

Air Force World

A Grassroots Fix to the RPA Problem

Air Combat Command recently launched the Culture and Process Improvement Program, meant to address stress on airmen and families within the remotely piloted aircraft community, officials announced Aug. 31.

To help pinpoint such concerns, the command sent 3,366 surveys to officers and enlisted airmen throughout the MQ-1 and MQ-9 career fields. Beginning Sept. 8, two CPIP

teams were to visit 12 Active Duty, Air National Guard, and Reserve locations to conduct meetings and build on what is gathered from the survey process.

"We're seeing problems in the MQ-1/9 community at both the major command and base levels that can be solved quickly," said Col. Troy Jackson, C2ISR operations division chief and CPIP officer in charge. "Airmen in this career field are being exhausted with no end in sight; we

★ screenshot

09.04.2015

F-22 Raptors from Tyndall AFB, Fla., and A-10s from White-man AFB, Mo., fly in formation over Amari AB, Estonia. USAF has deployed airmen, aircraft, and support equipment to Europe to conduct air training with aircraft based on the continent in an ongoing reassurance effort to NATO allies in Eastern Europe.

want to fix this.” The program is based on Air Force Global Strike Command’s Force Improvement Program. It takes a grassroots approach to identifying and solving problems.

Air Force Adds Civil Air Patrol to Total Force

The Civil Air Patrol is now included in the Total Force when conducting missions for the Air Force as the official auxiliary, the Air Force announced. The service expanded

the descriptions of the Total Force in the updated Doctrine Volume 2, “Leadership,” in August.

Members of the auxiliary should be referred to as airmen during the performance of their official duties, and leaders should consider CAP along with the other parts of the Total Force when planning the best way to complete the mission.

CAP has about 57,000 volunteers and 550 aircraft, and members fly nearly 100,000 hours each year for a wide range of missions.



USAF photo by TSgt. Jason Robertson



Building an F-35 Maintenance Force

The Air Force has enough maintainers in place to meet the initial operational capability deadline for the F-35 by moving A-10s to backup status, transferring some Active Duty maintainers out of associate units, contracting one maintenance unit, and converting some airmen to the F-35 from the F-16, USAF spokeswoman Ann Stefanek said.

The Air Force had said it would not have enough airmen to meet the IOC date of August 2016 if it could not proceed with its plan to retire the A-10, but after Congress blocked the bulk of that move, the service was able to move 18 A-10s to backup inventory status, freeing up some maintainers, Stefanek said.

To add more, USAF moved some Active Duty airmen from associate units with the Guard and Reserve, along

A Puff of Smoke: A United Launch Alliance Atlas V rocket launches a Mobile User Objective System satellite from Cape Canaveral AFS, Fla., on Sept. 2. MUOS is a military satellite designed to improve communication between mobile US forces.

with contracting out the 62nd Aircraft Maintenance Unit at Luke AFB, Ariz., and converted F-16 maintainers at Hill AFB, Utah, earlier than planned. The Air Force plans to meet IOC with the units at Hill. (See "Hill Gets First F-35s.")

New Four-Star Positions

Gen. David L. Goldfein officially became the 38th Air Force vice chief of staff Aug. 6 during a ceremony at JB

Hill Gets First F-35s

The first F-35A Lightning IIs assigned to Hill AFB, Utah, touched down at the base Sept. 2. Airframes AF-77 and AF-78 are assigned to the 388th Fighter Wing and Air Force Reserve Command associate 419th FW.

Hill is slated to receive 72 F-35As by 2019, becoming the Air Force's first combat-coded Lightning II unit when the jets reach initial operational capability, targeted for the latter part of next year.

Hill is the fifth Air Force and 10th overall base to receive the strike fighter. It activated the 34th Fighter Squadron as its first dedicated F-35A squadron earlier this summer and plans to have at least 15 aircraft there by next summer.

By the Numbers

1,422

Number of Air Force units eligible for the Global War on Terrorism service streamer. The units are now authorized to add the streamer to their unit colors in recognition of direct support of combat operation since 2001. Home units, rather than expeditionary units, can retain their campaign streamers, the Air Force announced Sept. 1. Units are eligible for deployments to Afghanistan and Iraq, home-station missions such as Operation Noble Eagle, or direct combat support, such as remotely piloted aircraft operations.

Anacostia-Bolling, D.C. Goldfein, who previously served as director of the Joint Staff at the Pentagon, also was promoted to four-star rank at the ceremony.

Goldfein took over the role as the service's No. 2 uniformed officer from Gen. Larry O. Spencer, who retired after nearly 44 years of uniformed service and now serves as president of the Air Force Association.

Gen. Darren W. McDew assumed command of US Transportation Command from Air Force Gen. Paul J. Selva during an Aug. 26 ceremony at Scott AFB, Ill.

Defense Secretary Ashton B. Carter officiated at the change of command, saying McDew is one of the "most accomplished military leaders" who will now oversee a "vital command."

Selva is now the vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

The new head of Air Mobility Command, Gen. Carlton D. Everhart II, assumed command of AMC during an Aug. 11 ceremony at Scott.

USAF Opens SAR Services to Civilians

The Air Force has extended more sexual assault prevention and response services to civilians, service Secretary Deborah Lee James said Aug. 24.

Previously, only civilian employees stationed outside of the United States and service members had access to sexual assault response coordinators, and civilians could only file unrestricted reports. Now, civilians can get crisis intervention and advocacy services from SARCs and victim advocates 24 hours a day, seven days a week, no matter where they

Electric Boogaloo: TSgt. John Rorie runs a postflight inspection on an EC-130H Compass Call at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan. The EC-130 is an electronic warfare aircraft whose airmen operate offensive counterinformation and electronic-attack equipment.

DOD To Increase RPA patrols

Pentagon officials are finalizing a plan for a 50 percent increase in remotely piloted aircraft missions in just four years. This will tap the Army, special operations forces, and contractors to pick up more sorties while the Air Force tries to beef up the number of its RPA personnel.

Recently authorized to drop down to 60 combat air patrols with its RPA fleet, the Air Force maintained a continuous presence of 65 CAPs just last year. The reduction resulted from USAF seeking some temporary relief for the undermanned and heavily tasked RPA community, as the service attempts to stabilize retention, training, and manning in that sector.

The Pentagon said Aug. 17 it would increase the total number of patrols to 90 by 2019. Defense Department spokesman Army Lt. Col. Joe Sowers said the Army will fly between 10 to 20 CAPs with its MQ-1C Gray Eagle fleet, US Special Operations Command will fly no more than 10 CAPs, and government-owned, contractor-operated aircraft will fly about 10 CAPs under the plan. Contractor aircraft will fly only intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance sorties.

are stationed, according to an Air Force news release.

SARCs and victim advocates can help call the right law enforcement agency if a victim chooses to file an unrestricted report, and can help find off-base support services, if necessary. DOD approved the change for one year to assess whether to make it permanent. Civilians who work for other services will not be affected. Air Force civilians still cannot



USAF photo by TSgt. Joseph Swafford

USAF photo by Joshua Swanson



No Light in the Night: A C-17 from JB Lewis-McChord, Wash., rests on the ice at Pegasus Airfield near McMurdo Station, Antarctica, for Operation Deep Freeze. Resupplying McMurdo was limited to the six months of the year that Antarctica had sunlight, but night vision capabilities now mean pilots are able to successfully navigate to and land safely on the runway even in pitch darkness.

receive legal and nonemergency medical services, which are restricted by law.

Starter-Generator Failure Caused Reaper Crash

A starter-generator failure caused the crash of an MQ-9A Reaper in February in the US Africa Command area of operations, according to an investigation report released Aug. 19.

The aircraft belonged to the 432nd Wing at Creech AFB, Nev., but was assigned to the 435th Air Expeditionary Wing, when it crashed. It took off at 5:30 a.m. Zulu on Feb. 4 and flew normally for about three hours before the generator exhaust fan began to malfunction and the starter-generator failed.

The crew tried to fly the aircraft back to base and turned off equipment to maximize battery life, but the starter-generator failed again and could not be restarted. Instead, they programmed the Reaper to return to base. A second crew took control of the RPA around 10:30 a.m. and saw the battery power was very low. The crew put the Reaper in a holding pattern, but the battery power was so low the aircraft could have become unstable, so the joint force air component commander ordered the crew to crash it into international waters, states the report.

Red Flag Falcon Fumble at Nellis

A pair of Air Force Reserve Command F-16s from NAS-JRB Fort Worth, Texas, collided just after touching down on the runway at Nellis AFB, Nev., on Aug. 15, according to Nellis officials.

The 301st Fighter Wing pilots were flying a local familiarization sortie ahead of Exercise Red Flag 15-4, a base spokesman said.

The pilots were taken to a hospital for medical evaluation. The officials are convening an accident investigation board to probe the mishap.

Pegasus Planning at Air Mobility Command

USAF built plans around the delivery of 18 Boeing-built KC-46 tankers by 2017, so any significant delays in fielding the Pegasus would have cascading effects, said US Transportation Command boss Gen. Darren W. McDew, in an interview with *Air Force Magazine*. He was at the time commander of Air Mobility Command.

Many airmen assignments will be affected when KC-46s enter the inventory to replace old KC-135s. There are “real people at the end of that,” he said. Similarly, military construction work, test activities, and training regimes are

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The War on Terrorism

Casualties

By Sept. 16, six Americans had died in Operation Freedom's Sentinel in Afghanistan, and seven Americans had died in Operation Inherent Resolve in Iraq and Syria.

The total includes 12 troops and one Department of Defense civilian. Of these deaths, five were killed in action with the enemy while eight died in noncombat incidents.

There have been 52 troops wounded in action during OFS/OIR.

Afghanistan To Increase Defense Spending

Afghanistan's defense spending grew by more than 18 percent over the past four years, with further increases expected as the number of International Security Assistance Force troops decrease, according to a new independent report.

Afghanistan's defense spending grew from \$0.9 billion in 2011 to \$1.8 billion in 2015, and in 2020 is expected to reach \$3.4 billion, 11.6 percent of the country's gross domestic product, according to the report by the British think tank Strategic Defense Intelligence.

The money—used to reconstruct the country's entire military—focuses on countering threats from the Taliban and illegal drug traders, according to the report. While historically the country has focused on outfitting its military through deals negotiated by NATO, since 2014 Afghanistan has been able to buy from foreign defense manufacturers through government-to-government deals.

RPAs and the Hunt for ISIS

The 432nd Wing at Creech AFB, Nev., has played a critical role in the air campaign against ISIS forces, according to an operations update.

Several wing officials, speaking on background about the role the unit's remotely piloted aircraft have played in the campaign since August 2014, note the initial phase of Operation Inherent Resolve focused on ISR gathering, then grew into proactive support of real-time operations.

Wing aircrews and assets have contributed some 4,300 sorties and employed some 1,000 weapons on targets. As of Aug. 7, a total of 10,684 targets have been struck in OIR.

RPA operators use multiple avenues of communications to integrate with other in-theater assets. For example, some 400 "buddy lase" events—where RPAs use a combat laser to guide weapons on target, while another aircraft releases the weapons—were carried out by MQ-1 Predator and MQ-9 Reaper aircrews.

Staying Ready for ISIS

The US has been battling ISIS terrorists through Operation Inherent Resolve for a year now, and Gen. Darren W. McDew, the commander of US Transportation Command, said he does not anticipate this fight ending anytime soon.

ISIS represents a "generational threat," McDew said in an interview with *Air Force Magazine*. The nation might be involved in this particular fight "for a decade or more." He said the mobility community has worked ISIS-related demands into its overall operational structure because of the global nature of Air Mobility Command, which he previously led.

"There's not an operation" going on anywhere in the world that AMC does not touch, he stated, and the command has the capacity to handle today's demands and the occasional surge of additional activity.

Afghans Have Persistent Gap in CAS, Air Support

Afghan forces still have a "capability gap" in aviation and close air support capabilities and will require continued US assistance over the next few years, Army Brig. Gen. Wilson A. Shoffner, deputy chief of staff for communication for NATO's Resolute Support mission, said at an Aug. 13 Pentagon briefing.

While Afghan forces have held their own in battles this year, they have been much less effective when they do not coordinate with air and fire support, Shoffner said. While US and coalition activity has decreased, Afghan forces have been actively engaged against Taliban and other insurgent forces, seeing 46 percent more casualties this year compared to last.

This comes as the Afghan troops are carrying their biggest share of the war, with total coalition forces at 10 percent the amount that was there three years ago, Shoffner said.

all set up with the expectation that KC-46s will be available at the predicted times in the predicted quantities.

McDew called the KC-46 "vital" to AMC and the No. 1 modernization priority for the command. He said he is "a bit concerned" about Boeing's progress along the schedule, but his bigger concern is what would happen if sequestration were to return. Officials have called stable and predictable funding essential to the health of the KC-46 program.

Spang F-16 Crashes in Germany, Pilot Safe

An Air Force F-16 pilot was safe after ejecting during a training flight the morning of Aug. 11 over the Bavaria region of Germany, according to 52nd Fighter Wing officials.

The pilot, assigned to the 480th Fighter Squadron at Spangdahlem AB, Germany, ejected around 9:38 a.m. local time near Engelmannreuth, Germany, while on a training flight to a range near US Army Garrison Bavaria in Grafenwoehr, Germany, according to the officials.

The pilot, who experienced nonserious injuries and underwent treatment at a local German hospital shortly after the

incident, jettisoned his fuel tanks over an unpopulated area before ejecting. The F-16 was not carrying live ordnance, but was flying with six 25-pound, inert training munitions at the time of the crash.

The 52nd Fighter Wing at Spangdahlem canceled flying operations for 24 hours following the mishap. The crash is under investigation.

ACC Unveils 2015 Strategic Plan

Air Combat Command boss Gen. Herbert J. "Hawk" Carlisle unveiled ACC's newest command strategy Aug. 10, entitled "Securing the High Ground." It lays out how ACC will modernize and transform the US Air Force combat forces to better meet 21st century threats and challenges.

The document outlines Carlisle's priorities for his tenure as ACC commander, he said in statement, and will provide a "roadmap to ensure the Combat Air Force can provide unmatched air dominance for our nation now and into the foreseeable future."

As it prepares the force for future fights, it must invest

and continue to refine practices such as live, virtual, and constructive training, which joins up live-fly events with computer simulations, and to invest in science and technology research, because it could generate leap-forward capabilities and concepts, the strategy states.

Rivet Joint Fire Findings

During initial takeoff from Offutt AFB, Neb., on April 30, a leak in the high-pressure oxygen system in the rear cabin of an RC-135V Rivet Joint assigned to the 343rd Reconnaissance Squadron, led to a fire that burned a hole through the aircraft's upper fuselage, according to an Air Force investigation.

The pilot aborted the mission and evacuated the aircraft as fire crews arrived. The fire occurred during a training mission and burned through the rear galley area of the aircraft, damaging both the aircraft's structure and its control and mission systems. Repair costs are estimated at \$62.4 million, according to the accident investigation board findings.

Depot maintenance personnel from L3 Communications failed to properly tighten a retaining nut connecting a metal oxygen tube to a fitting above the galley, causing the oxygen leak. This led to a "highly flammable oxygen-rich environment that ignited." The fire then melted the retaining nut, leading the tubing to detach. This fed more oxygen into the fire, causing "severe damage" to the galley area. Four crew members received treatment for minor smoke inhalation.

New Boss at 14th Air Force

Lt. Gen. David J. Buck took command of Air Force Space Command's 14th Air Force (Air Forces Strategic), and the Joint Functional Component for space, US Strategic Command, at Vandenberg AFB, Calif., on Aug. 14, according to a

Look Out Below: An Alaska ANG C-17 drops a Humvee fitted with a parachute over JB Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska, during Pacific Airlift Rally. Pacific Air Forces hosts the biennial military aircraft symposium for nations in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region. PAR uses a humanitarian disaster relief scenario to train participating nations in interoperability and to advance airlift issues specific to the region.

SASC Leaders Blast LRS-B Estimate Errors

The chairman and ranking member of the Senate Armed Services Committee have requested a series of reports and assessments from the Air Force on the cost estimates and projections regarding the Long-Range Strike Bomber (LRS-B), following the revision of a recent DOD report on the program's long-term cost.

In an Aug. 26 letter to Defense Secretary Ashton B. Carter, SASC Chair Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) and Sen. Jack Reed (D-R.I.) criticized DOD for "significant errors" in the program's long-term cost estimates, given to Congress as part of an annual report.

The report details the Pentagon's 10-year nuclear weapons spending and listed the 10-year estimate for the LRS-B program as \$58.4 billion, a figure USAF leadership has since said was in error. The service revised that number down to \$41.7 billion, noting it includes research and development, test, operation, and support, but not overhead.

The letter also requests amended reports for the congressional defense committees, with corrected information, detailed accounting of the elements used to estimate the 10-year projections, an explanation for the decrease, and how the corrected costs were calculated, among other assessments of the program.

news release. Buck assumed command from Lt. Gen. John W. "Jay" Raymond, who is the Air Force's new deputy chief of staff for operations.

JSTARS Successor Finalists Picked

Boeing, Lockheed Martin, and Northrop Grumman are the finalists in the hunt to replace the E-8C Joint Surveillance

USAF photo by SSgt. Edward Eageron





Let Me Educate You: 2nd Lt. **Duston O'Brien**, a 435th Fighter Training Squadron upgrade pilot, readies for takeoff in a T-38C Talon at JBSA-Randolph, Texas, on Sept. 3. The 435th FTS trains some 150 students each year from the US, Iraq, Japan, Poland, Saudi Arabia, and Singapore.

Target Attack Radar System (JSTARS), the Air Force announced Aug. 7. Boeing received a \$9.95 million contract, while Lockheed Martin received \$11.5 million, and Northrop Grumman received a \$10 million award, all identically worded.

They will pursue “pre-engineering and manufacturing development efforts” on the recapitalization project, assess-

ing technology maturity, to “reduce system integration risk and lower life cycle cost by virtue of design.” USAF said it received four offers and picked three.

An Air Force official said the contractors will conduct a full system review and a preliminary design review and build subsystem prototype demonstrators. The contracts were to be followed in early September by a Milestone A review by Pentagon acquisition, technology, and logistics chief Frank Kendall. In mid-July, USAF acquisition chief William A. LaPlante said there could be a contract award within three years. The Air Force wants to reach initial operational capability with a replacement system in 2023. ✪

Senior Staff Changes

RETIREMENTS: Brig. Gen. John W. **Doucette**, Brig. Gen. Thomas F. **Gould**, Lt. Gen. Stephen L. **Hoog**, Brig. Gen. Charles K. **Hyde**, Maj. Gen. Michael A. **Keltz**, Brig. Gen. Jeffrey R. **McDaniels**, Maj. Gen. H. D. **Polumbo Jr.**, Lt. Gen. Mark F. **Ramsay**, Gen. Larry O. **Spencer**, Maj. Gen. Michael S. **Stough**, Brig. Gen. Kenneth E. **Todorov**.

CHANGE: Maj. Gen. John M. **Hicks**, from Dir., Ops., SOCOM, MacDill AFB, Fla., to C/S, SOCOM, MacDill AFB, Fla.

COMMAND CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT RETIREMENT: CMSgt. Terry B. **West**.

CCMS CHANGES: CMSgt. Todd S. **Petzel**, from Chief, AF Chief Master Sergeant Office, DCS, Manpower, Personnel, & Svcs., Pentagon, to Command Chief, 18th AF, AMC, Scott AFB, Ill. ... CMSgt. Christopher **Vanburger**, from Supt., AFOSI, 6th Field Investigations Regions, IG of the AF, OSAF, JB Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, to Command Chief, AFOSI, IG of the AF, OSAF, Quantico, Va. ... CMSgt.

Calvin D. **Williams**, from Chief, AF Enlisted Total Force Integration, DCS, Manpower, Personnel, & Svcs., USAF, Pentagon, to Command Chief, AFGSC, Barksdale AFB, La. ... CMSgt. Larry C. **Williams Jr.**, from Command Chief, 515th Air Mobility Ops. Wg., AMC, JB Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, to Command Chief, USAF Expeditionary Center, AMC, JB McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J.

SENIOR EXECUTIVE SERVICE CHANGES: John H. **Bonapart Jr.**, to Dir., Log., Engineering, & Force Protection, AFSPC, Peterson AFB, Colo. ... Jay W. **Fiebig**, to Dir., Engineering & Tech. Mgmt., AF Sustainment Center, AFMC, Hill AFB, Utah ... David A. **Hardy**, to Asst. Dep. Under SECAF (Space), Office of the Under SECAF, Pentagon ... William E. **Maclure**, to Dep. Dir., Ops. & Readiness, DCS, Ops., USAF, Pentagon ... Valerie L. **Muck**, to Assoc. Dep. Asst. Secy. (Acq. Integration), Office of the Asst. SECAF (Acq.), SECAF, Pentagon ... Anthony P. **Reardon**, to Asst. DCS, Strat. Plans & Rqmts., Office of the DCS, Strat. Plans & Rqmts., USAF, Pentagon ... Teresa M. **Salazar**, to Vice Dir., C4/Cyber, Jt. Staff, Pentagon. ✪