

Air Force World

F-16 Pilot Killed in Crash

Capt. William H. DuBois, 30, an F-16 pilot assigned to the 77th Fighter Squadron at Shaw AFB, S.C., was killed Dec. 1 after his fighter crashed “near a coalition air base in the Middle East,” according to an Air Forces Central Command news release.

DuBois had taken off on a mission around 11 p.m. on Nov. 30 in support of Operation Inherent Resolve, the US-led air campaign against ISIS terrorists in Iraq and Syria. He was attempting to return to a base in the region, shortly after takeoff, when he crashed.

“Losing Captain DuBois is sad and tragic. Our most sincere condolences go out to his family, friends, and squadron members during this difficult time,” said Col. Stephen F. Jost, 20th Fighter Wing commander. “Captain DuBois was a patriot who

was willing to put his life on the line every day in service to his nation. He was a valued airman, pilot, and friend ... [and] he will be greatly missed.”

DuBois was the first airman killed while supporting Operation Inherent Resolve. A marine was killed after bailing out of an MV-22 Osprey in October.

Air Commando Dies After Training Mishap

TSgt. Sean Barton, a pararescueman assigned to the 320th Special Tactics Squadron, died Oct. 30 from injuries sustained while rappelling during training near Kathmandu, Nepal, according to an Air Force Special Operations Command press release.

“Sean was a selfless leader on our team,” said Capt. Michael Erickson, 320th STS combat rescue officer and Barton’s team leader.

★ screenshot



12.03.2014

Lt. Col. Ryan Haden, 74th Fighter Squadron commander, lands an A-10C on a desert landing strip at White Sands Missile Range, N.M. The 74th FS was supporting Iron Strike, a large-scale live-fire exercise hosted by the Army’s 1st Armored Division.

“He aggressively pursued excellence with a smile on his face and laughter never far behind. His love for his family, loyalty to his team, and relentless determination serve as an example for us all.”

Barton, who joined the Air Force in 2003, had served in both Iraq and Afghanistan and was a recipient of multiple Air Medals, among other commendations.

NATO Announces Interim Spearhead Force

NATO announced Dec. 2 that an interim “spearhead force” will go operational next year as part of the Alliance’s efforts to improve readiness and assure eastern allies in light of Russian aggression in Ukraine.

NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg said the move is “the biggest increase in our collective defense since the

end of the Cold War.” The readiness action plan enables NATO “to meet any threats from wherever they come,” he said.

The interim force will primarily be made up of troops based in Germany, the Netherlands, and Norway, although all 28 countries “will contribute to this effort into the next year.” The interim force is expected to be available early this year.

NATO’s full capacity spearhead force will “provide the quick reaction capability we need,” added Stoltenberg. Allied defense ministers are slated to decide the full size and design of the force in February, and the “aim is to stand it up in 2016,” according to officials.

Arizona Predators

The Arizona Air National Guard launched its first Stateside MQ-1 Predator sortie from Fort Huachuca, Ariz., Nov. 5.



USAF photo by A1C Ryan Callaghan

The sortie was enabled by the unit's new launch and recovery element, according to a wing news release. "The LRE completion is a product of more than six years of planning and preparation, and the first flight of an Arizona MQ-1 ... was a great milestone for our wing," said 162nd Wing Commander Col. Phil Purcell.

The wing's 214th Reconnaissance Group began flying remote RPA combat missions in theater from Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz., eight years ago.

The new LRE will take on a crew-training role to "prepare airmen from across the country to operate and maintain our nation's RPA assets, and as one of only five ANG LREs in the country, Arizona remains at the forefront of readiness for any federal or state requirement," Purcell said.

The unit has logged more than 70,000 combat flying hours to date and is still awaiting the completion of hangars and support facilities next year.

Missile Forces Adopt Three-Year Rotations

The Air Force will adopt a test scheme forcewide to rotate new missileers after three years of proficiency building into three-year instructing or supervisory roles, announced 20th Air Force, which oversees ICBM forces.

"In the past, the focus was to become an instructor or evaluator, leading to less experienced people" often overseeing more experienced officers, explained Maj. Ray Vann, ICBM operations lead at Air Force Global Strike Command's Applied Capabilities Office.

The new "3+3" plan decreases the length of first-term assignments and allows launch officers to gain experience. It was beta tested at Minot AFB, N.D., earlier this year.

The result, thus far, has been that officers in the missile field "attain a high level of expertise as leaders and operators so they can lead from the front when they become commanders of ICBM units," said Col. Jay Folds, 20th Air Force operations director.

"An added benefit to the '3+3' model is the new perspective gained by serving in multiple units" early in a career, Vann said.

Bears at the Back Door

Russian bombers will expand long-range patrols in the Western Hemisphere, including international airspace in and around the Gulf of Mexico, Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu announced in November.

Long-range aviation units, including Russia's Tu-160 and Tu-95 strategic bombers, will expand exercises to include areas over the Arctic and the Western Hemisphere.

Shoigu previously said Russia is negotiating basing and refueling access rights to airfields in Cuba, Venezuela, and Nicaragua to support such exercises.

The announcement comes on the heels of criticism over recent exercises involving strategic bombers over Europe, which NATO Supreme Allied Commander,

Partnership or Waste?

US investigators launched several investigations into whether US-handled aircraft procurements for the Afghan Air Force breached criminal law.

The United States is aiming to set the AAF up as a sustainable air arm, but purchases such as a fleet of 20 C-27A transports proved incredibly wasteful, special inspector general for Afghanistan reconstruction John F. Sopko said at a press roundtable in Washington, D.C.

The Air Force ended up scrapping the problem-plagued Afghan C-27s for pennies on the dollar earlier this year. "They didn't fly and didn't work," said Sopko. His office, known as SIGAR, estimates that the total cost of the C-27 contract amounted to between \$600 million and \$800 million, although his auditors have not yet determined a full accounting of the costs.

"We want to find out why [the purchase was made] and see if there are lessons learned," he added. The planned acquisition of additional Mi-17 helicopters for the AAF was problematic as well, he said.

That's because the Afghans had difficulty flying and maintaining their existing Mi-17 fleet, and SIGAR saw no need to add new-build airframes to it, he said.

—Marc V. Schanz

Europe, USAF Gen. Philip M. Breedlove called overt acts attempting to message the US and its allies on Russia's military reach and influence.

Iraqis in the Arizona Desert

The Defense Department will deliver the Iraqi Air Force's first batch of new-build F-16s to Tucson, Ariz., where they will be used to train Iraqi pilots, officials announced.



The jets were originally slated for delivery to Balad Air Base in Iraq, but those plans changed due to the security situation in Iraq, including ISIS terrorist threats that forced contractors involved in the transfer to evacuate the installation, according to a Nov. 10 news release.

Iraqi pilots were already in a training pipeline at Tucson Airport and the first three Iraqi F-16s were expected in Tucson by December, DOD spokesman Army Col. Steven Warren said. Deliveries will continue at the rate of one per month through May 2015, when all eight F-16s have been handed over.

"We expect the Iraqi pilots will begin flying their own aircraft for continuation training beginning in January," said Warren. "All maintenance for the F-16s will be provided by [contractor] logistic support," he said.

Aggressor Gapfiller

The Air Force Weapons School pulled F-15s from Seymour Johnson AFB, N.C., to temporarily fill a gap left by the loss of its dedicated F-15 aggressor squadron at Nellis AFB, Nev.

"Having the Seymour Johnson operators and aircraft here is critical to achieving our Weapons School advanced training objectives," said school commandant Col. Adrian Spain in a Nov. 7 press release.

"We're losing our Red Air capacity, capable of replicating a high-end adversary with the stand-down of the 65th Aggressor Squadron and the accompanying loss of those

We Got This: Army paratroopers from the 82nd Airborne Division watch a C-17 take off during a USAF Weapons School large-scale air mobility exercise, Joint Forcible Entry, at the Nevada Test and Training Range. More than 100 paratroopers and some 100 aircraft, including more than 50 C-17s and C-130s, took part. During Joint Forcible Entry—a capstone event that culminates a five-month weapons school course—participants seize and hold hostile or potentially hostile areas against armed opposition in the air and on the ground, to make the continuous landing of troops and materiel possible.

NATO AWACS End Afghan Mission

NATO's E-3 AWACS component concluded its final two-year rotation to Afghanistan, where it provided air traffic management and command and control over the country for nearly four years.

"The NATO E-3A component flag has been taken down. The mission has been accomplished," said German air force Col. Werner Nemetschek, who led NATO's AWACS detachment.

Alliance-owned AWACS airplanes flew a total of 1,250 sorties, logging 14,000 flying hours and directing more than 25,650 combat aircraft since beginning rotations there in January 2011, according to NATO.

The E-3s initially flew from NATO's permanent AWACS forward operating location at Konya AB, Turkey, until support facilities could be established at Mazar-e Sharif, Afghanistan.

The final NATO AWACS aircraft returned to Geilenkirchen, Germany, at the end of September, two months before the component's last personnel left Afghanistan on Nov. 18.

—Aaron M. U. Church

F-15C aircraft," he said. The bulk of the school's F-15Cs were passed on to Air National Guard units when Nellis officials inactivated the 65th AGRS in September due to budget cuts.

A few F-15Cs were shuffled to Nellis' F-16 aggressor squadron until early this year, after which the school will be without an organic high-end dual-engine adversary platform.

F-15Es from Seymour Johnson's 335th Fighter Squadron supported the school's weapons instructor course from Oct. 11 to Nov. 1, according to the news release.



USAF photo by SSgt. Victoria Sneed

Captured, Copied, and Flown

Iran claims to have test-flown a remotely piloted aircraft based on reverse-engineered technology gleaned from a captured Lockheed Martin RQ-170 stealth RPA, the state-run Fars News Agency reported.

“We had promised to fly the final model of RQ-170 in the second half of the current year and this has happened,” said Brig. Gen. Amir Ali Hajizadeh, head of Iran’s air force, in the Nov. 10 news article. “The footage of its flight will be released soon,” he said.

Iran’s military claims that the RQ-170 brought down in 2011 was redirected via electronic warfare means. US officials maintain that the RPA inadvertently strayed off course during operations over Afghanistan.

According to the press report, Iran’s prototype RPA is a scaled-down version of the RQ-170, intended for both intelligence gathering and ground attack.

Florida Dutch

The Royal Netherlands Air Force inaugurated its first F-35 Lightning II squadron at Eglin AFB, Fla., in a flag ceremony there on Nov. 4.

No. 323 Squadron furled its colors as an F-16 unit at Leeuwarden AB, Netherlands, on Nov. 4 and temporarily relocated to Eglin before heading to Edwards AFB, Calif., where it will conduct the Dutch F-35 operational test and evaluation.

“Performing OT&Es is a familiar task for 323 Squadron,” Eglin detachment commander RCAF Col. Bert de Smit said in a press release.

The unit also handled Dutch F-16 operational testing. “Now the squadron has been given the honorable task of preparing the defense organization for operations with an extremely versatile fifth generation jet fighter,” he added.

By the Numbers

\$32,000

The scrap-metal value of the \$700 million C-27A airlift fleet bought for the Afghan Air Force and currently under investigation.

The Dutch plan to operate at least 37 F-35As. Two Netherlands jets are currently flying at Eglin. The squadron was scheduled to move to Edwards at the end of 2014.

Goodbye Spartan

The Coast Guard took delivery of the first of 14 former Air National Guard C-27J transports it is slated to receive.

The airplane, which formerly served at the Mississippi ANG’s schoolhouse at Key Field in Meridian, was ferried on Nov. 13 from the Air Force’s aircraft “Boneyard” at Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz., to CGAS Elizabeth City, N.C.

Sharper Eyes in the Sky: Workers at Tinker AFB, Okla., install critical Block 40/45 upgrades to E-3 AWACS aircraft during programmed depot maintenance in November. Upgraded Sentries reached initial operational capability at Tinker in July 2014, and some E-3s with the new equipment are now supporting counterdrug operations. Officials consider the Block 40/45 modifications to be the most significant upgrades the aircraft type has undergone in its more than 35-year history.

USAF photo



The War on Terrorism

Operation Inherent Resolve

Casualties

By Dec. 16, a total of three Americans had died in Operation Inherent Resolve. All three troops died in noncombat incidents.

No troops have been wounded in action during OIR.

A-10s Back In the Sandbox

A-10s redeployed from Afghanistan to the Persian Gulf region, marking the first confirmed deployment of the close air support aircraft in support of anti-ISIS operations in Iraq and Syria.

The A-10s, assigned to the 122nd Fighter Wing at Fort Wayne ANG, Ind., joined the recently reactivated 332nd

Air Expeditionary Group at an undisclosed base in the Middle East, from Nov. 17 to Nov. 21. The 332nd AEG stood down in 2012 after years of supporting combat operations in Iraq.

"The A-10s now will only be supporting military requirements in the Gulf region, including but not limited to Operation Inherent Resolve," Air Forces Central Command spokesman Lt. Col. Tadd Sholtis told *Air Force Magazine*.

Before relocating to the Gulf, the 122nd Fighter Wing briefly deployed to Afghanistan to meet a "temporary but urgent requirement for additional CAS" with the departure of allied air assets, Sholtis said.

—Marc V. Schanz

Operation Enduring Freedom

Casualties

By Dec. 16, a total of 2,356 Americans had died in Operation Enduring Freedom. The total includes 2,352 troops and four Department of Defense civilians. Of these deaths, 1,846 were killed in action with the enemy while 510 died in noncombat incidents.

There have been 20,060 troops wounded in action during OEF.

Afghans Sign Security Pact

Coalition and Afghan forces signed agreements permitting troops to remain in Afghanistan after combat operations concluded in 2014, amid renewed Taliban attacks.

The Afghan Parliament overwhelmingly approved the long-awaited bilateral security agreement and the NATO status of forces agreement on Nov. 27. The White House said the agreements "represent an invitation from the Afghan people to strengthen the relationship we have built over the past 13 years."

"The BSA fully implements the strategic partnership agreement that our two governments signed in May 2012 and enables our long-term cooperation to promote the security, stability, and unity of Afghanistan. This also contributes to the security of the United States and our coalition partners and to the stability of the region," according to a White House statement.

In the lead-up to the pact, the Taliban increased the

number of attacks, notably in and around Kabul. "The signings have intensified their anger as the presence of foreign troops has always been opposed by the Taliban," said Siddiq Siddiqi, a spokesman for the Interior Ministry, according to a Bloomberg report.

Brits End Afghan Combat Ops

British forces ended their combat role in Afghanistan, handing control and use of Camp Bastion over to Afghan forces, in preparation for a transition to the advisory and training role in November.

"We have said farewell to British forces in Helmand and now Kandahar, bringing to a close our combat mission here in Afghanistan," said British Army Maj. Gen. Ben Bathurst, commander of UK forces Afghanistan, in a Nov. 24 Ministry of Defense press release.

Tornado GR4 strike aircraft completed the Royal Air Force's final tactical deployment to Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan, earlier in November, and the RAF's expeditionary air wing at Kandahar provided close air support, aerial refueling, tactical airlift, intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance, and remotely piloted aircraft support.

The British were operationally responsible for Helmand province alongside US marines and Danish forces in southern Afghanistan, often seeing intense action.

Some 453 British troops and defense civilians were killed in action since 2001, according to MOD figures.

Pegasus' Picked Men

The Air Force has selected a total of 41 officers and enlisted members from the Active Duty component, Air National Guard, and Air Force Reserve Command to constitute the aircrews for the initial operational test and evaluation phase of the KC-46A tanker.

"Test and evaluation aircrew will evaluate the tanker's capabilities under all circumstances and situations to ensure that it meets all operational mission requirements," said Maj. Broc Starrett, who oversees Mobility Air Forces rated assignments for the Air Force Personnel Center, on Nov. 24.

"This is a significant milestone in the careers of the pilots and boom operators selected to test the new tanker," he said, because the airmen selected for these positions "must be the best in their field."

Technicians aimed to refurbish the second C-27J destined for the Coast Guard for delivery by the end of November, Teresa Pittman, spokeswoman for Davis-Monthan's 309th Aerospace Maintenance and Regeneration Group, told *Air Force Magazine*.

The first C-27J was stored in Army markings left over from the time of the joint Air Force-Army C-27 program, Pittman noted.

The Coast Guard is passing seven HC-130s to the US Forest Service and curtailing its buy of HC-177 search aircraft in exchange for the C-27Js. This move is expected to save the Coast Guard approximately half-a-billion dollars in acquisition costs. The rest of the Air Force's 21 C-27s are earmarked for transfer to US Special Operations Command.

Senior Staff Changes

CONFIRMATIONS: To Lieutenant General: Mark C. **Nowland**. **To ANG Major General:** Jon K. **Kelk**, James C. **Witham**. **To ANG Brigadier General:** Nathaniel S. **Reddicks**.

NOMINATIONS: To be Lieutenant General: Charles Q. **Brown Jr.** **To be Brigadier General:** James J. **Burks**.

CHANGES: Maj. Gen. Howard B. **Baker Sr.**, from Dir., Log., AFMC, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, to Vice Cmdr., AFMC, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio ... Brig. Gen. Sam C. **Barrett**, from Dir., Central Command Deployment & Distributions Ops. Ctr., CENTCOM, Southwest Asia, to Cmdr., Joint Enabling Capabilities Command, TRANSCOM, Norfolk, Va. ... Brig. Gen. David B. **Been**, from Dep. Dir., Global Ops., Jt. Staff, Pentagon, to Dir., Spec. Prgms., USD for Acq., Tech., & Log., OSD, Pentagon ... Maj. Gen. Charles Q. **Brown Jr.**, from Dir., Ops., Strat. Deterrence & Nuclear Integration, USAFE, Ramstein AB, Germany, to Cmdr., AFCENT, ACC, Al Udeid, Qatar ... Lt. Gen. Andrew E. **Busch**, from Vice Cmdr., AFMC, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, to Dir., Defense Log. Agency, Ft. Belvoir, Va. ... Brig. Gen. Michael A. **Fantini**, from Cmdr., Kandahar Airfield, Intl. Security Assistance Force, CENTCOM, Kandahar, Afghanistan, to Principal Dir., Middle East Policy, Office of USD for Policy, OSD, Pentagon ... Brig. Gen. Mark K. **Johnson**, from Cmdr., Defense Log. Agency-Aviation, Defense Log. Agency, Richmond, Va., to Cmdr., Oklahoma City ALC, AFMC, Tinker AFB, Okla. ... Brig. Gen. Brian M. **Killough**, from Dir., Warfighter Sys. Integration, Office of the Chief Info. Dominance & CIO, OSAF, Pentagon, to Dep. Dir., Ops., Office of Security Cooperation-Iraq, CENTCOM, Baghdad, Iraq ... Brig. Gen. Donald E. **Kirkland**, from Cmdr., Oklahoma City ALC, AFMC, Tinker AFB, Okla., to Dir., Log., AFMC, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio ... Brig. Gen. Charles L. **Moore Jr.**, from Dep. Chief, Office of Security Cooperation-Iraq, CENTCOM, Baghdad, Iraq, to Dep. Dir., Global Ops., Jt. Staff, Pentagon ... Lt. Gen. Mark C. **Nowland**, from C/S, SOUTHCOM, Miami, to Cmdr., 12th AF (Air Forces Southern), ACC, Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz. ... Maj. Gen. Michael T. **Plehn**, from Principal Dir. for Middle East Policy, Office of USD for Policy, OSD, Pentagon, to C/S, SOUTHCOM, Miami ... Maj. Gen. (sel.) Jacqueline D. **Von Ovost**, from Dep. Dir., Political-Mil. Affairs, Europe, Jt. Staff, Pentagon, to Vice Dir., Jt. Staff, Pentagon.

COMMAND CHIEF CHANGE: CMSgt. William C. **Markham**, from Command Chief, Combined Jt. Spec. Ops. Air Component, 1st Expeditionary SOW, Afghanistan, to Command Chief, AF Spec. Ops. Air Warfare Center, Hurlburt Field, Fla.

SENIOR EXECUTIVE SERVICE RETIREMENT: Barbara J. **Barger**.

SES CHANGES: Lynne E. **Baldrighi**, to Principal Dep. Dir., AF Studies, Analyses & Assessments, USAF, Pentagon ... Darwyn O. **Banks**, to Tech. Dir., Comm. Sys. Directorate, Natl. Recon Office, AFSPC, Chantilly, Va. ... Susan E. **Hirst**, to Dep. Dir., Capability & Resource Integration, CYBERCOM, STRATCOM, Ft. Meade, Md. ■

The KC-46 is slated to enter the Air Force's inventory in 2016, pending the results of operational test and evaluation. KC-46s will replace the Air Force's oldest KC-135 tankers.

Silver Constellation

MSgt. Thomas Case, a tactical air control party airman with the 18th Air Support Operations Group at Pope Field, N.C., was awarded a second Silver Star for heroism in Afghanistan during a ceremony at Pope on Nov. 13.

"Master Sergeant Case answered his nation's call and defended his country with his life. He is the embodiment of our legacy of valor and will always be part of our proud heritage," said Maj. Gen. H. D. Polumbo Jr., 9th Air Force commander, presenting the medal.

Case accompanied a team of Army rangers into the mountains of Afghanistan on a mission to destroy enemy camps in June 2009. During the ensuing firefight, Case frequently exposed himself to enemy fire to ensure he

Index to Advertisers

Boeing.....	Cover II
Bradford Exchange.....	67
Mercer.....	70
MetLife.....	Cover IV
USAA.....	Cover III

AFA Corporate Members.....	33
AFA Hotel Discounts.....	69
AFA Member Benefits.....	61
AFA Planned Giving.....	75
Air Force Association Air Warfare Symposium.....	69
<i>Air Force Magazine</i> and Daily Report.....	5
#ASKAFA.....	74
Mybrainsolutions.com.....	72
Pet Insurance.....	75

knew the enemy's position to call in air strikes and could see where the friendly munitions were hitting.

He called in gunship support danger-close to his position, exposed himself to protect his ground force commander, and climbed a steep incline to fend off insurgents at close range and under direct fire.

Requiem for Roland Wright

The Utah Air National Guard christened its longtime operating location east of Salt Lake City Airport the Roland Wright Air National Guard Base in honor of the state's first Air Guard chief of staff.

Building on Anti-Sexual-Assault Success

With recent survey results showing Air Force anti-sexual assault education and victim response efforts paying off, the "next push that we're taking on now is prevention," service Vice Chief of Staff, Gen. Larry O. Spencer told *Air Force Magazine*.

"We've done a lot to educate people, we've done a lot to make certain our victims are cared for ... but in an ideal world, the crime would never happen," Spencer said in an interview, Dec. 8.

In January, Air Force leaders are hosting a four-and-a-half day Sexual Assault Prevention Summit to hammer out new measures the service can implement to prevent sexual assault before it happens, he announced. "We plan to end the conference with the list of things we're going to do and move out on them immediately," Spencer explained.

Though the results of the study were overall positive, the issue of retaliation—professional or personal—against victims, troubled him.

"The number of folks that reported that there is some retaliation involved and associated with reporting was disturbing to me personally," Spencer said. Everything from peer-gossip to supervisors taking professional revenge fell under the survey's definition of "retaliation," Spencer said, so he went back to the study's authors to "get a little more detail."

Anecdotally, airmen said the problem is "not so much my commander or my first sergeant," but midlevel bosses, who may happen to be friends of the accused, taking it out on victims, Spencer recounted. The issue appears to be a defensewide, and Air Force officials are "already moving" on ways to increase midlevel supervisor education and accountability, in line with DOD efforts, he said.

—Aaron M. U. Church



Hagel Announces Nuclear Overhaul

Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel unveiled an enterprise-wide action plan for investment, improvement, and reform to address systemic problems identified across the nation's nuclear deterrent force.

"Our nuclear enterprise is foundational to America's national security, and our attention must reflect that," Hagel said in a Nov. 14 Pentagon briefing. DOD will work to add 10 percent to the nuclear budget each of the next five years, with an emphasis on actions that improve the security and sustainment of the current force, ensure that modernization of the force remains on track, and enhance the morale of the force, said Hagel.

Currently, DOD spends between \$15 billion and \$16 billion a year on the nuclear mission. An internal and an independent external review of the nuclear force made more than 100 recommendations for the additional investment, he said.

The reviews found that nuclear forces are meeting demands, but changes must be made to address issues that could undermine the safety, security, and effectiveness of the force.

—Marc V. Schanz

Where No Man Has Gone ... Yet: A United Launch Alliance Delta IV rocket successfully launched the Orion spacecraft into space from Cape Canaveral AFS, Fla. Orion is designed to take humans farther into space than they have ever gone before and will serve as an exploration vehicle. The spacecraft will sustain the crew during space travel and provide safe re-entry from deep space return velocities. The unmanned Dec. 5 flight test evaluated launch and high-speed re-entry systems such as avionics, attitude control, parachutes, and the spacecraft's heat shield.

"Roland Wright is truly a giant, and it's only fitting that this air base, where he so faithfully served our state and our nation, be named in his honor," said Army Maj. Gen. Jefferson Burton, adjutant general of Utah's National Guard, in a news release.

Wright logged 200 hours as a P-51 pilot in Europe during World War II and joined the nascent Utah Air Guard as one of the 191st Fighter Squadron's first pilots in 1946, according to the press release. He served as a squadron and group commander and eventually Utah's chief of staff for air from 1969 to 1972, in addition to flying combat missions in Vietnam.

"He was an aviation pioneer here in Utah, providing tremendous leadership," said Burton. Wright, now 95, who retired as a brigadier general in 1976, was at the ceremony, Nov. 18, reported the *Salt Lake Tribune*. ★