky

SPC Ronald Roberts, a I5R Attack Helicopter Repairer assigned to Bravo Company, 96th Aviation Support Battalion, has demonstrated exceptional professionalism. leadership, and technical expertise since joining the 101st Combat Aviation Brigade in 2024. Beginning his tenure by earning his Air Assault Wings, SPC Roberts quickly established himself as a dependable and competent Soldier. He led an AH-64 500-hour phase as a section lead, a role typically held by an NCO, completing the task 10 days ahead of the Brigade average and earning an Army Achievement Medal. Later, he served as Phase Team Leader for an AH- 64E, ensuring success in a high-pressure, no-fail mission. During port operations in November 2024, SPC Roberts excelled as a blade-fold team leader, minimizing the travel footprint of 2-17 CAV's AH-64E fleet. His performance earned recognition from commanders and senior leaders. including a Canadian general officer. In September 2024, SPC Roberts was appointed as Squad Leader, filling an E5 role while preparing for promotion. His technical expertise, professionalism, and commitment to the mission have made him an invaluable leader. SPC Roberts' contributions exemplify Army values and the spirit of Army Aviation, making him an outstanding crew chief and Soldier and clearly identify him as the 2024 AAAA Aviation Soldier of the Year.

# TASS-V = AVIATION SURVIVABILITY

The Training Aircraft Survivability Equipment Stimulation Suite (TASS) is a PEO STRI Program of Record, supported by PM ASE and ICE to address the collective training gap at the CTCs and home stations. TASS provides stimulation creating realistic cockpit warnings and indicators requiring pilots to take appropriate actions employing proper Tactics, Techniques and Procedures to avoid being engaged by peer and near peer ADA opponents. Our latest product evolution, TASS-Virtual, evolved from TASS and enhances training objectives via the ability to augment or replace a physical T-IADS array with virtual threats. TASS-V can be used to increase the traditional threat array at the CTC's with live and now additional virtual threats.

This new evolution enables units to train against virtual ADA threats receiving in-aircraft ASE emulations without operating within the confines of a traditional networked environment, with or without tactical ASE B-Kit hardware installed. This new version will provide crews with live ASE training, Anytime - Anywhere providing performance feedback and high-fidelity After-Action Reviews. TASS is currently available for US Army rotary wing aircraft (AH64E, UH/ HH60M, and CH47F), at NTC, JRTC and JMRC. TASS-V offers a significant increase in the opportunity to train these critical tasks at Home Station local training areas, enroute during cross country missions and supporting National Guard Army Aviation Support Facilities and LTAs.







COL James Barker is a former Aviation Brigade
Commander and now the Vice President of
Business Development at
Inter-Coastal Electronics, Mesa AZ
JBarker@inter-coastal.net
480-981-6898





# AAAA 2024 National Awardees



Henry Q. Dunn Crew Chief of the Year

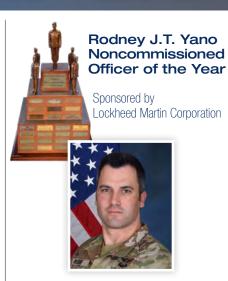
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## **SSG Dalton M. Sharp**

Company C, 1st Battalion, 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne) Fort Campbell, Kentucky

Staff Sergeant Dalton M. Sharp currently serves as the Company Standardization Instructor with Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne), the only Special Operations Medium Attack Helicopter Company in the U.S. Army. As a senior E-6, SSG Sharp thinks, operates, and leads above and beyond the scope of his grade. Over the past year, he flew more than 300 hours, 150 of which were under Night Vision Goggles and more than 40 hours in support of a Presidentially directed no-notice mission supporting national objectives. His ability to educate, train, and inspire young Soldiers regardless of their military occupational specialty has been critical in streamlining standard operating procedures across the Task Force. Additionally, his tactful leadership was paramount when the Company was deployed in small teams. His confident demeanor and dedication to his craft serves as proof as to why he has performed exceptionally among an exceptional population. SSG Sharp's extraordinary leadership in the past year has undoubtedly enabled the success of the Regiment in meeting its no-fail mission to top-tier ground forces across the world. These qualities and his professionalism identify him unequivocally as the AAAA 2024 Henry Q. Dunn Crew Chief of the Year.



## SFC Jason J. Moore

1st Battalion, 10th Aviation Regiment 10th Combat Aviation Brigade Fort Drum, New York

SFC Jason Moore, a platoon sergeant in 1st Battalion, 10th Aviation Regiment, 10th Combat Aviation Brigade, exemplifies leadership, technical proficiency, and Soldierfocused commitment. Leading a team in U.S. Central Command supporting 1,500 flight hours and over 200 sorties, he ensured operational success and readiness in austere conditions. His proactive infrastructure improvements and Soldier welfare initiatives significantly enhanced morale and contingency preparedness. A champion of Soldier development, he emphasized crosstraining and tactical readiness. He encouraged Soldiers to expand their skill sets through crosstraining opportunities and hands-on experience in areas beyond their primary military occupational specialties (MOS). He organized and led MOS cross-training sessions, familiarization exercises for mine-resistant, ambush protected (MRAP) and Common Remotely Operated Weapon Station (CROWS) systems, and over 10 weapon proficiency ranges. Notable for his character and resilience, SFC Moore inspired excellence through mentorship and physical leadership. His success during critical missions, including the renovation of life supporting systems at Patrol Base Shaddadi Svria. underscores his adaptability and professionalism. Through his technical expertise, operational leadership, and dedication to Soldier welfare. SFC Moore has made significant contributions to the success of Combined Joint Task Force-Operation Inherent Resolve operations in Syria and clearly make him the AAAA 2024 Rodney T. Yano Noncommissioned Officer of the Year.



## **CW4 Jason D. Hagan**

Company C, 4th Battalion, 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne) Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington

CW4 Jason Hagan has distinguished himself as both an outstanding Aviator and Leader in Army Aviation and the Special Operations community. Serving as a Standardization Pilot and Regiment Flight Lead, he conducted multiple external and internal training operations, directly supporting the Ground Force and the Joint Force. He is currently serving as the 4-160th SOAR (Abn) Battalion Standardization Pilot and Flight Lead where he advises the Battalion Commander on training and mission execution. Additionally, he manages the Aircrew Training Program for 36 Rated Crew Members (RCMs) and 29 Non-Rated Crew Members (NRCMs), Over the past year, he conducted a Flight Lead evaluation, three Fully Mission Qualified evaluations, a Helicopter Airto-Air Refueling instructor evaluation, a Standardization Instructor evaluation, two Special Operations Aviation Regiment assessment evaluations, five instrument flight evaluations, four standardization evaluations, and two readiness level progressions for RCMs. Moreover, he served as the Flight Lead for POTUS support in U.S. Southern Command, flight lead for an Operation in U.S. Northern Command, and received a Distinguished Flying Cross with C device for actions in combat in U.S. Central Command. CW4 Hagan continues to positively influence Army Aviation and the Special Operations community with his efforts and willingness to support the mission. For his amazing contributions and achievements, he has earned recognition as the AAAA 2024 Michael J. Novosel Aviator of the Year.









COL Adam C. Stanley (Commander)

CW5 Joshua R. Lee (Command CWO)

CSM Richard E. McCurdy (Senior NCO)

## 11th Expeditionary Combat Aviation Brigade

Fort Carson, Colorado

As a Compo 3 unit, the 11th Expeditionary Combat Aviation Brigade (IIECAB) was required to accelerate training by more than a year to meet a newly templated Regionally Aligned Readiness and Modernization Model (ReARMM). Composed of 3 flight battalions and one aviation support battalion, the brigade effectively executed a high demand of taskings towards named exercises, daily air mission requests, and unexpected mobilizations. IIECAB was unexpectedly tasked to provide 3 aviation task forces (from 2 battalions) to work with the United States Secret Service (USSS), ready to deploy across the country within hours in support of presidential campaigns. Both I-158th Assault Helicopter Battalion (AHB) and 7-158th General Support Aviation Battalion (GSAB) quickly and effectively met the task while maintaining aircraft and aircrew readiness. 6-52nd Theater Fixed Wing Battalion (TFWB) continuously responded to global Air Mission Requests; Company B, 6-52nd TFWB was awarded the Joint Operational Support Airlift Center Unit of the Year, for having supported a higher percentage of missions than any other unit, including Compo 1, 2, and 3, and across all the U.S. military services. Flying over 9,089 rotary and 7,969 fixed wing hours while adapting to support multiple unscheduled events in support of Joint, Multinational, and Other Government Agencies, 11th ECAB Soldiers have unequivocally earned the 2024 AAAA Robert M. Leich Award.





# AAAA 2024 National Awardees



#### **AAAA Army Reserve Aviation** Unit of the Year

Sponsored by Honeywell Aerospace







LTC Daniel E. Caulv (Commander)

CW4 Justin C. Arnold (Senior WO Advisor)

CSM Bjoern J. Pietrzyk (Senior NCO)

#### 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)

## 7th Battalion, 158th Aviation Regiment

#### 11th Expeditionary Combat Aviation Brigade, Fort Cavazos, Texas

7th Battalion, 158th Aviation Regiment [General Support Aviation Battalion (GSAB)] provided aviation support to major exercises, including Combat Support Training Exercise (CSTX), Global Medic, and Sage Eagle. 7-158 GSAB also executed a multinational overseas deployment training exercise in Malaysia in conjunction with the 25th Infantry Division (ID), the Malaysian Army, and the Royal Australian Army. 7-158 GSAB answered the call by providing one and a half aviation task forces in support of Operation Watchtower, which allocated aviation capability to the U.S. Secret Service election rally security mission. 7-158 GSAB also provided critical fuel handler support and training to the 25th ID during Hawaii Strike at the Pohakuloa Training Center. In addition, 7-158 GSAB conducted operations with SEALs, Sappers, Special Forces Groups, and Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations units: spearheaded medical evacuation training with U.S. Army, Coast Guard, and Marine Corps forces, and with Dutch forces; and provided real-world medical evacuation support for air shows and U.S. Army Reserve competitions. 7-158 GSAB was highlighted in the City of Santa Monica, CA's Veterans Day Event; participated in multiple air shows: conducted numerous flyovers of collegiate football games; and supported numerous Recruiting Command events. The 7-158th GSAB's achievements earned them recognition as the 2024 AAAA U.S. Army Reserve Aviation Unit of the Year.

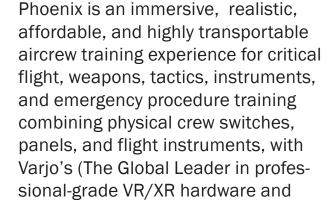
## 3rd Battalion, 142nd Aviation Regiment

Ronkonkoma, New York

The Soldiers of 3rd Battalion, 142nd Aviation Regiment maintained a high OPTEMPO throughout 2024, through training and assigned real-world missions, while executing recovery operations following their deployment with CENTCOM. Simultaneously, one of its detachments, Detachment 2, A Co., 1-224 S&S Battalion, was mobilized to the U.S.-Mexico Border in Texas in support of the United States Border Patrol flying over 1,300 hours of support. Tragically, two of its aviators were killed in an aircraft crash during that Border deployment. Throughout 2024, the Regiment would support several external operations deploying to SOUTHCOM's Tradewinds 24 in Barbados and a FEMA Disaster Relief Exercise in Puerto Rico and supported MARSOC Raven 24-2 and 24-4. It was also activated to support the U.S. Secret Service, serving as OIC for the Northeast region of the United States during the presidential election season. In total, the 3-142nd Assault Helicopter Battalion (A & B) flew 2,866 flight hours in FY24 and supported three external operations: TIO Secret Service support, 10th MTN Division, U.S. Military Academy, and domestic support to NYS in support of wildfire operations. C 3-142 AHB was deployed in support of CJTF-OIR. The Soldiers of 3rd Bn., 142nd Aviation Regiment perform with distinction, and their efforts went above and beyond expectations, earning them recognition as the AAAA 2024 John J. Stanko Army National Guard Aviation Unit of the Year.







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# AAAA 2024 National Awardees



#### AAAA Active Army Aviation Unit of the Year

Sponsored by L3 Harris



LTC Donald J. Sulpizio (Commander)



CW4 Matthew M. Christopher (Senior WO Advisor)



CSM Jeremy W. Buzzard (Senior NCO)

## 3rd Battalion, 82nd Aviation Regiment

# 82nd Combat Aviation Brigade Fort Bragg, North Carolina

In 2024, the leaders and paratroopers of 3rd Battalion, 82nd Aviation Regiment (General Support Aviation Battalion), flew 6,596 total flight hours dispersed between eight forward nodes and home station missions, and notably supported the enduring combat and peacekeeping missions across the U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) area of operations. During the January 2024 drone attacks, the battalion provided life-saving medical evacuation and care to eight service members from Jordan to follow on care locations. These attacks elevated the already heightened force protection posture from October 2023, and the battalion reassumed contingency operations and crisis action planning. In the following months, the battalion flew 607 air mission sorties and provided air movement of over 720,000 pounds of force protection equipment and supplies to geographically dispersed locations across Iraq, Syria, and Jordan. Shortly after the battalion's redeployment from CENTCOM, the unit rapidly transitioned to defense support of civil authorities (DSCA) missions. In the wake of Hurricane Helene, the battalion deployed a contingent of heavy lift assets to assist in the relief efforts to Western North Carolina, providing air lift of over 800,000 pounds of supplies and equipment to isolated communities and displaced households. For these reasons, 3-82 GSAB is most deserving of the 2024 AAAA Active Aviation Unit of the Year.



AAAA Outstanding Army Aviation Unit of the Year Sponsored by The Boeing Company



COL Stephen T. Smith (Commander)



CW5 Peter Y. Sullivan (Command Chief Warrant Officer)



CSM Julio C. David (Senior NCO)

## 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne)

Fort Campbell, Kentucky

The 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment – the Night Stalkers – distinguished itself in 2024 demonstrating rapid deployment and crisis response expertise through two high-profile missions and maintaining an enduring task force within the USCENTCOM AOR. Leading the Army in unmanned aerial system operations, the 160th SOAR executed 19,403 unmanned flight hours supporting two overseas locations. Their rotary-wing expertise is evident in its staggering operational output: flying 30,207 flight hours, executing 211 United States Air Force strategic air transport loadouts, and distributing 556,100 gallons of fuel. Furthermore, the Night Stalkers spearheaded innovation in tactical communications, pilotage systems, and software development, while conducting 48 static line and freefall airborne operations.

The Regiment's global reach was evident in its engagement across every Geographic Combatant Command AOR, including security cooperation activities with 22 Partner Nations. The 160th SOAR's commitment to interoperability was underscored by robust support to USSOCOM, executing 25 Joint Validation Exercises totaling 355 days of operational support, along with two Combat Training Center rotations and two Joint Combined Exchange Training exercises. The Night Stalkers also provided critical aviation support for a multi-country Presidential movement. Beyond these remarkable operational accomplishments, Night Stalkers demonstrated a commitment to community service through charitable donations to local charities and volunteer work with Big Brothers Big Sisters. These combined achievements clearly identify the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne) as the 2024 AAAA Outstanding Aviation Unit of the Year.



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P/N 43102G-10



# AAAA 2024 National Awardees

#### Top Super Chapter of the Year Sponsored by AAAA National



# Washington Potomac Chapter Arlington, Virginia Chapter President

Chapter President: COL (Ret.) Ron Lukow

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 like The Army Aviation Brigade, the Washington D.C. Guard, and their activities. The WPC encourages, supports and promotes exemplary performance of Army Aviation Soldiers, community leaders, and its AAAA members. Throughout 2024, the WPC focused on advancing the four primary AAAA pillars (Network, Recognition, Voice, and Support) throughout the Region through a variety of accomplishments. We held 11 membership meetings, sponsored The Army Aviation Brigade's Turkey Bowl and Holiday Social, and conducted a transition Seminar and we transferred \$46,226 to the SFI to support 29 scholarships. To advance member recognition, the WPC recognized 15 individuals, processed 36 AAAA individual awards, and submitted 22 AAAA magazine articles

# Top Master Chapter of the Year Sponsored by AAAA National



Arizona Chapter Mesa, Arizona Chapter President: LTC Robert Solano,

The Arizona Chapter provides a forum for Aviation professionals to share experiences and gain knowledge. We support local high school and college ROTC students and are closely partnered with the Arizona National Guard Aviation brigade and promote Army Aviation in the Phoenix and Maricopa County areas. We annually help fund a ROTC student or Arizona National Guard soldier 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. In 2024, we honored excellence through the prestigious Order of Saint Michael awards, fostered meaningful connections through engaging events like sharing "The Benefits of Joining Quad A" with the Arizona National Guard, and networking socials, plus we raised over \$12,000 at our Golf Classic to fund scholarships.





# AAAA 2024 National Awardees

#### Top Senior Chapter of the Year Sponsored by AAAA National



Morning Calm Republic of Korea Chapter President: LTC Billy D. Blue III

Maintaining a chapter on the Korean Peninsula presents both challenges and opportunities. How do you maintain membership and leadership with such a high turnover rate as well as organizing and operating a chapter OCONUS? From creating engaging social media content to inform the force and spark interest in events, to being present at key unit events to talk to membership and recruit new members, the chapter is engaged. The high turnover coupled with high levels of first term Aviation professionals creates opportunities to introduce Quad A to the next generation of Aviation professionals, these efforts are bearing fruit. We recruit not only Aviation professionals but also leaders in Aviation support MOSs. Despite these challenges the chapter has experienced unprecedented success over the last year. We have increased our membership by 18% and held more events in 2024 than in recent history and presented over 74 individual awards.

#### Top AAAA Chapter of the Year Sponsored by AAAA National



Mohawk Chapter Latham, New York Chapter President: LTC Paul Michael Bailie

The AAAA Mohawk Chapter is 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; 3-142 Assault Helicopter Battalion, Latham & Ronkonkoma; 42nd Combat Aviation Brigade, Det. 2, Co. A, 1-224 Search and Security Battalion and Det. 5, Co. C, 2-245 Aviation, 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.





## Hall of Fame 2025 Inductees



## Sergeant First Class Christopher Andrew Celiz (Deceased), Medal of Honor

Sergeant First Class Christopher Andrew Celiz exemplifies the epitome of valor and selflessness, embodying the finest traditions of the United States Army.

Born and raised in South Carolina, SFC Celiz attended the Citadel from 2004 to 2006 and enlisted in the U.S. Army in 2007. SFC Celiz served with the 75th Ranger Regiment, as a combat engineer, battalion breacher, motor sergeant and platoon sergeant.

On July 12, 2018 SFC Celiz led a team of Rangers and partner forces under intense fire in Paktika province, Afghanistan, During the execution of a medical evacuation of a wounded soldier, SFC Celiz constantly repositioned himself using his body as a shield between his team and the unarmed MEDEVAC Black Hawk and the intense fire while they moved the injured to the waiting helicopter. He stayed next to the aircraft as the rest of the team returned to cover, providing fire to suppress the enemy that was effectively engaging the aircraft. While standing directly in front of the pilot door, creating cover, and returning withering fire he was struck as they lifted off. Rather than moving to safety, he motioned for the MEDEVAC to leave, ensuring their safe departure. His selfless actions saved the life of the evacuated partnered force member and almost certainly prevented further casualties among other members of his team and the aircrew.

Throughout the entire engagement, Sergeant First Class Celiz significantly changed the course of battle by repeatedly placing himself in extreme danger to protect his team, defeat the enemy, and it ultimately cost him his life.

On December 16, 2021, in a ceremony at the White House, Sergeant First Class Christopher Celiz was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor.



## Lieutenant General Douglas M. Gabram, U.S. Army Retired

For almost 39 years, Lieutenant General Douglas M. Gabram, Retired, led from the front in peacetime or combat, in operational units, and the institutional Army. He commanded troops in combat at every level from Captain to General Officer.

After graduating from Bowling Green State University, OH, in 1984, he was commissioned as an Armor Officer but soon transferred to the Aviation Branch. He graduated from flight school in 1985As an Apache company commander with the 101st Airborne Division in Desert Storm, CPT Gabram led multiple cross-border missions beginning 24 February 1991, to include initiating the ground campaign for the 101st Airborne Division. He served in Bosnia and the Global War on Terrorism, as an Attack Helicopter Battalion Commander for two tours in Iraq totaling 37 months with the 1st Battalion, 101st Aviation Regiment.

Colonel Gabram deployed to Taji, Iraq as the Air Cavalry Brigade Commander in the 1st Cavalry Division, and later as the Chief of Staff of the 1st Cavalry Division in Afghanistan Regional Command East. As a One Star following a tour as the TRADOC G3, he returned once again to the 1st Cavalry Division and deployed as the Commanding General, Train, Advise Assist Command in Kandahar, Afghanistan.

As a Major General, he commanded the Aviation and Missile Command as the Army's Airworthiness Authority. At the sunset of Doug's over 38-year career, he became the Missile Test Director at the Missile Defense Agency, and following promotion to Lieutenant General, his final job was as Commanding General for Installation Management Command, overseeing the Army's installations worldwide.



## Major General Clayton M. Hutmacher, U.S. Army Retired

Major General Clayton M. Hutmacher, Retired, has made a lasting impact on Soldiers, Families, and the nation. He enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1978 for six years, rising to the rank of Sergeant. Transferring to the U.S. Army he became a Warrant Officer in 1985 and flew with the 101st Airborne Division, and was commissioned as an Army Aviation Officer in 1987, graduating from Officer Candidate School.

He assessed into the 160th Special Operations Aviation Group in 1988 and participated in Operation Prime Chancein the Persian Gulf and Operation Just Cause, the U.S. invasion of Panama. He would eventually serve three times with the 160th becoming its commander from 2008-2010. Additionally, he commanded 5th Battalion, 158th Aviation Regiment, in V Corps, U.S. Army Europe.

During Operation DESERT STORM, Clay flew deep into Iraq, engaged multiple enemy air defense systems under heavy fire, low level using NVGs, evading enemy radar. He was awarded his first Distinguished Flying Cross (DFC) for his actions.

During Operation ENDURING FREEDOM, Afghanistan, and IRAQI FREEDOM, Major Hutmacher was the Executive Officer, 1st Battalion, 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne), Fort Campbell, Kentucky; and later the Aviation Task Force Commander. Then Lieutenant Colonel Hutmacher conducted a mission in Iraq as the Air Mission Commander led the planning and execution for 11 aircraft and engaged a heavily armed terrorist camp which earned him his second DFC. As Regimental commander his vision allowed the Regiment to fly over 30,000 hours during a period of unprecedented combat operations.

After retiring from the military, he became President and CEO of the Special Operations Warrior Foundation (S-O-W-F).

## **Hall of Fame 2025 Inductees**





## Brigadier General, U.S. Army Retired Thomas J. (Tom) and Mrs. Judy Konitzer

Not since Art and Dotty Kesten in 1957, the founders of Army Aviation Association of America, have a husband-and-wife Team had a greater impact on this Army Aviation Community, volunteered more, or cared more for Army Aviation Soldiers and Families, than Tom and Judy Konitzer.

Tom, an AH-64 Master Aviator, fought in Vietnam, commanded eight Cavalry units, was Deputy Commander and Assistant Commandant U.S. Army Aviation School and Center, Assistant Division Commander 101st Airborne Division, Commander 1st Region Cadet Command, and Commander U.S. Army Safety Center & Director Army Safety. Simultaneously, Judy was not only involved with their own family, but also with Soldiers and their families in every unit and in local communities wherever they lived.

Tom served in various AAAA Chapter officer positions including President of four chapters, joined the AAAA National Executive Board, and proposed an Army Aviation award which became the Order of St. Michael.

During their 31-year military career they moved 24 times, within the United States, Israel, Syria, and Germany. This outstanding team retired in 1997, and while they accomplished much during their Army career, it is what they have accomplished after that truly sets them apart.

Elected as an AAAA National Vice President in 1999 and President in 2005, he distilled the 300-word bylaws purpose statement to "AAAA – Supporting the U.S. Army Aviation Soldier," which Judy made relevant by adding "and Family." This was adopted by the Board and is the touchstone for all actions to this day.

Meanwhile, Judy worked to ensure the Annual Summits had relevant professional Spouse programs; coordinated a family support area for non-profit charities focused on Soldiers and Families; and started a Family Forum column in Army Aviation Magazine in 2006 that remains a popular feature every month. For AAAA's 50th Anniversary, Tom and Judy helped create "The Legacy Lives On" hardcover book, with interviews of some of its founders.

In 2017, Tom became President of the Scholarship Foundation Board, and in 2021 the Treasurer and Finance Committee Chair for the newly created AAAA Trade Schools, Licensing, and Certification Foundation, while Judy assisted with by-law revisions and voting applicant files.

For almost six decades through combat, war, and peace. both in and out of uniform, Tom and Judy have exemplified selfless service through their love and commitment to our Soldiers and their families.





## **Army Aviation Association of America** (AAAA)

## 83 Chapters Strong

#### **Active Chapters Worldwide**

Bavarian, Germany Griffin, Germany Winged Warriors, Honduras Morning Calm. Korea Rising Sun, Japan Desert Oasis, Saudi Arabia



Il 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; 1899 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.

COL Marcus A. Gengler, Ret., President CW5 Sam R. Baker, III Ret., SeniorVP LTC 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 CW5 Jerry Mosley, Ret., VP Awards

Mr. Bart Johnke, VP Industry Affairs Mr. Louis Scipioni, Jr., Member at Large MSG Michael Patrick, VP EnlistedAffairs CSM Shawn C. McKay, Ret., VP **Government Affairs** COL Michael J. Negard, Ret., VP Publicity

#### **Tennessee Valley Chapter** Huntsville, Al



Category: Super Chapter; 2046 Members

Activation Date: 2/1/1976 Website:

www.quad-a.org/TenneseeValleyChapter

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 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.

#### Officers:

Mr. Gary S. Nenninger, President COL Daniel R. Thetford, SeniorVP Ms. Shannon L. Murphy, Secretary COL Gerald R. Davis, Jr. Ret., Treasurer

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CW5 William D. Kilgore, VP Membership COL William Thomas Breeze, Ret., VP National Guard & Reserves

CW5 Chadwick D. Ford, Ret., VP Operations LTC Tom T. Huff, Ret., VP Scholarship CSM Randy L. Wise, Ret., VP Awards 1SG Matthew D. Shattuck, Ret., VP Communications

LTC Jeffrey A. Crabb, Ret., VP Industry Affairs LTC Greg Oelberg, Ret., VP Programs COL Michael P. Cavalier, Ret., Member at Large

Ms.ChristineL.Henderson,MemberatLarge COL Joseph B. Jellison, Ret., Member at Large

Ms. Bonnie M. Nenninger, Member at Large COL Curtis D. Potts, 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
Mr. Mark Marcus, VP Government Affairs
MAJ Christian Abney, VP Military Affairs
MAJ Brian Haley, VP Military Affairs
Mrs. Janice L. Sanders, VP Publicity
LTC Jason L. Galindo, Ret., VP Social Events
Ms. Sarah Huskey, VP Social Media
COL Johnathan B. Frasier, Ret., VP
Veterans Affairs

Mr. Calvin J. Lane, VP Young Professionals Outreach

CW4 Steven L. Sanders, Sr. Ret., VP Young Professionals Outreach CAPT Brian Tachias Jr, VP Young

CAPT Brian Tachias Jr, VP Young Professionals Outreach

#### Yellowhammer Chapter Hope Hull, AL



Category: AAAA Chapter; 49 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 CAPT Matthew Perley, VP Scholarship MAJ Zachary L. Burton, VP MembEnrollment

#### Alaska Alaskan Midnight Sun Chapter Anchorage, AK



Category: AAAA Chapter; 25 Members Activation Date: 01/23/2025 Website: www.quad-a.org/ AlaskanMidnightSunChapter

Description: Alaskan Sun sent me this blurb - Alaskan Aviation community, stands as a dedicated advocate for Army Aviation professionals stationed across the Last Frontier. Rooted in the unique operational demands and environmental challenges of Alaska, our chapter fosters a strong sense of camaraderie, professional development, and support for soldiers, families, and the broader aviation mission. We proudly support active duty, National Guard, Reserve, retired, and civilian aviation personnel, creating opportunities for connection, mentorship, and recognition. Through a variety of events including professional luncheons, scholarship programs, community outreach, and support for deployed units, Alaskan Midnight Sun Chapter remains com-mitted to advancing the interests of Army Aviation in one of the most strategically vital and logistically demanding regions in the world. As the voice of Army Aviation in Alaska, we continue to build bridges between units, industry partners, and our local communities - honoring the legacy of those who fly, maintain, and support rotarywing operations in some of the harshest conditions imaginable.

#### Officers:

Michael Edwards, President Cody McKinney, Vice President Christopher Simmons, Secretary Forrest Voss, Treasurer Cody Bjorklund, VP Membership Charles Baker, VP Programming Ross Wise, VP Scholarship

#### Northern Lights Chapter Fort Wainwright/Fairbanks, AK



Category: Senior Chapter; 86 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:

Marketing

CW5 Daniel Hansen, President Mr. Eric W. Collier, SeniorVP Mr. Robert "Ski" D. Marcinkowski, Treasurer CW4 Scott Quiros, VP Membership MAJ Chad J. Drake, VP Scholarship MAJ Ethan P. Miller, VP Awards

WO1 William D. Pruitt, VP Events &

Arizona Arizona Chapter



Category: Master Chapter; 323 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
LTC Jack H. Denton, Secretary
LTC B.J. Wiley, Ret., VP Scholarship
Mr. Scott Lenzmeier, VP Awards
Mr. Scott R. Swinsick, VP Golf Tourney
CW5 Steve A. Lapping, Ret., VP Events &
Marketing
LTC Justin Douglas, VP Military Affairs

#### Old Tucson Chapter Cortaro, AZ



Category: Senior Chapter (89 Members) Activation Date: 5/1/1987

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, SeniorVP
SSG John A. Maez, Secretary
SGM Daniel J. Snyder, Treasurer
1SG Robyn L. Fowler, Ret., VP Scholarship

## **Thunder Mountain Chapter** Fort Huachuca, AZ



Category: AAAA Chapter; 72 Members Activation Date: 10/1/2006 Website:

www.quad-a.org/ ThunderMountainChapter

86

**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.

#### Officare.

Mr. Raymond Rivera, Jr., President SSG Miguel A. Ortiz, Ret., SeniorVP SFC Kayla Hubbard, Secretary CW5 Karl S. McKenzie, Treasurer Mr. Christopher Odum, Treasurer SGT Robert House, VP Scholarship CSM Chasitie Lee, VP MembEnrollment

# Arkansas Diamond State Chapter Little Rock, AR



Category: AAAA Chapter; 29 Members Activation Date: 09/13/2024 Website:

www.quad-a.org/DiamondStateChapter

Description: The Diamond State Chapter was founded in 2024. The chapter supports Army Aviation Soldiers, retirees and family members throughout the state. The focus is the Arkansas Army National Guard Aviation community at Camp Robinson in North Little Rock. The 77th Combat Aviation Brigade, Arkansas Army National Guard, supports the Nation and the State of Arkansas with dedicated Soldiers who regularly deploy with Arkansas and around the world.

#### Officers:

LTC Shawn Keeter, President CW5 Kenneth Hendrix, SeniorVP 1LT Ethan Bird, Secretary COL John M. Frost, Ret., Treasurer CW5 Todd Moory, VP MembershipLTC Randal H. Hobbs, Esq., VP Awards

# California Grizzly Chapter

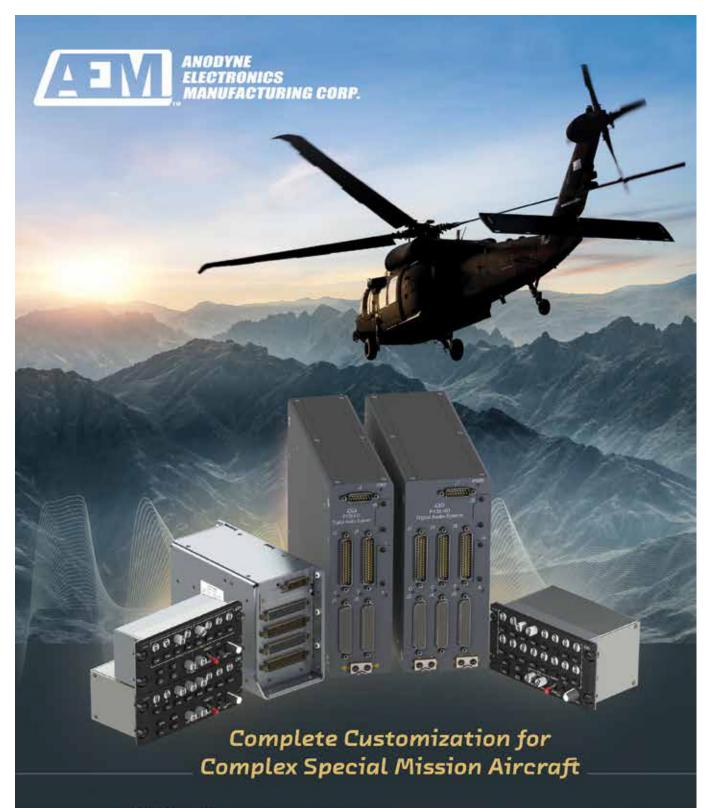
Fresno, CA



Category: AAAA Chapter; 58 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 Cali-



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fornia region and recognize their contributions and sacrifices in supporting the people of the State of California.

COL Shiloh Briggs, President LTC David Lovett, SeniorVP MAJ Joseph M. Gentry, Secretary 1LT Michael Tanney, Treasurer MAJ Joseph A. Burke, VP Scholarship COL Myles T. Williams, Ret., VP Civilian

SSG Matthew Valdez, VP Fund Raisers MSG Pedro Amezola Velazquez, VP Marketing CSM Janet L. Graves, VP EnlistedAffairs

#### **High Desert Chapter** Fort Irwin, CA



Category: AAAA Chapter; 52 Members Activation Date: 3/1/1991

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:

MAJ Levi Dillon, SeniorVP 1LT Brandan Walker, Secretary Mr. Marcus Flood, Treasurer SPC Kristen D. Smith, Treasurer

#### **Southern California Chapter Huntington Beach, CA**



Category: Master Chapter; 322 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 Vanden-burgh 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.

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 COLRussell W. Chung, Ret., VP Scholarship CSM Ronald D. Cabrera, VP Awards Mr. Michael N. Letson, VP Memb Enrollment

#### Colorado

**Pikes Peak Chapter** Fort Carson, CO



Category: Master Chapter; 411 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 stretchses 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 lvy 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 CW5 William S. Kearns, SeniorVP 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; 372 Members Activation Date: 3/1/1973

www.guad-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., SeniorVP Mr. Ronald B. Kwalek, Secretary LTC Paul B. Hoar, Ret., VP Scholarship Mr. Matthew Lisk, VP Industry Affairs Mr. Domingos Fernandes, VP Programs CSM Anthony V. Savino, VP EnlistedAffairs Mr. Tom Nicolett, VP Government Affairs Ms. Christina Beale, VP MembEnrollment COL William P. Shea, Ret., VP Military Affairs

#### **Florida**

Website:

**Central Florida Chapter** Oviedo, FL



Category: Super Chapter; 568 Members Activation Date: 3/1/1989

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 roots 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. Chris C. Wanitshka, President CW4 Steve T. Grady, Ret., SeniorVP Mr. Michael G. Younce, Secretary CSM Jason W. Werner, Ret., VP Membership MAJ Daniel E. Gallagher, Ret., VP Awards Mr. Robert Biggers, VP Industry Affairs MSGT Sean Osmond, VP Publicity CSM Eric C. Thom, Ret., VP STRI Affairs

#### **Embry Riddle Eagle Chapter** Daytona Beach, FL



Category: AAAA Chapter; 27 Members Activation Date: 1/1/1978

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. Cassidy Burns, President CDT Bryan Pettet, Vice President CDT Mitchell James, Treasurer CDT Paul Wood, VP Membership CDT Austin Sellinger, VP Programs

#### Flying Gator Chapter St. Augustine, FL



Category: Senior Chapter; 94 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:

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./151185th BN; - Det 4/B Co./351st ASB; - Det 1/B Co./2nd-245th TAB; - 2-111th AOB

COL Brett Rhodenizer, President MAJ Joshua D. Peek, SeniorVP 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.

MAJ Dustin Duncan, President CPT Michael Catron, Secretary Mr. Brian Terry, VP Membership



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## **Greater Atlanta Chapter** Marietta, GA



Category: Master Chapter; 235 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 Aviation Brigade on the future of Army Aviation and the benefits of AAAA.

#### Officers:

COL Christopher M. Buck, President MAJ Brandon Long, Treasurer

#### Savannah Chapter Hunter AAF, GA



Category: Master Chapter; 151 Members Activation Date: 11/1/1966

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, Ret., President
COL Ryan Sullivan, SeniorVP
MAJ Kayla C. Smith, Secretary
MSG Shawna Rodriguez, Treasurer
CSM Jessica Boughan, VP Scholarship
CSM John Frey, VP Awards
CPT Nicholas Tyler, VP Programs
LTC Lukas B. Berg, Member at Large
LTC Kenneth R. Dougher, Member at Large
LTC Jeffrey Murphy, Member at Large
LTC Peter Thomas, Member at Large

#### Hawaii Aloha Chapter Wahiawa, HI



Category: Senior Chapter; 147 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 (USARHAW) 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, SeniorVP 1LT Anthony M. Golden, Treasurer CPT Ariel Day, VP Awards CPT Patrick M. Brito, VP Activities

#### Idaho

Idaho Snake River Chapter Boise, ID



Category: Master Chapter; 150 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 1SG Wes Lee Obenauer, VP MembEnrollment

#### Illinois

Land of Lincoln Chapter Peoria, IL



Category: AAAA Chapter; 20 Members Activation Date: 4/1/1996 Website:

www.quad-a.org/LandofLincolnChapter

**Description:** Land of Lincoln Chapter covers all of Illinois from Chicago to Cairo.

#### Officers:

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

#### Iowa

lowa Chapter Cedar Rapids, IA



Category: Senior Chapter; 90 Members Activation Date: 6/1/1981 Website:

www.quad-a.org/iowachapter

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

#### Officers:

Mr. Tony Allou, President
COL Eric M. Nelson, SeniorVP
COL Kevin Johnson, Secretary
Mrs. Kelley Kirtz, Treasurer
LTC Nick W. White, VP Scholarship
LTC Brian D. Deets, VP Awards

#### Kansas Flint Hills Chapter Manhattan, KS



Category: Senior Chapter; 86 Members Activation Date: 4/1/1959

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 P. Corrigan, President MAJ Justin M. Martini, SeniorVP 1LT Rachel M. Eby, Treasurer MAJ Roger Willett, VP Membership

#### Frontier Army Chapter Fort Leavenworth, KS



Category: Senior Chapter; 108 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:

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 ${\sf COLJim\,Tenpenny},\;{\sf Ret.}, {\sf President}$ 

COL Paul E. Berg, Treasurer MAJ Sean Lucas, VP Operations CPT John Anthony Moreno, VP MembEnrollment

# Kentucky Air Assault Chapter Fort Campbell, KY



Category: Super Chapter; 513 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., SeniorVP CW5 George C. Arzente, Ret., Secretary CW5 Jeff Gregg, Ret., Treasurer Mr. Walter Gerald Adams, VP Membership CSM Joshua D. Gary, VP Operations MAJ Scott W. Hollingsworth, Ret., VP Scholarship COL John D. Williams, Ret., VP MembEnrollment

#### Bluegrass Chapter Frankfort, KY



Category: AAAA Chapter; 68 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,



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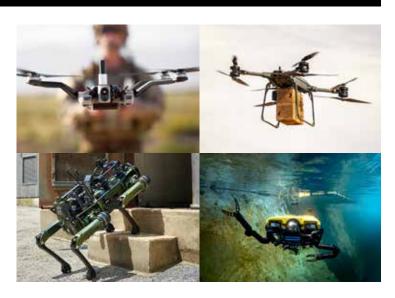
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COL Michael Armstrong, SeniorVP CPT Joseph Miller, Secretary CPT Jacob E. Conner, Treasurer MAJ Jessica M. Miller, VP Scholarship 1LT David B. Judd, VP MembEnrollment

#### **Gold Standard Chapter** Fort Knox, KY



Category: Master Chapter; 169 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 supports many aviation units, primarily 8-229th Aviation Regiment (AHB), marily 8-229th Aviation Regiment (Ario), 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., SeniorVP Mr. Stephen Kramer, Ret., Treasurer CW3 Timothy A. Dailey, VP Scholarship COL Brad P. Luebbert, Ret., VP Activities SSG Matthew Lee Zink, USAR, VP MembEnrollment

#### Louisiana **Bayou Chapter** Camp Beauregard Pineville, LA



Category: AAAA Chapter; 31 Members Activation Date: 2/15/2017

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 profind excitement was the scholarship pro-gram. 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 ap-plying 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 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 make the acceptance of the secondary of the secondar 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

#### Officers:

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

#### Ragin' Cajun Chapter Fort Johnson, LA



Category: AAAA Chapter; 35 Members Activation Date: 4/1/1973 Website: www.quad-a.org/ RaginCajunChapter

Description: We are the Ragin' 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 John F. Robichaux, President CPT Thomas D. Gorman, Treasurer 1st LT Zachary M. Hafele, Treasurer 1LT Jordan Cook, VP Membership

#### Voodoo Chapter Hammond, LA



Category: Senior Chapter; 101 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 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.

LTC Brian J. Lagarde, President SGM Rudolph M. Cambre, Ret., Treasurer MSG Eugene Bordelon, VP Scholarship SSG Stephen L. Gifford, Jr., VP MembEnrollment

#### Maryland **Mid-Atlantic Chapter** Aberdeen, MD



Category: Master Chapter; 310 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.

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COL Charles H. Schulze, Ret., President COL David M. Paolucci, SeniorVP CW4 Teri C. Thomas, Secretary 1SG Matt T. Gwin, Treasurer LTC Michael G. Olmstead, Ret., VP Membership CW5AlbertB.Isennock, RET, VP Scholarship

MSG Garnett Reid, VP Scholarship

#### Massachusetts Minuteman Chapter Hanscom AFB, MA



Category: Master Chapter; 172 Members Activation Date: 12/1/1991

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.

CW5 Matthew Cummings, President CW4 Daniel E. MacSwain, SeniorVP CW4 Brian Gannon, Ret., Treasurer CW5 Michael G. Anderson, VP Awards CW4 Charles M. Synnott, VP MembEnrollment

#### Michigan Great Lakes Chapter Grand Ledge, MI



Category: Senior Chapter; 149 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 Áviation. 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.

CW3 Bryan L. Zischke, SeniorVP Mr. Anthony T. Kruckeberg, Secretary CW4 Ronald F. Ziehmer, VP Membership CW4 Aaron L. Cartwright, Sr., VP Scholarship MAJ Todd M. Osborne, Jr., VP Awards

#### **Minnesota North Star Chapter** St. Paul, MN



Category: Master Chapter; 198 Members Activation Date: 3/1/1991

www.guad-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, SeniorVP MAJ Jonathan P. Andrews, Treasurer MAJ Brandon S. Hale, VP Scholarship SFC Caleb T. Oberg, VP EnlistedAffairs CW5 Steven M. Shoemaker, Ret., VP Retired Affairs

#### Missouri Lindbergh Chapter Defiance, MO



Category: Master Chapter; 181 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, SeniorVP Ms. Vicki L. Schmitz, Secretary Mr. Michael G. Tesi, Treasurer Mr. Robert Stenberg, VP Scholarship

## **ShowMe Chapter** Sedalia, MO



Category: AAAA Chapter; 72 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:

COL Derrick S. Jennings, President MAJ Robert Hedgepath, SeniorVP COL Paul Howerton, Secretary MAJ Benjamin A. Hansen, Treasurer LTC Brandon C. Heimericks, VP Scholarship

#### Mississippi Magnolia Chapter Jackson, MS



Category: Senior Chapter; 97 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 Brandon L. Dixon, SeniorVP CW4 Robert S. Herrington, Secretary CPT Colin Sullivan, Treasurer CPT Jordan Riley, VP Scholarship

#### Montana

Big Sky Chapter Helena, MT



Category: Senior Chapter; 100 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 nonmembers and the benefits of being an AAAA member are significant.

#### Officers:

LTC Noah Genger, President COL Robert Oleson, President CPT Thomas Meredith, Secretary CW4 JD Nose, VP Membership CW3 Patricia Osborn, VP Scholarship 1SG Dan Johnson, VP Awards

#### Nebraska

## **Prairie Soldier Chapter** Grand Island, NE



**Category:** Senior Chapter; 96 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:

CPT Jeb Myers, SeniorVP CW5 Paul Arthur Robinson, SeniorVP CW4 Stephen C. Gonifas, VP Membership 1SG Wade Kopetzky, VP EnlistedAffairs

#### Nevada

#### **Battle Born Chapter** Reno, NV



Category: Senior Chapter; 67 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 MAJ Zackary A. Taylor-Warren, SeniorVP CPT Jacob Pestana, Treasurer

#### **New Hampshire**

#### Live Free or Die Chapter Concord, NH



Category: AAAA Chapter; 53 Members Activation Date: 06/1/2023 Website:

 $www.quad\hbox{-} a.org/live free ordie chapter$ 

**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, SeniorVP SFC Aaron Scott DeAngelis, Secretary 1SG Joseph Phinney, Treasurer CPT Ginger Munson, Ret., VP Scholarship CW3 Michael Fletcher, VP Programs CW4 Brian D. O'Leary, Ret., VP MembEnrollment

#### New Jersey Jersey Chapter



Category: AAAA Chapter; 61 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 JB-MDL, Lakehurst, NJ.

#### Officars

BG Mike LaPoint, President Mr. John G. Klubnick, Sr., SeniorVP LTC Eric J. Tolska, Secretary Mr. Jin Park, Treasurer Mrs. Catherine C. Roache, VP MembEnrollment 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 Lakotas, 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 1SG Ryan Haworth, SeniorVP CW4 Trudy Truax, Ret., Treasurer LTC Linda M. DuMoulin, Ret., VP Scholarship CW3 Brian Philipbar, VP Community Relations

## New York Rlack Knights Char

Black Knights Chapter Warwick, NY



Category: AAAA Chapter; 31 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 COL Christopher Fuhriman, SeniorVP LTC Ashlie I. Christian, Secretary LTC Connie M. Lane, VP Membership

#### **Empire Chapter** Rochester, NY



Category: AAAA Chapter; 40 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 (MEDE-VAC), B 3-126th (CH-47's), 27th BSB (UAS)

#### Officers:

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

#### MacArthur Chapter New York / Long Island Area, NY



Category: Master Chapter; 204 Members Activation Date: 2/1/1992

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 MG Jack A. James, SeniorVP CW4 Timothy Scott Dahlen, Sr. Ret., Secretary

CPT Richard Siracusano, III, Treasurer CW4 Neal L. Humphries, VP Membership CW5 James G. Freeman, Ret., VP Scholarship

CW4 Robert Hansen, VP Awards

#### Mohawk Chapter Latham, NY



Category: AAAA Chapter; 70 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 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

COL Paul Michael Bailie, President
Ms. Alyssa Griffith, Vice President
LTC Henry T. Chandler, Secretary
SSG Jacob Robert Weitzel, Treasurer
CSM Dolan P. Brammer, VP Membership
MAJ Charles S. Ackley, Jr., VP Scholarship
CPT Michael Betts, VP Awards
COL David C. Mackey, VP Programs

## **North Country Chapter**Fort Drum, NY



Category: Senior Chapter; 89 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, SeniorVP CW2 David Kerr, Treasurer SGT Jasen Modell, VP Awards MAJ Daté O. Dakitse, VP MembEnrollment

# North Carolina Iron Mike Chapter Fort Liberty, NC



Category: Master Chapter; 217 Members Activation Date: 3/1/1959

www.guad-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, SeniorVP CW5 Charles W. Roberts, Ret., Treasurer LTC Phillip J. Ewell, VP Membership CW4 Joseph Whittaker, VP Awards

#### Tarheel Chapter Raleigh, NC



Category: Senior Chapter; 135 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 Bat-talion 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

COL Daniel J. McAuliffe, President LTC Mark E. Pickett, Senior/P CW3 Carl A. Glover, Ret., Secretary MAJ Michael D. Kromenacker, Treasurer LTC James L. Bond, VP Scholarship

#### North Dakota Straight Arrows Chapter Bismark, ND



Category: AAAA Chapter; 38 Members Activation Date: 01/08/2025 Website:

www.quad-a.org/StraightArrowsChapter

Description: The Straight Arrows Chapter brings together former and current Army Aviators and crewmembers to preserve their shared history and camaraderie. Dedicated to honoring their service, the chapter organizes reunions, storytelling events, and community outreach. Members stay connected through gatherings, aviation themed activities, and mentorship for the next generation. With a deep appreciation for military aviation, the chapter ensures the legacy of North Dakota's Army Aviation community lives on.

#### Officers:

SGT Joey Vandervliet, President CW2 Steven Schaffner, SeniorVP CPT Cody Zikmund, Treasurer CW5 Joseph Parsons, Secretary

#### Wright Brothers Chapter Columbus, OH



Category: Master Chapter; 288 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, SeniorVP SFC Daniel Hingston, Treasurer CPT Jeffrey S. Gyurcsik, Ret., VP Scholarship

#### Oklahoma Thunderbird Chapter Tulsa, OK



Category: Master Chapter; 205 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., SeniorVP 1LT Julie M. Harris, Secretary SFC Vernon Smith, Treasurer SGM William C. Ritter, VP Membership CPT Michael B. Senn, VP Scholarship 1LT Dylan L. White, VP Awards

# Oregon Oregon Trail Chapter Salem, OR



Category: Senior Chapter; 131 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 (Mov-

ie 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 CW3 Michael S. Newgard, VP Membership MAJ Timothy Heater, VP Operations

# Pennsylavnia Delaware Valley Chapter Philadelphia, PA



Category: Master Chapter; 266 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 collegelevel members of AAAA.

#### Officers:

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

#### First Troop Philadelphia Chapter Philadelphia, PA



Category: AAAA Chapter; 31 Members Activation Date: 1/29/2025 Website:

www.quad-a.org/FirstTroopChapter

Description: The First Troop Philadelphia Chapter is proud to relaunch after a period of dormancy–renewing our commitment to serving the Army Aviation community in the greater Philadelphia area. The chapter was initially formed to provide a more accessible option for Pennsylvania Guard members based in and around Philadelphia, as the nearest chapter at the time, Keystone Chapter, is located two hours away at Fort Indiantown Gap. While the region no longer hosts manned Air Cavalry units, we continue to have a strong com-

munity of aviators and soldiers interested in Army Aviation. With the growing role of Uncrewed Aircraft Systems (UAS) in the Guard—especially within ground cavalry and infantry units—our local aviation ties are only strengthening. We are excited to welcome a new wave of members, including Raven UAS operators from A/1-104th Cavalry Squadron. The First Troop Philadelphia Chapter is back and ready to serve!

#### Officers:

Matthew Belfi, President Timothy Rickey, SeniorVP Joseph Lilly, Secretary Scott Dobson, Treasurer Ryan Leonard, VP Membership

#### **Keystone Chapter** Indiantown Gap, PA



Category: Master Chapter; 236 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 Abby V. Yox, Secretary
CPT Diego Wilson, Treasurer
CPT Dane Boltz, VP Scholarship
CPT Stephen Pernelli, VP Awards
1LT Zachary G. Adams, VP Communications
CW4 Terrance E. Bale, Ret., VP At Large
CW5 Dale A Yoder VP At Large

CW5 Dale A. Yoder, VP At Large 1SG Matthew D. Stohrer, Sr., VP EnlistedAffairs CPT Matthew Nieberding, VP Memb

Enrollment COL Howard R. Lloyd, Jr. Ret., VP Retired

# Rhode Island Narragansett Bay Chapter North Kingston, RI



Category: Senior Chapter; 83 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 LTC Jarred Rickey, SeniorVP CW3 Rachel Giblin, Treasurer MAJ Tessa L. Baptista, VP Programs SFC Jason R. Garland, VP Enlisted Affairs CPT Tyler W. Donovan, VP MembEnrollment CPT Matthew J. Schultz, VP MembEnrollment CW3 David Edmund Powers, II, VP WO Affairs

#### **South Carolina**

#### Jimmy Doolittle Chapter Columbia, SC



Category: Master Chapter; 183 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:

LTC Steven P. Seigler, President CPT Joshua R. Blizzard, SeniorVP CPT Jacob Everett Barth, Treasurer CW3 James Brian Cox, VP Membership

#### **Tennessee**

#### Volunteer Chapter Smyrna, TN



Category: Master Chapter; 187 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 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 Bonnie Flavel, Secretary MAJ Phillip W. Draper, VP East MAJ David R. Swan, VP Middle MAJ Brian T. Lennon, VP West

#### **Texas**

#### Corpus Christi Chapter Corpus Christi, TX



Category: Senior Chapter; 138 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 retires, 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, Publicity and Marketing.

#### Officers:

Mr. Kevin S. Rees, P.E., President Mr. Wesley Thomas, Secretary Ms. Jahna D. Fulton, Treasurer Mr. Clayton D. Vance, VP Membership Ms. Suellen D. Dennett, VP Scholarship Ms. Cleo Rocha, VP Activities Mr. Samuel E. Villalobos, VP Publicity

#### **Ghostrider Chapter** Houston, TX



Category: AAAA Chapter, 25 Members Activation Date: March 22, 2025

CPT Caleb Rowell - President LTC Jacob Orndorff - Senior VP 1LT Britney Schovasja - Secretary SSG Joshua Eaton – Treasurer

#### Jack H. Dibrell/Alamo Chapter San Antonio. TX



**Category:** Master Chapter; 156 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:

CW4 Pedro J. Vargas-Lebron, President Mr. Nick Sinopoli, Treasurer LTC Jose L. Reyes, Ret., VP Operations COL Robert Guevara, VP Scholarship MAJ Bobby K. Woods, VP Awards CW4 Zackary Rogers, VP MembEnrollment

#### **North Texas Chapter** Fort Worth, TX



Category: Super Chapter; 511 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 L3 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:

BG John E. Novalis, II Ret., President Mr. Craig J. Dupuy, SeniorVP COL Michael E. Demirjian, Ret., Secretary Mr. Noma C. Martini, Treasurer COL Gary L. Cunningham, Ret., VP Programs

## **Phantom Corps Chapter** Fort Cavazos, TX



Category: Master Chapter; 250 Members Activation Date: 11/1/1958 Website:

www.quad-a.org/PhantomCorpsChapter

**Description:**Phantom Corps Chapter supports all aviation organizations under U.S Army III Corps and Fort Cavazos, TX garrison such as the famed 1st Air Calvary Brigade, 166th Aviation Brigade, U.S Army Operational Test Command: Aviation Test Directorate, and 15th Military Intelligence Battalion (Aerial Exploitation). All these organizations are home to dedicated aviation professionals that are continuing to foster the mission and future of Army Aviation.

#### Officers:

CW4 Brandon C. Vance, President MAJ Nicholas Craig, SeniorVP LTC John B. DeLoach, Secretary CW2 Joann L. Courtland, Treasurer CW4 Xavier E. Brisco, VP Operations CW4 Joshua R. Robinson, VP Scholarship CPT Joshua McGrain, VP Awards CW3 Caleb D. Ashby, VP Programs 1SG Brandon J. Casey, VP EnlistedAffairs CW2 Tony Barnes, VP MembEnrollment CW5 Daniel J. Layman, VP MembEnrollment

#### **Rio Grande Chapter** El Paso, TX



Category: Senior Chapter; 96 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, across the world. We also support a unique Military Intelligence organization with a one-of-a-kind mission. We are happy to be support the soldiers and families of this great branch.

#### Officers

1SG Eric Pantoja-Torres, SeniorVP MAJ Matthew D. Welker, Secretary SFC Patrick J. De Leon, Treasurer 1SG Joshua E. Teckenbrock, VP Scholarship CPT Jason W. Peachey, VP Awards MAJ Victor A. Munoz, VP MembEnrollment

## Utah

#### **Utah Chapter** West Jordan, UT



Category: Senior Chapter; 139 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 (IUH-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, SeniorVP CW5 Jared S. Jones, Treasurer COL John W. Dzieciolowski, VP National Guard & Reserves LTC Deborah Gatrell, VP Scholarship CW5 Stephen Rugg, Ret., VP Awards

#### Vermont

#### Green Mountain Boys Chapter

Green Mountain, VT



Category: Senior Chapter; 92 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 A. Johnston, SeniorVP CPT Ryan Farina, Secretary MAJ John Lescure, Treasurer MAJ Dan Davis, VP Scholarship

# Virginia Colonial Virginia Chapter Fort Eustis, VA



Category: Master Chapter; 396 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 Development Aviation 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, SeniorVP 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

## Free Dominion 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., SeniorVP SFC David DeWeese, Secretary CW3 Matt Wildman, VP Membership CW3 Darrell Busquets, VP Awards WO1 Matthew Orlowski, VP Programs CW2 Jo Ellis, VP Public Affairs

## **Washington-Potomac Chapter** Arlington, VA



Category: Super Chapter; 1063 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 (The Army Aviation Brigade, Washington D.C. Guard, etc.) and their activities. The WPC encourages, supports and promotes exemplary performance of Army Aviation Soldiers, community leaders, and its AAAA members. Throughout 2024, the WPC focused on advancing the four primary AAAA pillars (Network, Recognition, Voice, and Support) throughout the National Capitol Region through a variety

■ The WPC held 11 in-person monthly membership meetings/networking events and 2 golf tournaments to continue to promote networking and camaraderie.

of accomplishments.

Network:

- On 16 AUG 24, the WPC helped coordinate and sponsor the 100 Black Men Virginia Peninsula Chapter's and The Army Aviation Brigade (TAAB) Outreach event held at Davison Army Airfield, VA. This event included Army Aviation facility and aircraft tours and culminated in an Army Aviator guest speaker panel who discussed such topics as career paths in the Army, the impact of representation, overcoming challenges, and the role of mentorship with the students
- Had multiple Board members attend the 2024 AAAA Summit Chapter Officer Workshop to better understand how we can support our members. Recognition:
- In 2024, the WPC continued to aggres-
- sively recognize deserving members:

   Recognized 3 DACs of the Quarter, 1 DAC of the Month, and 1 DAC of the Year during various award ceremonies and awaiting from National the certificate for one more

DAC of the Quarter award. This was an increase of 5 recognitions from last year.

- Recognized 4 very deserving Soldier/ NCOs of the Quarter and currently awaiting the certificates from National for 5 additional Soldier/NCOs submitted for Quarter/Monthly awards. This is an increase of 3 recognitions from last year.
- Processed and presented 36 total AAAA individual awards (1 x GOSM, 8 x SOSM, 19 x BOSM, 6 x KOSM, and 2 x OLL). This was an increase of 5 awards from last year.
- In 2024, submitted 22 AAAA magazine articles which helped recognize individual awards and unit events (OSMs, Recognition Ceremonies, Changes of Command, Changes of Responsibilities, etc.) occurring throughout our chapter. This was an increase of 5 from last year.
- Made 24 posts to the WPC Facebook
- During 1QCY24, the WPC reestablished Board member election cycles to occur every two years. In 2024, nominees were solicited, and voting occurred for the positions of President, Secretary, VP of Scholarship, VP of Industry Affairs, and VP of Operations. Support:
- To better support our membership, held a Military Transition Seminar where our Chapter's industry leaders presented and discussed real world military transition topics not necessarily covered in enough detail during the Army's transition assistance programs (resumes, interviews, company structures, duty titles, etc.), as well as helped with networking.
- The WPC provided 34 scholarship evaluation volunteers, including 10 who evaluated 2 different sets of applications, which was 19% of the 179 total evaluators utilized by the AAAA SFI.
- The WPC actively raised/transferred \$46,226 to the AAAA SFI permitting the awarding of 29 scholarships ranging \$2,000 \$4,000 each.
- The WPC sponsored a TAAB Soldier (SSG Trevor Wilkin) who attended the 2024 AAAA Mission Solutions Summit.
- The WPC continued to promote AAAA memberships by sponsoring 1 AAAA lifetime membership given away during our annual scholarship dinner.
- ■The WPC distributed chapter wide TLC information to encourage increased submissions to that program.
- The WPC held 12 Chapter Board meetings with a full staff of board members.

COL Ronald G. Lukow, Ret., President MG Rudolph Ostovich, III Ret., SeniorVP MAJ Ronald Dennis Twitchell, Secretary LTC Frank A. Tedeschi, Ret., Treasurer CW4 Michael Beck, VP Membership CW4 Matthew DuWayne Vennie, VP Operations

COL Stephen T. Burns, Ret., VP Scholarship

CW5 Daniel R. Curry, Ret., VP Awards Mr. Crispin Burke, VP Communications MAJ Ronald A. Putnam, Ret., VP Industry

LTC Terry Mullis, II, VP Programs MajGen Garry C. Dean, Ret., Member at Large

SGM Alex Collins, VP EnlistedAffairs CW5 Matthew Ingmire, VP for TLC

#### Washington **Mount Rainier Chapter** Fort Lewis, WA



**Category:** Master Chapter; 340 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.

CW5 Carl Hermanson, President SGM James R. Blackhart, Ret., Treasurer Ms. Brittany Black, VP Membership Mr. David Michael Goodhue, Ret., VP Scholarship CW5 Barry Sledd, VP Awards

#### Wisconsin **Badger Chapter** Madison, WI



Category: Senior Chapter; 147 Members Activation Date: 5/24/2012

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. 1-148 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).

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

## **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:

MAJ Lauren E. Gurney, President CW3 Michael Parkins, SeniorVP SSG Matthew Jacob Connary, Secretary CPT Dustin J. Wambach, Treasurer 1LT George M. Nykun, III, VP Membership SGT Austin Wright, VP Scholarship SSG Andrew T. McCown, VP Awards

#### OCONUS **Bavarian Chapter** Hohenfels, Germany



Category: AAAA Chapter; 37 Members Activation Date: 8/1/1994

www.quad-a.org/BavarianChapter

Description: The Bavarian Chapter is a 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.

COL Beau G. Rollie, President MAJ Chris Curran, SeniorVP MAJ Joseph Imbriaco, Secretary CPT Chris Feigenbaum, Treasurer MAJ Ryan Kline, VP Membership CW5 Nate Stewart, VP Scholarship



#### **Desert Oasis Chapter** Saudi Arabia



Category: AAAA Chapter; 43 Members Activation Date: 7/1/2016 Website:

www.guad-a.org/DesertOasisChapter

**Description:** The Desert Oasis Chapter, headquartered at Al Nahkla Residential Rereadquartered at Al Narika Residential Re-sort, Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, sup-ports 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.

COL Joseph C. Bell, President SFC Bryan Leitch, Treasurer SFC Palm L. Forward, VP Scholarship SFC Charles Gammons, VP Awards

#### **Griffin Chapter** Katterbach, Germany



Category: Senior Chapter; 134 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 Avia-tion 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 C. Kendall, President Mr. Heath Morecraft, Treasurer CW5 James Bentley Wilson, Treasurer MAJ John C. Barnes, VP Awards MAJ Joshua A. Meyer, VP Wiesbaden

#### **Morning Calm Chapter** Seoul, Korea



Category: Master Chapter; 151 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 Billy D. Blue, III, President CW5 Colin Page, SeniorVP MAJ Kurt Schiedermayer, Treasurer CPT Kyoohyun James Sim, VP Membership MAJ Jair Mayorga, VP Scholarship 1LT Genevieve Marschall, VP Awards

## Rising Sun Chapter Camp Zama, Japan



Category: AAAA Chapter; 45 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:

1SG Eric K. Douse, Treasurer CSM Shawn Keelty, VP Awards CW4 Jacob W. Schmidt, VP Programs MAJ Michael Chase, VP Events &

## Winged Warriors Chapter Soto Cano Airbase, Honduras



Category: AAAA Chapter; 69 Members Activation Date: 3/1/2008 Website: www.quad-a.org/ WingedWarriorsChapter

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 Nolan D. Roggenkamp, President 1LT Haley Allen, Treasurer CPT Matthew Galea, VP Membership MSG Elena P. Hoesley, VP Awards

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# ARMYAVIATION

# **Photography Contest Winners**

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 2024, 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 2025 contest. Visit the AAAA website, quad-a.org for details and submission requirements.

Bill Harris, Publisher

First Place – "Night Owl" by CW2 Maggie A. Eveland, Lexington, Kentucky Company A, 8th Battalion, 229th Aviation Regiment night operations Air Assault training. March 19, 2024; Fort Knox, Kentucky.

**Second Place – "Silent Killer" by SGT Christian Hart,** Raeford, NC Gray Eagle, before its mission. February 2, 2024; Al, Asad, Iraq

## Third Place - "Phoenix in Flight" by MAJ Joe Gentry, Clovis, CA

A UH-60M Blackhawk helicopter conducting a maintenance test flight. Maintenance Test Pilot, CW4 Ryan Rodriguez from the 1106th AVCRAD (CA ARNG) is in the photo. November 21, 2024; Fresno-Yosemite International Airport, Fresno CA.

Fourth Place – "Calling in the Birds" by CPT Joshua Cole, Harker Heights, Texas SPC Lamela, Nicholas, a 15Q air traffic controller safely guides a CH-47 into a FARP (Forward Arming and Refuel Point) during an aerial gunnery exercise with NATO partners. October 11, 2024; Adazai, Latvia.







Honorable Mention – "Army Fixed Wing Transformation" by LTC Anthony Andrews, El Paso, Texas.

204th MI BN climbing to new heights in a Global 6500 jet trainer. November 16, 2024; Western United States.



Honorable Mention – "Flight School Fly-By" by LT Hannah Lamb, Fort Novosel, Alabama.

Flight school students practice traffic patterns in the UH-72 Lakota helicopter as part of Initial Entry Rotary Wing training. July 26, 2024; High Bluff Stage field



**Honorable Mention – "Apache Runup" by CW4 (Retired) Daniel M. McClinton,** Carrollton, Texas.

A pair of AH-64Ds belonging to 6-17 CAV from FT Carson, CO prepare for departure from Alliance Airport near Fort Worth, TX. June 24, 2024; Allaince Airport, Fort Worth, Texas



Honorable Mention – "C/2-1 over Germany" by 1LT Maxwell Nation, Junction City, Kansas.

Retirement, the last flight for two soldiers in C/2-1. March 25, 2024; Over Germany.



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Honorable Mention – "FSC Fuelers" by 1LT Agyapong Oduro-Kwarteng, Lakewood, Washington

Fuelers (Left to Right: SPC Herrera, Edwin, SPC Lewis, Dwayne and SSG Juliano, Jose) of E1-168th happily walking away after a successful hot refueling mission at the FARP during 1-168th GSAB Annual Training at the Yakima Training Center. May 16, 2024; Yakima Training Center, Washington.

Honorable Mention – "A View of One World Trade Center" by CW4 Kristina Sofchak, Jackson, NJ

Two test pilots recovering an aircraft from a PL, Flight down the Hudson River on return flight to Lakehurst NJ. November 12, 2024; Hudson River Exclusion.





**Honorable Mention – "RC12x" by W01 Robert Schaare,** Republic of Korea

An RC12x, awaiting to fly. May 1, 2024; Camp Humphreys, Korea Tulsa.

Honorable Mention – "Successful JRTC" by CW4 James Suggs, Concord, North Carolina

Another Successful JRTC rotation for North Carolina Army National Guard. July 29, 2024; Fort Johnson, LA.

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## From the Field



# New Flying Laboratory Offers State-Of-The-Art Testing Capabilities

By Katie Davis Skelley



t is a laboratory that enables Army scientists, engineers and test pilots to rapidly test new technology that could directly impact the Warfighter. And it flies.

The U.S. Army Combat Capabilities Development Command Aviation & Missile Center's UH-60M Rotorcraft Aircrew Systems Concepts Airborne Laboratory, or RASCAL-X, replaces its earlier JUH-60A model incarnation, in operation since 2001. After concluding maintenance flights, the new Mike model is ready to take flight with a modernized full authority, fly by wire (FBW) research flight control systems (RFCS).

The research performed on RAS-CAL-X is platform agnostic which allows scientists and engineers to quickly implement and test technologies that benefit all Army aircraft. "With only around 10 flying [vertical lift] laboratories in existence, we are the only one unique to the Department of Defense," MAJ Greg Sievers, pilot for RASCAL-X, said.



Top: Government-owned and governmentoperated, RASCAL-X is designed with an open architecture.

Middle: The U.S. Army Combat Capabilities Development Command Aviation & Missile Center's UH-60M Rotorcraft Aircrew Systems Concepts Airborne Laboratory, or RASCAL-X, is ready to take flight with a modernized full authority, fly by wire (FBW) research flight control systems (RFCS).

Bottom: RASCAL-X upgrades the capabilities of its predecessor to include the ability to research autonomous flight, fly by wire takeoff and landings, air-launched unmanned aerial systems and remote pilot stations.



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When conceptualizing the new RASCAL-X, the Center's Rotorcraft Inflight Laboratory Team, based out of Fort Eustis, Virginia, saw an opportunity to focus on mission system development, with an integrated digital backbone and simplified aircraft interface that allow for mission systems to be rapidly installed for flight test with minimal modification. These mission systems may interact with the new research flight control system to explore autonomous flight behaviors.

RASCAL-X also upgraded its capabilities to include the ability to research autonomous flight, fly by wire takeoff and landings, air-launched unmanned aerial systems and remote pilot stations. These improvements allow for continued flight control research in addition to mission systems research.

The aircraft is supported by a ground-based laboratory. "We have a one-for-one hardware and software match in the System Integration Laboratory, allowing us to thoroughly test everything on the ground," said Miles "Pat" Hickman, RASCAL-X lead engineer. "This enables us to identify problem areas and fix any

bugs before integrating the system into the aircraft. By the time we take it to flight testing, we have a high level of confidence that it will work as expected."

The ground-based testing is critical to ensure safe flight testing. "We can throw stuff in there really quick," Hickman said. "We test it in our lab and then as long as everything is behaving, we can take it to the aircraft and check it in the air. That includes both flight controls and mission systems."

Being government-owned, government-operated, RASCAL-X was designed with an open-architecture that allows it to be utilized by industry and international partners, universities and other government agencies. Not limited to defense, Hickman said that NASA astronauts have flown the aircraft exploring using it for lunar lander training. "We work directly with the experts of the fields -- whether it's human systems, vehicle controls, autonomy -- all of those different pieces," Hickman said.

The Fort Eustis team, working with their counterparts at AvMC's Moffett Field location on the campus of NASA Ames Research Center in

California, enables researchers on one side of the country to conceptualize and develop capabilities while their Virginia teammates implement that technology and execute flight testing. It is a process that often happens in real-time, via remote telemetry.

Building the new platform gave the engineers the opportunity to look at what was working for the aircraft and what needed a fresh perspective. While the FBW RFCS remained, the pilot station was redesigned to make room for new pilot interfaces and flight control concepts, including sidesticks and other flight inceptors.

Not just limited to what the RFCS can test – the new RASCAL-X has made a huge technological jump in "where" it can test. The older model was restricted to flying no lower than 50 feet. Recognizing the limitations, the engineers developed new safety monitors that will allow them to test systems through the full flight envelope – including taxi, take-off and landing.

"There is nothing closed off to us," Hickman said.

In an environment where the Army has a critical need to develop its capabilities even faster and cheaper, RASCAL-X provides testing that combines next-generation technology for current and future Warfighter needs. "Every time we run up against a new problem, there's no precedent for the problem," Sievers said. "The team here, working with the original equipment manufacturers and other vendors, are finding solutions for problems nobody's had yet. It can be frustrating and difficult, but it's problems that we know we're capable of fixing."

"You see lots of new ideas," Hickman added. "You see the problems that come up with these new ideas. You get to watch and work with everybody overcoming these problems and then when you find a solution that works, that's pretty awesome."



Katie Davis Skelley is the Command Information Lead and principal writer for the U.S. Army Combat Capabilities Development Command Aviation and Missile Center.





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## Beyond the Flightline:

## How Trade Schools, Licenses, and Certifications Lead to Economic Success

By Sandra Perez, CSM (Ret) Jim Thomson and CSM (Ret) Brian Hauke

t AAAA TLC, we believe in empowering individuals and businesses by providing access to trade, licensing, and certification grants that foster career growth, create economic opportunities, and ensure long-term financial success.

Our mission is to break down financial barriers, ensuring that skilled professionals and aspiring entrepreneurs obtain the credentials they need to thrive. Through strategic investments in education, training, and certification programs, we contribute to a highly qualified workforce, strengthen local economies, and drive innovation across industries. Our commitment extends beyond funding opportunities—we create clear pathways to professional success.

### The Demand for Skilled Trades

The U.S. is currently facing a skilled labor shortage, with industries such as Aviation maintenance, electrical work, HVAC, welding, and cybersecurity in dire need of trained professionals. These careers often provide competitive salaries that rival those requiring a four-year degree – without the burden of student debt. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, skilled trade professionals frequently earn above the national median income while benefiting from job security, high demand, and opportunities for entrepreneurship.

Transitioning to a skilled trade is seamless for those in Army Aviation. Military training instills discipline, technical expertise, and problemsolving skills – highly sought after in these fields. The adaptability and handson experience gained in the military make veterans prime candidates for well-paying careers in skilled trades.

## High Earning Potential and Wealth Generation

Trade schools and certification programs provide efficient, streamlined educational paths, allowing individuals to enter the workforce and earn quickly—often within months or up to two years. Some high-paying trade careers include:

- Aviation Maintenance Technicians: \$60,000-\$100,000 annually, with rapid advancement opportunities.
- advancement opportunities.

   Electricians, Welders, and HVAC

  Technicians: Starting salaries range from \$50,000-\$90,000, with six-figure potential.
- Cybersecurity Specialists: With certifications like CompTIA Security+ and CISSP, professionals can command salaries exceeding \$100,000.

Beyond earning a substantial salary, trade professionals can build wealth through self-employment, contracting, and business ownership. Unlike corporate jobs, which often require long-term tenure for advancement, skilled trades offer direct control over financial futures—allowing professionals to set their rates, expand operations, and achieve long-term economic independence.

## **Certification: The Key to Unlocking Opportunities**

For transitioning service members, obtaining industry-recognized certifications is a crucial step toward civilian career success. Some of the most valuable certifications include:

- Airframe & Powerplant (A&P) Certification – Essential for Aviation mechanics working on civilian aircraft.
- Commercial Driver's License (CDL) Opens doors in logistics, trucking, and transportation management
- CompTIA Security+ and CISSP High-demand cybersecurity certifications.
- Welding and Electrician Licenses

  <sup>44</sup> Key credentials for lucrative indus-

trial and infrastructure roles.

### **How AAAA TLC Bridges the Gap**

At AAAA TLC, we recognize that financial constraints, limited access to resources, and complex certification processes often prevent individuals and businesses from obtaining the necessary trade licenses and certifications. These

barriers hinder career growth, reduce employment opportunities, and slow economic progress for aspiring professionals and entrepreneurs.

Through targeted grants, we eliminate these financial burdens, simplify access to training, and support individuals in navigating the licensing and certification journey. By funding trade schools, licensing exams, certification programs, and renewal fees, we ensure that skilled professionals can advance their careers with limited financial strain. Best of all, TLC funding is entirely free from any repayment. This ensures that recipients can focus on their studies and career advancement.

## Strengthening the Workforce and Economy

Once trained and certified, these individuals contribute significantly to the workforce, filling critical industry gaps that drive economic growth. Their expertise ensures the smooth operation of essential services, boosts productivity and enhances the overall competitiveness of businesses. Skilled professionals enhance existing industries and create new opportunities for economic expansion through entrepreneurship and innovation. As a result, investing in trade education and certification benefits individuals and strengthens communities and the national economy.

### Conclusion

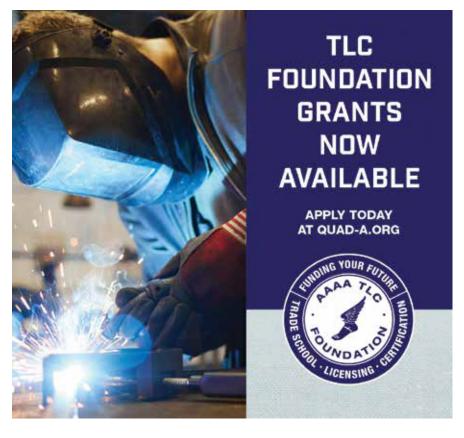
For Army Aviators, maintainers, and other skilled Aviation professionals looking to secure a prosperous future, the path to success doesn't have to involve a traditional university degree. By leveraging trade schools, certifications, and the high demand for skilled labor, individuals can step into rewarding careers with financial stability, job security, and even the potential for business ownership. Apply today! We're Funding Your Future!

At AAAA TLC, we are dedicated to making professional growth accessible, affordable, and achievable. Apply today to unlock new opportunities—because your success starts with the proper credentials! Apply today at *quad-a.org/tlc*.

Sandra Perez, CSM (Ret.) Jim Thomson and CSM (Ret.) Brian Hauke are all volunteer members of the TLC board.







## Historical Perspective

# Celebrating 250 Years of Army Service to the Nation! Origins of the United States Army

By Mark Albertson



evolutionary war broke out in the Massachusetts Bay Colony, at Lexington and Concord. The date was April 19, 1775; it was the colonists' next step beyond the actions of the Sons of Liberty and the political insurgency of the Committees of Public Safety. For now, it was direct action against the British Army; to which John Adams wrote, "Powder and artillery are the most efficacious, sure and infallible conciliatory measures we can adopt..."1

Wednesday, June 14, 1775: The Continental Congress assembled. "Among the resolutions being read, were adopted as follows:

"Resolved: That six companies of expert riflemen, be immediately raised in Pennsylvania, two in Maryland, and two in Virginia; that each company consist of a captain, three lieutenants, four sergeants, four corporals, a drummer or trumpeter, and sixty-eight privates. That each company, as soon as completed shall march and join the army near Boston, to be there employed as light infantry, under the command of the chief Officer in that army."2

Thursday, June 15, 1775: The Continental Congress assembled. "The report of the committee being read and debated, Resolved, that a General be appointed to command all the continental forces, raised, or to be raised, for the defense of American liberty. That five hundred dollars per month be allowed for his pay and expenses. The Congress then proceeded to the choice of a general [by ballot], when George Washington, Esq. was unanimously elected."3

Events moved quickly: June 17, 1775 the battle of Bunker Hill (Breed's Hill) in Boston. Philadelphia, Continental Congress, July 6, 1775, the second of those Triad of Documents expressing colonial independence (Articles of Association, October 1774 and the unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America, July 4, 1776), a Declaration of War titled, "Causes and Necessity of Taking up Arms," was signed off on by John Hancock, President of the Continental Congress. 4

Daniel Marston explains the troubles that beset George Washington in 1775 and 1776: "The first attempts at Left: George Washington was chosen by the Second Continental Congress to be the Commander-in-Chief of what would become, the Continental Army, June 15, 1775.

Middle: Cornwallis surrendering to Washington at Yorktown.

Right: General Ulysses Simpson Grant commanded the United States Army to its first major victory in what became the nation's first industrialized, Total War. Grant will set the stage for such American generals as John J. Pershing and George Marshall, as the United States Army takes its place on the world stage with the growth of America as a world-class power.

organizing a professional army were undertaken in the summer of 1775. The 'Separate Army' was formed in upstate New York in June. The Continental Congress in Philadelphia also sanctioned the formation of troops outside Boston to be used as a Continental Force or the 'New England Army."

"On July 2, 1775, George Washington was named Commander-in-Chief of all Continental and militia forces serving under the auspices of the Army of the United Colonies, both existing and to be raised. He inherited a force of some 17,000 men, mostly from the New England colonies. All the units had different establishments, making standardization difficult.<sup>5</sup> Most of the Army was relieved of duty by the end of 1775, leaving Washington to muster another round of troops for the 1776 campaign. This army, again, was disbanded at the end of 1776 when its enlistment contracts ended."

"Eventually the Continental Congress called for the formation of the Continental Army on 26 September 1776. The American defeats of 1776 had made Congress realize that a well-trained body of men was needed, and that one-year contracts were not sufficient to prepare troops to face the British in battle." 6

Such actions to create a well-trained army began to show dividends in October 1777, when British Lieutenant General Sir John Burgoyne was defeated by General Horatio Gates at Saratoga. Nearly 6,000 British were taken prisoner, in one of the pivotal successes of the Continental Army during the war; a victory that would go on to besmirch the prestige of the British Army and Empire beyond the confines of North America.

The lot of the Continental Army will improve with training and development from such foreign officers as Frederick William Augustus, Baron von Steuben and Gilbert Mottier, Marquis de Lafavette.

Assistance from French forces in the latter stages of the war would eventually result in the defeat of the British Army at Yorktown; a harbinger of when the United States Army would campaign with allied powers to defeat a common enemy or enemies in World War I and World War II. Yet it would be 1861-1865 that would showcase the direction in which the United States Army was proceeding.

Billed as the Civil War, this Revolt of the Planters will evolve into America's first industrialized conflict, requiring a large conventional army for Total War so as to repel an invasion by a foreign power.<sup>7</sup>

By April 9, 1865, the United States Army boasted a strength of 2,213,000 men. Though this armed force will de demobilized to 27,442 men by 1876, the pattern was clearly set for repetition in World War I and World War II for even larger efforts in mobilization.

Efforts in defense of this Nation that

will help to chart the course of the modern United States Army.

### **Endnotes**

1 – See page 94, Chapter Two, "True Blue," John Adams, by David McCullough.

2 – The enlistee was to recite the following "I have, this day, voluntarily enlisted myself, as a soldier, in the American Continental Army, for one year, unless sooner discharged: And I do bind myself to conform, in all instances, to such rules and regulations, as are, or shall be established for the . . . Army." See pages 89 and 90, "Wednesday, June 14, 1775," Library of Congress, Journals of the Continental Congress, 1774–1779, Vol. II, May 10-September 20, 1775.

3 – See page 91, "Thursday, June 15, 1775," Library of Congress, Journals of the Continental Congress, 1774-1779, Vol. II, May 10-September 20, 1775.

4 – "In our own native land, in defense of the freedom that is our birthright, and which we ever enjoyed till the late violation of it for the protection of our property, acquired solely by the honest industry of our fore-fathers and ourselves, against violence actually offered, we have taken up arms. We shall lay them down when hostilities shall

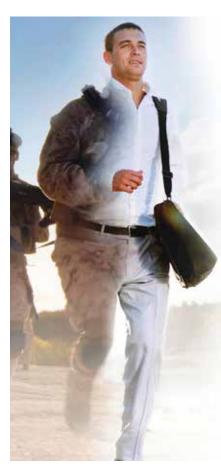
cease on the part of the aggressors, and all danger of their being renewed shall be removed, and not before." See page 12, "Causes and Necessity of Taking up Arms," July 6, 1775, Founding Character, by Kirk Ward Robinson and Christopher Eaton.

5 – During World War II, General Mark Clark, commander of Fifth Army during the Italian campaign, explained a like situation with regards to the international composition of Fifth Army.

6 – See page 23, "Linear and Irregular Warfare," The American Revolution, 1774-1783, by Daniel Marston.

7 – "The Confederates proclaimed themselves aliens and thereby disbarred themselves of all right to claim protection under the Constitution of the United States, becoming like people of any foreign state who make war upon an independent nation." General Ulysses S. Grant. See page 186, Chapter Three, "Grant and Unheroic Leadership," The Mask of Command, by John Keegan.

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





## Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association Special Feature



## A Canadian in Vietnam

By Frederick (Fred) Shuman, Red 21

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

he year was 1967 and I was trying to get into the RCAF. I had recently finished grade twelve in Clinton, Ontario while living with my parents on a small non-flying air force base. My Father was in the RCAF at the time and I figured I'd get his attention if I became a pilot. The trouble was the Canadian Government was in the process of merging the three branches, (Army, Navy, Airforce), into one unit; The Canadian Armed Forces, (CAF). This caused a bottleneck in flight school and I was going to have to wait 18 months minimum before I could get in; assuming I would qualify. Well, that seemed like an eternity to me at 19 and besides, I was getting into lots of trouble drinking and fighting and needed to get out of town.

Well, there I was at the local pool hall, drinking beer in the back alley, shooting pool and occasionally looking at flying magazines when I happened upon an ad that said; "Who says High School Graduates can't fly, join the New Action Army." Well, why not, I was getting desperate. I filled out the information request at the bottom of the ad and mailed it in. Two weeks later I get a package that directs me to a recruiting station in Detroit, Michigan. I was about 3 hours from Detroit so I headed out on a Greyhound, (I smashed my 59 Plymouth on a "gravel run" so had to bus it).

Wow! Detroit was a mess with race riots and fires in the streets - I thought I was in a war zone already. The first guy I met stepping off the bus was a tall black man in a purple zoot suit with a very large purple fedora and selling anything and everything. To my knowledge, I'd never seen a black man until then and believe me, I was impressed. I could not understand his sales pitch so I moved on, caught a cab and made my way to the address on the recruiting package I'd received. To my delight the recruiting Sergeant was happy to see me and said I would have no trouble getting into Army flight school. I told the recruiter I was initially trying to get into the Canadian Airforce hoping to fly jets and he reassured me the U.S. Army had airplanes and I could fly them. I signed up on the spot and headed back to small town Canada. I was pleased with myself; first because I was going to become a pilot and second because I made it out of Detroit.

Days then weeks passed without a word from the Army. I started calling but was making no progress. I doubt if I would have gotten into the Army if it wasn't for my mother, yes my mother! We drove to the main recruiting station in downtown

Detroit and waited to see some captain or major. My Mom said we were not going to leave until we saw the "boss." After considerable time we got into his office and the "boss" seemed to be giving us the run-around until my Mom told him she was turning over her only son to the U.S. Army and they had better damn well appreciate it and get on with the process. That lioness demand seemed to do it. We signed some papers, got some promises and drove back home.

Not long after that I received a date to report to the induction unit at Fort Wayne, Detroit. I could not have imagined what was in store for me. The 2 or, 3-day processing event reminded me of a cattle corral system connected to an abattoir. It was humbling, humiliating and shocking all rolled into 48+ hours. I kept my head down, wrote the tests, coughed and spread my cheeks as ordered. I must have developed induction traumatization because the next thing I remember I'm in Fort Knox, Kentucky for basic training. It's early January, '68 and Fort Knox is filled with racial tension between the folks from Kentucky and recruits from Detroit. It was down-right hostile in my barracks and there were even a couple of stabbings. Thankfully, a redheaded kid named Joseph Papuka (sp?) from Detroit helped me survive; nevertheless, I was longing to get through this and begin flight school.

Two interesting events happened to me in basic training. The first was that I was invited to take the FAST test for flight school qualification and the second was that I signed up for jump school. Now I thought the first event was odd since my recruiter had previously told me I was heading for flight school right after basic. I explained this to some SP5 and to my surprise he laughed and told me no such promise existed on my records. I took the test but don't remember hearing the results. The jump school thing was a spontaneous act of greed because completing that course provided an extra \$55 to my pitiful salary. Additionally, and to my surprise, it landed me in Fort Gordon, Georgia for advanced infantry training.

Fort Gordon wasn't bad. All my classmates were volunteers, which made a difference, and except for the heat and the snakes, I did just fine. I don't remember if I got leave after completing AIT but I did NOT get flight school. The next thing I know, I'm in Fort Benning for jump school. It's June or July now and the heat is getting my attention. It was too much for some of the boys but I'm going to flight school so I won't quit no matter what. Three weeks and five jumps out of a C-119 Boxcar and it's off to Fort Bragg. I'm getting nervous, very nervous. Every morning, we do this run in the heat then muster in the parade square and names are called out for assignment to "Nam" as a grunt – no worse, an airborne grunt. My God I've got to

do something. AWOL is out of the question; my Dad would disown me and I'd be the laughingstock of Clinton. Fear for my future allows me to overcome my fear of the company commander. I made up my mind; I have to present myself to him.

The next morning after the run, the names are being called. At the time I didn't believe in God but that didn't stop me from praying to Him. My name is not called – thank you Jesus! I go to the captain and explain that I'm a Canadian citizen and was told I would be an Army Aviator if I joined up. He takes pity on me or didn't know what to do with me, I'm not sure which. He orders me to report to the colonel, the head honcho. I was so nervous I didn't know if he was a full colonel or a lieutenant colonel. He was one notch below the Almighty as far as I was concerned. I blurted out my story with fear and trembling. The colonel, without any explanation, ordered me to immediately pull my gear out of the "Nam" barracks and set up shop in the HQ barracks. Honestly, I didn't know if I was to be court marshalled, expelled from the Army or left to decay.

The HQ barracks was empty. I stayed there for 2 weeks by myself while getting fat at the mess hall. One day an Army courier shows up and calls my name. He hands me orders to report to Fort Wolters for flight school. I am relieved beyond measure. I catch a T-39 military jet to Wolters, check in and begin the rigors of primary flight training. You folks know the rest of it. After Fort Wolters came Fort Rucker then Hunter Army Airfield for Cobra transition then a stretch 8 to Vietnam in July, 1969. I was assigned to the 11th ACR in Quan Loi, where I stayed for my entire tour. That, my fellow aviators, is how one Canadian (among many others) ended up in Vietnam.

Frederick (Fred) Shuman is a VHPA life member living in Fall River, Nova Scotia.





## **ARMYAVIATION** > Advertiser Spotlight

## **Inter-Coastal Electronics (ICE)**



Inter-Coastal Electronics is a global leader in providing embedded training solutions that increase survivability, enhance readiness, sustain proficiency, and reduce cost. The Training Aircraft Survivability Equipment Stimulation Suite (TASS) is a PEO STRI Program of Record, supported by PM ASE and ICE to address the collective training gap at the CTCs and home stations. TASS provides stimulation creating realistic cockpit warnings and indicators requiring pilots to take appropriate actions employing proper Tactics, Techniques and Procedures to avoid being engaged by peer and near peer ADA opponents. Our latest product evolution, TASS-Virtual, evolved from TASS and enhances training objectives via the ability to augment or replace a physical T-IADS array with virtual threats. TASS-V can be used to increase the traditional threat array at the CTC's with live and now additional virtual threats. This new evolution enables units to train against virtual ADA threats receiving in-aircraft ASE emulations without training within the confines of a traditional networked environment, with or without tactical ASE B-Kit hardware installed. This new version will provide crews with live ASE training, Anytime - Anywhere providing performance feedback and high-fidelity After-Action Reviews. TASS is currently available for US Army rotary wing aircraft (AH64E, UH/HH60M, and CH47F), at NTC, JRTC and JMRC. TASS-V offers a significant increase in the opportunity to train these critical tasks at Home Station local training areas, enroute during cross country missions and supporting National Guard Army Aviation Support Facilities and LTAs.

SIZE OF COMPANY: Small 0-99 Employees CATEGORIES: Manufacturing, Consultant/Special Services

https://www.faac.com/inter-coastal/

Each month, one 2025 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 2025 insertion order for print advertising (1 Ad Minimum).** Selected company will be randomly chosen by the 15th of the month prior.

## **AAAA Scholarship Foundation**

By COL (Ret.) Michelle (Shelley) Yarborough

am honored to serve for the next two years as
President of the Army Aviation Association of America
Scholarship Foundation, Inc (AAAASFI). I would like
to sincerely thank my predecessor, COL (Ret.) Karen
Lloyd for her many years of dedicated hard work and
selfless service to the Foundation.

Along with the AAAASFI Board of Governors, I look forward to working with the AAAA chapters, industry, and families to help deserving AAAA Soldiers and family members receive college and university scholarships. I served thirty years in Army Aviation and know the challenges many of our Army Aviation families experience due to permanent change of station moves, deployment separations, and losing loved ones. Our AAAASFI Scholarship program is a tangible way that we can help our families achieve education objectives.

The AAAASFI organization began in 1963 with a simple goal, to recognize and provide scholarship grants to the children of its members and children of their deceased members, who sought college financial aid. Our Army Aviation industry partners, AAAA members, and Chapter local businesses contribute every year to the Scholarship Foundation. We are very grateful for the many generous donations. Thanks to the generosity of so many, we

have been able to provide 7170 deserving individuals over \$11.7 million in scholarships. This year we awarded over \$680 thousand dollars to 386 individuals. Our work is not done! The cost of attending college continues to increase. We will work to increase the number of scholarships we award through continued outreach and giving campaigns. You can be a part of our families' future eYou can be a part of our families' future education by donating to the AAAASFI under the scholarship donation tab at *quad-a.org*.

The AAAASFI is also working hard to help members learn how the scholar-ship program works and how to apply for both undergraduate and graduate grants. We are also working to train volunteers to help vote on scholarship applicant packets. Every year we reach out to members, spouses, Board of Governors, and Chapters to get volunteers. Approximately 200 evaluators are needed to have multiple people securely and objectively select more than 600 applications ev-

ery year. We also need members to help potential applicants with their packets. There are a series of training videos on the AAAA web site to help scholarship applicants and evaluators understand the program and needs under the "Scholarship" "Apply" tab at *quad-a.org*.

ship" "Apply" tab at *quad-a.org*.

The AAAA National Executive Board (NEB) also helps us with funds. The NEB matches scholarship funding generated by Chapter activities to ensure every eligible Chapter has local scholarship recipient(s). The match amounts are allocated to all Chapters who raise scholarship funds. Additionally, AAAA helps the AAAASFI with our administrative costs. This support enables our organization to ensure that all contributions are applied to scholarships. This means that one hundred percent (100%) of every dollar donated to the Scholarship Foundation goes to a scholarship or endowed principal based on the AAAA paying all overhead expenses for the Scholarship Foundation (minus investment brokerage fees.). The Scholarship Foundation, in conjunction with the NEB, continue to work with Chapters to increase the number of matched scholarships each Chapter awards.

There are no paid full or part-time Scholarship Foundation staff members. The Board of Governors are all volunteers who are dedicated to ensuring there is a fair process for selection, donations are invested to maximize the number of scholarships, while minimizing risk, and are active in raising donations. We are always interested in bringing on new members who would like to be active in helping to steer the Scholarship Foundation into the future. The AAAA Scholarship Foundation, Inc., is a 501(c) (3) non-profit charity.

I look forward to serving the AAAA community in continuing to award those who are worthy of scholarships or grants and meeting you at the next AAAA event.

Your contributions provide hope, opportunities, and future success!

LEARN MORE AT WWW.QUAD-A.ORQ/ SCHOLARSHIP

AAAA-SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION, INC.

COL (Ret) Shelley Yarborough is the incoming president of the AAAA Scholarship Foundation.



## Thank You to Our Scholarship Fund Donors



AAAA recognizes the generosity of the following individuals, chapters and organizations that have donated to the Scholarship Foundation from April 2024 through April 2025. The list includes donations received for all scholarships, as well as the General Fund which provides funding to enable the chapter, corporate, heritage and individual matching fund programs as well as national grants and loans. Donors marked with an \* are partially or totally donating to the newly established Families of the Fallen Scholarship. Every penny donated to the Scholarship Foundation goes directly to a grant or loan as a result of the Army Aviation Association of America subsidizing ALL administrative costs!

7/17th Cavalry Association Army Aviation Association of America AAAA Arizona Chapter AAAA Central Florida Chapter AAAA Connecticut Chapter AAAA Corpus Christi Chapter AAAA Delaware Chapter AAAA Free Dominion Chapter AAAA Grizzly Chapter AAAA Idaho Snake River AAAA Keystone Chapter AAAA Lindbergh Chapter AAAA MacArthur Chapter AAAA Minuteman Chapter AAAA Mohawk Chapter AAAA North Star Chapter AAAA North Texas Chapter AAAA Oregon Trail Chapter AAAA Phantom Corps Chapter AAAA Prairie Soldier Chapter AAAA Southern California Chapter AAAA Tennessee Valley Chapter AAAA Volunteer Chapter AAAA Voodoo Chapter AAAA Washington-Potomac Chapter AAPI Art & Jenn Agnew Airbus U.S. Space & Defense, Inc. Aircrafters, LLC Scott R. Alpeter-IHO Ingrid Strange American Creek Landowner's Association Laura & Jon Arena Janis Arena Army Aviation Association of America Army Otter Caribou Association Inc. David Arterburn-IHO Theodore T. Sendak Aseptic Health Shannon E. Austin Earl M. Bagby-IHO Gerald T. Hipp Nell & Bill Baker-IHO Ingrid Strange Charles D. Bayless Jennifer Beauchot-IHO Gerald T. Hipp Thomas Beck Bell Textron Inc. Joseph & Helen Bergantz Ronda Blacker-IHO Gerald T. Hipp Joseph R. Blumel-IHO Gerald T. Hipp The Boeing Company Paul & Celeste Bogosian Lori J. Bonincontri Fred Bonyadian Clinton B. Boyd Jarrett Brewer-IHO Richard (Matt) Salter Macy Brown-IHO Theodore T. Sendak Carol & Larv Brown Larry Brown Christopher Brumitt John & Mary Burke Luann J Burnham-IHO COL John March Steven Butcher Cynthia S. Campbell-IHO Richard E. Campbel Capital Interior Contractors, Inc. Regan & Beth Carlile-IHO Theodore T. Sendak Kate and Thomas Carroll Regina & George Carroll-IHO Gerald T. Hipp Combined Federal Campaign Jonathan & Tiffany Chandler Russell W. Chung Mark J. Class-IHO Gerald T. Hipp Robert C. Class-IHO Gerald T. Hipp Collins Aerospace CFC-Combined Federal Campaign

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IHO - In Honor Of

For more information about the Foundation or to make a contribution, go online to www.quad-a.org; contributions can also be mailed to AAAA Scholarship Foundation, Inc., 593 Main Street, Monroe, CT 06468-2806.

## AAAA Chapter Affairs By LTC (Ret.) Jan Drabczuk

I greatly appreciate the support from CW5 (Ret.) Chadwick Ford the Tennessee Valley Chapter, VP of Operations for authoring and sharing this information to our membership

## The Tennessee Valley Chapter

T ennessee Valley Chapter: Elevating Army Aviation and Community Partnerships

The Tennessee Valley Chapter (TVC) of the Army Aviation Association of America (AAAA), based in Huntsville, Alabama, stands as a prominent force in advancing Army Aviation and supporting its members. With over 2,260 members, TVC is the largest chapter in the AAAA network, serving northern Alabama and southern Tennessee. Its impact reaches beyond supporting Army Aviation personnel; TVC strengthens connections between military, civilian, and commercial Aviation sectors, benefiting both service members and their families.

### Who is TVC?

TVC's mission is to support activeduty, reserve, and National Guard personnel, veterans, and retirees and their families. Located near Redstone Arsenal and major organizations like the Army Materiel Command (AMC), PEO Aviation, NASA, and Future Vertical Lift (FVL). The chapter creates opportunities for collaboration between military and civilian Aviation professionals, ensuring Army aviators and their families have access to the resources they need to succeed. TVC organizes senior leader lunches, seminars, and social events to facilitate growth and networking for members.

## TVC's Exceptional Contributions and Community Support in 2024

Scholarships are a cornerstone of TVC's mission, and the chapter's continued success in securing funding ensures that its members have access to the resources needed. Without the support of the Aviation industry enterprise, they would not have achieved the success that they have experienced. Similarly, the sup-

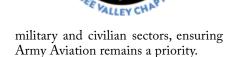
port of local and regional businesses like Tito's, Twin Peaks, and Jack Daniel's has played a vital role in supporting their fundraising events, further strengthening the chapter's impact in the community.

TVC hosted 17 events, raising more than \$138,000 for various causes. This includes \$79,000 for the AAAA Scholarship Foundation and \$30,000 to create a Perpetual Scholarship Fund. Additionally, TVC and its supporters donated over \$50,000 to launch two perpetual Trade School, Licensing, and Certification (TLC) grants. In 2024, TVC also awarded two scholarships to attend the Aviation Challenge at the U.S. Space and Rocket Center, where recipients learned the principles of Aviation.

In addition to its scholarship efforts, TVC presented 61 awards in 2024, recognizing the achievements of Army aviators through 21 Bronze, 13 Silver, and 2 Gold Order of St. Michael Awards. The chapter's membership grew by 40, bringing the total to 2,262, while its social media following increased by 30%, expanding its reach and engagement. TVC also supported the Air Assault Chapter's golf tournament at the AAAA National Conference, showcasing its dedication to collaboration across the AAAA network.

## Community Support and Partnerships

TVC's influence extends far beyond its membership base, deeply integrating itself into the Huntsville community. The chapter's strong ties to local businesses and organizations have enhanced its ability to give back. Recognized by the Huntsville Chamber of Commerce as a key local partner, TVC helps foster relationships between



### Commitment to Professional Development and Industry Advancement

TVC's commitment to professional development is evident in its robust programming. The chapter organized 17 major events in 2024, including supporting AAAA National during the 2024 Cribbins Symposium ensuing success. This premier event brought together leaders from the Aviation industry, fostering collaboration and advancing the future of Army Aviation. TVC's connections with programs like Future Vertical Lift (FVL) demonstrate its continued dedication to innovation and cutting-edge Aviation technology.

## Looking Ahead: A Commitment to Excellence

TVC's focus on expanding professional development, strengthening local business partnerships, and fostering collaboration across the Aviation sector, TVC is poised to continue its leadership in the field. As the largest AAAA chapter, TVC's work in Huntsville and beyond sets the standard for other chapters nationwide. The chapter's efforts ensure that Army aviators, their families, and those who support the Army Aviation enterprise are equipped with the knowledge, resources, and support necessary to thrive in their careers.

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



### ORDER OF ST. MICHAEL **INDUCTEES**

### **Aviation Center Chapter**



SFC Philena Purdue and SFC Riley Watts, III were inducted into the Honorable Order of Saint Michael during the chapter's quarterly membership meeting Mar. 24, 2025, at Fort Novosel, AL, by COL (Ret.) Marcus Gengler, chapter president, and BG Kenneth Cole, deputy commanding general, U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence and Fort Novosel. Purdue serves as a Sexual Assault Response Coordinator assigned to the 1st Aviation Brigade, and Watts serves as an instructor/writer assigned to the 1st Battalion, 14th Aviation Regiment, 110th Aviation Brigade, both at the US Army Aviation Center of Excellence.

### **Thunderbird Chapter**



CW4 Brian K. Gage is inducted into the Silver Honorable Order of St. Michael by chapter president and assistant state aviation officer, OKARNG, LTC Chad C. Mihalek, during the 2025 St. Michael's Ball on February 8, 2025 at the Omni Hotel, Oklahoma City, OK. Gage was recognized for over 3 decades of commitment to Army Aviation, from OKARNG to ARMS Evaluator for National Guard Bureau and supporting chapter Soldiers by holding multiple positions on the board for over 6 years.

### Tennessee Valley Chapter



Mr. John B. Mullinix II is inducted into the Bronze Honorable Order of St. Michael by COL Ryan C. Nesrsta, Project Manager, Utility Helicopters Project Office on Mar. 20, 2025 at Redstone Arsenal, AL. Mullinix was recognized for his long-term service to Army Aviation both in and out of uniform including in his current position as International Programs Logistics Chief, Utility Helicopters Project Office.



Ms. Angela Branch is inducted as a Knight of the Honorable Order of St. Michael by LTC Brandon Nixon, product manager, Air Warrior, and CW3 (Ret.) Rob Seybold, deputy PdM AW, on Mar. 31, 2025 in Huntsville, AL. Branch was recognized for her many contributions to Army Aviation including overseeing the contract and procurement actions for all Air Warrior commodities that include the Heads-Up Display, ACE Vest and Rotary Wing Helmet.



Mr. Charles E. Strowbridge is inducted into the Silver Honorable Order of St. Michael by COL Ryan C. Nesrsta, Project Manager, Utility Helicopters Project Office on Mar. 20, 2025 at Redstone Arsenal, AL. Strowbridge was recognized for his more than 40 years supporting Army Aviation culminating with his accomplishments as chief of the Logistics Management Division, Utility Helicopters Project Office.

### **Washington Potomac Chapter**



CW5 (Ret.) Britt T. Klupenger is inducted into the Silver Honorable Order of St. Michael by COL Patrick Schuck, G-8 Aviation Force Development Division Chief, at the Pentagon, Washington D.C., on March 27th, 2025. Klupenger was recognized for 40 years of selfless service, expertise, and professionalism while serving both in and out of uniform as both a safety officer and maintenance test pilot from Company through Brigade levels, a career manager at Human Resource Command, and at HQDA as a senior budget analyst in the G-8 AFDD.

## **AAAA Awards Excellence! AAAA Functional Awards Now Open**

### Suspense: August 1

- Unmanned Aircraft Systems Soldier of the Year Award
- Unmanned Aircraft Systems Operation Technician of the Year Award
- Army Aviation Fixed Wing Unit Award
- Army Aviation Logistics Support Unit of the Year Award
- Army Aviation Outstanding Logistics Technician of the Year Award
- Army Aviation Materiel Readiness Award

- for Contributions by an Individual Member of Industry
- Army Aviation Materiel Readiness Award for Contributions by an Industry Team, Group, or Special Unit
- Army Aviation Materiel Readiness Award for Contributions by a Small Business Organization
- Army Aviation Materiel Readiness Award for Contributions by a Major Contractor

Suspense: September 1

Air/Sea Rescue Award

- ATC Controller of the Year Award
- ATC Technician of the Year Award
- ATC Manager of the Year Award
- ATC Facility of the Year Award
- ATC Unit of the Year Award
- DUSTOFF Medic of the Year Award
- Medicine Award
- Trainer of the Year Award

Send in Your Nominations Today! Nomination forms available at: quad-a.orq

## AAAA Membership Update By CW4 (Ret.) Becki Chambers

## The Membership Corner

lease meet the new incoming AAAA
President, MG (Ret.)
Walter (Wally) and his wife, Jo Ann Golden.

Wally and Jo Ann both grew up in small towns and were the fourth generation of their families to live there. Wally grew up in the small mountain town of Salida, Colorado while Jo Ann grew up in the small farming community of Conesus, New York.

They met on a blind date while Wally was a cadet at the United States Military Academy at West Point, NY and Jo Ann was studying to be a licensed physical therapist assistant at Maria College in Albany, New York. Jo Ann's roommate was dating Wally's roommate, and they arranged the blind date. The date was at West Point and included a Beach Boys concert. After dating for a little over two years, they were married in Livonia, New York in May 1982.

Wally and Jo Ann's family both have a long history of military service. Wally's mother was in the Women's Army Corps (WAC) where she met his father, who was an Army wheeled vehicle mechanic in Germany. Wally's maternal grandfather was a World War I veteran and his great-great grandfather fought for the Union in the Civil War, assigned to the 5th New Hampshire Volunteers. Jo Ann's Dad and brother served in the Army and Air Force, respectfully. Wally elected to attend West Point to continue his family's tradition of service to the United States.

After graduating from West Point, Wally was commissioned as a second lieutenant and attended the Infantry Officers Basic Course at Ft. Benning, GA, followed by flight school at Ft. Rucker. Over the next 33 years, he served in command and staff assignments all over the world. He was a platoon leader at Ft. Ord, CA; a troop commander at Ft. Wainwright,



The Goldens – (front, I to r) Samuel Burke, Will Burke, Gabriel Burke, Natalie Golden Burke, Luke Burke, Jo Ann Golden, Garla Golden, Wally Golden, Christinia Golden, Jay Golden, Mike Golden; (back, I to r) Avery Golden, Adam Golden, Laurie Golden.

AK; a squadron commander in Hawaii; a brigade commander in Germany, Kosovo and Iraq; an assistant division commander in Korea, and a deputy commanding general in Afghanistan. He also had multiple staff assignments in the Pentagon on the Army and Joint Staffs, before retiring in 2014.

Wally and Jo Ann have four children, all of whom are military-affiliated, and five grandchildren. Natalie is married to Will, a Navy Commander; Mike and his wife Christinia are U.S. Air Force lieutenant colonels; Adam is a major in the USAF Reserve; and Avery has worked for several defense contractors.

After retiring from the Army, Wally continued to work part-time for the Army as a Mission Command Training Program (MCTP) Senior Mentor for six years, traveling across the United States and the world for large scale Army exercises. He then stood up his own consulting LLC for three years before retiring and focusing on his duties as a member of AAAA's National Executive Group. Jo Ann has enjoyed a variety of job and volunteer opportunities. During Wally's time in the Army, she has been employed as a licensed physical therapist assistant,

librarian and a court clerk, as well as a Family Readiness Group leader and other volunteer opportunities. Since Wally's retirement, she has been a volunteer at the Internal Medicine Clinic at Ft. Carson, for Catholic Charities and at their place of worship, St. Paul's Catholic Church.

Wally and Jo Ann love to stay active and travel to see family and the world. Some of their recent trips have included Greece, Spain and Egypt. They both love the outdoors, enjoy playing pickleball, riding their bikes, hiking and visiting our National Parks.

Wally joined AAAA because of the opportunities for camaraderie, fellowship and networking with other Aviation professionals. He has remained in AAAA for these reasons, and to give back to Army Aviation, its Soldiers and Families, who have come to define who he is, and what he stands for. He looks forward to this latest opportunity to continue to serve Army Aviation Soldiers and Families, as the President of AAAA.

CW4 (Ret) Becki Chambers
AAAA Vice President for Membership





### **New AAA Life** Members

Aviation Center Chapter LTC Jay Ryun Diamond State Chapter Mr. Jeffery Lashbrook Flying Gator Chapter COL Jimmy M. Smith, Ret. Iron Mike Chapter LTC Chris Sood Live Free or Die Chapter CW4 Brian D. O'Leary, Ret. Minuteman Chapter SSG Bill Welch, Ret. Morning Calm Chapter CW4 Jody S. Clark North Country Chapter LTC Barry L. Lippencott, Ret. Old Tucson Chapter Mr. Thomas S. Gordon Phantom Corps Chapter CSM Douglas K. Greene, Ret. Prairie Soldier Chapter LTC Daniel L. Smith Tennessee Valley Chapter Dr. George Prueitt Washington-Potomac Chapter Mr. Tim Rose

### **New AAAA Members**

Air Assault Chapter Mr. Carlos Andino Ms. Lacey Dean Ms. Amanda Economos Mr. Anthony Economos Mr. Brock Ferreri CW2 Jarrod Maynard Mr. Dan Metcalf Brandon Misener SGT Nathan Ramirez Mr. Austin Steiner Mr. Colin Sullivan Arizona Chapter Mr. Chris Pierce COL Theodis Pope Aviation Center Chapter WO1 Ben Bailet James Banuelos 2LT Jere A. Bartz 2LT Noah R. Benza 2LT Adam M. Biancheri 2LT Emma C. Bolchoz 1stLT Ahmed Bouaziz 1SG William Branham W01 Samara J. Brush WO1 Austin C. Buss 2LT Clay W. Cashman WO1 Dákota P. Cather WO1 Clayton Ceeper 2LT Nathan G. Chastain 2LT Ian A. Christian William Clark 2LT Kyle K. Cook 2LT Matt R. Ebenstein 2LT Ryan A. Eells 2LT Stormy R. Elrod SFC Joshua Escobedo 2LTNathanielS.Foss-Cornier | SPC Michael A. Wareham

2LT David H. Gamble Mrs. Melissa Gardner 2LT Grace R. Gehl WO1 Sean L. Gillespie 2LT Malachi A. Goodman 2LT Nicholas G. Gleese CSM Tahir Hasan WO1 Joel R. Haye 2LT Tobias Hild WO1 Matthew Hornaday W01 William J. Irwin Ms. Roberta Kahl 2LT Jack A. Ladve 2LT Allen J. Lamaster Mr. Dalton D. Landingham CW4 Jacob Landry COL Mark Lent 2LT Rvan M. Leonard W01 Benjamin Lima CW3 Andrew Maney 2LT Owen V. Manley WO1 Jovan A. Matthews WO1 David J. McCaffery 2LT Aries D. McFadden Mrs. Mollie Miller WO1 Dalton L. Mink 2LT Aaron Monson 1stLT Malek Moussa 2LT Nurain A. Oke WO1 Paul M. Pasquale W01 Kenneth S. Pickens WO1 Spencer T. Post 2LT John G. Regan W01 Hans R. Schnautz 2LT Maximilian Schonaver 2LT Oliver P. Severance CWO4 Carlos Spruill WO1 Morgan A. Taylor WO1 Kyle R. Thomason 1st LT Áutandil Uchadze 2LT Jamie S. Valdez WO1 Matthew J. Vecchione 2LT William M. Von Doersten WO1 Matthew T. Wolfhope W01 Hannah J. Worden Bavarian Chapter Michael Swan Central Florida Chapter SPC Kyrochi Crissinger CW3 Thomas G. Hughes Mr. Tyler Jandreau Mr. Drew Kaisner Mr. Richard Laity-Festa Hipolito Rodriguez Colonial Virginia Chapter SFC Jinhyuk Lee Connecticut Chapter 1SG Andros Thomson Corpus Christi Chapter CWO4 John Coreil Desert Oasis Chapter CW4 Andrew Condon Diamond State Chapter Mr. Jeffery Lashbrook CSM James (Skip) Triplett Free Dominion Chapter Mr. Ken Janicke CW3 Ronald Ramdipsingh

Frontier Army Chapter Mr. Chris Stout Great Lakes Chapter Mr. Douglas Miller Greater Atlanta Chapter PV2 Landon J. Fleming TSgt Kiana Kirkland Grizzly Chapter PFC Joshua Baird Henry Bermeo Chp Eric Clark Ryan Coker Matthew Havgood High Desert Chapter Mark Buhl Mr. Steven Coombs Mr. Marcus Flood Mr. Jonathan Hill Iowa Chapter Mr. Alan Delashaw Iron Mike Chapter CW4 Matthew Christopher Keystone Chapter MG Timothy J. Hilty, RET SFC Michael McKinnev Land of Lincoln Chapter CW4 Jeremy Turner Lindbergh Chapter Mr. Clayton Andresen Mr. Don Cunningham Mr. Scott Kempf Mr. Marc LaNore COL Owen Ratcliff, Ret. Mr. Jon Warren Live Free or Die Chapter Sam Kappler Carson Lowe Lonestar Chapter CPT Ashley Musgrave Jude Okpála Mr. Aureliano Perez MacArthur Chapter PFC James Farrell 1LT William Maguire Mid-Atlantic Chapter Ms. Carrie Dowd Steve Nepola Minuteman Chapter SGT Rich Allen Mr. JP McCann Mr. James Sellers PVT Rebeca Lana Varela Morning Calm Chapter Nathaniel Close Mawulorm Duho Colin Gilmore Phillip Guarigliabarbosa Mr. Matthew Kim Mount Rainier Chapter P01 Rich Chambers Mr. Collin Mundell Mr. John Safranek CW2 Ramvinski Sovann North Country Chapter SSG Richard Barton SFC Michael P. Todd North Star Chapter Mr. Gregory Vitel North Texas Chapter

PV2 JessicaCedillo-Rodriquez Mr. Kevin Johnson Mr. William Johnson Mr. Michael LaMee Mrs. Molly Stovall Lauren Yates Northern Lights Chapter CPT Nicholas Kane LTC Travis H. Owen CSM Freddy R.Melendez Old Tucson Chapter COL Philip Osterli No Chapter Affiliation Mr. Bud Asher Mr. Andrew Cervone SGT Beniamin Ivv Mr. Reece Kendall Mr. Henrik Malmquist Mr. Nelson Ray Mr. Ben Rhodes-Kropf Mr. Maciej Szymczyk Phantom Corps Chapter SGT Bryson Mills Adam Starkey Pikes Peak Chapter CW3 Erin Gooch Prairie Soldier Chapter LTC Cason Bock Ragin' Cajun Chapter MAJ William Carter Rio Grande Chapter CW4 James Ginocchio Savannah Chapter CW2 Alexander Frese **CPT Michael Pool** 1SG James Vaughn SGT Evan Zircher ShowMe Chapter WO1 William Donigan **CPT Jason Highley** Southern California Chapter Ms. Kadie Ballenger Mr. Charles Brechtel Mr. Scott Kerchner Mr. Charles Love Mr. Frik Reed **CSM Thomas Tablett** SPC Christian Webb Tarheel Chapter Mr. Evan Stringer Tennessee Valley Chapter Mr. Charles Abnev Ms. Susan Askew Ms. Molly Ashton Bates Ms. Kendra Brown Capt Stephanie Bumgarner Mr. Devin Chamness Ms. Susan Earp Mr. James Hauser Mr. Alan Hicks Mr. David Hill Ms. Angelle Johnson Mrs. Karen Lanceta Mr. David Oberle Mr. Jacob Osmon Shelly Robinson Mr. John K. Shannon

Mrs. Phyllis T. Vinegar

Mr. Daniel Bundschuh

LTC Adrian Watts Utah Chapter SGT Gunner Johnson Volunteer Chapter Mr. Charles Kirk Washington-Potomac Chapter Mr. Bryan Edmunds Mr. William D. Jackson Ms. Helen Lou PV2 James Victor McElwee Winged Warriors Chapter CPT Alelee Figueroa Wright Brothers Chapter Mr. Austin Abrams PFC Connor Lee Murray Michael Rowe Mr. Justin Wells Mr. Dan Williams Yellowhammer Chapter **CPT Grant Moyer** PFC William Lee Stanton, III

## **Lost AAAA** Members

Help AAAA locate a lost member from this list and receive a FREE one month extension to your AAAA membership! WO1 Crystal Baker CPT Robert S. Boham Mr. Harold V. Bowie. Jr. LTC Jeffery D. Brown MAJ James E. Bruckart Mr. E. W. Cavanaugh LTC Richard G. Cercone, Jr. LTC Tzu-Shan Chang MAJ Harry Connors, Jr. Ret. Mr. Bruno Cussigh Mr. Porf Dubón CPT Jordan M. Francis Mr. William H. Gillispie Mr. Michael F. Glass MAJ Gregory W. Glover COL Gerhard Granz, Ret. COL Jose L. Hinojosa, Ret. LTC Randy K. Jackson Ms. Alisha Jacobs CW3 Jeffrey J. Jelonek MAJ David A. Jobe LTC Peter D. Kowal CW3 Vladimir Kultschizkv CW3 Timothy J. Larz MSG David W. Little, Ret. CPT Alexander A. Magg SGM Ivonne Morrison, Ret. MAJ Darrel B. Nerove Mr. Fred A. Newcomb 1LT Andrew J. Norton SFC Henry. Rathbone, Ret. Ms. Tiffany Riggs Mr. Steve Santier LTC Martin Scheld Mr. Thomas R. Schiltz LTC Jerry D. Scott LTC Friedrich Stern Ms. Praxie J. Uv Mr. Paul Waddell MAJ L.D. Walker



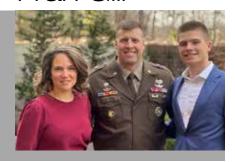
## AAAA Family Forum By Judy Konitzer

# Army Aviation and AAAA First Ladies Sound Off! By Fran Mackey Gill and Donna Meick Davis

Fran Mackey Gill and Donna Meick Davis are both talented professionals who care deeply for our Aviation Soldiers and their families.

We are fortunate to have them at the helm of our community and look forward to spending more time with them at what promises to be an exciting Summit. - Judy

## Fran Gill



It's almost convention time!

We, as a branch (our tribe), are blessed to have an opportunity to have a yearly professional forum where we can meet and discuss the critical things aviation brings to our Army's vital mission. This yearly event ends up offering a feeling of homecoming where we can link up with colleagues, friends, battle buddies and mentors we lost track of years ago, to pick up like we never parted. This is what I adore about the annual AAAA Summit. Attending with Clair years ago, I recall never making it 5 feet into the restaurant's space (and never moving any further) before running into colleagues and friends from throughout our entire career: from flight school to our current assignment. It's been an amazing journey. Hopefully, you can come to the Summit this year!

Speaking of reconnections, I recently attended a memorial service with my former battalion commander from my time in active duty. I was struck by the immediate sense of community we felt with the unit and current/former

service members, even though it had been years since we had seen each other, much less had contact with our old unit. This is the tight knit community that is so special for our branch. We are linked through our shared experiences as we learned to tame the air "while slipping the surly bonds of earth!"

Clair had a similar experience while recently attending the funeral of Mrs. Ingrid Strange (of Ingrid's Jewelry in Daleville, AL). Fate and happenstance reunited him with his initial rotary wing instructor, Floyd Emory! Three decades later, the two picked up right back where they had left off.

But the forum isn't just a reunion. It's an opportunity to share the best practices, lessons and experiences to help the next generation ably serve our Army and our Nation. In the hope to help make this professional forum a way to inspire and network with our fellow spouses, I'm pleased to share a sneak peek into a panel I've been organizing. I've invited some of my most positive, motivated friends and colleagues to share their stories with us in a panel, entitled "Hunting the Good Stuff: Making the Most out of this Military Life". Here, I hope to learn and share their secrets for tackling life's challenges to make our journeys as military spouses purposeful and fulfilling. Please join us on May 15th at 10:30 A.M.

Lastly, I would just like to highlight some of the Army's ongoing efforts to distribute information in a timely and wide manner. Rollout of the Army's newest digital app, the My Army Post App (MAPA) is ongoing with 32 active installations. The remaining 34 installations should be online soon. Additionally, the Army Quality of Life websitehttps://www.armyresilience.army. mil/qualityoflife is intended to help families navigate critical military life resources. Under the SFRG Resources tab, there is a listing for monthly Army Information Updates that may address a challenge you might face.

Hope to see you soon!

## Donna Davis

To our Aviation Family spouses, I send my very best wishes to you all... again! Having regrettably missed last year's Summit in Denver due to unforeseen health issues



(Walt's, not mine), I am so looking forward to re-joining and becoming part of our incredible Aviation family and community as we return to the magnificent Gaylord Opryland Hotel in Nashville for this year's Summit.

The work that Bill Harris, Janis Arena and your entire AAAA National Team do to develop the programs and orchestrate the execution of the annual Army Aviation family gathering is truly remarkable. For our entire Aviation Family, this is the most wonderful time to establish and renew relationships, celebrate the many inspiring accomplishments of our Army Aviation Soldiers and their Families (Army Aviation Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony – so special with Judy Konitzer being recognized along with Tom!!, the AAAA National Awards presentations, and the Soldier Appreciation Concert featuring Army Veteran, Craig Morgan!) and to enjoy and recognize the immeasurable contributions of the AAAA Industry partners and teams.

The industry sponsored social events, and the AAAA arranged Spouse events are always a highlight... informative, and most of all FUN!! To all our Aviation Family, enjoy the Summit and thank you for who you are and what you do in support of our Aviation Soldiers and Families!!

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





## AAAA **Awards**



### Order of St. Michael Inductees

### Silver

Air Assault Chapter CW4 Nicholas Copenhaver CW2 Joseph C. Dadiomoff CSM Anthony L. Mintz Aloha Chapter CW5 Percell Hunter Jr. CW4 Peter Mansoor, Ret. LTC Matthew D. McNeal Aviation Center Chapter CW5 Andrew M. Barcley CSM Caleb T. Baugh CW5 Patrick D. Braman COL David W. Morgan LTC John F. Wlasniewski CW5 Daniel L. York Colonial Virginia Chapter MSG Benjamin E. Butterworth CW5 Donald L. Chambers CSM James H. Ligons SGM David E. Pelich Dr. Steven A. Smith CW5 Jerry W. Spears Gold Standard Chapter CW5 Charles H. Sawyer Iron Mike Chapter CW4 Dylan H. Ferguson CW5 David T. Jones Jimmy Doolittle Chapter COL Linn K. Desaulniers CW5 David S. Reynolds Magnolia Chapter COL James A. Mills Morning Calm Chapter CW5 Andre J. Kidd COL Jason S. Raub National Office Jerome M. Tarutani North Country Chapter CSM Christopher D. Cooper CSM Willard D. O'Donnell Jr. North Star Chapter CW5 James H. Funk III North Texas Chapter SGM James R. McChristian CSM Scott S. Skellenger II Phantom Corps Chapter CSM Jeremy M. Short CW4 Brandon C. Vance CW5 Travis N. Westfall Pikes Peak Chapter CSM Scott S. Murphy

Savannah Chapter CW5 Charles Kronenberger ShowMe Chapter COL Paul R. Howerton Tennessee Valley Chapter CSM Dylan Lemasters Michael E. Mittlebeeler Thunderbird Chapter CW4 Brian K. Gage Washington-Potomac Chapter COL Thomas R. Faupel, Ret. CW5 Britt T. Klupenger, Ret. SGM Derrick S. Kuhns

### **Bronze**

Air Assault Chapter CW4 Edward S. Adamy III MAJ Ronald W. Braasch MAJ Timothy A. Hybart CW3 Joseph Krysak CW4 Jason E. Leggio MAJ Megan J. Liesenfelt CW3 Robert J. Manning CW3 Vincent C. Marino CW3 Scott D. Mark MAJ Juan C. Muneramolina SFC Rene A. Romero CPT Daniel G.E. Sears Aloha Chapter MAJ Kelsey M. Abert CW3 Nathan A. Biar CPT Madison C. Davis CW3 Zachary D. Francis MSG Jose Gonzalez-Santiago MAJ Clayton C. Gorton CW3 Jonathan A. Greenlaw MAJ Shane T. Hinton CW3 Timothy Lorenzana CW3 Roy A. Page MAJ Curtiss J. Shorkey LTC Matthew Tarazon CW3 James A. Vickery Aviation Center Chapter 1SG William L. Branham CW4 Jeremy W. Brewer CPT Jesslyn F. Clark CW3 Andrew J. Dillon SFC Jarrell D. Ennis MSG Bernard Johnson CW5 Anthony M. Kinney, Ret. CW4 Aaron C. Marsh, Ret. MSG Justin R. Rhodes SFC Jose R. Rivera Martinez SFC Allen M. Rodriguez MSG Dawn T. Steele Carwin W. Sterling CW4 Cleveland W. Upton

CW4 Andrew S. Wiegand Colonial Virginia Chapter SFC Eric J. Arguelles Ryland S. Barlow SFC Sean M. Chilcote SFC Fernando RiveraQuiles Delaware Valley Chapter CW4 George S. Hrichak II Flint Hills Chapter MAJ James Brady MAJ Jana M. Burdick CW3 Micah Edwards LTC Andrew Eggers CW4 Michael Gutierrez CW4 Michael Lee Jr. 1SG Damaso Melendez CW3 Charles T. Randall, Jr. CW5 Matthew Seegmiller CW4 Jason Watkins Gold Standard Chapter LTC Jonathan Barbee MAJ James J. Benton Joseph K. Blankenship MAJ Richard A. Bragg Jr. LTC Marisol A. Chalas SGM Oscar Dubon LTC Raymond W. Hanson CW4 John G. McElwee CW5 James E. Morgan SGM Michael Noche CW4 Rourk A. Petersen LTC Bowman J. Spillane Griffin Chapter SGT Samir E. Hagelaagib CW4 Jeremiah Russell SFC Christopher M. Scheffler Idaho Snake River Chapter CSM Robert J. Jenkins CW4 George M. Johnson SFC Wes L. Obenauer MAJ Cameron J. Ryffel CW5 Spencer W. Widman Iron Mike Chapter CPT Mitchell H. DeRidder Christopher S. Hopkins CPT Jeffery A. Lawson SFC Ryan K. Simpson CW3 Weston Strickland LTC Anthony Vargas LTC Zachary Yoklic Jack H. Dibrell/Alamo Chapter CW3 Cody L. Burge Mid-Atlantic Chapter COL Louis P. Hawkins Morning Calm Chapter Scotty Beausoleil CW3 Aren H. Hebert CW3 Andrew J. Hovey CPT Kazimira Karwowski CPT Will Marshall Mount Rainier Chapter CW4 Jacob M. Uber SFC Donald J. Vallera Phantom Corps Chapter SFC Jose J. Elizondoquerra SFC Benjamin H. Johnson SFC Sean T. Warnock

Pikes Peak Chapter

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CW4 Rvan J. Gabrukiewicz 1SG John Raker 1SG Jeremy T. Tomalewski Rio Grande Chapter LTC Anthony E. Andrews CW3 Nathaniel T. Jackson **CPT Samuel Mahle** SFC Kiki W. McComb CPT Julian E. Minondo CPT Paul J. Rankin Rising Sun Chapter Loyd H. Black II MAJ Cody Chase CPT Lane S. Hodnett CW3 Stephen Von Fange Savannah Chapter SFC Christopher M. Goodine CH (MAJ) Kurt E. Hartlev MAJ Bruce A. Large CPT Mitchell T. McGillick CW5 Brent L. Middleton CW4 Brent B. Rogers LTC Paul R. Wallace CW5 Eric B. Williams ShowMe Chapter CW4 Matt A. Cope CW5 Shaun M. Defenbaugh CW5 Adam P. Jennings CW5 Aaron T. Kellner CW5 Phillip J. Little SGM Samuel J. Luebbert CW4 James A. Nix Tennessee Valley Chapter Timothy J. Sweeney Jared J. Vilt Thunder Mountain Chapter SFC Westley L. Aston SSG David J. Brady Daniel L. Gray Thunderbird Chapter LTC John R. Pollard CW4 Zechariah Smith Volunteer Chapter CW4 Parry C. Hazen Washington-PotomacChapter CW4 Tomas Correa SFC Todd V. Crutchfield, Ret. CW4 Kyle Keihn CW3 Joseph L. Overstreet No Chapter Affiliation MAJ Charles B. Auer Glenn Feist CPT Steve R. Kennedy



### **Knight Inductees**

Air Assault Chapter MAJ David A. Beaumont MAJ Jacqueline Craig Aloha Chapter SFC Belinda E. Graham MAJ David M. Jones

MAJ Frank R. Obie SFC Michael L. Vanhorn Aviation Center Chapter MAJ Nicholas Barwikowski LTC Michael Brabner LtCol Nathan J. Chott **CPT Claude Ellenberg** SgnLdr Ashley R. Hampson Jennifer W. Hughes MSG Clifford S. Linnell Suzanne A. Vaughan Gold Standard Chapter MSG Grace S. Altaya SFC April S. Brombacher CW4 Joseph Bullock Iron Mike Chapter CW4 Tammy L. Smith Tennessee Valley Chapter Angela N. Branch Thunder Mountain Chapter SSG Kevin D. Frazier SFC Tiffanny Rodriguez SFC Joshua C. Smith



### **Our Lady** of Loreto Inductees

Arizona Chapter Pamela A. Mueller Aviation Center Chapter Cheryl Bonilla Clara I. Carrasquillo Cynara R. Moore Kate Morgan Griffin Chapter Rosanna Garcia Martin Hannah Schlagel Iron Mike Chapter Jamie L. Ferguson Mount Rainier Chapter Meghan Neal Rising Sun Chapter Richell Douse Tennessee Valley Chapter Sarah Vilt Washington-Potomac Chapter Ashlev Berry Renee Ott



Want to Change Your AAAA Chapter Affiliation? No Problem! Just Call 203 268 2450

## AAAA **Legislative** Report

By LTC (Ret.) Kevin Cochie AAAA Representative to the Military Coalition (TMC)

kevin.cochie@quad-a.org

## FY26 Defense Budget Still MIA - But Momentum Builds on the Hill

Last month, we reported that Congress wrapped up the FY25 budget cycle by passing (and President Trump signing) a full-year continuing resolution that funds the government through the end of the fiscal year (30 September). The final topline defense budget was approximately \$893 billion—higher than the FY24 enacted budget.

Now, here we are in mid-April, and the FY26 budget request from the Executive Branch still hasn't made its way to Congress. Despite that, defense committees, Congressional offices, lobbyists, and trade organizations are all actively influencing the Congressional "mark-ups" as if the budget were already in hand.

Sources suggest a "skinny" budget may be sent to Congress by late May. A skinny budget is essentially a high-level outline of President Trump's FY26 spending priorities, including topline figures and key discretionary funding priorities. It helps lawmakers begin their work while waiting for the full budget proposal.

Delays in budget submission are not unusual when a new administration takes office, especially when the presidency shifts between political parties. Major shifts in policy and priorities often require extensive revisions. The original FY26 budget — developed in late 2024 through early 2025 — reflected priorities from the previous administration, including DEI initiatives and climate programs, which the current administration does not support.

Following the inauguration in January, the Trump administration initiated a rapid overhaul of the FY26 budget. Considering that February is the typical release window, a mid-April delay, while frustrating, isn't entirely surprising.

## What Does This Mean for DoD and Army Aviation?

That's a big question — but we do have some signals. Earlier this month, President Trump made headlines by hinting at the possibility of a trillion-dollar defense budget. Secretary Hegseth echoed the comment soon after, reinforcing the seriousness of the claim.

This is a major development. Despite broader government efforts to reduce federal spending and rein in the national debt, the administration appears committed to boosting defense investment. For context. the FY25 forecast for FY26 expected a defense budget in the neighborhood of \$840 billion. A jump to \$1 trillion would be historic. So, what could a trillion-dollar defense budget look like? Leaked Pentagon documents hint at cuts to force structure - typically one of the biggest cost drivers in the budget. If those reductions happen alongside an overall funding increase, the implication is that more dollars could go to operations, training, modernization, and weapons procurement.

That's good news for operational aircrews, acquisition pros, sustainment experts, defense industry leaders, and, of course, lobbyists. But hold your applause.

Just because the Executive Branch asks for a trillion dollars doesn't mean Congress will grant it. Think of it like asking your parents for a new sports car and a trip to Ochella. They might fund a car, but cut the music festival. In this analogy, Mom is the Senate and Dad is the House. They'll go over the budget request line by line, "mark up" the proposal, and ultimately authorize and appropriate only what they agree on.

So, as we gather this May for the AAAA Summit – between meetings, sessions, and maybe a few rounds at the bar – take a look around the convention hall. It's not hard to imagine how Army Aviation could put its share of a trillion-dollar budget to good use.

## Army Aviation Caucus Returns

After a long pause, during and after COVID, the Army Aviation Caucus held its first event in years on April 9th at Capitol Hill. The full Army Aviation General Officer Steering Committee (AAGOSC) was in attendance, joined by a strong showing of Members and staff from the House of Representatives.

Caucus Co-Chairs Rep. Dale Strong (R-AL) and Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-CT) delivered remarks reaffirming bipartisan support for Army Aviation. MG Clair Gill followed with an update on the current state of the branch.

For years, the caucus has provided a



Co-chairs of the House of Representatives Army Aviation Caucus, Rep. Dale Strong (R-AL) and Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-CT), revitalize the Caucus on April 9, 2025 on Capital Hill.

valuable venue for Members of Congress to collaborate with Army Aviation leaders and the defense industry. Its return is a welcome sign of renewed engagement and momentum on the Hill.





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## People On The Move





### **Awards**

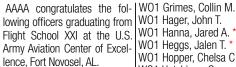
### **28th ECAB Best Warrior Competition Winners**

SSG Kevin McCallum, a combat medic, and SPC Robert Ruiz-Rhoades, an intelligence analyst, both assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 28th Expeditionary Combat Aviation Brigade, Pennsylvania Army National Guard, pose with their awards after winning the 2025 NCO of the Year and Soldier of the Year awards at the Pennsylvania Best Warrior Competition at Fort Indiantown Gap, April 11, 2025.

## Flight School Graduates

AAAA provides standard aviator wings to all graduates and sterling silver aviator wings to the distiguished graduates of each flight class ...

another example of AAAA's **SUPPORT** for the U.S. Army Aviation Soldier and Family.



### 57 Officers, April 3, 2025 Commissioned Officers

1LT Bowman, Jackson H. -DG 1LT Gallegos, Nathaniel A. -HG

2LT Saylor, Kelsey M. -HG 1LT Scott, Charles P. \* -HG

1LT Wright, Joshua M. \* -HG 1LT Andrews, Jonathan A. \*

2LT Baer, Jace R. \*

1LT Bowman, Grace M. 2LT Brown, Timothy B.

2LT Browning, Leah Y. 2LT Centra, Liam A.

2LT Cetnar, Noah B.

2LT Chumbley, Ross B. \*

2LT Conley, Evan T. 2LT Curley, Collin P.

2LT Fitzgerald, Jack T.

2LT Island, Jack H.

2LT Jones, Benjamin D. \*

2LT Lapiejko, Albert G. 1LT Lopez, Phillip D. \*

2LT Maristch, John M.

1LT Mims, Kaylee M.

2LT Pikal, Elizabeth K.

2LT Rodriguez, Emma M. \*

2LT Short, Eli S. \*

1LT Varni, Alix N. \*

2LT Worden, Matthew R. \*

Warrant Officers WO1 Foster, Aaron S. -DG

WO1 Ayers, Reece M. -HG

W01 Cooper, Anthony B. -HG W01 Morris, Elijah C. \* -HG W01 Alvarez, Joshua J. \*

WO1 Armstrong, Kaylin L.

WO1 Barker, Shane M.

W01 Brown, Ryan K.

WO1 Clement, Justin L. WO1 Cunha, Zachary T.

WO1 De La Cruz Martinez,

Pablo J.

WO1 Greer, Logan M.

WO1 Hager, John T.

WO1 Hutchison, Cameron S. \* WO1 Martinez-Martinez,

WO1 Ridgeway, Charles C.

W01 Ruano, Kody J. \*

WO1 Saunders, Matilda M. 7

WO1 Schager, Kellen C.

WO1 Yang, Benjamin J.

## Commissioned Officers

1LT Jones, Jerry C.

1LT Palmer, David B.

1LT Pollman, Benjamin J. \*

1LT Wagenseller, Robert H. \*

Warrant Officers

WO1 Petrowski, Thomas W.-DG WO1 Blackmon, Joshua A.

WO1 Hanna, Jared A. 3

WO1 Heggs, Jalen T. \*

WO1 Hopper, Chelsa C.

Diego A. 7

W01 Mora, Alexandria F. W01 Orcutt, Patrik W.

WO1 O'Shea, Shane J.

WO1 Palma Murrieta, Braulio A.

WO1 Pinter, Lawrence W.

WO1 Walker, Devon Y.

## 44 Officers, April 17, 2025

2LT Ranum, Valerie M. \* -DG

2LT Goss, Edward W., Jr. \* -HG

1LT Hubert, Miles M. \*-HG 2LT Reilly, Anthony F. \* -HG

1LT Brewer, Lane P. 2LT Hess, Christian M. \*

2LT Hobbs, Bradley D.

1LT Hughes, Kristina M. \* 1LT Ico, Josh Mitchell T. \*

CPT Johnson, James R.

1LT Kordenbrock, William R., Jr.

1LT Oconnell, Jared J.

1LT Paul, James L.

1LT Smith, Zachary D. 7

2LT Williamson, Samuel G.

\* -HG

WO1 Richard, Tad M. \* -HG WO1 Romney, Nathan S. \* -HG

WO1 Zeller, Stephan A. -HG





WO1 Acasio, Kevin Daniel R. \*

W01 Beaver, Sean L.

WO1 De Mello, Grant M. \*

WO1 Benner, Philip E. WO1 Brewer, Christopher G. 7 WO1 Chan, Arnold

WO1 Fernandez Guzman. Rolando A. \*

|WO1 Fowler, Spencer M. \*

WO1 Gentry, Ethan C.

W01 Harrington, Micah J. WO1 Haskin, Hunter D.

WO1 Hiatt, Richard M. 7 WO1 Jack, Ethan D.

WO1 Langarica, Emilio G. WO1 Merrill, Nathan P. 1

WO1 Pancoast, Sarah E. \*

WO1 Pearce, Mark M. WO1 Ponce Castro, Antonio \*

WO1 Soniat, Chayce B.

WO1 Wright, Hunter A. -DG: Distinguished Graduate -HG: Honor Graduate

= AAAA Member



## People On The Move

Class 007-25

PFC Thomas O. Morales -DG

## 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.

### AH-64 Attack **Helicopter Repairer** (15R)

Class 005-25 PV2 Landon J. Fleming \* -DG PFC Trenton Matthew Beard SPC Van San Chau PFC Gino Batinggal Dela Cruz PFC Corbin Bryce Grove PFC Solace Matay Kilgour PV2 Adam N. Cole Manring Pv1 Joao Victor Alves Moreira PV2 Landon Isaiah Murphy PFC Payton Ross Pennington PV2 Dakota James Powell PV2 Maci Elizabeth Wesney Class 006-25 PEC Matthew Thomas Vonbonin -DG SPC Dominique R. Cantu SPC Tyler Loren Fausset SPC Marcus D. Marshall PFC River Kim Ramage PFC Colton Ryder Stacy PFC Troy James Todd CPL Brandon Michael Weyer

PV2 Yaliesky Alonso Morera PFC Trevion Darquez Brown PFC Tj Cahill PFC Danna Corona PFC Michail Y. Davila Torres PVT Benjamin A. D. Camacho PFC Ezekiel Nathan Gunty PFC Vanessa Harnden PV2 Jeremiah David Mcclaren PFC Clayton Nathaniel Turner PV2 Andrew Jefferv Wheeler Class 008-25 PV2 Evan Richard Prell -DG SPC Victor Obiajuru Azubuike SPC Hossein Cheraghi PVT Adam John Cole PV2 Angelique Joy Corcino PV2 Sandy Deleon Payano PV2 Kymani D. A.Pascoe PV2 Jefferson Paul PV2 Emily Ann Rainey SPC Wendyam A. Rapademnaba PV2 Nicolas A. Sangermano PV2 Tanner Jason Trolinder Class 009-25 PV2 Jessica N. C.Rodriguez \* -DG PFC Tomori A. Bashorun SGT Shawn Robert Calderon PV2 Benicio Aaron Castaneda PV2 Joseph M. Lee Chavira SPC Evan James Chism PV2 James Matthew Halliday SPC Laura Madison Heltsley

PV2 Oge Giovanne Henry PFC Carson Lee Hoyt PFC Caleb Wesley Hull SPC Cory Wayne Rayner Class 010-25 PFC Anderson V. Lazo -DG PV2 Issa Mohammad Ittavem PV2 Andrew Evroy Jackson PFC Stephen E. Johnson, III PV2 Trevor Bailey Kramer PFC Brooker Macgregor Low PV2 Joseph Anthony Macri SPC Younghoon Park PV2 Tryston Ray Reddekopp PV2 Ezra B. Smolen Morton PFC Parker Ryan Tannehill

## **UH-60 Helicopter**

Repairer (15T) Class 011-25 PFC Elvssia Isis Moore -DG SPC Lucinda Dawn Baker PFC Joshua M.Brunnabend PFC Xander Tonic Hooker PV2 Glenn Allen Lloyd SPC Erin Ruth Monroe PFC Evan Allen Pelletier PFC Tyson Fikadu Peters PV2 Christopher Elijah Ramos PFC Tyler Christopher Seita PFC lan Charles Tayloe PFC Gavin Jeffrey Tegeler Class 012-25 PFC Margrethe Houentolstrup -DG PV2 Jordan Allen Anderson PV2 Blaine Lamar Brown

PV2 Sarah E. M. Campbell PV2 Anthony Daniel Cannon PV2 Jonathan Wayne Holley, II PFC Thomas John Kidd PV2 Ty Charles Monfries PV2 Carlos Isaiah Mora PFC Jon Eric Nix. Jr. PFC Kyler Hagen Van Ausdal Class 014-25 PV2 Landon Ray Richey -DG PFC Michael Victor Bertetto PFC Angelgustavo Castillo PFC Vincent Robert Cruz PFC Jackson Barrett Ford PV2 Abraham A. Marin. Jr. PV2 Jacob Elijah Strasburger PV2 Aidan James Toy PV2 Seth James Warnol PV2 Cassen James Womack Class 015-25 PFC Havden John Pindell -DG PV2 Jamin Michael Book PV2 Kolbe Auburn Davis SPC Scott Waynemichael Gore SGT Gunner Delano Johnson PFC Conrad Steven Kirchner PFC Elijah Michael Knox PFC Carter Michael Martin PFC Julian M.Singuefield PFC Sean Micheal Thompson PFC Ryan Christopher Weber Class 016-25 PFC Felicity J. Sanneman -DG PFC Alyson Campis Serrano

SPC Anastasija Draganic

PFC Joseph Legrand Earl

I PFC Andrew Alan Goddard PFC Anthony James Horne PFC Zachary W. E.Lamphere PFC Jakub Rosolanka PFC Kevin Triscik PV2 Jaidyn Caine Vigil Class 017-25 PFC Jaxen Thomas White -DG SPC Elijah Dale Barclay PFC Elvis Alexis Bolanos PFC Daimen Lee Box PFC Caleb Anthony Butts PV2 Austin Kenneth Oles PFC Aiden Kristopher Poyner PFC Sean T. Rooney, Jr. PFC Tristen Allen Sabo SPC Jotham Isaac Walsvik Class 019-25 PFC Matthew David Dixon -DG PV2 Miguel Angel Ayala PV2 Cameron M. Benfield PV2 Cody James Brigman PFC Evan Seung Kyu Burns PFC Gabriel A. Camacho PFC Rylands Castro De Jesus PFC Jose Cruz Cazarez, III PV2 Carter Joseph Collins PFC Verne Jerome Donato PV2 Salvador A.D. Alvarez PFC Gavin Liam Forthmann Class 020-25 PV2 Donivin P. Limon -DG PV2 Eric Gardiner PFC Timothy Pierce Gleason PV2 Ryder Vincent Henson PFC Jackson J. A. Kanegan PV2 Jonathan Evan Kirkham PV2 Owen M.Leeking-Comeau PV2 Kinston Isaac Locklear PFC Adam J. Manukvan-Craig PV2 Alec Adrian Matthews SPC Drew Warren Nelson PFC Victor Manuel Orozco Class 021-25 PFC Caleb J.Swedeen -DG PV2 Jordan Alexander Ratcliff PV2 Roman Bobby Reese PV2 Spencer Dalton Roberts PV2 Blane A. Rogers PV2 Jensen Everette Simmons PFC Carter Echols Stickler SPC Dangelo Marcus Tappin Class 022-25 PFC Dawson J. T. Gibbons -DG PFC Nicholas Avery Anest PFC Kowen James Aucoin PFC Gordon Patrick Bisso SPC Gabriel Troy Burnette PFC Chance James Carda PFC Samuel Evan Emrick SPC Chance Steven Lovelle PFC Rocco Mario Palazzolo PFC Hunter Blake Tarlton PFC Grayson J.Wisniewski







## People On The Move

## **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.

### 12 Officers March 28, 2025

Class 002-25

CW2 Johnny Huff \* -DG CW3 Ronald Ramdipsingh \*-DG CW2 Westley Cooper CW2 Carlos Alvarado -HG CW3 David Rushing -HG

CW3 Juan Bonilla CW2 Steven Crusha CW2 Christopher Haley ICW2 Aaron Malone \* CW2 Aubrey Meekins CW2 Ryan Pease CW2 Brett Wheeling

= AAAA Member

### AIT **GRADUATIONS**

Continued

## **Cargo Helicopter** Repairer (15Ú)

Class 004-25 PFC Soren James Oliver -DG SPC Jose Andresrios Alvarado PFC Brandon S.Acey Andrews PV2 Jonathon Dale Barnett PV2 Kyle Joseph Barsema SGT Eduardo M.Dominguez SGT Jose D. Figueroasantiago SPC Samuel Mathew Meyer SPC Brian Andrew Ornelas PFC Ava Analee Plyler PFC Juan Jose Rosales Osorio Class 005-25 PV2 Phillip M. Kaaihue, II -DG SPC Andrew Jerry Ashbey

SPC Tyler J. Dunn PFC Morgan Peters PFC Caleb Matthew Reilly PFC Saul Rivera PFC Sylas Lee R. K. N. Robello PFC Jackson Riley Sea PV2 David Levi Umsted SPC April M.Zarzuela-Parra Class 006-25 PV2 Kelsie Irene Bryan -DG PFC William Blake Akins

PV2 David Daniel Bruce PFC Gabe Monte Hutchinson PV2 Aiden Lee Jahn PV2 Danny Lee Komarek, III PV2 Andreas Gregory Lloyd PV2 Bradden Michael Holcomb Munson

PV2 Yhonann L. Alvarez

PV2 Marcus Dalton Murphy PV2 Samantha A. Revnolds Class 007-25 PV2 Kenneth J. Kornexl -DG PV2 Noah David Barton PV2 Brody Michael Bray SPC Eric Joseph Frederick PV2 Isaac David Furr PFC Michael Derek Hamm, Jr.

PV2 Carson Joseph Long PV2 Cristian Gabriel Lopez SGT Nathan James Mulkey

PFC Boston Alan Pass SPC Kenneth John Pisa SGT Alexis J. Quinonesrivera

## Aircraft Powerplant Repairer (15B)

Class 001-25 SPC Kyrochi Crissinger \* -DG SPC Brian Steven Barnes PV2 Eric Jair Gomez PFC Aidan Thomas Larkin PV2 Ralu Mario Mahon PV2 Luis Moreno Morejon PFC Janmalone S. Robinson PV2 Anthony Marcel Serafin PV2 Levi Justin Williams

## Aircraft Powertrain Repairer (15D)

Class 001-25 PV2 Grant Nicholas Esmond SSG Michael Nichols Garcia PV2 Sanjay Khadka PFC Seth John Krebsbach PFC Jessica Cristina Munoz PFC Landon Ty Ortuno PV2 Nicholas Alan Pearce SPC Hugo Osvaldo Perez SPC Corey A. Talamantes

### Aircraft Electrician (15F)

Class 001-25 PFC William L. Stanton, III \* -DG PFC Elvza G. C.Clearwater PFC Patrick A. Cunningham SPC Ethan D. Juarezcuellar PV2 Vu Hoai Bao Truong Class 002-25 SPC Joel Marcus Barrera PFC Jacob Colby Nutt SSG Nehemias Santos Roman PFC Cole Matthew Shelby

### Aircraft Structural **Repairer** (15G)

Class 002-25 PVT Rebeca L. Varela \* -DG PFC Benjamin John Abbott PFC Nighron F. Burgess PV2 Lucas Preston Carita SPC Abner Raymond Davis PFC Seth Michael Kline PV2 Joel William Lewis PV2 Dylan Owen Livingston PFC Jean Luc Martel PVT Brodie Dale Mcelhatten PFC Marvell Melado Murray PV2 Carlos M.Rodriguez PFC Jacob Anthony White PFC Taylor Ryan White PFC Lawrence Fred Yount, III

## **Aircraft Pneudraulics** Repairer (15H)

Class 002-25 PV2 James V. Mcelwee \* -DG PFC Cinque Uganda Coles PFC Logan Wade Fultz PV2 Anthony Wilfredo Mendez | PFC Wills Tytiana S.

SPC Khang Song Nguyen SPC Enrique Perevral PFC Ellianna Marie Smith

## **Avionic Repairer (15N)**

Class 022-24 PFC Jhoanna Nielo Bonifas PFC Thatcher Herschel Brown SPC Tanya E.Castillolopez PV2 Nathan Javon Davis PV2 Ayrihyana Zariah Gibson PV2 Idania Adlemy Melero SPC Ercilia Suzanne Trevino Class 023-24 PFC Connor Lee Murray \* -DG

PFC Thatcher Herschel Brown PV2 Julio Luis C. Gonzalez PFC Landon Austin Kuter SPC Dawson Gerald Pardee SPC Payne Douglas Price PFC Allen Adonis Ramos SPC Hayden Michael White

## **Aviation Operations** Specialist (15P)

Class 25-011 PFC Priest Boston E. -DG PFC Lemon Braden L. PV2 Lopez Angel N. PFC Murray Tatum A. PV2 Pierce Devan A. PFC Scripter Madeline J. Class 25-012 SPC Price Brianna L. -DG PFC Peters Aamiyah T. -HG SPC Hankins Steven L. PFC Henderson Phoenix L. PFC Li Nikole A. PV2 Loller Justin C.

PFC Perloff Lillian H.

### Operator (15Q) Class 25-003 SPC Ortega Guillermo R. -DG

Air Traffic Control

PVT Bean Mckenzie E. PFC Hochstertler Bailey D. PFC Tripp Connor A. Class 25-004 SPC Beckler Blake N. -DG PFC Dailing Braden K. PFC Day Is Audrey E. PFC Petrey Taylor M.

### AH-64 Armament/ **Electrical/Avionic Systems Repairer** (15Y)

Class 020-24

SPC Corey M. Germann PFC Braiden Kent Kovle SPC Geran Michael Redden PFC Cristian A.Teran Class 021-24 PV2 Kenyon J. Caldwell -DG SSG Thamer Mari H. Alanazi PFC Rene B. Alaquinez, Jr. SSG Marwan S.M. Alruwaili SSG Abdulaziz Farhan I. Asiri PFC Shelby Brooke Atchley PV2 Iron Ray Michael Atkinson SGT Wei-Chiang Chen PV2 Tyler Drake Loudermilk PV2 Samuel Anthony Rhea PV2 Alexander Myles Stephan

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



## 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.

## Team CTI Awarded IERW Contract

Crew Training International (CTI) in partnership with Helicopter Institute. collectively known as Team CTI, has been



awarded the U.S. Army FAA Part 141 Helicopter Flight School Pilot Program, marking a historic first for U.S. Army aviation training. Led by the United States Army Aviation Center of Excellence (USAACE), this represents a transformative shift in the way the Army trains rotary-wing aviators, similar to the training model for the U.S. Navy's Contractor Operated Pilot Training-Rotary (COPT-R) program, also run by Helicopter Institute. Based in Marianna, Florida, the program will utilize the TH-66 Sage helicopter, a military training version of the Robinson R66 Turbine. Training will follow a civilian FAA Part 141 curriculum, providing students with Private Pilot, Rotorcraft Helicopter, and Instrument Helicopter certifications before advancing to formal military helicopter training. By integrating civilian flight training into the Army's aviation program, the goal is to increase efficiency, enhance foundational skills, and optimize training resources. See Briefings on page 6 for more.

## **CAE Awarded AHFTS** Contract



CAE announced on March 31, 2025 that CAE Defense & Security has been awarded the competitive re-compete to support the U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence (AVCOE) and the 110th Aviation Brigade under the Advanced Helicopter Flight Training Support (AHFTS) program. The award offers comprehensive training support for the U.S. Army's advanced airframes, valued at approximately \$180 million through 2030, including an initial base period and four onevear options. The AHFTS program utilizes CAE instructor pilots, maintenance evaluators, and

non-rated crewmembers to enhance flight training in support of approximately 900 Army aviators and foreign national students transitioning to the CH-47F, UH-60M, or AH-64E rotary wing aircraft annually. The contract award increases the number of instructor pilots (IPs) in the program, effectively doubling the number of UH-60 IPs, and includes options for further expanding support to accommodate an increase in training.

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

Amentum Services Inc., Chantilly, VA, was awarded a \$7,824,259 modification to contract W58RGZ-25-C-0003 for global aviation and maintenance services; work will be performed in Chantilly, with an estimated completion date of Nov. 30, 2025.

M1 Support Services LP, Denton, TX, was awarded a \$65,357,267 modification to contract W9124G-17-C-0104 for aviation maintenance: work locations and funding will be determined with each order, with an estimated completion date of Jan. 15, 2026.

Near Earth Autonomy Inc.,\* Pittsburgh, PA. was awarded an \$11,499,839 firmfixed-price contract to design, develop and conduct a demonstration of heavy vertical takeoff and landing systems; work locations and funding will be determined with each order, with an estimated completion date of April 14, 2028.

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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**May 31, 2000

### **Briefings**

A forty-member team from Joint Task Force Bravo assisted Costa Rica's narcotics police in eradicating nearly 1.3 million marijuana plants during a "Central Skies" mission that swept through the country's Talamanca Valley in

early March. The team, dubbed "Task Force Enabler," helped Costa Rica's Public Security Ministry's Special Support Police. The U.S. contingent provided command and control and crucial air support, flying three UH-60 Black Hawks and a CH-47 Chinook out of the Puerto Limon Airport on the Caribbean coast. Experts from JTF-Bravo trained the Costa Ricans to rappel from helicopters, climb down from a Chinook in a device named the Jacob's ladder and be extracted by a cable called SPIES - Special Patrol Infiltration/Exfiltration System. By mission's end, the Black Hawks had flown a total of 75.5 hours and the Chinook 26.7 hours.

### A Playground

Members of the 8th Battalion, 229th Aviation Regiment--"forward element of AAAA's Flying Tigers Chapter"—brought a little

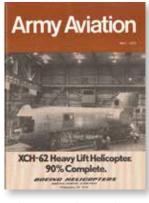


sunshine to children in Bosnia. S-3 Captain Jim Posey designed and together with other aviators built a playground. Stateside members of the Flying Tigers Chapter forwarded three boxes of school supplies for the local children.



### Forgotten Hero of My Lai

Trent Angers recent work, The Forgotten Hero of My Lai: The Hugh Thompson Story, is now available. Thompson's story is traced from his birth in Atlanta in 1943 to his actions at My Lai during the massacre and his twenty-year Army career. Mr. Angers examines the Army's reaction and treatment of Thompson following My Lai. Acadian Publishing, 247 pages, paperback.



## **50 Years Ago**May 1975

### "Load 'Em Up!"

Art White (left) and Don R. Brandt (right), Picatinny Arsenal Engineers, prepare a 155 mm flare dispenser for loading during a MAASTER battlefield illumination test. The dispenser is one of a number of

night vision devices being tested to evaluate the relationship between artificial illumination and the night vision devices.

### "Blast-Off!"

Shown here is the Army's new turbojet-powered Variable Speed

Training Target. The VSTT is a 16-foot long, swept-winged, 950-pound recoverable Missile Command item. Beech Aircraft is the contractor and has received a \$7.7 million compet-



itive contract to produce and operate the initial VSTTs. A multi-year agreement, by which Beech is to supply some 317 examples for some \$26 million, is to follow. Deliveries will commence in early 1976.

## **Live Fire Exercise**

Fort Campbell, Kentucky: Troop A, 2nd Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), conducted live

fire exercises using Cobras and slicks. On the left, Lieutenant Peter Manichonery, briefs listeners as to the workings of the "Keep 'em locked!" PFC Ed Revels, (center), is shown tightening the fuse atop a 17-pound rocket prior to loading same. To the right, Lieutenant Jeffrey Erickson, a Cobra pilot, carefully loads a 10-pound rocket into its firing pod.





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, Ala.

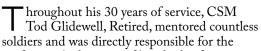
The deadline for nominations for the 2026 induction is June 1, 2025

Contact the AAAA National Office for details and nomination forms at (203) 268-2450 or visit www.quad-a.org

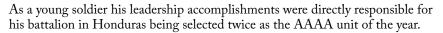
# Army Aviation Hall of Fame

## Command Sergeant Major Tod L. Glidewell, U.S. Army Retired

Army Aviation Hall of Fame 2021 Induction – Huntsville, AL



professional education of hundreds of noncommissioned officers. He served at every level, crew chief to first sergeant, technical inspector to the U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Life Cycle Management Command command sergeant major, always providing the best leadership for his Soldiers along the way.



In combat, while serving as the CSM of the 101st Combat Aviation Brigade he led the way, convoying to Mosul in the initial days of Operation Iraqi Freedom. His efforts and mentorship led to a 167% retention rate and resulted in the brigade being selected as the AAAA Robert M. Leich award winner.

BG William Forrester hand-picked him as the first CSM of the Combat Readiness/Safety Center. In this capacity he assisted in the development of a speaking and media campaign that led the Army to the lowest accident rates since the mid '70s. This success led to his selection as the Aviation Branch and U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence CSM, where he influenced the alignment of the Unmanned Aircraft Systems military occupational specialties and oversaw the modernization of Fort Rucker's NCO Academy, leading to their selection as the best NCOA in the Army.

His last assignment was as the AMCOM CSM, again leading and shaping the future. He was instrumental in the placement of a sergeant major at Corpus Christi Army Depot, ensuring the standards were upheld and best efforts were produced.

His career demonstrates the effect one person can have on hundreds of thousands of Soldiers and by giving back to the Aviation community and always putting his Soldiers first.

CSM (Ret.) Glidewell currently serves as the chairman of the Army Aviation Hall of Fame Board of Trustees.



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