

December 2015



# Civilian Military Support Group NEWSLETTER



## President's Remarks

by John A. Fergione



I will begin this issue of our Newsletter with our Spring Mixer, which we held on May 20, in the Grand Banquet Room at Julianni's Italian Ristorante. The attendance hovered at approximately 100 members and guests. The food was also, as is usually the case at Julianni's, delicious. My sincerest thanks go to Director Rhonda Nelson and her team: Director Allen Hoffman, Director Lisa Moulton, Director George Nagy, his wife Diane,

Jana Orozco, Michelle Slade and Pam Stoliker for organizing such a great event.

In June, the Civ-Mil was notified by the Airmen's Attic that they needed a laptop computer and printer in order to complete their numerous administrative requirements. A laptop computer, a printer and some spare printer cartridges were purchased locally and delivered to them.

Some months ago, we began consulting with Steven Lewis, our local Webmaster, to take our membership database from paper and manually updated spreadsheets to the internet. After much discussion between Steve and the Civ-Mil Directors, our Membership Database is now fully on line, and our members can view this information by logging into their account with their own username and password. A special thank you goes to Director Stan Turner for coordinating this effort.

The software package we purchased has much room for growth, and our electronic capabilities will increase substantially in time. For now, we have taken a first step forward. Please know that the security of your data was foremost in our mind during the development of this new capability. As you edit your personal data, please understand that any of the Civ-Mil membership will be able to view it. Therefore, if you do not want some of your information to be published, merely leave those fields blank. And of course, any suggestions for improvement to the user-friendliness of our Web site are always appreciated.

We were informed of a dinner program, which is held quarterly at Edwards AFB, of which the purpose is to get the Airmen out of their dorm rooms and provide them a home-cooked meal. Free raffle prizes usually turns out to be a helpful way to encourage this. Civ-Mil supported this new program with a donation of four {4} \$50.00 Visa/Master Card gift cards for the winners of the raffle.

Our Annual Barbecue was once again held at Hacienda Lane Ranch. Among the distinguished guests, who joined us for the evening, were Congressman Stephen Knight, Assemblyman Thomas Lackey, Maj Gen David A. Harris, the AFTC Commander and Brig Gen Carl E.

Schaefer, the 412TW Commander. My thanks go first-and-foremost to Frances Lane for hosting our group, at no cost to Civ-Mil. Past President and Director Robert Slade and his wife, Michelle, took on the task of thinking of everything and making it look easy. It is not! Thank you, Bob and Michelle, for once again going the extra mile. Thanks also go to Director David Norris and Rick Buckreis for standing in the humidity and cooking over a hot grill for us. Directors Terry Landsiedel and Pan Patel gave us their time at the bar, and the Bravery Brewing Company provided a nice addition with a sampling of the beer they produce locally.

Art Furtado coordinated our activities at Aerospace Appreciation night at Jethawks Stadium on Sunday, August 9. We supplied over thirty tickets to Edwards AFB for their Airmen to use to attend this event. From what I could see, everyone who joined us under the Third Base Line tent had a great time. Thanks, once again, Art, for coordinating the many tasks necessary to make this event so much fun.

Many people don't know that there is a Medal of Honor park at Edwards AFB. It does exist, and it is in an easily accessed location, but it is relatively difficult to find since there are no signs pointing to it. The park contains monuments showing the USAF recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor since World War II. The monuments are in need of updating and they certainly need to be viewed more easily. After talking to the Edwards AFB leadership, a plan is currently being pursued to move the monuments to the entrance of the Edwards AFB Museum so that they can be viewed by more people, and more often.

We are rapidly approaching the date for the publishing our 25th Anniversary Historical book. This has been an ongoing project of ours for some time now, but we have purposefully not rushed this effort. Nevertheless, most of the layout is complete, and all that remains is final editing. The cost for publishing this book is not trivial, and we will not use any of the money we have received through donations to pay for it. Instead, we have launched a Sponsorship Campaign, which you can read about on the EAFB Civ-Mil Home Page. This Newsletter will also contain a sponsorship form, which you can use to select the level of membership you desire. Please help us in documenting the many years of service the EAFB Civ-Mil Support Group has provided to Edwards AFB. In order to publish this book, which is planned to occur in the spring, the deadline for sponsorships has been established as December 31, 2015.

Our "Thank You" this year, to Frances Lane for graciously allowing us to use Hacienda Lane Ranch for our Annual Barbecue, was to host her for dinner at The Odyssey Restaurant. Eight of us joined Frances and Ken Firfick on the evening of September 12 for this dinner. Frances informed us later that this dinner was one of the finest gifts she has received.

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Our membership campaign is now underway, and for the first time in our history, our members can now update/upgrade their membership from the EAFB Civ-Mil Web site, and use a credit card if they desire. Director George Nagy and Steve Lewis deserve most of the credit for bringing this capability to us.

Director Allen Hoffman coordinated the elections for Director this year. The voting for the Directors, who will comprise the Class of 2018, was completed, and the Officers and Directors were officially installed at the University of Antelope Valley on October 8. My thanks go to Director Julie Swayze for chairing the committee that coordinated the many planning activities necessary to hold an Installation Banquet. My congratulations go to Diane Nagy, for being selected as our Civ-Mil Unsung Hero, and to Director Richard E. Spann, on his selection as our Civ-Mil Member of the Year.

Our fiscal year ended on September 30, and when the twelve-month period ended, Civ-Mil had expended over \$29,400.00 in direct support to Edwards Air Force Base. We hope to increase this total over the next twelve months. With your generous donations, support of our hosting and social functions, and a truly exceptional Board of Directors, I predict we will achieve this goal.

There is not enough time to host another mixer before this year ends, but planning is well underway for the third "Welcome to the Antelope Valley" hosting, which is planned to occur in late January 2016. This hosting is aimed at showing our foreign national visitors the many capabilities and services that exist in the Antelope Valley, and bringing in the appropriate vendors to answer their questions. Past President and Director Danny Bazzell is in the process of putting his team together to make this event at least as successful as our second hosting, which we held in early 2015.

Until next time, please be safe and have a wonderful holiday season,

**John A. Fergione**

President

The EAFB Civilian-Military Support Group

## Mission Statement

The purpose and general nature of the Edwards Air Force Base Civilian-Military Support Group is to establish a friendly, benevolent association of civic leaders and military personnel at Edwards Air Force Base, to act as a host group whenever needed and additionally, to consider an annual service project to benefit EAFB.



## Civ-Mil Group Enjoys Spring Mixer

Linda KC Reynolds, staff writer  
Aerotech News



*Photograph by Linda KC Reynolds*

Col. Dave Radomski, 412th Test Wing vice commander, Col. Keven Muckerheide, 412th Electronic Warfare Group, and Tom Beard share a laugh during Civ-Mil's Spring Mixer. Radomski is the liaison between the Air Force and Civ-Mil.

It was a full house at the Civilian/Military Support Group's Spring Mixer where approximately 100 Civ-Mil members and guests enjoyed themselves in a relaxed atmosphere.

The mixer was May 20 in the Grand Banquet Room, at Julianni's Italian Ristorante in Lancaster

Aida O'Connor founded the group 25 years ago for the purpose of establishing a friendly benevolent association of civic leaders and military personnel at Edwards Air Force Base and to act as a host group whenever needed.

Civ-Mil President John A. Fergione thanked Rhonda Nelson, Northrop Grumman, the Mixer Committee Chairman, and her team for organizing the evening's event.



*Photograph by Linda KC Reynolds*

Civ-Mil President John Fergione delivers a gift basket to raffle winner Director Art Furtado.

"Brig. Gen. Schaefer, 412 Test Wing Commander, and I are constantly telling the distinguished visitors we receive on base of the outstanding relationship we have with the community, and it is largely

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because of this body and all that you do to support the airmen at Edwards,” said Col. David Radomski, 412 Test Wing vice commander.

Civ-Mil recently held an event to welcome and help foreign military and civilian personnel become better acquainted with the area, including schools, shopping, housing, hospitals, and whatever they may need. “That is just one great example of how you make us feel welcome. It can be a great culture shock for some- that was incredible; thank you so much for that” said Col. Radomski.

He also thanked those who are helping to move the Edwards AFB Museum off of the secure area of Edwards Air Force Base so it can once again be enjoyed by the public.

*For more information [www.eafbcivmil.org](http://www.eafbcivmil.org)*

## Airman’s Attic gets computer, printer courtesy of Civ-Mil

Print story from 412th Test Wing Public Affairs



### 6/29/2015 - EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE, Calif.

Base volunteers at the Airman’s Attic met with John Fergione (center), former test pilot and president of the Edwards AFB Civilian-Military Support Group. He dropped by June 25 to present a couple donations on behalf of Civ-Mil. The organization donated a laptop computer and a printer to the Airman’s Attic. The Edwards AFB Civilian-Military Support Group exists to create a friendly association between civic leaders and military personnel at Edwards. Civ-Mil acts as a host group when needed and finds annual service projects to improve the general quality of life on base for Airmen.

Pictured in the photo, left to right, are: MSgt Stephanie Brown, Elizabeth Duarte, Angela Throwbridge, John Fergione, Erica Powell, Amanda Thurber, Sara Quinn, Meagan Tompkins, Dan Tompkins, MSgt Jennifer Pittman, SMSgt Janice Planten

## Civ-Mil welcomes new officials



Photograph courtesy of Linda KC Reynolds

From left: Brig. Gen. Carl Schaefer, 412th Test Wing commander, and Col. Charles Webb, U.S. Air Force Test Pilot School commandant, pose for a photo with new Edwards AFB Civ-Mil president John Fergione and former president Michael Belzil. The four participated in the 2015-2016 Civ-Mil installation dinner where new members were introduced. The group has donated over \$29,000 to help support Airmen stationed at Edwards AFB this past year.

LANCASTER, Calif.–The Edwards AFB Civilian-Military Support Group held its annual installation of officers dinner Oct. 8 at the University of Antelope Valley Ballroom.

Brig. Gen. Carl Schaefer, 412th Test Wing commander, was there to swear in the new officers that will serve for the next year. Civ-Mil’s mission is to support the base and take on annual service projects that benefit Edwards AFB Airmen.

The Edwards AFB Civilian-Military Support Group was first established in 1989 in response to the Base Realignment and Closure Commission’s determination to shut down or realign certain bases all over the country and world. The organization exists to create a friendly association between civic leaders and military personnel at Edwards.

Civ-Mil acts as a host group when needed and finds annual service projects to improve the general quality of life on base. This past fiscal year, Civ-Mil raised \$29,000 for projects and events dedicated to Edwards AFB.

### *Officers*

President–John A. Fergione

Vice president–Mark E. Thompson

Secretary–Matthew C. Winheim

Treasurer–George A. “Bud” Reams

### *Directors*

George E. Nagy      Rhonda J. Nelson

David R. Norris      Robert Slade

Mark E. Thompson      Leslie S. Uhazy

Matthew C. Winheim



# Corporate Member Spotlight

## ***Best Western Plus-Desert Poppy Inn***

Desert Poppy Inn, owned and managed by Mike and Kundan Patel, is a recently opened 88-room lodging facility located on Avenue I, just east of the 14 Freeway, in Lancaster. The Best Western affiliation denotes that the inn satisfied a high level of requirements for the physical facility as well as services and amenities offered. Of the 88 rooms, 17 are suites and six are designed for the physically challenged. The entire facility is extremely clean and all rooms have premium bedding, refrigerator, microwave and free high speed internet access. The Inn is 100% smoke free and Eco-Friendly. Among the amenities offered are a business center, meeting facility, outdoor pool, hot tub and fitness room. A hot breakfast buffet is served each morning. The Inn has received a 3.2 Diamond rating from AAA and 5 star, 5 circle (excellent) rating from Trip Advisor.com.

## ***Charlton Weeks LLP***

In addition to founders James Charlton and Bradley Weeks, the law firm includes attorneys Shelly Ditzhazy, Lisa Doran, Eric Gunderson and Samuel Birdsong. Charlton Weeks, LLP, specializes in transactional law and litigation law. Practice areas include: Wills and Trusts, Business Planning, Landlord Tenant, Real Property and Employment Law. The attorneys have experience in both the drafting of contracts (transactional law) and the defending of contracts (litigation). Because they handle all aspects of establishing and defending their clients' rights, they can provide excellent service. By defending contracts they become more accomplished in writing effective contracts.

***James Charlton***, received his J.D. degree Magna Cum Laude from Whittier College of Law in 1989. He has served as Director and Past President of the Antelope Valley Board of Trade. He served in the U.S. Army First Infantry Division, Viet Nam, Artillery Forward Team, with 1/18th Combat Infantry in 1969.

***Bradley Weeks*** received his J.D. degree in 1994 from Loyola Law School, Los Angeles. He has served as a Director of South Antelope Valley Education Foundation for a number of years.

## ***Lenton Co, Inc.***

Lenton Co, Inc. is a general contractor specializing in kitchen and bathroom remodeling, but also remodels specialty rooms such as closets, garages, sewing and laundry rooms. Company president Robert, (Rob) Lenton indicated that the commercial division also engages in build outs of retail, medical and office leasehold improvements. "Our production staff oversees the job from start to finish and completes most kitchens and bathrooms in three weeks", said Rob. The Lenton Company team, including employees, subcontractors and suppliers makes every effort to make remodeling a positive experience and to match customer's dreams and ideas to their budget. The Lenton Company has been in business for over 30 years and has won five consecutive "AV's Best" in the AV Press General Contractor category.

# Civ/Mil Tour of Antonovich Courthouse

By Dick Spann



On October 9th, President John Fergione and Civ/Mil Board members Danny Bazzell, Mike Belzil, Pan Patel, Terry Landsiedel, Lisa Moulton and Art Furtado, were treated to a tour of the local courthouse, arranged by fellow board member Richard Spann, a retired Judge. Spann believes that it is good for both the public and the Court to have open tours and discussions to foster a better

understanding of what the public expects and the Court process involves. The tour, which was led by a Sheriff's Deputy, allowed access into many areas which are not seen by the general public. These included the metal detectors upon entry, where the x-rays of purses and bags were visible, detention rooms for people suspected of bringing contraband into the courthouse, the Sheriff's control console monitoring all courtrooms, the hallways, lock-up and the dedicated parking area for courthouse employees. The group also saw the Judge's lunch room, the armory with its many varieties of weapons and the underground lockup with its monitored sally port where the inmates' busses arrive. They had an opportunity to view one of the four courtrooms being fitted out as the last of the unfinished courtrooms are being prepared for use, as well as an operational courtroom where the various processes were explained, along with the several security systems within the courtroom. They also had an opportunity to meet Supervising Judge Lisa Chung and Assistant Supervising Judge Christopher Estes. Those who attended were quite vocal in their enthusiasm for the tour as well as for those who acted as tour guides. Judge Spann hopes to offer future tours as the make-up of Civ/Mil changes and for those who could not attend.

In a related matter, several people associated with Civ/Mil were involved in the first graduation of the Veterans Court in the North District (Antelope Valley) of the Superior Court. Colonel David Radomski, Vice Commander of the 412th Test Wing, served admirably as keynote speaker for the ceremony. Lt. Colonel Dale Reidel, Commander of the Edwards AFB JAG office, also attended. Judge Spann also served as the liaison between the Base and Judge Estes, who presides over the Veterans Court. This is one of the specialty courts which has been created to assist veterans, who have been charged with a felony, to clear their records. The veterans who are eligible must have had little if any contact with the court system and must complete a rigorous 18 to 24 month program which is closely monitored by the Court and with the Department of Veterans Affairs. Many suffer from PTSD, alcoholism, and/or drug dependency, and some have been charged with domestic violence. Successful completion allows their felony conviction to be expunged, thus enhancing their chances for employment. This is a win/win program.

***Anyone interested in a future courthouse tour should notify Judge Spann of their interest.***

# Airmen Enjoy a Night at the JetHawks

By Matt Winheim, Civ-Mil Secretary

**May 22, 2015, JetHawks Stadium:** Civ-Mil Business Sponsor, Donald Collins, of Progress Farms, assisted by Carole Sarian, of The CrisCom Company, stepped up and hosted a group of military members from Edwards Air Force Base in honor of Military Appreciation Night at "The Hangar". It was a blustery spring Friday evening with unseasonably cool temperatures



in the Antelope Valley. These made for perfect conditions to watch a game... from a private suite! Military members had a chance to relax, unwind, enjoy food and beverages, and meet the event's gracious hosts. Some 20 military and family members came out to enjoy the game and comradery of local community members. My family and I were honored to be there to represent Civ-Mil amongst the dignified company. Kaboom, the mascot for the local team, even came up and greeted the troops and signed balls for all the kids, and a few airmen.



After the game, Mr. Collins conveyed a heartfelt "thank you" to all the military members present and expressed his gratitude for their service. A patriotic firework display then capped the event. Though the JetHawks fell to the Inland Empire, this evening was a home run for Civ-Mil!



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## JOHN ESCH INSTALLED AS NEW DIRECTOR FOR AIR FORCE PLANT 42

By Al Hoffman

On Wednesday, November 4th, the Air Force's 412th Test Wing Operating Location Air Force Plant 42 in Palmdale received its new Director, Mr. John B. Esch. An installation ceremony was held at Air Force Plant 42 and was attended by Plant 42 employees, 412 TW leadership, and representatives from the various contractors on the installation. Officiating the ceremony was Dr. David G. Smith, Installation Support Director, Edwards AFB.



John Esch comes to Air Force Plant 42 from McCarran International Airport in Las Vegas where he was the Airside Control Operations Manager. He was responsible for the Airport Control Center, all ramp activities, and gate scheduling for the world's 8th busiest airport (based on aircraft movements). Mr. Esch's span of control entailed collaborating with 33 tenant airlines and 5 interagency partners to ensure safety and security for over 42 million passengers per year. His annual budget authority included a \$5M payroll and the collection of \$23M in ramp and gate fees. His leadership also directly contributed to nearly \$300M in runway and ramp refurbishment projects.

Prior to joining the team at McCarran, John enjoyed a 32-year career with the US Air Force as an enlisted member, officer, and a civilian. He entered active duty in the security forces field, and later, after commissioning, became an air traffic control / airfield operations officer. His last federal services assignment was as a civilian terminal instrument procedures specialist assigned to HQ Air Mobility Command. Mr. Esch's deployment history includes Operations Eldorado Canyon, Allied Force, and multiple Enduring Freedom tours, to include commanding the 376 Expeditionary Operations Support Squadron, Manas Air Base, Kyrgyzstan. Mr. Esch is a qualified Joint Duty Officer. "JB" is married to the former Molly earl of Herrin, IL. They have three grown daughters and one granddaughter.

Air Force Plant 42 is home to NASA aircraft operations, major defense contractors such as Boeing, Northrop Grumman, and Lockheed Martin, and employs about 9,000 people. The installation provides command and control of the airfield complex and industrial facilities for production, modification, depot maintenance and flight test of U.S. aerospace systems.

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## Edwards Civ-Mil holds 26th annual BBQ

by Rebecca Amber

Staff writer

8/5/2015 - PALMDALE, Calif. -- As the rain poured down July 30 at Hacienda Lane Ranch in Palmdale, members of the Antelope Valley and Edwards Air Force Base communities gathered under awnings and fellowshipped. Just 30 minutes later the skies cleared, they dried all the tables and chairs and then enjoyed the 26th Annual Edwards Air Force Base Civilian Military Support Group Barbecue.

"The barbecue is just one more social at Civ-Mil. We spend all of our time trying to raise money to benefit Edwards AFB in some way; in the interim, we get together and have some fun and do some social things," said John Fergione, Edwards AFB Civ-Mil president.

While there is some modest fundraising at the barbecue, the main purpose is for the Civ-Mil members and leaders and the new commanders at Edwards to get to know each other.

Maj. Gen. David Harris, Air Force Test Center commander, and his wife Valene, were in attendance along with Brig. Gen. Carl Schaefer, 412th Test Wing commander, and his wife Pauline.

The Schaefers were stationed at Edwards several times before returning as the command team of the test wing. This year's barbecue was their third and each one has been an encouragement to the family.

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“It’s awesome to see the patriotic folks that we have in Southern California; to know that this is really a team sport,” said Schaefer. “They understand the value and the sacrifice that our military members and their family members make day to day and this is a great connection point for them and the military.”

Civ-Mil is run by 21 directors that meet on the second Thursday of every month. They ask base leadership about the wants and needs of the Airmen and then do their best to raise funds and meet those needs.

They have offered and provided support to Higher Grounds, Airman’s Attic, Hearts Apart and the Chiefs Group, to name a few. When possible, they also host senior Air Force officials to show them what the Antelope Valley has to offer.

This year, Civ-Mil donated money to maintain the Flag Park on Rosamond Blvd. across from Bldg. 1. There are 56 flags in the park that are on display year-round. According to Fergione, the wind and heat is “brutal” on the flags so they need to be replaced every few months. Each set of flags costs over \$1,000 to replace and Civ-Mil donated enough money to purchase the next four sets of flags.

“I’m a veteran. I remember when I was that age, we needed the help and just being recognized is sometimes all it takes,” said Fergione, a Navy veteran who flew A7-Es off the U.S.S. Forrestal.

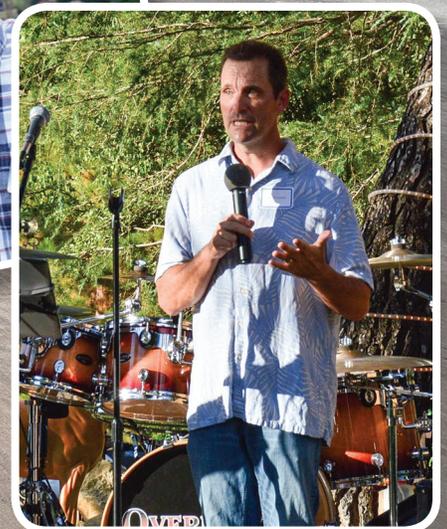
“Our relationship with Edwards is as good as it’s ever been and we work at keeping it good. Civ-Mil is 100 members strong right now and we’ve got more applications that we hope to approve next month.”

At the end of the night, Civ-Mil invited Francis Lane to dine at the Odyssey Restaurant in North Los Angeles as a guest of the executive board. A gift presentation for Lane is made every year as a thank you for hosting the barbecue at her ranch for the last 26 years.

Attendees also included U.S. Congressman Steve Knight (CA-25) and former Air Force Test Center commander retired Maj. Gen. Doug Pearson.

“Edwards Air Force Base enjoys, in my humble opinion, the best relationship with the community that I’ve ever seen at any base,” said Schaefer.

Edwards Civ-Mil was first established in 1989 in response to the Base Realignment Closure Commission’s determination to close bases all over the country and world. Today, the Edwards AFB Civilian-Military Support Group exists to create a friendly association between civic leaders and military personnel at Edwards. Civ-Mil acts as a host group when needed and finds annual service projects to improve the general quality of life on base.



# BBQ 2015

# BBQ

## Memories



## **Board of Directors**

**John Fergione: President**

**Mark Thompson: Vice President**

**Matt Winheim: Secretary**

**Dr. George “Bud” Reams: Treasurer**

**Past President: Danny Bazzell**

**Director at Large: Mike Belzil**

### **Directors**

Art Furtado	Julie Swayze
Allen Hoffman	Lisa Moulton
Terry Landsiedel	Cam Martin
George Nagy	Pan Patel
Rhonda Nelson	David Norris
Robert Slade	Richard Spann
Stan Turner	Dr. Les Uhazy

#### **Founder**

Aida O’Connor

## **Honorary Lifetime Directors**

Clyde Bailey

Alis Clausen

George Fox

Cathy Hansen

Aida O’Connor

Terry Scott

Andy Shillinglaw

## **The EAFB Civ-Mil Newsletter**

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**Al Hoffman & Linda KC Reynolds**

If you are enjoying reading this Newsletter, and you are not a member of Civ-Mil, but would like more information on the organization, please contact:  
George Nagy at (661) 400-5516

You may also submit your request in writing to:

EAFB Civ-Mil

P.O. Box 812

Lancaster, CA 93584-0812

Attn: Membership Chairman

<http://www.eafbcivmil.org>

## **Upcoming Events**

- 1. Civ-Mil “Welcome to the Antelope Valley”  
January 29, 2016**
- 2. Civ-Mil Spring Mixer  
TBD 2016**
- 3. Civ-Mil Annual BBQ  
TBD 2016**