



# Civilian Military Support Group NEWSLETTER



## AFFTC Honors Military and Civilian Team Members

Several Civ-Mil members attended the Air Force Flight Test Center Annual Workforce Awards Banquet held March 12 in the JSF Hangar 1820 on Edwards AFB. Each year the awards dinner honors the base's top military and civilian professionals for specific achievement to personal and professional excellence. Both co-workers and family members gather for this elegant special tribute to Edwards' finest.



**Master Sgt. Bobby Herron, 31st Test and Evaluation Squadron first sergeant, receives the First Sergeant of the Year Award from Major General David Eichhorn, AFFTC Commander, during the Air Force Flight Test Center Annual Awards ceremony March 12.**  
(Air Force photo / Mike Yncera)

The evening's theme this year was "Legendary Desert Warriors," and displays around the hangar and on the tables told the stories of many of the highest achieving test pilots and center leaders who are part of the rich history of Edwards Air Force Base. The national anthem was sung by



**Rex Moen, Pete Amaya, Brigadier General Jim Hogue, and Stan Turner at the AFFTC Annual Workforce Awards Banquet.**

a special Edwards National Anthem Choir and guests were entertained throughout the evening by the U.S. Air Force Golden Band of the West.

Awardees were applauded by an audience slapping together Flight Test Nation "thunder sticks" provided at each table, which added enthusiasm and fun to the recognition portion of the program. The big winner of the evening was the 412th Test Wing, whose personnel swept many of the awards in both civilian and active duty categories. Civ-Mil thanks the Flight Test Center for continuing to include us on their invitation list. Our members always enjoy celebrating this special event with our friends at the base in support of the tremendous contributions that Team Edwards makes to both the community and the nation. Hoorah!!

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## Running With the Wing

A couple weeks ago I volunteered to join the 412th Test Wing on their next monthly run here at Edwards which took place the morning of February 1, 2010.

This event is where the majority of the Airmen/women (both officer and enlisted), that make up the 412th Test Wing, get together for a 5K (3.1 miles) run down the flight line. There is the obvious physical training aspect to this run but I feel it goes even beyond that. It is an exercise that not only builds bodies but also builds character, camaraderie, teamwork and exemplifies the Wingman; someone who helps you and encourages you when you need it most and won't leave you when the chips are down.

On the morning of the run, which takes place the first Monday of each month, I got up at 5:00am, had my usual pre-run oatmeal, banana and cup of coffee and headed out the door for the base as ready as I was going to be for this event. I should have noted by the ice on the car outside that it was cold this morning, but having the luxury of an insulated garage I didn't notice the cold and left the house in only my running shorts, long sleeve running shirt and shoes. Once I got to the formation area and got out of my car I realized real quickly that at 30 degrees, it was cold outside! That was to be short-lived however.

The welcome I received from the troops was great and at no time did I feel like an outsider; in fact many people greeted me as if they had known me for years. Of course it could have been simply offerings of sympathy for me since they undoubtedly knew what the morning had in store for me.

We all formed up according to the various units that make up the 412th Test Wing and I estimate there must have been upwards of 300 of us out on the tarmac in the cold, first light of dawn. The formation was called to attention and instantly I found myself taken back 27 years; me back in uniform, standing at attention on yet another cold military morning waiting to do PT (physical training). It was definitely a nostalgic moment for me.

We were put through some stretching exercises and then came the calisthenics. As I dropped to the frozen ground to I thought to myself "Pushups? I don't do pushups!" and yet there I was counting off twenty, four-count pushups to get warmed up. I felt every one of those for a week!

After the warm-up and much to my surprise I was called up to the front and given my "place of honor" alongside Col. Miller 412th OG/CC, Col. Luallen USAF TPS Commandant and Col. Welz 412th TMG/CC. Out in front, carrying the guidon or standard of the 412th TW and setting the pace for this run was CMSgt. Mark Brejcha, 412th TW/CCC. It seemed that we were to run at the head of the formation and lead the way. Behind us were those 300 Airmen/women all decked out in matching USAF running suits and ready to run.

The Chief gave the command and the entire formation began moving as only a military formation can. Next came the raising of the standard as the Chief's commanding voice boomed across the flight line "DOUBLE TIME.....HO!!!!!" and off we went.

There was something about running down the flight line with this group of dedicated patriots that made this a special run for me. Off to our left was a giant C17 cargo plane sitting on the tarmac. Further on an even larger behemoth awaited; the venerable "BUFF" the B52. The calm quiet of the morning was now replaced by the sound of a large force of men and women moving as one.

The Chief set a good pace and I knew immediately that this was definitely going to be a faster pace than I normally run and I began to have some doubt that I'd make it the entire way but behind me, the steady sound of all those feet hitting the pavement gave me encouragement (ok, call it fear) to keep it steady, breathe and put one foot in front of the other.

We reached the main flight line, turned and began heading west where we soon passed a gleaming SR71 Blackbird, now retired and sitting in all its former glory awaiting a trip to the Flight Test Museum. My breathing was a bit irregular as it always is in the first mile before I get settled into a rhythm but I was holding my own.

Up ahead a truck with a couple of Security Forces policemen, always on guard, monitored the flight line as we trudged on by. Just past them a set of massive hangar doors were slowly opening to expose an RQ4 Global Hawk UAV waiting to be pulled out and take flight.

Continuing on I finally settled into my groove and was keeping pace with the Chief. I was amazed at how casually the Chief and Colonels were able to carry on conversations while we were running. It

may have been a conversational pace for them, but not for me. I was able to answer in 4 or 5 word phrases in between the effort of sucking down mass quantities of air into my lungs, but not much more.

Next up on my running tour this morning were the helicopters of the United States Marine Corps, MAG 41 Det A. On my left were several of the big double rotor helicopters one of which had its APU idling while the crew did preflight checks in preparation for an early morning mission. The smell of jet fuel hung in the cold air and was not at all unpleasant. To my right were quite a few more helicopters inside a hangar in various stages of readiness.

On we went. I was becoming patently aware of the fact that I was running at a pace I had not run in decades but the motivation of that small army behind me kept me moving.

We were now approaching the home of the USAF Test Pilot School and just beyond that "Test Ops" which is run by the 445th FLTS under the 412th Operations Group (the "O.G.") and is responsible for flight operations at the base. Off to my left now were numerous high performance jet aircraft; F16's and the dart-like T38's all sitting in the cold morning with frost on their backs waiting for their masters to climb in later this morning and take them rocketing skyward.

About this time I hear a loud "OOOH-RAH!! – O. G. COMING THROUGH!!!" as the standard bearer for the Ops Group came running up alongside me then out in front of the formation and around the other side waving his flag overhead and yelling "O G!" "O G!" As he did this, the rest of the Ops Group repeated loudly "O G!" Motivation is a great thing but all I was thinking was more like "Oh, Gee! I hope I don't collapse!"

We finally reached our turn around point and of course I had the outside of the turn which meant running faster to stay in line with the rest of the command group. Just what I needed because I surely wasn't winded enough yet (sarcasm off).

Heading back east we were treated to the O.G. standard bearer once again running circles around the formation while shouting "O.G., O.G.". I decided then and there that jet fuel must cause brain damage because that guy was definitely crazy!

Up ahead was a beautiful sight which took my mind off my labored breathing for a minute or two as there, backlit by the rising sun was the RQ-4 Global Hawk UAV being towed out to the flight line. What a beautiful (and large) aircraft! You look at this thing with its 116 foot wingspan and it is hard to believe that it is remote controlled.

At this point into the run I was feeling the pace. My legs were getting tired and my lungs were burning and it is at these times that the mind takes over and starts telling you things you don't want to hear. Things like "it's ok to stop. Nobody will notice!" But I knew they would and my pride was not going to let me listen to that voice so I began the standard mental routine I learned in the Army when the going got tough on a long run or road march. I began picking out a point ahead and telling myself "make it to that point, it's not that far, get there and then worry about making it to the next point". There were the Security Force cops; "I can make it to them" I told myself, then the SR71; "ok. Just make it to the plane" Etc... Col. Miller who was my wingman on this run must have noticed my near death status because he kept telling me "You're doing great! Almost there! Not much further!"

On we went with me mentally marking points ahead and moving on to the next and before I knew it we were turning towards home as the Chief called out to the formation “200 meters to go, keep it up we’re almost there!” then “100 meters”.....”50 meters!” and all of a sudden we crossed the finish line and were done!

I looked down and hit button on the timer on my wrist and was shocked to see the result - 27:41!!!!

Folks, I have not run a 5K in less than 32 minutes in over 26 years and yet with a bit of extra motivation, ok, a LOT of extra motivation, I finished the run without embarrassing myself or the good people of the Civ-Mil Support Group.

In closing, I want to say just how much I enjoyed running with the 412th TW and that they are a great group of true American patriots. I was honored to be afforded the opportunity to step into their world, even if for only an hour and I want to thank Colonel Thornton for allowing me this honor.

Associating with our Airmen at Edwards can bring out the best in a person as I experienced this morning because we blew away all my previous 5K finish times. Even though I had my doubts, the constant encouragement from my wingman Col. Miller, kept me focused on finishing and I dug down deep inside to respond and succeeded.

***To the men and women of the 412th TW. You Rock!!***

Danny Bazzell  
 Vice President  
 EAFB Civ-Mil Support Group  
 Honorary Commander 412th TW, 2008-2009

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## Honorary Commanders Recognized at New Year’s Reception

Major General David Eichhorn and the senior leadership at the Air Force Flight Test Center hosted the 2010 New Year reception on Sunday, January 10th at Club Muroc. It was a well attended affair by US Air Force military and civilian personnel, community leaders, and several members of the EAFB Civ-Mil Support Group. General Eichhorn spoke about the successes and challenges of the past year, and described the opportunities for the next twelve months. A video presentation was shown highlighting the contrast between the warmth and sun of our desert oasis and the (at that time) current conditions on the Eastern Seaboard as it was buried in the snow with dark and freezing days – all to the music of “California Dreaming.”

The highlight of the afternoon’s festivities was the official bestowment as Honorary Commanders to several individuals from the Antelope Valley community. Honorary Commanders were chosen representing the AFFTC Commander, the 412th Test Wing Commander, 95th Air Base Wing Commander, the Test Pilot School, Air Force

Research Lab (AFRL), several major groups, and the two Wings’ Chief Master Sergeants. A complete list of the various Commanders with their 2010 Honorary Commanders is below.

The event was another informative and fun affair, that Civ-Mil is most appreciative to have been included in. It was a good start to the new year.



**Colonel Jerry Gandy, 95th Air Base Wing Commander, pins Jack Stewart, who is Honorary Commander of the Wing’s Civil Engineering (CE) group.**



**Mr. Thomas Berard, AFFTC Executive Director, recognizes Mike Belzil as his Honorary Commander.**



**Cathy Hart is acknowledged by 95 ABW Commander Colonel Gandy as his Wing’s Honorary Commander**



**Dr. Les Uhazy is congratulated as being the Honorary Commander for Air Force Research Laboratory by the AFRL Commander, Colonel David Blanks.**



The 2010 New Year's Reception was held at Club Muroc and enjoyed by many.

Watch the next issue of the Civ-Mil Newsletter for information about the Honorary Commanders program at Edwards AFB.

AFFTC/CC	Maj Gen Eichhorn	Dick Rutan
AFFTC/CA	Mr. Berard	Mike Belzil
AFFTC/CR	Brig Gen Hogue	Danny Bazzell
AFFTC/CV	Col O'Conner	Domingo Gutierrez
412 TW/CC	Col Thornton	Stuart Witt
412 OG/CC	Col Miller	Bob Robertson
412 MXG/CC	Col Behne	Marie Walker
412 EWG/CC	Col Kurtz	Dr Ken Santarelli
412 TENG/CL	Mr. Tierney	Diane Grooms
412 TMG/CL	Ms. Erdman	Marvin Crist
USAF TPS/CC	Col Luallen	Sean Roberts
95 ABW/CC	Col Gandy	Cathy Hart
95 MSG/CC	Col Riggs	Chuck Church
95 MDG/CC	Col Taylor	Alan Burgess
95 CG/CC	Col Hardy	Rex Moen
95 ABW/CE	Mr. Judkins	Jack Stewart
EM Directorate	Bob Wood	Lee Barron
MAG 41, Det A/CC	Lt Col Keane	Axel Anderson
AFRL/CC	Col Blanks	Dr. Les Uhazy
ABW/CCC	CMSgt Eric Jaren	Mark Bozigian
TW/CCC	CMSgt Mark Brejcha	Bob Johnstone

## Civ-Mil Group Efforts Appear in Regional Media

The February 19, 2009 issue of Aerotech News & Review featured an article on our organization's project involving the Airman's Attic on Edwards AFB. It also announced forthcoming the Spring Mixer. Below is the story from Aerotech News reprinted with kind permission of author Raphael Jaffe.

members and a Lancaster Carpet store has offered to provide the materials at cost.

Airman's Attic is open three mornings a week for all Airmen grades E-6 and below; and corresponding Marine personnel. The first Saturday of each month it is open for senior enlisted. Donations are solicited and pick-ups can be arranged.

## Civ-Mil group supporting Edwards Airman's Attic

Spring Mixer also coming up

By Raphael Jaffe, staff writer

The major project by the Edwards AFB Civilian-Military Support Group for this year is the Airman's Attic. The Attic provides free support items for junior enlisted airmen and their families. It provides furniture, kitchen items and appliances, clothing for both children and adults, linens and toys. It relocated in January and Civ-Mil is planning to provide carpeting for the entire store. Board members Bob and Michele Slade, and VP Danny Bazzell are heading the effort. Cash donations are being solicited from the



A Spring Mixer has been arranged for base management and Civ-Mil members for April 15. General Eichhorn will attend, along with base senior commanders and staff. The mixer will be at Club Muroc. Board member John A. Fergione is the contact for those interested in attending, and may be contacted at [john.a.fergione@att.com](mailto:john.a.fergione@att.com).

Membership in the Civilian-Military Support Group is open to interested persons. Contact the Membership Chair at [dbazzell@farmersagent.com](mailto:dbazzell@farmersagent.com). Club dues and volunteer efforts are directed solely to supporting the men and women of Edwards AFB, and their families.

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## Civ-Mil Annual Project Underway

by Danny Bazzell

The time has now come for us to embark on this year's annual project. Your Executive Committee and Board of Directors has looked at the various areas in which we might provide assistance to the base and have settled on a very worthy endeavor as our annual project for 2010; The Airman's Attic.

What is the Airman's Attic (AA) you ask? Think of the AA as the clearing house at Edwards for those household items that departing service and community members do not need or desire to take with them when they relocate, retire or upgrade their homes. Rather than throw away or discard good, serviceable furniture, appliances, electronics, clothing, toys etc , those items are donated to the AA. The all volunteer staff at the AA then inspect, repair (if needed) and prepare the items for use by the young military families at Edwards (E6 and below) who may have need for these items but do not have the funds to purchase them through normal channels. All items at the AA are free to any qualifying family and in these tough times business is brisk at the AA.

Not long ago the AA was located in a small cramped space on base which made it extremely difficult to operate and display all the items available. This made it necessary to look for a larger space to house the AA and after much searching a new location was found and the AA has now been relocated to the site of the old Base Exchange. This new facility has roughly 8,000 square feet of space that will allow the AA to set itself up in a fashion similar to a department store where the needs of our service members can be better met.

There is one downside to the move however. With the tight military budgets there is not a lot of funding in place

to renovate the new facility and it does need some work to make it a pleasant, functional environment for the AA to operate in. One of the primary needs in terms of renovation is that of the flooring. The existing flooring consists of old tile and old carpet and is in a sad state of disrepair to say the least. Therefore we have decided that our annual project this year will be to have new flooring installed in the AA.

So, what is the scope of this project and how can we the members of Civ-Mil help? First off, the flooring will be installed by volunteers at the AA under the "self-help" program so all we need to do is come up with the materials. We are estimating that material cost for this project will be roughly \$15,000. We would be purchasing commercial grade carpet tiles and the adhesive needed to properly install the tiles. Carpet tiles were chosen as opposed to conventional large carpet rolls so that if an area gets damaged in the future, it can easily be repaired or replaced one tile at a time rather than having to cut out a section and patch it. Now, I know \$15,000 sounds like a lot of money, especially in a difficult economy and it is but this is where our numbers work to our advantage. If you take our membership as a whole and divide the cost of this project up amongst us all, it comes out to an average of only \$100.00 per member. That's not a lot of money when you consider the cause and the benefit to the men and women who serve our country and our way of life.

If you would like to make a tax deductible donation you can do so by sending your check to: EAFB Civ-Mil, PO BOX 812 LANCASTER, CA 93584-0812 . Please note on your check that the donation is for "Airman's Attic". Keep in mind that while we are asking for a \$100.00 donation from each member we realize that not everyone will be able to give that much and some may be in a position to give more so any amount no matter how small or large will benefit the project.

**Mike Belzil**

*President*

*EAFB Civ-Mil Support Group*



# Construction and Traffic Pattern Changes at Edwards' Gates

The gates for Edwards AFB are undergoing changes – a different look and new traffic patterns. A multi-year project to upgrade the three gates on Edwards recently commenced work on the third and final gate, the West (Rosamond Blvd.) Gate.

During the construction at the West Gate, the Entry Control and Visitors Control Points will be relocated. The far-right exit lane will be closed. Once completed, targeted for October 1st, the West Gate will have a new traffic pattern and increased security in the form of a final denial barrier system. The Century Circle display of fighter aircraft just outside the West Gate will be closed during construction.

Both the North and South Gates have completed the construction with the new curving entry and exit traffic lanes. The barrier system is complete and was activated in early March for both gates.

This final denial barrier system is a crash type net (similar to what is used on aircraft carrier flight decks) that does affect both the inbound and outbound lanes. Traffic signals accompany the system; yellow flashing lights indicate slow down and red lights, which will be accompanied by an audible warning, mean stop.



Part of the barrier system currently in place at the South and North Gates to Edwards AFB. (AF photo)

Please try to avoid using the West Gate for the next few months if possible. Also, with the new changes and the the construction underway, please drive very carefully when entering and leaving the base – Maintain low speeds in accordance with posted signs, Be aware of other drivers, signals, and security and construction personnel. And, please buckle up – always wear seatbelts.

# President's Corner

Do you know our Civ-Mil corporate members? We are fortunate to currently have several corporate members and our numbers continue to grow. We initiated the corporate level of participation during our 2009 membership year and had 14 members by year's end. This year, we have grown by nearly 30% and now stand at 18 dues-paying corporate members.

Corporate members are participating at a higher financial level of commitment than individual and joint members. Our organization recognizes them with a plaque in appreciation for their support.

The 2010 Civ-Mil corporate members and representative, in order of joining, are:

- Hanford Home Loans – Aida O'Connor
- Michael F. Burr, MD – Sandra Burr
- \*City of Lancaster – City Manager
- \*Palmdale Chamber of Commerce – Bill Hogrefe
- Aerotech News & Review, Inc. – Paul Kinison
- Metropolis Books – Julie Swayze
- Thompson Von Tunglen PC – Mark Thompson
- Rosamond Community Services District – Jack Stewart
- Chapel of the Valley – Dennis Persons
- Robertson Honda – Robert Robertson
- Burkey, Cox & Evans Accountancy Corp. – Laura Bradford
- Joyce Media – John Joyce
- Lancaster JetHawks – Larry Thornhill
- Union Bank – Pete Amaya
- Frye Chiropractic – Harry Engle
- Danny Bazzell Insurance Services – Danny Bazzell
- Elite Tax Services – Tammy Boyd
- Law Offices of Mario A. Pacione – Lisa Pacione
- Mojave Desert Bank – George Nagy
- VA Community Clinic Lancaster – Mark Chapa

\*Reciprocal Membership with Civ-Mil

We are especially thankful for our corporate sponsors, their commitment to our organization, and their interest in the men and women serving at Edwards Air Force Base. If you are interested in becoming a corporate member, or know of a good candidate, please contact our Membership Chairman, Art Furtado, at [ArtFurtado@roadrunner.com](mailto:ArtFurtado@roadrunner.com)

**Mike Belzil**  
**President EAFB Civ-Mil Support Group**

**Editor's Note:**

**Recently, several additional corporate members have joined Civ-Mil, and they will be recognized in upcoming newsletters.**

## Civ-Mil Newsletter

The Edwards AFB Civilian Military Support Group Newsletter is intended to provide the members of the Civ-Mil Support Group information regarding events relative to the Group and our Edwards Community as well as a look ahead at upcoming events.

*The newsletter is published quarterly.*

Articles, photographs, and calendar items are welcome. Please contact Al Hoffman at:

[al.m.hoffman@boeing.com](mailto:al.m.hoffman@boeing.com)

or 661-478-9792 for more information.

## MISSION

**“The purpose and general nature of this organization is to establish a friendly, benevolent association of civic leaders and military personnel at Edwards Air Force Base (EAFB), to host groups incoming to Edwards, and to consider service projects to benefit EAFB.”**

### Director Emeritus

Terry Scott, Alis Clausen

### Honorary Lifetime Directors

Clyde Bailey, Tom Craft  
Roger Persons, Aida O'Connor  
George Fox, Andy Shillinglaw

## THIS QUARTERS EVENTS

*15 April* – Civ-Mil Spring Mixer, Club Muroc

*15 April* – Civ-Mil Annual Project Fund Raising Kickoff (at Spring Mixer)

*22 July* – Civ-Mil BBQ, Lane Ranch

*22 July* – 2010-2011 Membership Renewal Kickoff (at BBQ)

*Sept/Oct* – Civ-Mil Installation Banquet

*16 Oct* – Flight Test Historical Foundation's Salute to the Space Shuttle Celebration, AV Fairgrounds

*TBA Dec* – Launch Event Vandenberg AFB

## BOARD DIRECTORS

Mike Belzil : President

Danny Bazzell: Vice President

James Welling: Secretary

George “Bud”Reams : Treasurer

Judy Bauer

Aida O'Connor

John Fergione

Pan Patel

Patricia Russell

Art Furtado

Cathy Hart

Robert Slade

Roger Hemme

Mark Thompson

Al Hoffman

Larry Jernigan

Bob Johnstone

Jack Stewart

Chuck Medicus

Dr. Les Uhazy

Rex Moen

*Founding Member*

*Aida O'Connor*