

# ARMY AVIATION

NETWORK | RECOGNITION | VOICE | SUPPORT

June 30, 2026

PROUDLY INTRODUCING

★ ★ ★ **MV-75** ★ ★ ★  
**CHEYENNE**

**SPEED IS NOT A LUXURY.  
IT'S A SECURITY  
IMPERATIVE.**



REDCAT



BLACK WIDOW

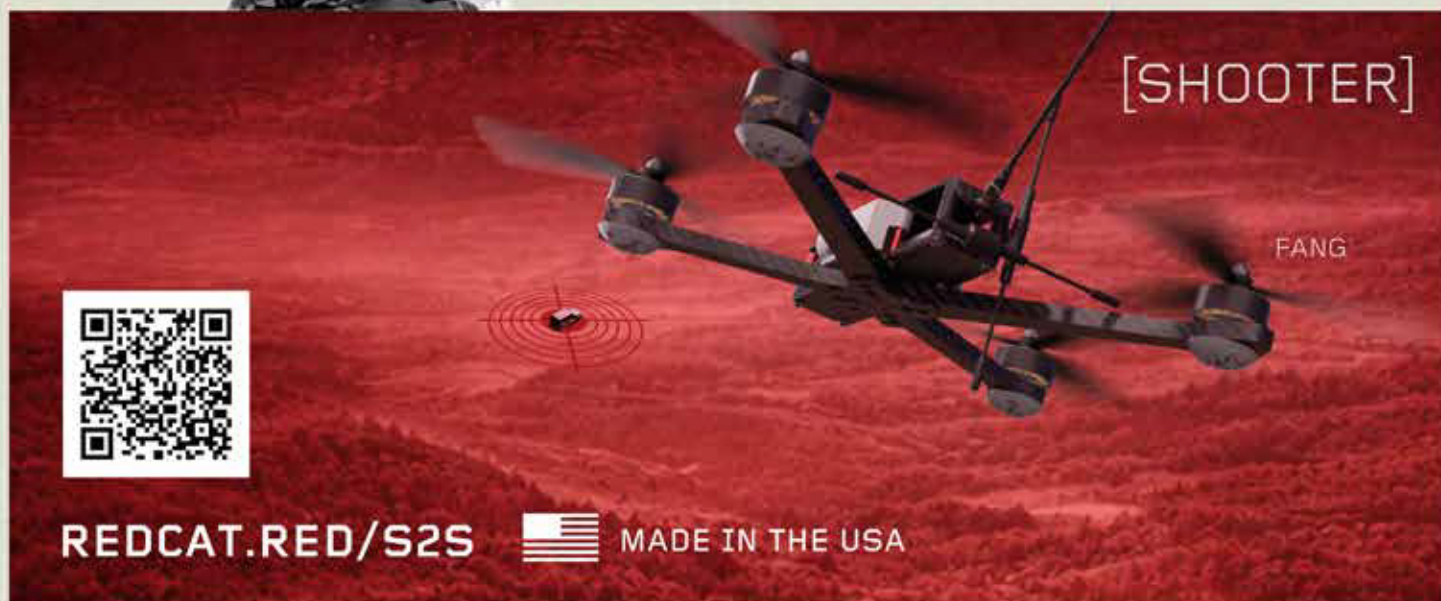
[SENSOR]



# TACTICAL KILL CHAIN

Attritable. Low-Cost. Rucksack-Ready.

A unified sensor-to-shooter system, delivering ISR and precision effects from a single controller. Attritable at scale, with a retrievable design that enables high-volume training and operator proficiency.



[SHOOTER]

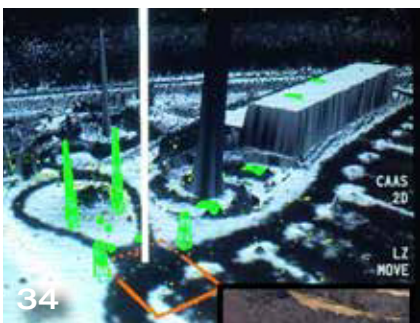
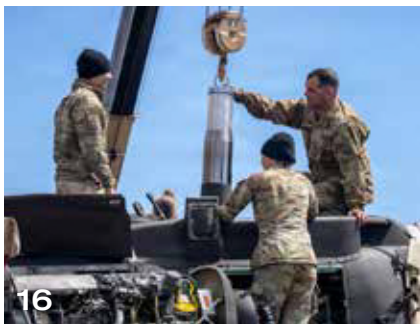
FANG



REDCAT.RED/S2S



MADE IN THE USA



# Contents

June 30, 2026, Vol. 75, No. 6

## TO THE FIELD

- 10 USASOAC Commander Update**  
By COL Roger Waleski
- 12 USASOAC Command Chief Warrant Officer Update**  
By CW5 Samuel A. Cortez Jr.
- 16 USASOAC Command Sergeant Major Update**  
By CSM Bryston K. Manintin
- 20 128th Aviation Brigade Update**  
By CW3 Christian Grimm
- 22 CCDC AvMC Tech Talk**  
By Dr. Thomas L. Thompson
- 24 Ask the Flight Surgeon**  
By CPT (Dr.) Joshua Sullivan, LTC (Dr.) Erik Johnson, and COL (Dr.) Tracy Durham

## SPECIAL FOCUS — Special Operations Aviation

- 28 The Special Operations Aviation Training Battalion: Giving Back to Aviation and Building Tomorrow's Leaders**  
By MAJ John Quarfeld, CPT Rachael Wheeler, Mr. Christopher Smith, and CW4 Matt Episcopo
- 32 Foundational Data Integration and Advanced Analytics: ARSOAC Leading Army Aviation through Government Controlled Data Processes and Analytics**  
By LTC Anthony J. Snipes and CW3 Randall J. Weytens
- 34 Advancing Special Operations Aviation Through Sensor Data Fusion**  
By Jason Lazowski
- 36 THE SURVIVABILITY ONION: A Layered Approach to Aviation Survivability in Modern Combat**  
By Major Sarah Johnson



38

# Contents

June 30, 2026, Vol. 75, No. 6



40

## SPECIAL FOCUS – Arming the Force

### 38 Aviation Lethality Expands Its Reach, Utility and Effectiveness The Rapidly Expanding Role of Tactical Aviation Munitions on Today's Contested Battlefield

By Craig Riedel

## SPECIAL FOCUS – 2026 AAAA Summit Recap

### 40 2026 Army Aviation Warfighters Summit Photo Wrap



51

## FROM THE FIELD

### 50 Fort Rucker Building Dedicated to Joseph P. Cribbins

By John Drew Hamilton



60

## DEPARTMENTS

### AAAA NEWS

AAAA President's Cockpit.....	8
AAAA VP Chapter Affairs.....	56
Chapter News, OSMs.....	57
AAAA VP Membership .....	60
New Members .....	61
AAAA Family Forum .....	64
AAAA Legislative Report.....	73
AAAA Scholarship Foundation Donors .....	68
AAAA TLC Foundation .....	66

### ARMY AVIATION COMMUNITY NEWS

Advertisers Index .....	69
Art's Attic.....	74
Briefings .....	6
Enlisted Spotlight.....	18
Hall of Fame.....	75
Historical Perspective .....	52
Industry News.....	69
In Memoriam.....	51, 65
People on the Move .....	70
Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association .....	54



64

ARMY AVIATION is the official journal of the Army Aviation Association of America (AAAA). The views expressed in this publication are those of the individual authors, not the Department of Defense or its elements. The content does not necessarily reflect the official U.S. Army position nor the position of the AAAA or the staff of Army Aviation Publications, Inc., (AAP). Title Reg® in U.S. Patent office. Registration Number 1,533,053. SUBSCRIPTION DATA: ARMY AVIATION (ISSN 0004-248X) is published monthly, except May and September by AAP, 593 Main Street, Monroe, CT 06468-2806. Tel: (203) 268-2450, FAX: (203) 268-5870, E-Mail: [aaaa@quad-a.org](mailto:aaaa@quad-a.org), Army Aviation Magazine E-Mail: [magazine@quad-a.org](mailto:magazine@quad-a.org), Website: <http://www.quad-a.org>. Subscription rates for non-AAAA members: \$45, one year; \$65, two years; add \$10 per year for foreign addresses other than military APOs. Single copy price: \$4.00. ADVERTISING: Display and classified advertising rates are listed in SRDS Business Publications, Classification 90. POSTMASTER: Periodicals postage paid at Monroe, CT and other offices. Send address changes to AAP, 593 Main Street, Monroe, CT 06468-2806.

# Out Of This World Protection For Aviation Assets

## WINDSHIELD BUDDY

HEAT SHIELDS, COVERS & PORTABLE HANGARS FOR MILITARY ORDNANCE



NSN:1680-01-661-1895



NSN: 1730-01-683-2947



NSN: 1730-01-723-5267  
NSN: 1730-01-705-3945



P/N: VIK920



NSN: 1730-01-549-5186



NSN: 1730-01-714-9580

 **RoLin** Industries, Inc.

Visit us at [windshieldbuddy.com](http://windshieldbuddy.com)  
to obtain NSN and product information.  
High-durability covers designed for the  
Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps.  
View step-by-step installation and training videos.

ROLIN INDUSTRIES, INC.  
94 Ready Ave, Bldg. A-1  
FT. Walton Beach, FL. 32548  
Phone: 850-654-1704 • Toll Free: 888-667-9455  
Email: [sales@windshieldbuddy.com](mailto:sales@windshieldbuddy.com)



NSN: 1680-01-683-2727

# Briefings

**Founders** / Art and Dotty Kesten

**Publisher** / William R. Harris Jr.

**Managing Editor**

CW4 (Ret.) Joseph L. Pisano Sr.  
joe@quad-a.org

**Editor** / Ken Holder  
ken@quad-a.org

**Associate Editor** / CW5 Adam Jarvis  
adam@quad-a.org

**Director of Design & Production**  
Anne H. Ewing  
magazine@quad-a.org

**Contributing Editor** / Mark Albertson  
mark@quad-a.org

**Family Forum Editor** / Judy Konitzer  
judy@quad-a.org

**Director of Advertising & Exhibit Sales**  
Robert C. Lachowski  
bob@quad-a.org

**Deputy Director of Advertising & Exhibit Sales**  
Erika Burgess  
erika@quad-a.org

**Advertising & Exhibit Sales Manager**  
Carmen Tuohy  
carmen@quad-a.org

**Marketing Director** / Jennifer Chittem  
jenn@quad-a.org

**Social Media Manager** / Chelsea Jarvis  
chelsea@quad-a.org

**Director Data Services** / Ben Marini  
ben@quad-a.org

## Circulation Department

Deb Cavallaro  
Debbie Coley  
Jackie Harris  
Jacob Meenan  
Genesis Miller

## Editorial Address

593 Main Street, Monroe, CT 06468-2806  
Tel: (203) 268-2450 / Fax: (203) 268-5870

*Visit our website for additional articles and updates.*

**ARMYAVIATIONmagazine.com**

## On The Cover

PAID ADVERTISEMENT: The U.S. Army has named the MV-75 the Cheyenne, honoring the strength, resilience, and rich heritage of the Cheyenne Tribe. With over twice the speed and range as current weapons systems, the MV-75 stands as a proven long-range maneuver capability driving a new era in Army aviation. *Caption provided by the advertiser.*



U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY SFC SPRINA MARTINEZ

## Army Approves Combat Patches for Soldiers in Iran War Zone

Soldiers in the U.S. Central Command and U.S. Africa Command will be able to wear their unit's patch on their right shoulder to signify they deployed to a combat zone. The Army has authorized soldiers deployed in support of operations related to the war with Iran to wear combat patches signifying service in hostile conditions. The policy, approved March 26th by then Army Chief of Staff GEN Randy George, applies to active duty, Reserve and National Guard soldiers assigned to units operating within U.S. Central Command and U.S. Africa Command areas of responsibility. Soldiers may wear their deployed unit insignia on the right shoulder of their uniforms to recognize wartime service. Since the conflict began, American forces have conducted thousands of combat missions while sustaining casualties during operations across the Middle East region.

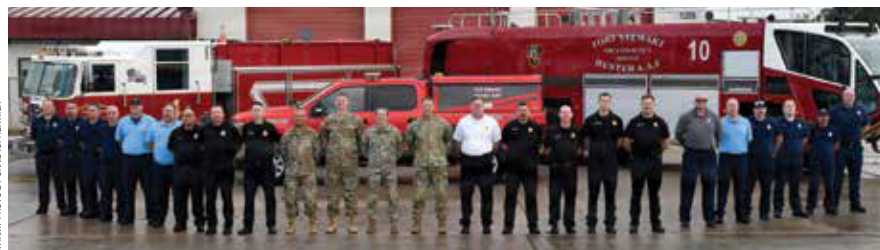
## Army Aviation's Front Door - CW4 Michael J. Novosel Soldier Service Center



U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY BRITANNY TRUMBULL

MG Clair Gill, Commanding General, United States Army Aviation Center of Excellence, Fort Rucker, AL and Portfolio Acquisition Executive for Maneuver Air, speaks on the service of the Novosel family during the dedication Ceremony for the CW4 Michael J. Novosel Soldier Service Center on April 9th. Army Aviation leaders, Soldiers and family members gathered to rename Fort Rucker's Soldier Service Center in honor of Medal of Honor recipient CW4 Michael J. Novosel. During the ceremony, MG Gill described the facility as Army Aviation's "front door" and praised Novosel's lifelong commitment to service, sacrifice and mentorship. A Vietnam War hero, Novosel flew more than 2,500 missions and evacuated 5,589 wounded personnel during his career. Family members reflected on his enduring connection to Army Aviation and emphasized the importance of preserving his legacy for future generations of Soldiers and families.

## Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield Named Medium Fire Department of the Year



U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY CHRISTOPHER RICH

Hunter Army Airfield Fire and Emergency Services pose for a group photo outside Fire Station 2. The Department of War announced the recipients of the 2025 Fire and Emergency Services Awards, recognizing outstanding achievements by military fire departments, firefighters and emergency service personnel across the Department of Defense. Among the nine winners selected from 41 nominations, Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield, GA, earned Medium Fire Department of the Year honors for exceptional operational and community support. The department successfully responded to a fire involving an M113 armored personnel carrier, saving the crew and protecting an \$8 million combat asset. Additionally, firefighters trained 200 emergency responders and conducted extensive Fire Prevention Week outreach, reaching more than 26,000 people through educational videos and written content.

## Correction

Editor's Note: In the APR/MAY issue of ARMY AVIATION magazine, on page 110, we inadvertently identified the graphic in the bottom right hand corner, as a courtesy graphic. The graphic was in fact created by Dusty Finley. Our thanks to the 11th Airborne Division (Arctic) for drawing our attention to this oversight and thank you for your continued support. We apologize for the error.



Star SAFIRE® 380X-HDc

## YOUR CHEAT CODE FOR ISR MISSIONS

The Star SAFIRE® 380X-HDc provides premier EO/IR imaging in a compact, low-profile package. This premier system is essentially a cheat code for airborne ISR missions, thanks to advanced imaging capabilities such as de-scintillation filter, integrated Moving Target Indicator (MTI), AR mapping overlays, and more.

[FLIR.COM/380X](https://www.flir.com/380X)



# Biggest Summit Ever – The Four Pillars of AAAA Were on Display

Our 2026 AAAA Annual Warfighting Summit in Nashville April 15-17 was INCREDIBLE! The four pillars of AAAA; Networking, Recognition, Voice and Support were evident in everything that was presented.

I wish each and every one of our 20,000+ members could have shared the experience.

This was the biggest AAAA Summit ever! Measured by every metric from registration and industry participation to international attendance and AAAA Chapter leadership participation, it was the best ever! But what was even more important, I think, was that it was also the most effective ever!

I make this effectiveness assessment based on the presentations, the discussions they generated, and the exchange of ideas among our Army Aviation family, including acquisition, research and development, drones, special operations, future concepts and maintenance and sustainment.

The focus on warfighting brought everyone together in a networking environment that I am sure will lead to real world results and effects for our Soldiers.

From the heartfelt Keynote from the Under Secretary of the Army, Michael Obadal, a retired Colonel and Army Aviator himself, to the “Rockstar of the 2026 Summit”, 105 year old WWII veteran and Army L-4 Piper Cub crew Chief, SSG Dominic Critelli, who played the National Anthem on his soprano saxophone for the presentation of the colors in the opening ceremony, it was an INCREDIBLE event!

Highlighting our “Recognition pillar”, you will see in the photo wrap up of the Summit starting on page 40 of this issue, that we inducted three amazing heroes into the Army's Aviation Hall of Fame and presented all the National unit and individual awards.

We started with those from the AAAA-sponsored Army Best Drone Warfighting Competition awards back in February and proceeded through Department of the Army Civilian (DAC), Crew Chief, Soldier, Aviator and ARNG, USAR, Active and overall Outstanding Unit, among others. What a treasure it was to hear young Soldiers' humble acceptance remarks. It made us all realize once again why the U.S. Army is the greatest land warfare force in the world.

Special thanks to Aviation Branch Chief, MG Clair Gill, as well as the other members of the Army Aviation General Officer Steering Committee (GOSC), for all they and their teams did to make sure the program was worthwhile and tracked with Army leadership intent. Special thanks to the Undersecretary of the Army for not only presenting an



AAAA President MG (Ret.) Walter Golden (right) and LTG Dave Francis, Commanding General, United States Army Center for Initial Military Training induct 105-year-old WW II veteran and former Army L4 crew chief Dominic Critelli into the Silver Honorable Order of St. Michael.

inspirational keynote address, but then all the time he spent visiting with Soldiers, attending events like the Hall of Fame and visiting with Industry Partners on the exhibit floor.

Additional thanks and appreciation to our exceptional AAAA National Staff, especially Bill Harris, Janis Arena, Laura Arena, Chelsea Jarvis, Art Agnew and Joanne Hansrote, the National Executive Group and Board and our stand-in “Voice of God”, Michael Dudley, who performed his announcer duties flawlessly, and on short notice!

All that above being said, we are not resting on our laurels. We have already held one in-progress review (IPR) on-site for next year's Summit, May 5-7, 2027 in Kansas City, MO. As a result of the tremendous success of this year's Summit in Nashville, I am pleased to report that the exhibit hall in Kansas City is already 80% sold for 2027.

Finally, your six-member AAAA National Executive Group (NEG) is headed to AAAA Headquarters in Connecticut in June for our annual meeting to ensure that we remain “on course, on glidepath” for the next year as well as assessing how we have done over the last 12 months. This in-person strategy session has proved invaluable to the success of our organization over the years and ensures AAAA remains relevant and effective in its support of Army Aviation Soldiers and Families!

Above the Best!

*MG Wally Golden, U.S. Army Retired  
37th President, AAAA  
walter.golden@quad-a.org*



# WHEN THE NEXT MISSION CALLS, FSI DEFENSE ANSWERS



Backed by FlightSafety International's 75-year legacy of flight training and innovation, FSI Defense delivers mission-focused training that precisely prepares Army aviators for their specialized missions.

The appearance of U.S. Department of Defense (DoW) visual information does not imply or constitute DoW endorsement.



Proud Member of Team Apache

Scan to Learn More:





# ARSOAC's Purpose-Built Modernization

By COL Roger Waleski

The United States Army Special Operations Aviation Command (ARSOAC) stands at a pivotal moment in its modernization journey.

Facing rapidly evolving global threats and increasingly contested environments, the command is rethinking its force design, capabilities, and organizational structure to ensure overmatch well into the future. This purpose-built modernization effort is rooted in three major pillars: layered protection, autonomy, and launched effects, each of which is essential to sustaining dominance in complex operational environments.

ARSOAC's modernization trajectory is guided by the continuously updated ARSOA Force Modernization Strategy that synchronizes priorities, emerging technologies, and capability development across the enterprise. This strategic framework lays the foundation for a force capable of thriving in multi-domain operations, integrating aviation, electronic warfare, data-enabled decision making, and autonomous enabled systems into a cohesive operational architecture.

Layered protection represents the core of survivability in modern combat. ARSOAC must anticipate threats ranging from small commercially available drones to sophisticated electronic warfare systems and integrated air defenses. Lessons from recent conflicts underscore the importance of redundant, layered detection and defense networks that integrate air defense systems, sensor data fusion, and decentralized control. These insights have profound implications for ARSOAC's modernization.

Autonomy represents one of the most



U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO BY HANSEN HULLMAN

*A small-Unmanned Aerial System hovers at Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling, Washington, DC. During a s-UAS training event, evaluators integrated multiple detection and defeat systems to create a layered defense, demonstrating that a combination of capabilities provides the most effective protection against drone threats.*

transformative elements of ARSOAC's modernization. Within the ARSOAC community, autonomy does not necessarily replace the aircrew member. Rather, autonomous capability enhances the aviation warfighter's ability through cognitive workload reduction, greater environmental and operational understanding, and pilotage assistance. As adversaries rapidly advance lethal systems and electronic warfare, autonomy allows ARSOA forces to maintain tempo, resilience, and operational reach. ARSOAC's modernization strategy incorporates autonomy through autonomous navigation, AI-enhanced sensing, collaborative autonomy, automated data analytics, and assured navigation and timing.

Launched effects — ranging from expendable UAS to air-launched sensors and munitions — will play a critical role in extending reach, increasing survivability, and generating standoff advantages. Within ARSOAC's modernization framework, launched effects will enable deep sensing and reconnaissance to reduce risk while gaining a better understanding of the operational environment. Likewise, launched effects have the capability to enable

deep maneuver through variety of effects. Although essential to countering the overwhelming lethality of modern threat systems, launched effects must remain fiscally feasible and adhere to a modular operation systems approach, utilizing nonproprietary interfaces and government-owned standards. A single sensor cannot arrive with its own unique processor to provide just one capability to the platform.

ARSOAC's purpose-built modernization is more than an update of platforms or equipment—it is a comprehensive re-envisioning of how Special Operations Aviation must organize, fight, and win in future operational environments. Through its modernization framework, emerging organizational constructs, and focused advancement in layered protection, autonomy, and launched effects, ARSOAC is building a force designed to dominate in contested domains and sustain overmatch well into the future.

---

*Colonel Roger P. Waleski Jr. is the Commander of the U.S. Army Special Operations Aviation Command at Fort Bragg, NC.*

**BELL 505**

# MASTERY IN TRAINING. CONFIDENCE WHEN IT COUNTS.

Ready to Train the Next Generation of Army Aviators.

- 🌀 Leveraging 70+ years of experience training military aviators
- 🌀 Modern design informed by a legacy of proven training helicopters
- 🌀 Collaborating with industry's best to provide innovative training solutions

[bell.co/FSN](https://bell.co/FSN)





# Special Operations Aviation By CW5 Samuel A. Cortez Jr.



U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY TIL EBAKER

In Special Operations Aviation, operating at the absolute edge of aircraft performance under zero illumination isn't the exception – it is the standard.

*An MH-60M Black Hawk conducts cold weather environment training during an exercise in Colorado.*

As Special Operations Aviation platforms integrate increasingly complex avionics, sensors, and weapons systems, the risk of automation complacency rises. For a Night Stalker, absolute mastery of foundational flight skills, aerodynamics, graduate level knowledge of regulations and SOPs and manual aircraft control is the ultimate fail-safe when executing no-fail missions in denied environments.

The 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (SOAR) (Airborne) pushes both man and machine to their absolute physical limits. From the fully manual A/MH-6 Little Bird to the heavy assault MH-47G and the highly modified MH-60M Direct Action Penetrator (DAP), advanced technol-

ogy like Terrain Following/Terrain Avoidance (TF/TA) radar Degraded Visual Environment Systems (DVES) and multi-mode sensors enable the mission. When those systems fail, are damaged in battle, or the pilots are flying in a degraded navigational environment, the only thing that keeps the aircraft in the sky is the raw, foundational airmanship of the crew.

Returning to the basics is not a regression; it is how Night Stalkers guarantee they can always deliver the ground force to the 'X' plus or minus 30 seconds. In the Special Operations environment, you are often flying heavy, low, and fast. Advanced Flight Control Systems (AFCS) reduce pilot workload during complex infills, but they can

also mask degrading stick-and-rudder skills. Aviators must relentlessly practice hand-flying the aircraft at its maximum gross weight and aerodynamic limits. When hovering out of ground effect (OGE) over a jagged ridgeline or fast-rope operators onto a pitching ship deck, power management, and instinctual pedal inputs are what prevent a catastrophic event.

When a catastrophic failure occurs, whether from a mechanical issue or taking effective enemy fire in the objective area, there is no time to break out the checklist. Rote memorization of underlined emergency procedures is the bare minimum. Night Stalkers must take it a step further: actively mental-gaming EPs during low-level



# Your training never stops. Neither do we.

## Advancing the future together

Amentum delivers innovative, reliable, and mission-ready solutions for the Army aviation community.

[amentum.com/army-aviation](https://amentum.com/army-aviation)



# AUTHENTICALLY ENSTROM



Photo: Brent Bundy

Designed and built on a foundation of safety and pride, every Enstrom elevates your flight, training, and in-air experience.

**Get an Authentic Experience with Enstrom Helicopter**

- | **DUAL CONTROLS**
- | **INTEGRATED CABIN**
- | **IMMERSIVE FLIGHT EXPERIENCE**
- | **3 BLADE ROTOR SYSTEM**
- | **SEAMLESS PROGRESSION**



[EnstromHelicopter.com/Training](http://EnstromHelicopter.com/Training)

flights and under Night Vision Goggles (NVGs). Crews must intuitively know how to manage rotor RPM, isolate systems, and execute a flawless autorotation into hostile unlit terrain while the crew chiefs suppress the threat. While aircraft enhanced systems assist the aviators with ease of flight and mission control, the most effective computing power remains the human brain.

Mastery of the basics is the bedrock of survivability and mission success during any contingency. Whether battling a brownout, reacting to enemy fire, or fighting through a mechanical failure, the absolute first priority in the chaos remains unchanged: the crew must always fly the aircraft.

Within the 160th SOAR (Airborne), every role is a mission-critical linchpin. From the fueler on the FARP to the ALSE technician, a single point of failure at any level can jeopardize a no-fail mission. While every Night Stalker is expected to operate at a “graduate level,” that elite performance is built entirely upon an unwavering mastery of the fundamentals. Achieving operational readiness in the world’s most demanding environments requires maintainers and aircrews to execute every

task to the exact standard. True professionalism in the Regiment is defined by this disciplined adherence to the basics: conducting maintenance strictly by the manual, performing duties according to regulation, and refusing to compromise on the standard.

In the 160th SOAR (Airborne), graduate-level mission success in the world’s most unforgiving environments is entirely dependent on a relentless mastery of the basics. From Initial Entry Rotary Wing initiatives at Fort Rucker, Alabama that deliberately strip away automation to forge instinctual stick-and-rudder and analog navigation skills, to the cockpit where crews rely on foundational airmanship to “aviate first” during severe contingencies and degraded visual environments, advanced technology is never a substitute for rigorous training.

Ultimately, the necessity of returning to the basics transcends aviation and applies to any modern profession heavily reliant on technology. Consider the everyday experience of driving a modern vehicle equipped with lane-assist, automatic braking, and satellite navigation. When the GPS loses its signal in unfamiliar territory, a driver cannot simply

stop; they must instantly revert to basic spatial awareness, reading road signs, and understanding cardinal directions to reach their destination. Similarly, if a tire blows out on a stretch of highway, dashboard diagnostics and roadside assistance apps are useless if there is no cell service; the driver must possess the fundamental, manual skill to break out a jack and change the flat themselves. In Army Aviation and particularly in the 160th SOAR (Airborne) the concept is the same, only the stakes are a matter of life and death. Advanced avionics make crews incredibly capable, but combat is inherently unpredictable. Mastering the basics ensures that when the screens go dark, the GPS is jammed, or the machine breaks, the crew still possesses the raw, foundational skills to take manual control, navigate the environment, and accomplish the mission. NSDQ! VO-LARE OPTIMUS!

---

*Chief Warrant Officer Five Samuel A. Cortez, Jr. is the Command Chief Warrant Officer for the U.S. Army Special Operations Aviation Command at Fort Bragg, NC.*



- EXCEPTIONAL PERFORMANCE
- IMPACTFUL INNOVATIONS
- UNPARALLELED PARTNERSHIP

M1 supports all branches of the military in managing, operating, and sustaining large scale aviation training enterprises, including Army flight training. At Fort Rucker, M1 supports more than 500 rotary-wing aircraft dispersed across five primary airfields, flying up to 400 sorties per day and 240,000 flight hours per year. We deliver hundreds of safe, quality aircraft ready for training every day. Mission First!





# Forging the Next Generation of Maintenance Leaders: The Phase Team Leader Course

By CSM Bryston K. Manintin

In Army Aviation, unit-level training directly drives operational readiness. While the Aviation Maintenance Training Program (AMTP) builds individual technical proficiency, a critical gap has historically remained in collective maintenance training.

To bridge this, the U.S. Army Special Operations Aviation Command (Airborne) with the help of the 3rd Battalion, 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne) developed the Phase Team Leader Course (PTLC).

Operating on the philosophy that Army transformation starts at the tactical level, this program empowers junior leaders by fundamentally changing how teams execute complex phase maintenance inspections. Based heavily on formal Project Management principles, the course teaches maintainers how to define scope, manage timelines, and allocate resources. This approach has proven so effective and platform-agnostic that ground commanders are now looking to adapt these exact principles to revolutionize their own vehicle and equipment maintenance operations.

## From Task Execution to Project Management

The core of the PTLC is a deliberate shift in mindset. The course teaches future leaders to view an inspection not as a routine chore, but as a unique project. This dismantles the traditional “isolat-



U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY CELINA COWART

*Developing tomorrow's next generation of maintenance leaders will require a shift from task execution to project management.*

ed section” mentality, creating cohesive teams that dynamically share workloads across different shops to prevent bottlenecks.

Furthermore, the course connects tactical daily tasks to strategic impacts. Maintainers learn how their wrench-turning directly drives the brigade’s Flying Hour Program, fostering a profound ownership of combat power generation. To protect this renewed focus, PTLC graduates implement visual management tools, such as the Phase Maintenance Board, and designate specific points of contact. This simple change drastically reduces administrative interruptions from Production

Control (PC), allowing maintainers to stay focused entirely on the aircraft.

## Empowered Leadership and an Integrated Ecosystem

The foundational project management principles taught in the PTLC rely on engaged leadership to succeed, specifically in the dynamic between the PC Officer-in Charge and PC Noncommissioned Officer-in-Charge. During the 1st Armored Division Combat Aviation Brigade’s (1AD CAB) demanding deployment to United States European Command (USEUCOM), leaders like Master Sergeant Christian Collado operated continuously on the hangar floor,

# BATTLEFIELD MAINTENANCE WITH HOMEFRONT RELIABILITY

## The Phantom Warrior TLS® flashlight

Your AA battery powered reliable powerhouse has been part of Army Aviations's kit for almost 20 years and includes pre-flight, in flight, and E&E lighting modes.

You can rely on us for your maintenance wherever you are.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION OR EMAIL [VICTORIA@PHANTOMLIGHTS.COM](mailto:VICTORIA@PHANTOMLIGHTS.COM)



**Phantom Products, Inc.**  
474 Barnes Blvd. Rockledge, Florida 32955  
321-690-6729

CAGE 3WQNB  
ISO9001:2015 Certified Small Business  
Made in USA  
©2025 Phantom Products

[www.PhantomLights.com](http://www.PhantomLights.com)



## ▶ Enlisted Aviation Soldier Spotlight

Each month we will feature a past AAAA National or Functional Enlisted or NCO Award winner as part of our ongoing recognition of the Best of the Best in our Aviation Branch. The CY 2025 National winners were featured in the April/May AAAA Army Aviation Mission Solutions Summit issue.



### Army Aviation Association of America 2025 Aircraft Survivability Equipment Award

Sponsored by Lockheed Martin

### SPC Jacob A. Leath

Company D, 3rd Battalion,  
160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne)  
Hunter Army Airfield, Georgia

SPC Jacob A. Leath is the example of maintenance experience, leadership, and professionalism; he has been the embodiment of a Night Stalker from the moment he first arrived at 3rd Battalion. SPC Leath is a subject matter expert on Night Vision Goggles, Aviation Radios and Aircraft Survivability Systems and was an integral part of the implementation of the brand new Common Infrared Countermeasures system. SPC Leath's maintenance experience in the shop has contributed to the superb upkeep of ASE installed on 16 MH-47G and 10 MH-60M helicopters with a value over one billion dollars. SPC Leath has been an integral part of conducting maintenance on no notice deployment aircraft resulting in all ASE being Fully Mission Capable before departure. SPC Leath consistently takes the initiative to complete any task, providing a glowing example for his peers and subordinates alike. His consistent dedication to the Night Stalker team and the mission has ensured that he, the unit, and the Soldiers he works with are ready to move at a moment's notice both physically and mentally. SPC Leath's service to Army Aviation has been nothing short of exceptional and is why he is the only choice for the 2023 Army Aviation Association of America Aircraft Survivability Equipment Award.

dynamically shifting focus exactly where operational priorities demanded. This empowerment also extended to junior PC Clerks, who mastered complex supply acquisitions in the Global Combat Support System-Army (GCSS-A) system, proving that clear intent maximizes efficiency at every level.

The PTLC also builds a multi-disciplinary network designed to maximize resources, which is crucial when operating under severe manning constraints. Students master the P4T3 concept (Problem, People, Parts, Plan, Tools, Training, and Time), executing 30-day pre-ordering for Phase Kits. It bridges the gap between Quality Control and allied shops, replacing the costly "looks bad, replace it" habit with rigorous engineering evaluations to prevent unnecessary parts cannibalization. Furthermore, pre-staging commonly used tools and petroleum products directly in phase lanes eliminates hours of daily delays.

### Real-World Impact: The 1AD CAB Adoption

The operational success of the PTLC is undeniable. Recognizing its potential to drastically improve combat aviation power, 1AD CAB fully adopted the program under Colonel John A. Morris. Chief Warrant Officer Two Jon T. Pew continues to lead its quarterly execution today, ensuring the framework maintains peak wartime capabilities.

During their high-tempo USEUCOM deployment, PTLC-trained leaders successfully navigated unpredictable disruptions such as sudden aircraft tail number swaps without losing momentum. This revitalized culture skyrocketed 1AD CAB's readiness, elevating them to the number one position in both

III Corps and U.S. Army Western Hemisphere Command during the June 2025 Monthly Aviation Readiness Review.

Data backs up this success. Initial courses yielded a 75% increase in perceived leadership preparedness among attendees. More importantly, by addressing task management inefficiencies, units reclaimed an estimated two hours of lost productivity per Soldier daily. This led to staggering reductions in maintenance timelines: UH-60 inspections finished an average of four days early, AH-64s 12 days early, and major CH-47 inspections concluded an astonishing 15 to 20 days ahead of schedule.

### Institutionalizing the Future

The grassroots success of this program has caught the attention of the highest levels of Army Aviation leadership. Recognizing its direct alignment with Multi-Domain Operations and future-fight competencies, the United States Army Aviation Center of Excellence is preparing to officially adopt the PTLC and integrate it into Professional Military Education.

The PTLC is not a quick-fix solution; it is a long-term investment in our Soldiers. By deliberately developing our junior leaders to think like project managers, we are not just improving phase turnaround times we are forging a more resilient, capable, and ready force prepared for the complexities of future conflict.

---

*CSM Bryston K. Manintin is the Command Sergeant Major of the U.S. Army Special Operations Aviation Command at Fort Bragg, NC.*

# S·A·F·E

STRUCTURE DESIGNS

JOHN 13:7

## CREATIVE PROJECT SOLUTIONS THROUGH DESIGN, ENGINEERING, AND MANUFACTURING



**AIR · LAND · SEA · SPACE**

**ZERO NRE  
FOR DESIGN**



**Contract Holder**  
Contract 47QSWA20D002L



9001:2015

**QUALITY  
CERTIFIED**

702.209.8811 | SAFESTRUCTUREDESIGNS.COM | SALES1@SAFE-2.COM



## ▶ 128th Aviation Brigade Update

# 128th Aviation Brigade Dominates International Field at MRO Americas Aerospace Maintenance Competition

By CW3 Christian Grimm



ALL PHOTOS BY RYAN CHRISTENSEN, FRANKLIN PHOTOGRAPHY

Soldiers from the 128th Brigade Aviation Maintenance Competition Teams recently demonstrated unparalleled technical proficiency and military bearing, securing both 1st and 2nd place in the Military category at the highly competitive MRO Americas Aerospace Maintenance Competition (AMC) in Orlando, FL.

Representing the very best of Army Aviation maintenance, Team Black Hawk took home the 1st place title, closely followed by Team Chinook in 2nd place. The 128th's mechanics not only dominated the military bracket but also went head-to-head with the world's elite civilian and commercial aviation professionals, securing multiple overall task victories against a staggering international field of 90 teams.

### A Fiercely Contested Environment

The environment at this year's AMC was exceptionally intense. The caliber of maintenance professionals across the board was extraordinary, and the margins for victory were razor-thin.

In many of the evaluated tasks, the difference between taking first place overall

and falling behind came down to a matter of three seconds or less. Navigating this distinct challenge required extreme focus, precision, and flawless teamwork under pressure - qualities the Soldiers of the 128th displayed in abundance.

### Individual and Team Triumphs

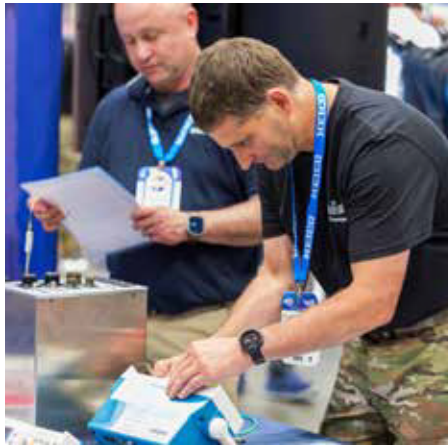
Beyond their sweep of the Military category, the 128th achieved incredible success in specific, highly technical events, outperforming top-tier commercial mechanics. Key highlights from the competition include:

- The Charles E. Taylor Professionalism Award: Staff Sergeant Tiffany Gray was honored with this prestigious award, marking the third consecutive competition that a member of the 128th has brought this specific honor home.
- E-Drill Task (1st Place Overall): Staff

*Soldiers from the 128th Brigade Aviation Maintenance Competition Teams: Team Chinook took 1st place in the military category. Team members were (left to right) SSG Ryan A. Swift, 2nd Battalion, 210th Aviation Regiment, 128th Aviation Brigade; SSG Tiffany Gray, 2nd Battalion, 210th Aviation Regiment, 128th Aviation Brigade; SSG Samantha Ervin, 1st Battalion, 210th Aviation Regiment, 128th Aviation Brigade; SSG Andrew Nightingale, 1st Battalion, 210th Aviation Regiment, 128th Aviation Brigade; SSG Michael Araneta, 2nd Battalion, 210th Aviation Regiment, 128th Aviation Brigade; SSG Francisco Domingo, 2nd Battalion, 210th Aviation Regiment, 128th Aviation Brigade.*

Sergeant Francisco Domingo (Team Chinook) secured a 1st place overall victory, outperforming all 90 competing military and civilian teams.

- Barfield Air Data Testing (1st Place Overall): Sergeant First Class Thomas Foushee and Staff Sergeant Ty Christensen teamed up to take 1st place overall, again beating the entire 90-team field.
- United Airlines Render Safe Task: The 128th was recognized as the fastest military team to complete this critical safety task.
- Fuel Tank Entry: The 128th secured the fastest time among all military competitors.



ALL PHOTOS BY RYAN CHRISTENSEN, EWING ALUSSA PHOTOGRAPHY

Soldiers from the 128th Brigade Aviation Maintenance Competition Teams recently took both 1st and 2nd place in the Military category at the highly competitive MRO Americas Aerospace Maintenance Competition (AMC) in Orlando, FL.

### Translating Trophies into Tactical Readiness

Beyond the accolades and trophies, the most significant takeaway from this mission is the tremendous amount of new skills, techniques, and experiences our Soldiers acquired. Competing against the aviation industry's top-tier professionals provided the 128th with invaluable exposure to innovative maintenance practices and high-stress problem-solving scenarios.

These lessons learned are already being captured and integrated into the Brigade's training pipelines. The experience gained at MRO Americas will drastically enhance the unit's daily maintenance readiness and operational capabilities. Furthermore, it serves as the foundational preparation for next year's competitions, where the 128th intends to fiercely defend its titles and expand its overall task victories.

The Soldiers of Team Black Hawk and Team Chinook represented the Brigade with absolute distinction. To view the full list of their accomplishments and see photos from the event, please visit the official AMC competition website.

*CW3 Christian C. Grimm is the Executive Officer, Company B, 1st Battalion, 222nd Aviation Regiment, 128th Aviation Brigade, Fort Eustis, VA.*

**North Atlantic Industries**  
www.naii.com

**Flexible SWaP.**

**Mission-Ready Performance.**

North Atlantic Industries' (NAI) NIU3R delivers flexible SWaP optimization at virtually any diameter, with minimum depth requirements — ideal for size-constrained aerospace and defense platforms.

Built on proven COTS technology and NAI's field-proven COSA® architecture, NIU3R enables rapid deployment with more than 100 available functional capabilities.

**Accelerate Your Time-to-Mission™**

# Cut, Paste, and Fly

By Dr. Thomas L. Thompson

Prior to developing the Apache Composite Main Rotor Blade at Boeing more than 25 years ago, Bob Loftus, a rotor blade design engineer, and Mike McNulty, a rotor dynamics specialist, had frequent conversations about simpler and more effective ways to track rotor blades and reduce the once-per-revolution vibration imparted to a helicopter airframe.

Bob and Mike thought that the most common method of accomplishing the task, which was to adjust the angle of a bendable metal trim tab bonded to the blade trailing edge, had some shortcomings. Bob knew, for example, that a bendable metal trim tab, with limited fatigue life due to high strain in the vicinity of the blade trailing edge, could not meet his requirement for a blade that would last for at least 10,000 hours. Also, Mike, after years of adjusting trim tabs to track and smooth rotor blade vibration, was seeking a more precise, accurate, and repeatable method to bring the blades within recommended track and vibration limits. Together, they invented and patented a device, called a “field installable and removable wedge,” that allows helicopter maintainers to track and smooth rotor blade vibration more efficiently and effectively.

Wedges are ramp-shaped devices that are attached to the trailing edge of a rotor blade. As shown in Figure 1, wedges are installed with the thin edge facing upstream and with the thicker edge aligned with the blade trailing edge. Like trim tabs, wedges change the blade lift and pitching moment by altering the curvature of the airflow near the trailing edge. For example, attaching a wedge to the lower surface of a blade creates a nose-down pitching moment on the blade, like bending a

trim tab downward. Similarly, attaching a wedge to the upper surface creates a nose-up moment, like bending a tab upward.

Wedges are made of rubber-like, elastomeric material that reduces strain on the adhesive that secures the wedge to the blade trailing edge. Maintainers trim the wedge to the desired length, remove backing paper to expose the adhesive, and then apply the wedge at the appropriate location on the blade. Rotor track and balance software determines the length of the wedge, and the blade radial location where it is to be applied. Wedges are sold in kits for each aircraft type – the length of the wedge and chord width vary in accordance with the size of the rotor blades (Apache wedges are 1.25 inches in width and 10 inches long, whereas Chinook wedges are 1.75 inches in width and 12 inches long). No special tools or equipment are required for wedge removal and installation.

Wedges have been approved for use on Army aircraft, including Apache, Chinook, and some Black Hawk aircraft, for more than 15 years. Targeted testing and operational experience have shown that wedges remain attached and perform as designed in extreme hot, cold, dry or humid conditions. In rare instances where wedges have separated from a blade, there has been no evidence of airframe, engine, or tail

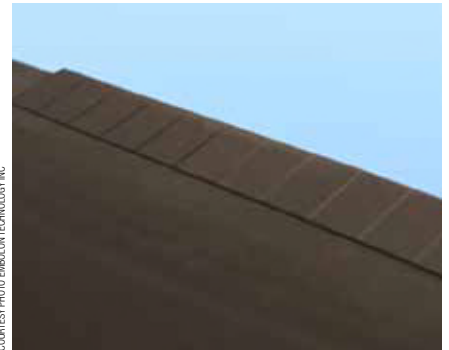


Figure 1. Wedge Installed on MH-60M Rotor Blade.

rotor damage. Wedges are removed and replaced during primary maintenance inspections or when there is evidence of need.

Finally, operational experience has also demonstrated that wedges simplify and reduce the time required to track rotor blades and smooth aircraft vibration to within levels recommended in the aircraft maintenance manuals. In addition to the time saved in installation (relative to tab bending), some units report that use of wedges also results in fewer flights required to bring the aircraft within recommended tracking and vibration limits. For example, in a 2013 AHS paper that summarized a study of Apache aircraft at the South Carolina Army National Guard, Erin Ballentine concluded that “due to the tracking accuracy of the wedges, the maintenance test flight patterns flown during rotor smoothing events decrease by, on average, one test flight pattern per event, which equates to a 33% reduction in operational test flight hours during phase maintenance across the entire fleet.”

---

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



**DC ONE-XM**    
**C-130, KC-135, C-5**  
**ANR Model**

Low Impedance  
 NSN# 5965-01-684-5485  
 P/N 43102G-03



**DC ONE-XM**    
**C-17**  
**ANR Model**

High Impedance  
 NSN# 5965-01-680-0088  
 P/N 43102G-09



**DC ONE-XM**    
**C-130J ANR Model**

Low Impedance  
 NSN# Pending  
 P/N 43102G-10



**DC PRO-2**  
**KC-46 Single Ear Model**

High Impedance  
 NSN# Pending  
 P/N 43106G-06



# Air Dominance

## Next Generation Air Crew Headsets

David Clark Company has been a leading supplier of aviation headsets for the US Armed Forces and military aviators worldwide for decades. These purpose-built air crew headsets are designed to match the impedance and connectivity requirements for a variety of military aircraft. Offering lightweight comfort, excellent active noise reduction performance and "David Clark durability". For more information call **1-800-298-6235** or visit **www.davidclark.com**.



## ▶ Ask the Flight Surgeon

# From Cockpit to Cubicle — Why the Transition Hits Hard (and What to Do About It)

By CPT (Dr.) Joshua Sullivan, LTC (Dr.) Erik Johnson, and COL (Dr.) Tracy Durham

I hear it often in clinic or around the workplace: “Doc, I don’t feel like myself anymore.”

For many Army Aircrew, flying isn’t just a job, it’s an identity. Whether transitioning to a staff-heavy assignment or leaving Army Aviation altogether, the shift from cockpit to cubicle can feel subtle at first. This transition away from flying and toward prolonged office work can have physiological and psychological effects. These changes are often dismissed as “just getting older” or “part of the job,” but, in many cases, they reflect a genuine

mismatch between how aircrew evolved to function and the environments they suddenly find themselves in.

### **A Sudden Change in Environment and Purpose**

Aircrew spend long days outside, moving between aircraft, maintenance areas, and briefing rooms. They are exposed to natural light, variable temperatures, physical stress, and constant feedback from performance and mission outcomes.

The work is physical, goal-oriented, and team-based with a shared purpose.

Staff roles and many civilian post-Army jobs look very different. They are often sedentary, indoors, politically complex, and cognitively exhausting in a way that follows you home. The mission can feel abstract, the feedback loop is slower, and camaraderie changes. For high-performing aircrew members, this contrast alone can be disorienting. From a medical standpoint, this is more than an identity shift; it’s a biological one.

### **The Biology of Sitting Indoors**

Spending most of the day seated is now recognized as an independent

**YULISTA**

## MISSION-READY SURVIVABILITY SYSTEMS

Yulista serves as the U.S. Army Aviation’s primary integrator for aircraft modernization and for our expertise in integrating Aircraft Survivability Equipment (ASE). From designing system upgrades to producing installation kits and advancing ASE capabilities, Yulista delivers solutions that enhance survivability, lethality, and readiness throughout our warfighting capabilities.

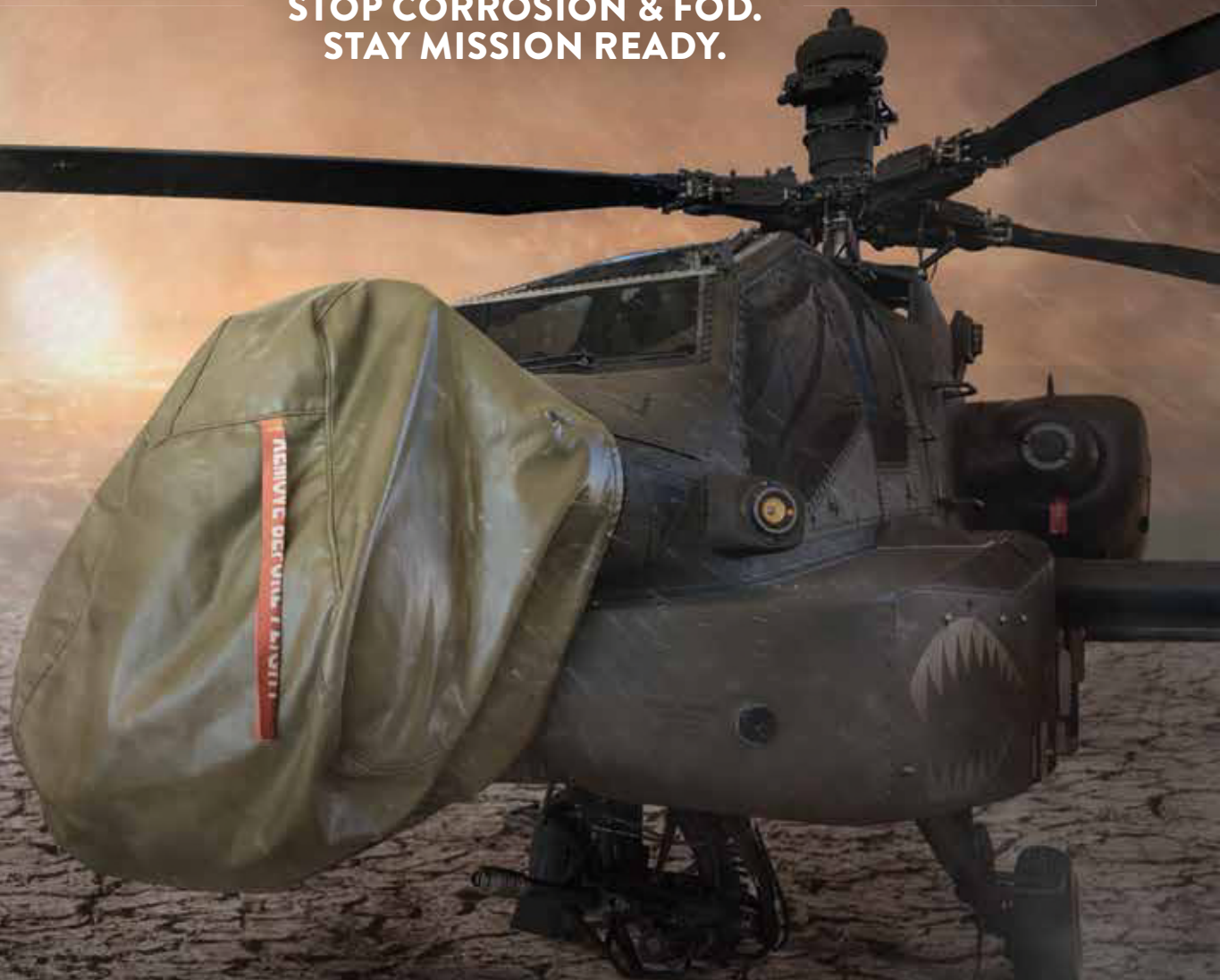
**PROUDLY SUPPORTING U.S. ARMY PRIME CONTRACTS**

Aviation & Missile Center (AvMC) Prototype Integration Facility (PIF)	Redstone Test Center (RTC) Airfield Maintenance & CLS Contract	Lakehurst Army Depot Army Aviation Modernization & Maintenance Support (AMMSS)	DLA / AMCOM Material Readiness Contract
--	--	--	--

[YULISTA.COM](http://YULISTA.COM)

# CUSTOM-FIT COVERS FOR AVIATION ASSETS

STOP CORROSION & FOD.  
STAY MISSION READY.



  
**TRANSHIELD**<sup>®</sup>  
transshield-usa.com

Mission-critical assets face damaging exposure long before they are called into action. Our custom-fit covers help protect aircraft and ground support equipment during storage and daily operations, reducing corrosion risk and supporting long-term readiness.



**SKEDCO**  
SAVING LIVES SINCE 1981



**STILL OUR BEST SELLING PRODUCT**  
**SKED** CONTINUES TO SAVE LIVES




•EQUIPPED WITH COBRA BUCKLES FOR RAPID PATIENT PACKAGING

**SKEDCO® PJ SKED (SK-215C)** "LIGHTER FASTER EASIER TO CARRY"



**UNIVERSAL LITTER TIE-DOWN STRAPS™**  
**NSN: 6530-01-530-3860**

**PATIENT LITTER STRAPS**  
**NSN: 6530-01-536-4145**



**The only Litter Tie-Down Strap with Airworthiness Release (AWR 1330), 3000lb MBS. Patient Litter Strap, 5000lb.**

**WWW.SKEDCO.COM**  
**800-770-7533**



health risk. Prolonged sedentary time is associated with weight gain, increased risk of diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and poor sleep quality, even in people who still exercise regularly.

Light exposure matters. Aircrew who move into windowless offices often experience a sharp reduction in natural sunlight, which disrupts circadian rhythms and regulation of mood. Seasonal mood disorders can occur anytime daylight exposure decreases. Symptoms include low mood, fatigue, carbohydrate cravings, and sleep disturbances.

Vitamin D plays a role here as well. Synthesized through sun exposure, low levels have been associated with depressed mood, impaired immune function, and suboptimal testosterone levels. These factors can affect energy, body composition, and libido.

### Psychological Transition Stress

Leaving the military is a major life change, and many experience "transition stress." Even if you've handled high stress your entire career, this kind of transition can bring emotions you didn't expect. It's common for sleep, mood, energy or focus to feel "off" or "not like myself" for a while during that adjustment. Other changes may also include weight gain, irritability, and low libido.

Research on veterans consistently shows increased rates of depression and anxiety following mission changes or separation from service, particularly when structure and identity are abruptly altered. When challenge disappears but stress remains, dissatisfaction and burnout often follow.

### Practical Strategies to Mitigate Obstacles of Transition

The good news is that many of these effects are modifiable, if addressed intentionally.

- **Prioritize daily movement.** Break up long periods of sitting with walking meetings, standing desks, and short movement breaks. Even 20–30 minutes of outdoor walking several times a week has been shown to reduce stress hormones and improve sleep quality.
- **Optimize light exposure.** Morning sunlight is best. For windowless offices, a 10,000-lux, UV-free light box used for 20–30 minutes early in the day can help reset circadian rhythms.
- **Protect sleep.** Consistent schedules, reduced evening screen exposure, and regular physical activity are foundational.

- **Fuel appropriately.** Transitioning aircrew often need to adjust caloric intake as activity levels change while maintaining adequate protein and micronutrient intake.

- **Follow up medically.** Discuss your symptoms with your doctor.

- **Rebuild challenge and purpose.** Physical goals, outdoor pursuits, service, or mentorship can help replace the mission-driven structure aircrew are used to and best implemented when done with a community or 'tribe'.

### A Final and Critical Message

Transition, whether within Army Aviation or out of uniform, is one of the hardest missions aircrew will face. If you or someone you fly with is struggling with low mood, poor sleep, irritability, unwanted memories, feeling constantly on edge, or thoughts of self-harm or suicide, help is available and effective.

Reach out early to your flight surgeon, primary care provider, behavioral health team, Veterans Affairs, trusted peers, or family. If you are in crisis, call or text the **Suicide & Crisis Lifeline at 988**, available 24/7.

Getting help early is a performance decision, not a weakness. You are human and this mission, like all others, deserves preparation, support, and deliberate execution. As always: take care of your health and take care of each other both in and out of the aircraft. Fly Safe!

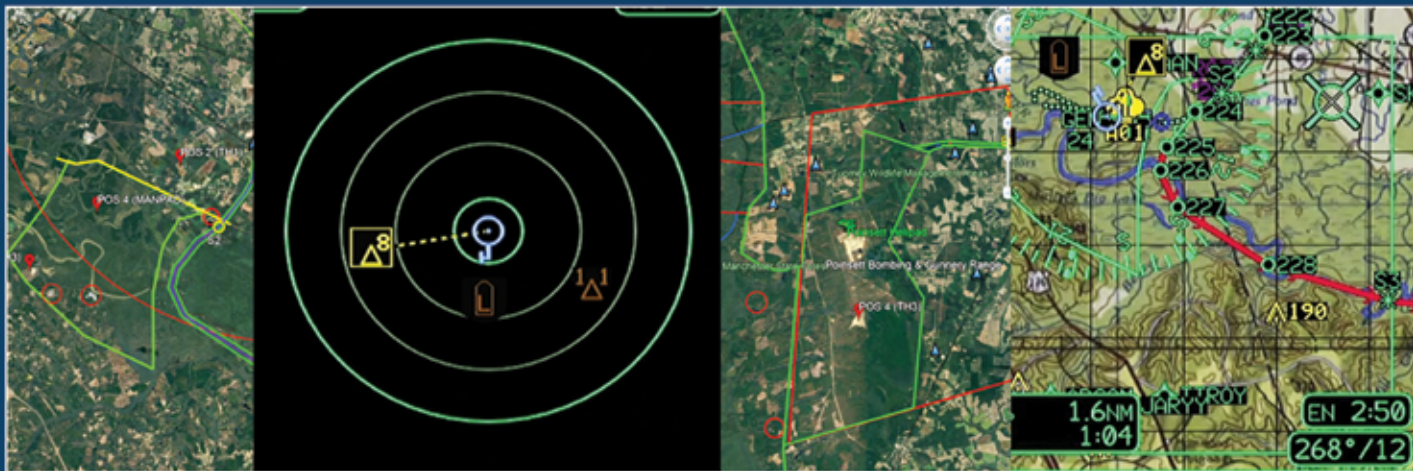
### Questions for the Flight Surgeon?

If you have a question that you would like addressed, email it to [AskFS@quad-a.org](mailto:AskFS@quad-a.org). We will try to address it in the future. See your unit flight surgeon for your personal health issues.

The views and opinions offered are those of the author and researchers and should not be construed as an official Department of the Army position unless otherwise stated.

---

*CPT (Dr.) Joshua L. Sullivan, M.D., is an aerospace medicine resident physician at the Department of Aviation Medicine, Fort Rucker, AL. LTC (Dr.) Erik Johnson, D.O., MPH, is a senior flight surgeon and command flight surgeon at the Army Aviation Center of Excellence, Fort Rucker, AL. COL Tracy L. Durham, PhD, is a neuropsychologist and senior aeromedical psychologist at the Department of Aviation Medicine, Fort Rucker AL.*



# TASS-V NLOS VALIDATION MISSION COMPLETE

*Works as Advertised!!!*

**SITUATION:** Aircraft Survivability Equipment (ASE) hardware has been removed from conventional US Army aircraft that are not deployed or part of the Global Response Force (GRF). This leaves US Army Aviation units with limited aircraft survivability training options at Homestation. To counter this deficiency, US Army approved an Air Worthiness Release (AWR) 2024E-A23 TTS 263883A dated 28 April 2025, authorizing a software update to TASS hardware supporting the T-IADS CDD dated 28 July 2021.

## MISSION

An AH-64Ev6 evaluates the upgraded Training Aircraft Survivability Equipment Stimulation Suite Virtual (TASS-V) NLOS software at Home Station.



## KEY ATTRIBUTES EMULATED

- APR-39 (Radar) AVR-2 (Laser)
- CMWS (IR) Countermeasures
- Effective Terrain Masking, credit for proper TTPs
- Hostile Fire Indicator
- Multi-ship collaboration

## KEY TASKS

- Validate NLOS operation-DTET
- Validate Training Area Viability
- Validate Software Ease of Use
- Download Player/Event List for AAR Playback

**OVERVIEW:** The purpose of the mission was to install and validate new TASS-V software uploaded into the current TASS-V LRU (ASMODIM) authorized by the recently released AH-64 AWR dated 28 April 2025. This software update allows crews to train against peer/near peer IADS threats ANYTIME ANYWHERE without requiring a Line of Sight (LOS) networked environment (outside a CTC), and allows Integrated Air Defense System (IADS) Threats to be positioned anywhere in the world. Ground testing concluded the aircraft could receive ASE indications with only the TASS-V LRU (ASMODIM) and no actual ASE B-Kit hardware installed. During both test flights, all ASE Audio and Visual indications were received while operating Beyond LOS from the base station. The LRU takes into account terrain and the configuration of ASE capabilities by the crews, allowing for masking and credit for executing proper TTPs. The crews were able to train against InfraRed (IR), Radar, and Laser-guided threats, and revived by the auto-revive feature for continued training. Onboard recording enables crews to conduct thorough After Action Reviews.

**END STATE:** Testing confirmed that the TASS-V Software update to the ASMODIM operates as intended outside of a networked environment (CTC). New ASE scenarios developed will support AAR and training of crews and teams on critical tasks necessary to build muscle memory and survivable instincts.



Learn more at:  
[www.faac.com/inter-coastal/](http://www.faac.com/inter-coastal/)

**Fight Survive Win!**

**ICE**  
INTER-COASTAL ELECTRONICS

**ANYTIME ANYWHERE**

# The Special Operations Aviation Training Battalion: Giving Back to Aviation and Building Tomorrow's Leaders

By MAJ John Quarfeld, CPT Rachael Wheeler, Mr. Christopher Smith, and CW4 Matt Episcopo



PHOTOS COURTESY OF AATF INSTRUCTORS

In an era defined by uncertainty, complexity, and rapid modernization, the Special Operations Aviation Training Battalion (SOATB) serves as the standard-bearer and the crucial first step to becoming a Night Stalker. The battalion instills discipline and delivers standardized and specialized training for all Soldiers prior to their assignment with the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment, while also facilitating progression and currency training for current Night Stalkers.

Beyond training future and current Night Stalkers, SOATB contributes to the broader aviation enterprise by extending its expert instruction and core values to non-Special Operations Forces (SOF) personnel across all military branches and components. This mission is accomplished through rigorous curriculums, including the Aviation Life Support Equipment (ALSE) Technician course, the Intelligence Support to Aviation (ISTA) course, and five distinct Programs of Instruction (POI) at the Allison Aquatics Training Facility (AATF), the Army's only dunker training facility. Ultimately, each of these courses delivers critical survival and operational capabilities, forging more experienced and confident leaders

for the joint force. Each course is approved by the Army Transformation and Training Command (T2COM) and accessible through the Army Training Requirements and Resources System (ATRRS).

### **Aviation Life Support Equipment (ALSE) Technician Course: Forging the Future of Flight Safety**

The Special Operations ALSE Technician Course is a cornerstone for modernizing Army Aviation safety and building elite technical proficiency. This intensive program does more than teach fundamental maintenance. It equips technicians with the critical skills required to inspect and manage life support equipment, properly outfit an ALSE facility, and expertly train flight crews on the fit and function of next-generation safety gear.

Recognizing the relentless pace of modern operations, this specialized course is designed for maximum efficiency. It delivers a highly rigorous training pipeline in a timeframe two weeks shorter than the standard ALSE qualification course, providing an invaluable option for units facing strict time constraints without sacrificing quality.

### **Exclusive Gear and Immersive Realism**

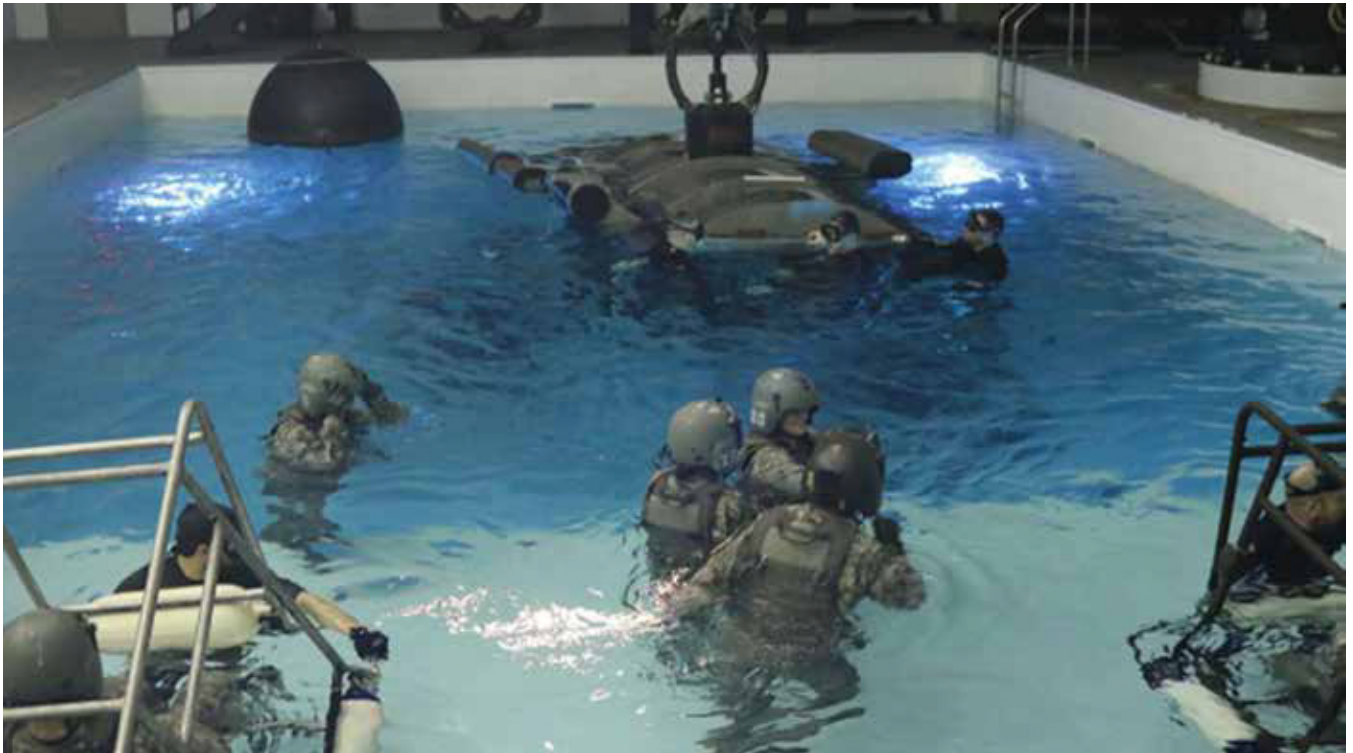
What truly sets this course apart is the unparalleled, hands-on experience students gain with advanced survival and extraction gear rarely seen across the broader Army enterprise. This exposure significantly broadens a technician's expertise, particularly through specialized instruction on the newly fielded Rotary Wing Advanced Tactical Helmet (RATH) and the Aviation Body Armor Vest (ABAV).

The training extends far beyond the classroom. Technicians are thrust into realistic overwater extraction scenarios at the AATF. Working with the AATF Dunker training team, students master the use of flotation devices, survival rafts, and specialized extraction methods. This immersive environment guarantees that ALSE technicians return to their home units equipped with the credible, real-world experience necessary to confidently train their flight crews in overwater survival.

### **Bridging the Gap: SOF and Conventional Integration**

Beyond technical mastery, the program fosters a highly collaborative environment that strengthens the entire aviation branch. Classes typically comprise a unique demographic: 40% Special Operations Soldiers and 60% conventional forces drawn from all components and spanning all ranks.

This diverse integration is a strategic asset. It equips conventional units with specialized resources and direct points of contact within Special Operations, connections that are routinely leveraged to support conventional Army mission requirements. By bridging the gap between special



PHOTOS COURTESY OF AAF INSTRUCTORS

*Previous page and above photo: Graduating from the AATF provides far more than a simple certification. Students leave with a profound understanding of the mental and physical fortitude required to escape a submerged and sinking aircraft.*

operations and conventional aviation, the course ensures that every graduate is prepared to lead modernization efforts at their home station. They return not just as technicians, but as catalysts for change, driving vital improvements in safety, comfort, and sustainability across the force.

### **Intelligence Support to Aviation Course: Closing the Knowledge Void**

In the complex landscape of modern warfare, a critical vulnerability exists: Army Aviation intelligence requirements are currently absent from every level of Military Intelligence (MI) Professional Military Education (PME). This leaves a profound knowledge gap for analysts charged with supporting aviation commanders. To bridge this divide and build tomorrow's leaders, the ISTA course was established. Originally tailored for the 160th SOAR (Abn) 35-series Soldiers, the program was designed as a pivotal step in an analyst's progression, intentionally mirroring the rigorous training pipeline of Night Stalker pilots.

### **A Specialized Resource for the Total Force**

Recognizing the transformative impact of this curriculum, the 160th SOAR (Abn) embraced the opportunity to export its elite, battle-tested methodologies to the broader aviation enterprise. What began as a specialized internal requirement has evolved into a vital asset for the joint force. Over the past two years, the program's reach has expanded dramatically; today, 84% of ISTA graduates hail from conventional units from all components and sister services. By sharing these "Night Stalker" standards, ISTA is elevating the quality of intelligence support across the entire Army.

### **The ISTA Curriculum: At a Glance**

Instructors mentor Soldiers on aviation-specific vernacular, Threat to Air Operations (TTAO), and Anti-Access/Area Denial (A2/AD) analysis using standard Department of War (DOW) Government-Off-The-Shelf (GOTS) programs. This rigorous, three-week course is offered seven times a year with 12 slots per class and directly prepares analysts for Large-Scale Combat Operations (LSCO) by teaching them to counter advanced threats like Integrated Air Defense Systems (IADS) in denied environments.

### **Mastering the Contested Environment**

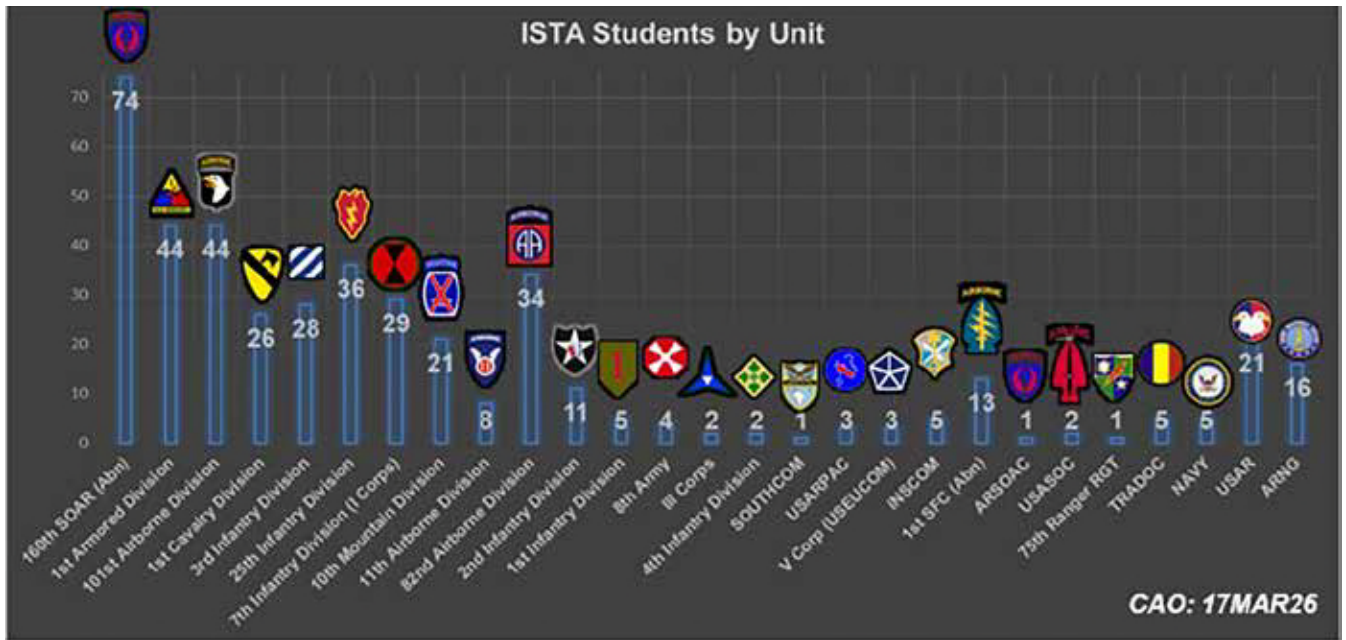
ISTA consolidates battle-proven Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures (TTPs) into a rigorous syllabus that directly prepares analysts for Large-Scale Combat Operations (LSCO). Instructors mentor Soldiers on the nuances of IADS and the complexities of operating in denied environments. This isn't just theoretical training; it is a practical immersion into the threats that aviation commanders face today.

### **Impact on the Flight Line**

The true value of ISTA is realized when analysts return to their home stations. Empowered with specialized knowledge, graduates are uniquely equipped to integrate sophisticated threat analysis into the Military Decision-Making Process (MDMP). By providing commanders with actionable, tailored intelligence, ISTA-trained analysts enable leadership to mitigate risks, exploit enemy vulnerabilities, and allow commanders to make well informed decisions. As the battlefield becomes increasingly lethal, the ISTA course ensures that the intelligence support provided to Army Aviation remains as agile and precise as the aircrews it serves.

### **Inside the Army's Premier Dunker Training Facility**

The Allison Aquatics Training Facility (AAT) at Fort Campbell, KY, stands as a critical lifeline for rotary-



ISTA chart showing where students have come from to attend training.

wing crews. As the Army’s only dunker training facility in the continental United States, the AATF is the premier center for training and certifying pilots, crewmembers, and passengers in emergency underwater egress.

While the facility’s primary mission is to support the 160th SOAR (Abn), SOATB Soldiers, and other United States Army Special Operations Command (USASOC) personnel, its impact extends far beyond the special operations community. Nearly half of the AATF’s students hail from conventional units, sister services, and interagency partners—including the FBI and local emergency responders—ensuring a unified standard for overwater survival.

### Comprehensive Programs of Instruction

To accommodate the diverse needs of the joint force and interagency partners, the AATF offers five distinct POIs.

- Initial Dunker Qualification Course: 2-day course, teaching students who have never attended dunker training.
- Dunker Currency Course: 1-day course that is a mandatory 4-year currency.
- Emergency Breathing Device (EBD) recertification: Annual requirement for 160th SOAR (Abn) crews.
- Ground Force Passenger (A): 1-day course for non-crew members, simulates realistic egress with standard seats.
- Ground Force Passenger (B): 1-day course for non-crew members, advanced egress training for non-aviation forces.

### Building Resiliency and Mitigating Risk

Regardless of the course, every student receives uncompromising instruction on the hazards of overwater flight operations. The rigorous curriculum demands mastery in the principles of EBD operations, clearing procedures, emergency ditching, and the precise utilization of safety and survival equipment.

Graduating from the AATF provides far more than a simple certification. Students leave with a profound understanding of the mental and physical fortitude required to escape a submerged and sinking aircraft. More importantly, these graduates serve as force multipliers upon returning to their formations. Armed with specialized knowledge, they actively refine personal and

aircraft standard operating procedures (SOPs) and TTPs at their home stations. For aviation commanders across the DOW, the AATF remains an invaluable risk mitigation tool, ensuring that when the worst happens overwater, their personnel have the training required to survive.

### Conclusion: Forging the Future Force: A Legacy of Excellence

The Special Operations Aviation Training Battalion is more than a gateway to the 160th SOAR (Abn); it is a force multiplier for the entire aviation enterprise. By sharing its elite, battle-tested curriculum, SOATB transforms specialized knowledge into a shared asset. Whether it is an ALSE technician pioneering new safety standards, an ISTA graduate providing pioneering new safety standards, an ISTA graduate providing pioneering new safety standards, an ISTA graduate providing pioneering new safety standards, or a dunker-qualified crewmember who has mastered the skills to survive in the most unforgiving environments, the impact is clear.

Each graduate returns to their formation not just as a certified expert, but as a leader empowered to drive meaningful change. They are the catalysts who bridge the gap between conventional forces and special operations, ensuring that the lessons learned in the most demanding environments elevate the readiness and lethality of the total force. In an era where integration and modernization are paramount, SOATB’s commitment to giving back ensures that Army Aviation remains unrivaled, forging resilient, adaptable, and confident leaders prepared to win in a complex world.

*MAJ John Quarfeld is the Executive Officer for the Special Operations Aviation Training Battalion, CPT Rachael Wheeler is the Battalion S2, Mr. Christopher Smith is the lead contractor and instructor for the Allison Aquatics Training Facility and CW4 Matt Episcopo is assigned as the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne) ALSE OIC. All four are stationed at Ft. Campbell, KY.*





COMM CHECK . . .

LIMA CHARLIE



# TDFM 9300

MANUFACTURED TO MISSION SPECIFICATION

**TRI-BANDED**

**DIGITAL MODULES**

- VHF: 136-174 MHz
- UHF: 380-520 MHz
- 7/800: 764-870 MHz

**T6 ANALOG MODULE**

- 30-50 MHz, 107-117.9 MHz, 118-156 MHz, 225-400 MHz

**MULTI COMM PORT**

- Plug & Play Handheld Interface

[DALLSAVIONICS.COM](http://DALLSAVIONICS.COM)

ISO 9001:2015 and AS9100 Rev D 800-527-2581



**DALLAS  
AVIONICS  
INC.**

## Foundational Data Integration and Advanced Analytics: ARSOAC Leading Army Aviation through Government Controlled Data Processes and Analytics



By LTC Anthony J. Snipes and CW3 Randall J. Weytens

**T**he Department of War (DOW) directive is unambiguous: integrate artificial intelligence and machine learning (AI/ML) into daily routines across the force. Yet for sustainment organizations, the gap between directive and execution is wide, not because the technology is unavailable, but because the foundation required to make AI/ML meaningful is missing. Algorithms and compute power are commodities; foundational, structured, accessible data is not. Advanced analytics and AI/ML capabil-

(what happened), diagnostic (why it happened), predictive (what will happen), and prescriptive (what should be done). Most sustainment organizations remain stalled at the descriptive stage, generating dashboards that report yesterday's data without informing tomorrow's decisions. The reason is rarely a shortage of tools or vendors; it is the absence of a foundational data layer. Without well understood, integrated, accessible data, predictive models hallucinate and prescriptive recommendations collapse under the weight of bad

The result is the equivalent of a refined gold mine: decades of structured maintenance, supply, and readiness data, once trapped in incompatible silos, now quarriable, governed, and ready for extraction at enterprise scale.

This is the foundational achievement that distinguishes AAMD from organizations still attempting to bolt analytics onto fragmented legacy systems. Where others have purchased dashboards and called it modernization, AAMD has spent fifteen years building the infrastructure that makes genuine modernization possible. The Kubernetes architecture provides scalability and portability; the API layer ensures that any future analytic tool, model, or partner can connect without bespoke integration; and the data preparation and sequencing pipelines guarantee that what enters the model is worthy of the model's output. The data is no longer the bottleneck. The opportunity now is to mine it.

*Modern analytics follows a well-understood maturity curve: descriptive (what happened), diagnostic (why it happened), predictive (what will happen), and prescriptive (what should be done).*

ities are not standalone solutions but the culmination of a deliberate maturity progression that begins with foundational data integration and transparent analytic logic. Organizations that invest in this foundation, as the Army Special Operations Aviation Command (ARSOAC) Aviation Maintenance Directorate (AAMD) and its Digitally Integrated Maintenance Environment (DIME) have done, unlock not only the readiness and cost-efficiency gains of in-house AI/ML, but also the exponential value foundational data delivers across every emerging technology.

### **The Analytics Maturity Progression**

Modern analytics follows a well-understood maturity curve: descriptive

inputs. The DOW directive cannot be fulfilled by purchasing AI; it can only be fulfilled by building the foundation that makes AI scalable, robust, and operator centric. This is the step most organizations skip, and it is the reason their analytics programs fail to mature.

### **The AAMD/DIME Foundation: A Gold Mine, Built**

AAMD and DIME have done the hard, unglamorous work that most organizations avoid. Over the course of fifteen years, DIME has matured into a government-controlled data center and Kubernetes-based infrastructure that ingests sustainment data from disparate Army aviation systems, cleanses it, structures it, and exposes it through standardized API connections.

### **From Data to Time: Returning Soldiers and Leaders to the Mission**

The DOW directive's true promise is not faster reports; it is the return of human time to the human mission. Foundational data leads directly to more accurate AI/ML models, and accurate models allow computers to efficiently absorb tasks that today consume Soldier and Leader time unnecessarily.

Consider logbook reconciliation. Today, Quality Control (QC) personnel spend significant hours each week conducting logbook recons at a desk, a task that is essential, repetitive, and well-suited to automation. With AI/

ML built on the DIME foundational data layer, that reconciliation can be performed by the system itself, with exceptions flagged for human review. The first-order benefit is obvious: hours returned. The second-order benefit is transformative: QC personnel, freed from the desk, can be present on the maintenance floor during maintenance execution. Their physical presence drives down human error in real time,

of any single contract or commercial product. Second, it establishes a repeatable pattern for government-academic collaboration in AI/ML development, a pattern that other sustainment organizations can follow.

### **The Path Forward: Government-Owned or Industry-Paced**

Two viable contracting paths exist for sustaining and scaling these capabilities.

### **The Exponential Effect: Foundational Data as a Force Multiplier for Emerging Technology**

Foundational data does not merely enable AI/ML; it amplifies every emerging technology that touches sustainment. Advanced manufacturing techniques such as cold spray, currently being introduced at the operational level, depend entirely on accurate part-failure data, usage patterns, and demand forecasting to identify which components warrant on-site repair, in what quantities, and on what timeline. Without the foundational data layer, cold spray is a capability without a target list. With it, cold spray becomes a precisely directed readiness multiplier. The same logic applies to digital twins, autonomous logistics, and predictive supply chain management. The investment in foundational data is therefore not a single-purpose investment; it is the enterprise enabler upon which every future modernization effort will depend.

### **Conclusion**

The DOW directive will not be met by purchasing AI. It will be met by building the foundation that makes AI meaningful, by developing models that return time to Soldiers and Leaders, and by selecting the contracting path that preserves the government's ability to scale those models across the force. AAMD and DIME have built that foundation over fifteen years of deliberate effort. The partnership with CMU SEI is modernizing the mining techniques. The gold mine is open, the tools are being sharpened, and the div-

*AI is not deployed for its own sake; it is deployed to give Soldiers and Leaders back the time they need to lead, mentor, inspect, and execute.*

reduces costly rework, and increases the effectiveness of every maintenance action performed.

This is what the DOW directive looks like in practice. AI is not deployed for its own sake; it is deployed to give Soldiers and Leaders back the time they need to lead, mentor, inspect, and execute. Multiplied across every QC shop, every production control office, and every maintenance operation in Army Aviation, the readiness implications are profound.

### **Modernizing the Mining Techniques**

With the foundation in place, AAMD is now actively building modern mining techniques: predictive models, anomaly detection algorithms, and prescriptive analytics that match the industry standard. Central to this effort is an active partnership with the Carnegie Mellon University Software Engineering Institute (CMU SEI), one of the nation's premier DOW-sponsored, federally funded research and development centers for software, cyber, and AI engineering. Through this collaboration, AAMD is co-developing government-owned predictive models grounded in mission application and academic rigor, validated against real Army aviation sustainment data, and engineered for long-term maintainability rather than vendor convenience.

The CMU SEI partnership is significant for two reasons. First, it ensures that the models developed for AAMD are built to a standard of engineering discipline that survives the lifecycle

The first is government-owned, in which models, pipelines, and analytic logic reside within the government's intellectual and technical control, the path AAMD is pursuing with CMU SEI. The second is industry-paced, in which flexible contractual constructs such as Government Purpose Rights under DFARS 252.227-7013/7014, Modular Open Systems Approach (MOSA) requirements, outcome-based agreements, and source-code escrow ensure that the government can pace with industry innovation, swap vendors without disruption, and retain transparency into how its data is transformed and modeled.

The strategic advantage of the government-owned path is decisive: models built once at AAMD significantly reduce the investment to scale to every

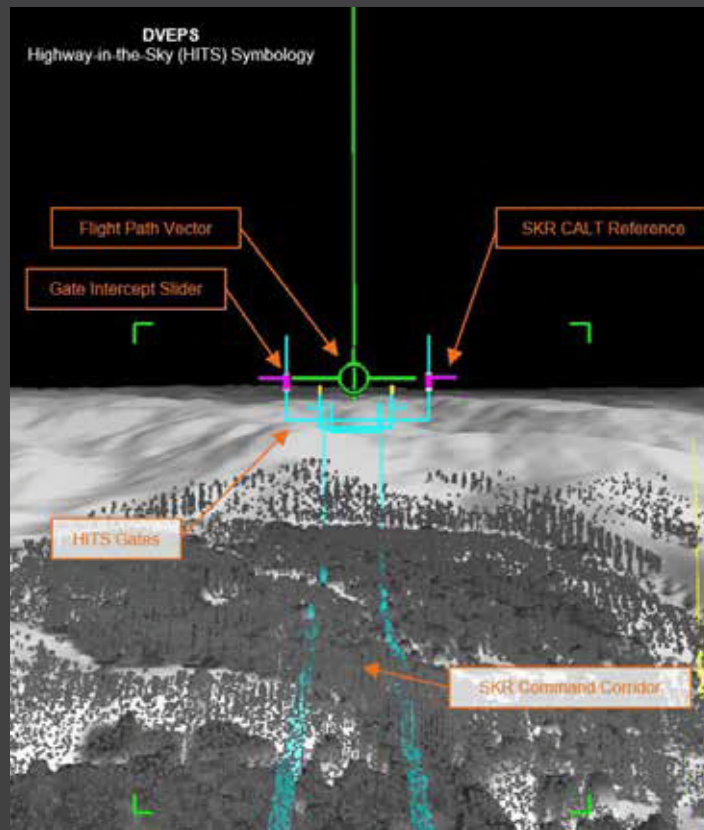
*The gold mine is open, the tools are being sharpened, and the dividends in readiness, in cost avoidance, and in human time returned to the mission will compound for decades.*

Combat Aviation Brigade. A predictive maintenance model trained on the enterprise data layer does not need to be repurchased, relicensed, or reengineered for each unit that adopts it. The marginal cost of expansion approaches zero, while the marginal readiness benefit compounds across the force. No commercial licensing model can match that economic profile.

idends in readiness, in cost avoidance, and in human time returned to the mission will compound for decades.

---

*LTC Anthony J. Snipes is the Director of the ARSOAC AAMD and CW3 Randall J. Weytens is the Branch Chief for the ARSOAC AAMD DIME. Both are assigned to Ft. Campbell, KY.*



COURTESY PHOTO

## Advancing Special Operations Aviation Through Sensor Data Fusion By Jason Lazowski

The United States Army Special Operations Aviation Command (USASOAC) remains at the forefront of Army modernization, consistently delivering next-generation capabilities to support Special Operations Forces operating in complex, contested environments. Within this enterprise, the Systems Integration Management Office (SIMO) and the Technology Applications Program Office (TAPO) play pivotal roles in developing aviation systems to meet emerging operational demands. One of its most significant advancements is the development of a robust Sensor Data Fusion (SDF) capability—an integrated approach that unifies multiple navigation and situational awareness inputs into a single, resilient decision support architecture.

### The Need for Fusion in a Contested Environment

Special Operations Aviation has long relied on a suite of highly specialized sensors—embedded GPS/INS units, radar and LIDAR terrain-referencing systems, vision-based navigation aids, aircraft survivability equipment, and electro-optical systems. Traditionally, these operated independently,

*Above left: MH-60M Degraded Visual Environment Pilotage System (DVEPS) fused sensors looking at the Huntsville Rocket.*

*Above right: Highway in the Sky (HITS) Next Generation 3D cockpit symbology, reducing pilot workload.*

*Opposite page: DVEPS mission playback tool*

requiring aircrews to synthesize information while managing high workload missions. Sensor Data Fusion enables aircraft to maintain positional accuracy and situational awareness in contested environments allowing the aircrews to perform their mission-critical tasks while reducing workload.

### An Integrated Approach

USASOAC has taken a deliberate, technically rigorous approach to building a fusion-based architecture. The capability integrates multiple navigation sources including Vision Based

Navigation, radar derived correlation, LIDAR supported terrain models, and inertial navigation into a unified solution that automatically selects the most reliable input at any given moment. This fusion engine enhances aircraft performance in degraded visual environments, contested electromagnetic conditions, and unfamiliar terrain, dramatically reducing the cognitive burden on aircrews.

An important element of the development has been the rapid adoption of advanced terrain data formats. By developing a capability to ingest, convert, and operationalize high-resolution terrain data at scale, SIMO has enhanced the accuracy and flexibility of navigation systems, and improved the warfighter's ability to operate with precision in contested environments. This adaptability allows units to prepare for global missions with up to date environmental data, improving both planning timelines and mission execution.

### Modernization Through Rapid Requirements and Collaboration

SIMO's work has been accelerated by a streamlined requirements process and close coordination with operational units, industry partners, and the Technology Applications Program Office (TAPO) community. This collaborative approach has shaped a capability that is not only operational today but designed to expand over time. The SDF framework is built with future enhancements in mind—from integrating additional sensor modalities to incorporating AI-enabled analytics that support advanced threat detection and automated decision aids.

### Operational Impact and the Path Ahead

The introduction of Sensor Data Fusion marks a fundamental shift in how Special Operations aircraft navigate and fight. By combining multiple data sources into a coherent common operating picture, SDF delivers unprecedented precision, survivability, and mission confidence. The capability ensures that Army Special Operations Aviation remains ready to operate in environments where traditional navigation solutions are degraded or denied.

Looking forward, fusion architecture provides a foundation for continuous modernization. As new sensors, processors, and decision support tools emerge, they can be integrated into the existing framework, ensuring that the fleet remains at the cutting edge of aviation technology.

### Conclusion

The development of Sensor Data Fusion represents a transformative advancement for Special Operations Aviation. It strengthens the survivability and effectiveness of the aircraft, reduces crew workload, and positions USASOAC to maintain technological superiority in future conflicts. As threats evolve and mission requirements expand, SDF provides the adaptable, resilient foundation needed to support Special Operations Forces anytime, anywhere.

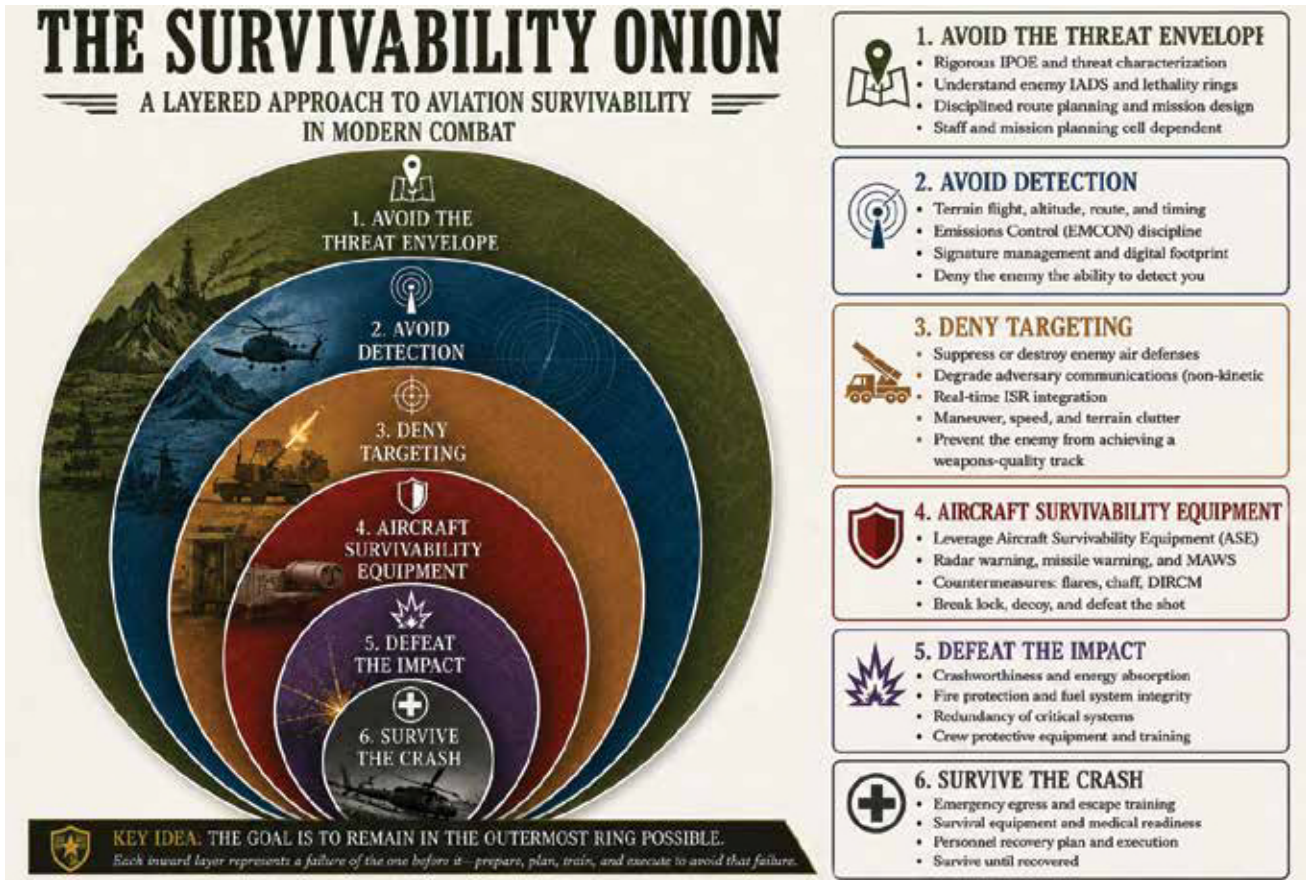
*Jason Lazowski is the Deputy Director of the SIMO, U.S. Army Special Operations Aviation Command at Fort Campbell, KY.*



COURTESY PHOTO

# THE SURVIVABILITY ONION: A Layered Approach to Aviation Survivability in Modern Combat

By Major Sarah Johnson



## THE EVOLVING THREAT ENVIRONMENT

The proliferation of advanced Integrated Air Defense Systems (IADS) has fundamentally altered the calculus of rotary-wing survivability. Enemy air defense networks are no longer static, isolated systems that can be templated once and avoided with a fixed routing protocol. They are networked, dispersed, rapidly repositioned, and increasingly difficult to positively identify before they present a lethal threat.

The aviation community must confront an uncomfortable reality: no combination of onboard survivability equipment is sufficient to compensate for failures in planning, training, or tactical execution. Aircraft Survivability Equipment (ASE) is a critical and irreplaceable component of the modern aviation fight—but it is one layer of comprehensive survivability architec-

Internalizing the layered survivability construct, Army Aviators can focus training and planning effort where it yields the greatest return.

ture, not a substitute for the layers that precede it. Framing survivability as an equipment problem is not simply incomplete; it is operationally dangerous.

## II. THE SURVIVABILITY ONION: A LAYERED CONSTRUCT

To properly contextualize survivability, it is useful to visualize its components as The Survivability Onion. Each concentric ring contributes to an overall defensive framework, with the outermost rings representing the strongest forms of protection. The foundational principle is intuitive: the best way to survive a threat is to avoid it entirely. Each inward layer represents both a reinforcement and an acknowledgment that the preceding layer has failed.

The outermost rings are cognitive and

tactical—built in the Mission Planning Cell, refined through training, and executed by aircrews and staffs who have internalized the fundamentals. The innermost rings are physical and technological, existing to save lives when every other layer has been penetrated. The objective of every aviation commander, planner, and aircrew member is to remain in the outermost ring possible.

## III. THE OUTER RINGS: HUMAN-DEPENDENT SURVIVABILITY Layer 1: Avoid the Threat Envelope

The outermost layer is built through the disciplined integration of the Aviation Mission Support Staff – specifically the Intelligence and Operations Warfighting Functions. Effective survivability demands rigorous Intelligence

Preparation of the Operational Environment (IPOE): thorough characterization of the adversary's air defense order of battle, accurate understanding of threat lethality rings, and disciplined application of that intelligence to route planning. This layer is staff and mission planning cell dependent.

### **Layer 2: Avoid Detection**

If mission requirements dictate operating within a threat's area, the next layer is detection avoidance—achieved through disciplined terrain flight, deliberate route and altitude selection, and exploitation of the physical environment to defeat enemy sensors. Route selection is a tactical decision. Altitude selection is a risk decision. Timing is an analytical variable – when applied correctly, it shrinks the exposure window; when ignored, it creates predictable vulnerabilities.

Detection avoidance also demands strict Emissions Control (EMCON) discipline. Aviation formations must actively manage their electromagnetic signature by limiting radio transmissions and controlling radar emissions. This also requires comprehensive signature management: minimized digital footprints from personal devices and hardened mission systems from intrusion vulnerabilities. An adversary who cannot detect a formation cannot cue weapon systems against it. EMCON is not a communications restriction—it is a survivability measure, and it must be understood and executed as such at every level of the formation.

### **Layer 3: Deny Targeting—Suppress, Deceive, and Maneuver**

Survivability does not depend solely on what happens within the aircraft formation. When a threat environment is understood and all internal mitigation procedures have been applied, aviation planners must look outward and apply effects against the threat. Kinetic fires that suppress or destroy enemy air defense systems, non-kinetic effects that degrade adversary communications, and real-time ISR integration all materially improve survivability of the aviation package.

If detection occurs despite these measures, the immediate objective becomes preventing the enemy from establishing a weapons-quality track. An adversary requires sustained data to successfully engage a moving aircraft. Aviators defeat this requirement through speed, aggressive maneuvering,

and deliberate use of environmental clutter. Terrain flight, altitude discipline, formation control, crew coordination, and communications are not secondary competencies—they are the fundamentals upon which every outer layer of the survivability onion rests.

## **IV. THE ROLE OF TRAINING IN OUTER-RING SURVIVABILITY**

The outer rings of the survivability onion cannot be purchased through an acquisition program. They must be forged through rigorous, continuous training with realistic threat replication.

Simulator sessions must go beyond scripted, sterile flight profiles. Effective survivability training demands that aviators operate in degraded environments: GPS-denied, communications-jammed, and engaged by multiple simultaneous threat systems. An aviator who has never executed an evasive maneuver instinctively in response to an ASE audio warning, under conditions of high cognitive load, has not been trained for the environment they will face. Rehearsals—digital and physical—are where route timing, terrain flight discipline, and EMCON procedures become second nature, and where the synchronization of the aviation package with joint effects is validated.

Field Training Exercises and Combat Training Center rotations with high-fidelity threat systems are the standard against which survivability training must be measured. Feedback from threat operators directly to aviation staffs and aircrews is not supplemental—it is vital for validating Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures. These skills cannot be created during a crisis. They must be developed through disciplined repetition, rigorous standards, and progressive training that consistently increases in fidelity and difficulty.

## **V. THE INNER RINGS: AIRCRAFT SURVIVABILITY EQUIPMENT**

When every outer layer fails—when the intelligence picture has gaps, the route takes the formation through a weapons engagement zone, terrain discipline is lost, and the enemy establishes a firing solution—the aircrew relies on Layer 4: Aircraft Survivability Equipment. If a weapon successfully intercepts the aircraft, the Layers 5 and 6—Defeat the Impact and Survive the Crash—become critical. Warning receivers, countermeasure dispensers, infrared suppression systems, jammers, armor, and crash-resistant

airframes exist for precisely this contingency. They are essential, and Army Aviation must continue to invest in, modernize, and train with these systems.

But their role must be clearly understood. ASE is the bulletproof vest—worn because tactics, situational awareness, and planning occasionally fail, not as a substitute for them. An infantryman does not walk openly into a known threat expecting body armor to absorb the consequences. They use cover, concealment, fire and maneuver, and suppression. Ballistic protection is the final safeguard when everything else has been defeated.

Flying a predictable route into a known threat ring because the aircraft is equipped with flares, missile warning systems, and laser countermeasures is a fundamental misapplication of doctrine. When ASE activates, it is an indicator of sequential failure across the outer rings—not a demonstration that the crew planned well and the system functioned as designed. Crews must understand their ASE capabilities and limitations with precision, employ them as part of a broader survivability framework, and never permit their presence to substitute for sound tactical planning and execution.

## **VI. CONCLUSION**

The most survivable aviation formation is not necessarily the most technologically equipped—it is the one whose staff produces accurate threat assessments, whose planners select routes with genuine tactical discipline, and whose aircrews execute terrain flight, EMCON, and evasive maneuvering as conditioned reflexes rather than emergency procedures. Technology reinforces competence. It does not replace it.

Survivability in Army Aviation is not a product—it is a discipline. By internalizing the layered survivability construct, aviation formations can focus training and planning effort where it yields the greatest return: on the cognitive and tactical disciplines that keep aircraft out of harm's way. When the inner rings are ultimately tested—and in large-scale combat, they will be—the crews that survive will be those who arrived there having already exhausted every outer layer at their disposal.

---

*Major Sarah Johnson is the Aviation Denied Area Planning Team (ADAPT) Director of the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment at Fort Campbell, KY.*





## Aviation Lethality Expands Its Reach, Utility and Effectiveness

*The Rapidly Expanding Role of Tactical Aviation*

*Munitions on Today's Contested Battlefield* By Craig Riedel

**A**rmy Aviation is transforming to sustain combat power today while modernizing for tomorrow's contested multi-domain fight. This transformation is driven by rapid iteration, experimentation, fielding, and sustainment of aviation platforms, launched effects, precision munitions, and the enablers that support them.

The Tactical Aviation and Ground Munitions Project Office supports life-cycle management for a broad portfolio of aviation and ground-launched munitions used by the U.S. Army, joint force partners, and foreign military sales customers. These capabilities provide scalable precision, increased standoff, cost-effective options, and enhanced lethality for formations operating in complex environments.

### Extending Reach

Global proliferation of air defense systems and other threats against aircraft has driven the Army to pursue lethal stand-off capabilities that help protect air crews, extend operational reach, and provide commanders with

additional options. The Spike NLOS missile was procured under a directed requirement to provide the ability for AH-64E Apache to strike multiple target sets at approximately four times the range of prior weapons. PM Apache and PM TAGM teamed to develop, test, procure and field this capability to three Combat Aviation Brigades (CABs). All three CABs exercised this new weapon in 4QFY25 against different scenarios confirming its advertised performance.

Army Ground Maneuver forces have also recognized the unique capability provided by the Spike NLOS munition which was selected as the first tranche of the Mobile Long Range Precision Strike Munition (M-LRPSM) Directed Requirement. The capability integrates the Spike NLOS to existing platforms to increase the lethality of the new Mobile Brigade Combat Team (MBCT) formations at extended ranges and will be demonstrated in a Transformation in Contact (TiC) event.

Army Aviation is also tackling lethality challenges at echelons above Bri-

gade. One example is the Long Range Precision Munition (LRPM) which can strike high value targets at ranges greater than 100km from either air or ground launched platforms. LRPM is being developed and procured to meet the requirements for the lethal variant of Launched Effects Medium Range, in partnership with PM UAS. It leverages commercial components where appropriate, and transitions critical autonomy, guidance and warhead technologies developed in the Army DEVCOM-AvMC and Federally Funded R&D Centers. In May 2026 LRPM successfully showcased these capabilities in the USAREUR-AF African Lion Exercise. LRPM's participation in this exercise was sponsored by the ASA(ALT) Global Tactical Edge Acquisition Directorate (G-TEAD) which aims to rapidly meet urgent commander needs through rapid acquisition. While LRPM can be used as a stand-alone weapon, it will be most survivable and impactful when operating collaboratively in a wolfpack with other types of launched effects to defeat stressing threats in pulsed operations.



*Opposite page left: An AGM-114L Longbow Hellfire missile launches from the Surface-To-Surface Missile Module (SSMM) aboard Independence-variant Littoral Combat Ship USS Montgomery (LCS 8). The missile exercise was the first proof of concept launch of the Longbow Hellfire missile against a land-based target. LCS is a fast, agile, mission-focused platform designed to operate in near-shore environments, winning against 21st-century coastal threats. LCS is capable of supporting forward presence, maritime security, sea control, and deterrence.*

*Opposite page right: A SPIKE Non-Line of Sight (NLOS) missile is fired from an AH-64 Apache helicopter piloted by an aircrew from the 101st Combat Aviation Brigade on Aug. 27, 2025. This marks the first live shoot of the SPIKE NLOS by a conventional aviation unit in the United States Central Command theater. The SPIKE NLOS provides Apache crews with an extended-range precision strike capability, allowing engagement of targets obscured by terrain or distance. The live fire validates the integration of the system.*

Future iterations of LRPM may include higher speed propulsion being developed under the High-Speed Maneuverable Missile (HSMM) S&T program.

### **Formidable Utility: Supporting Multi Domain Operations**

Most people think of aviation munitions as providing air-to-ground lethality. In the past decade these munitions have been adapted through software and hardware modifications to execute numerous roles operating in all physical domains except space. The examples are too numerous to mention, but there are some contemporary examples highly relevant to 2026.

The Hydra rocket with APKWS guidance section has quietly become a prominent killer of threat UAS, loitering munitions and One Way Attack (OWA) munitions. At a cost of approximately \$40K; Hydra Rockets with APWKS (and a proximity fuze) have become a low-cost C-UAS effector fired from multiple ground, fixed wing (crewed and uncrewed), rotary wing, and naval surface vessel platforms. This effector is winning the cost equation related to the C-UAS problem, and military leadership has taken actions to ensure increased adoption.

Hellfire and JAGM missiles can tell a similar story. They are widely integrated on several platforms across the Services and quietly provide a highly effective C-UAS capability that sometimes stands in the shadow of

the air-to-ground capability they are known for. Like Hydra with APKWS, these missiles have been widely adopted in multiple ground, air and naval surface launched environments. While not as low cost as Hydra with APKWS, these missiles are fire-and-forget and are effective at nearly double the range. They are also vertical launch capable of integrating well with Navy vessels and enabling 360-degree protection from multiple launch environments.

The Army Apache and USMC AH-1Z Viper can fire all these weapons. Adding mobility to ground-based C-UAS systems, rotary wing platforms, in autonomous roles or as networked systems, can rapidly adapt to changing battlefield conditions to control key terrain and avenues of approach. These capabilities were demonstrated by the South Carolina National Guard and Marine Corps Aviators in August 2025 during Operation Flyswatter. Hydra with APKWS, HELLFIRE, and JAGM continue to demonstrate their versatility and adaptability to new missions and on non-standard platforms.

### **JAGM: The Capability for the Near Peer Fight**

The AGM-179A JAGM replaces legacy HELLFIRE variants by combining a semi-active laser with a millimeter-wave radar seeker. JAGM has been in production since 2018 but has been minimally fielded since the Army has a robust inventory of HELLFIRE missiles. That changed in early 2026 when USARPAC requested JAGM to address contemporary threats and counter measures that require JAGM capability to defeat.

JAGM is often misunderstood to operate as either a laser HELLFIRE (semi-active laser seeker) or HELLFIRE

Longbow (RF Seeker). This thinking undervalues the capability JAGM brings. In addition to modernized hardware and software, JAGM employs multiple mixed modes utilizing both seeker systems collaboratively to overcome countermeasures, weather, obscurants, among other options that JAGM provides to target engagement. JAGM's multi-purpose warhead makes it the only munition that can provide lethality against the full range of threats identified by Army Aviation. While HELLFIRE continues to be a world class missile, only JAGM can provide the capabilities needed to defeat the most stressing threats on modern battlefields.

### **Sustaining Aviation Lethality**

Sustaining the current munition inventory is as important as developing future capabilities. Stockpile reliability programs help ensure munitions remain safe, reliable, and effective throughout their service life. These programs support readiness by evaluating selected munitions from the operational inventory, informing service-life extension decisions, and helping the Army maintain confidence in the capabilities provided to Soldiers and joint force users.

Through continuous transformation, disciplined lifecycle management, and close coordination with operational units, the Army will continue to deliver aviation munition capabilities that increase lethality, extend reach, and provide commanders with flexible options for the modern battlefield.

*Mr. Craig Riedel is the Project Manager for the Tactical Aviation and Ground Munitions (TAGM) Project Office, Redstone Arsenal, AL.*





AAAA PHOTOS BY PERIE BOZEL, AUBREY CANULUS, AND MICHAEL LULLERY





7



8



9



10



11



12

- 1 – The Gaylord Marriott Opryland Hotel and Convention Center in Nashville, TN once again provided the venue for the 2026 AAAA Army Aviation Warfighting Summit.
- 2 – Over 9,600 registered attendees received updates from the 100 plus Army and industry speakers during the 3 day event.
- 3 – AAAA president MG (Ret.) Walter Golden addresses the more than 9600 registered attendees at this year's summit.
- 4 – The highlight of the kick-off of this year's Summit was without a doubt 105 year old, SSG Dominick Critelli who performed the National Anthem as the colors were presented by the 160<sup>th</sup> Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne) color guard.
- 5 – Piper Jonas leads the 160<sup>th</sup> Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne) color guard into position.
- 6 – AAAA Executive Director Bill Harris addresses the more than 1,500

- attendees at the opening session.
- 7 – The Honorable Michael A. Obadal, 36<sup>th</sup> Under Secretary of the Army provided the keynote address.
- 8 – The AAAA Scholarship Board of Governors led by COL (Ret.) Shelley Yarborough took the opportunity to meet, discuss and address key issues.
- 9 – Over 9,600 registered attendees received updates from the 100 plus Army and industry speakers during the 3 day event.
- 10 – BG (Ret.) Steve Mundt, President of the Trade School, Licensing, and Certification Foundation accepts a donation from the Washington Potomac Chapter during a Scholarship, TLC and Army Aviation Museum Donation Recognition Breakfast.
- 11/12 – More than 350 exhibitors filled the sold-out 264,000 square foot Summit exhibit halls.



13



14



15



16



17

13 – The awards ceremony where we recognize the best of the best is always a highlight of the Symposium. This year we added the winners of February’s U.S. Army Drone Competition. Starting with the 2026 Army Best Drone Warfare Operator Award, sponsored by: Neros Technologies, SGT Javon Purchner, 1st Cavalry Division, Division Artillery, Fort Hood, TX. All awards were presented by The Honorable Michael A. Obadal, 36th Under Secretary of the Army, AAAA President MG (Ret.) Walter Golden, MG Clair Gill, Chief Army Aviation and PAE MA, CW5 Scott Slider, Chief Warrant Officer of the Branch and Branch CSM Kirk Coley.  
 14 – The award for 2026 Army Best Drone Warfare Tactical Squad Award was sponsored by AAAA, and presented to SSG Angel Caliz and SPC Jonah Burks, 2nd Cavalry Regiment, V Corps.

15 – The 2026 Army Best Drone Warfare Unit Innovation Award, was Sponsored by AAAA and went to Project RED or Recovery Exploitation Drone, of the 28th Infantry Division, Pennsylvania Army National Guard. Accepting the award were 1LT Ryan Giallonardo, CW3 Robert Reed and CW2 Nathan Shea.  
 16 – The JOSEPH P. CRIBBINS DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY CIVILIAN OF THE YEAR AWARD, sponsored by The Boeing Company, was awarded to Jeffery L. Wagner, 15th Military Intelligence Battalion (Aerial Exploitation), Fort Hood, TX.  
 17 – The JAMES H. MCCLELLAN AVIATION SAFETY AWARD, sponsored by GE Aerospace, was awarded to CW3 Dan C. Riggs, Aviation Flight Test Directorate, Redstone Arsenal, AL.



18



19



20



21



22



23

18 – The GARY G. WETZEL SOLDIER OF THE YEAR AWARD, sponsored by Bell, was awarded to SPC Morgan J. Albright, Company D, 2nd Battalion, 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne), Fort Campbell, KY. SSG Dakota Neff accepted the award for SPC Albright and was joined on stage by COL Roger P. Waleski, Commander Special Operations Aviation Command.

19 – HENRY Q. DUNN CREW CHIEF OF THE YEAR AWARD, sponsored by the S. Harry Robertson III Family, was awarded to SSG Dakota J. Jennin, 3rd Battalion, 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne), Hunter Army Airfield, GA.

20 – RODNEY J.T. YANO NCO OF THE YEAR AWARD, sponsored by the Lockheed Martin Corporation, was presented to SFC Thomas J. Mason, Company B, 602nd Aviation Support Battalion, 2nd Combat Aviation

Brigade, Camp Humphreys, South Korea.

21 – MICHAEL J. NOVOSEL AVIATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD, sponsored by Sikorsky, A Lockheed Martin Company, was presented to CW5 Daniel L. York, Project Management Office, Apache Helicopters, Redstone Arsenal, AL. 22 – The 2025 Robert M. Leich award winner is the Aviation Flight Test Directorate, Redstone Arsenal, AL. Accepting the award is the unit's Commander, LTC Daniel R. Brown; and deputy commander, Mr. Justin B. Powell. It is sponsored by Airbus.

23 – The U.S. Army Reserve Aviation Unit of the Year was presented to 5th Battalion, 159th Aviation Regiment, Fort Eustis, VA. The unit commander, LTC Daniel M. Cedillo; Senior Warrant Officer Advisor, CW3 Jonathan D. Chittim, and Senior NCO, CSM Nathan A. Smith accepted the award which is sponsored by Honeywell Aerospace.





24– The John J. Stanko, Jr. Army National Guard Aviation Unit of the Year Award is sponsored by Honeywell Aerospace and recognizes outstanding unit accomplishments within the Army National Guard. It was awarded to 207th Aviation Troop Command, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, AK. Receiving the award were the unit commander, LTC Brendon M. Holbrook; Senior Warrant Officer Advisor, CW5 Justin C. Lindell; and senior NCO, CSM Nicholas J. Dutton. On hand to congratulate them was COL Aaron Schilleci, Aviation Division Chief of the Army National Guard.

25 – MG Clair A. Gill, Commanding General, United States Army Aviation Center of Excellence and Fort Rucker, Portfolio Acquisition Executive for Maneuver Air presented a professional program with the theme, “Agile, Adaptive, Lethal: Army Aviation in Continuous Transformation.”

26– AAAA’s oldest award is the Outstanding Unit Award. Established in 1959 it is sponsored by the Boeing company. The award this year went to 2nd Combat Aviation Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division, Republic of Korea. The award was accepted by the commander, COL Jason S. Raub; Command Chief Warrant Officer, CW5 Colin M. Page; and

Senior NCO, CSM Morgan L. Evans, Jr. 27 – MG Lori L. Robinson, Commanding General, AMCOM presented on AMCOM’s role in Delivering Combat Ready formations during this time of transformation.

28 – The coveted Active Army Aviation Unit Award for active battalion and below units, sponsored by L3 Harris was awarded to 4th Battalion, 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne) out of Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington. Accepting the award for the unit is the XO, MAJ Omar M. Alens; the battalion aviation maintenance examiner, CW5 Daniel R. Denton; and Company D senior NCO, 1SG Greg A. Tracy.

29 – COL Roger P. Waleski, Commander Special Operations Aviation Command discusses issues facing Army Aviation from the Special Operations perspective.

30 – MG David Gardner, Commanding General, 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division (Air Assault) gave the Symposium attendees an overview of what the Army needs from the Aviation force from his unique perspective.

31 – Members of the Northern Cheyenne and the Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes pose for a photo during the Tribal participation at the Cheyenne Aircraft naming ceremony during the AAAA Army Aviation Warfighting Summit

in Nashville, Tennessee, April 15, 2026. The name honors the Cheyenne people, reflecting the aircraft’s key attributes of speed, adaptability, and resilience, which are also characteristics of the tribe’s strong warrior culture. (U.S. Army photo by Sofia Bledsoe)

32– Hon. Michael A. Obadal, Under Secretary of the Army, announces that the MV-75 will be known as the MV-75 Cheyenne. 33 – 105-year-old Army veteran SSG Dominick Critelli reunited with the same type of aircraft he maintained as an Army crew chief during WWII. In November 1944, the brave men from the 378th Regiment flew behind enemy lines to drop much needed supplies to isolated American troops stuck on the enemy side of a bridgehead. Over a four-day period, they flew fourteen of these missions precisely dropping supplies to isolated American positions. Several dozen bullet holes pierced the wings as the much-needed supplies and medicine were dropped next to our troops. His heroic and meritorious service earned him the Air Medal.

34 – Professional sessions were well attended. Attendees reported that being able to get a chance to hear from Army Aviation leaders in a small environment made the information shared more relevant.





45



46



47



48

35 –As always “Your Next Mission” hiring event draws large attendance numbers. This year was no different. This event brings together industry partners seeking the expertise possessed by Soldiers as they leave service.

36 – AAAA President MG (Ret.) Walter Golden meets with Chapter Sponsored Soldiers during the Summit. This program is designed for local AAAA chapters to sponsor and bring specific soldiers to the national summit for networking and professional development.

37 – Army National Guard attendees listen to a presentation by AAAA President MG (Ret.) Walter Golden.

38 – PM Utility, COL Ryan Nesrsta (left) moderates an industry/ Army coordination Q&A workshop focused on utility aircraft with COL Jake Whiteside, Transformation Integration Directorate, COL JD Swinney, Aviation Future Capability Directorate and other team members.

39 –Former Aviation Branch Chief and current commanding general of the Center for Initial Military Training, LTG Dave J. Francis gave an update on T2COM: A New Front Door to the Army.

40 – LTG Mac C. McCurry former Aviation Branch Chief and the inaugural commanding general of Futures and Concepts Command gave attendees a look into the future from his perspective.

41 – Also presenting on Day 2 was LTG William D. “Hank” Taylor, the U.S. Military representative to the NATO Military Committee in Brussels, Belgium. Immediately following his presentation LTG Taylor was inducted into the Honorable Order of St. Michael, Gold Award.

42/43– Chief of the Director’s Initiatives Group at the Aviation Future Capability Directorate, COL JD Swinney and COL Sean Keefe presented a session on closing the DOTMLPF Loop

44 – CW5 Bob S. Slider, Chief Warrant Officer of the Aviation Branch addresses various updates to the Aviation Warrant Officer cohort during a workshop panel of Combat Aviation Brigade Command Chief Warrant Officers.

45 – Aviation Branch command sergeants major, lead by Branch CSM Kirk R. Coley (second from left), conducted an enlisted aviation workshop on the second day of the Summit.

46 – Established in 1973 the Army Aviation Association of America (AAAA) Hall of Fame recognizes individuals who have made outstanding, long-term contributions to U.S. Army Aviation. This year’s inductees are CW5 (Ret.) Anthony J. Rinderer, escorted by Hall of Fame member CW5 (Ret.) Michael R. Gwinn;

47 – CW5 (Ret.) Brent C. Driggers, escorted by Hall of Fame member, BG (Ret.) E. J. Sinclair;

48 – Medal of Honor Recipient, LTC James M. Sprayberry (Ret.) escorted by CW5 (Ret.) Steve L. Davidson.



49



50



51



52



53



54



55



56

49 – We were fortunate to have former members of the 227th Assault Helicopter Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division, Vietnam with us again this year. Their service is legendary and the Summit would not be the same without them.

50 – While their spouses were attending professional sessions AAAAA spouses and family members held a team building event featuring line dancing at this year's symposium. Team building is not just for Soldiers but for every member of the Army family.

51 – The Spouse Professional Program II – "Fireside Chat" was hosted by Dr. Frances McKay Gill, wife of the Army Aviation Branch Chief with Ms. Christine Obadal, wife of the Under Secretary of the Army; and Ms. Mary Bier, President and CEO of the Military Child Education Coalition in

attendance. AAAAA focuses on the entire Army Aviation family. Workshops for family members are an important benefit of an AAAAA membership.

52 – Professional sessions were the highlight of the final day of the Symposium.

53 – Excellence is not in short supply in the individual AAAAA Chapters. AAAAA took a few minutes to recognize the following Chapters: The "AAAA" category winner is the Grizzly Chapter, Fresno, CA – award being accepted by Chapter President, COL Shiloh Briggs;

54 – "The Senior Chapter" category winner goes to Griffin Chapter, Ansbach, Germany – award being accepted by Chapter President, CW5 James B. Wilson.

55 – Our "Super Chapter" category winner, the Tennessee Valley Chapter, Huntsville, AL, award



57

is being accepted by Chapter Vice President for Operations, CW5 (Ret.) Chad Ford. The "Master Chapter" category winner is the MacArthur Chapter, all members of which were called back to home station before the presentation.

56 – The final event of the Symposium was the Soldier Appreciation Dinner Concert with Dylan Scott. This year's event had many highlights – great food, great camaraderie, presentation of a Silver Order of St. Michael and great music. Dylan Scott put on one heck of a show that was greatly appreciated by those in attendance.

57 – 105-year-old Dominick Critelli entertained the crowd with some jazz classics on his saxophone after being surprised with the Silver Order of St. Michael.

## THANK YOU! 2026 SPONSORS



2026 Army Aviation Warfighting Summit

# Fort Rucker Building Dedicated to Joseph P. Cribbins

By John Drew Hamilton



U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY BRITNEY TRUMBELL

The headquarters for the U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command's (AMCOM) Aviation Combined Logistics Command (ACLC), building 1116, was officially dedicated in honor of Joseph P. Cribbins, a legendary figure in Army aviation logistics whose career spanned more than four decades.

Cribbins began his military career in 1940 as an enlisted cavalryman and was commissioned in 1942. His service included assignments in the Southwest Pacific during World War II, where he managed intra-theater air transportation for Gen. Douglas MacArthur's headquarters, and later in Korea and Japan.

After retiring as a lieutenant colonel in 1966, Cribbins continued as a senior civil servant specializing in aviation logistics. He retired again in 1986 from the dual position of Special Assistant to the U.S. Army Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics and the Chief of the Aviation Logistics Office.

His impact was recognized with numerous honors, including two Department of Defense Distinguished Civilian Service Awards, the Presidential Rank

*Mr. Robert Doerer, Fort Rucker's deputy to the commanding general (left), and ACLC Commander COL Timothy Harloff (right) unveil the new signage on the ACLC Headquarters on Fort Rucker Building 1116, now named Cribbins Hall.*

of Distinguished Executive presented by President Ronald Reagan, and induction into the Army Aviation Association of America Hall of Fame in 1980.

The building that now bears his name is the headquarters for the ACLC, a command with a critical and far-reaching mission. What began as a pilot program in 2002 now delivers essential materiel readiness and logistics support to five key Army installations: Fort Rucker, Fort Huachuca, Fort Benning, Joint Base Langley-Eustis, and Fort Sill.

"While this building may only be 6,800 square feet, its reach and influence is felt far beyond the boundaries of Fort Rucker," said Robert Doerer, Fort Rucker's deputy to the commanding general.

Doerer emphasized the importance of the work done at the ACLC. "This is about so much more than a building," he said. "The men and women who work inside these walls carry out a mission that Mr. Cribbins would be incredibly proud

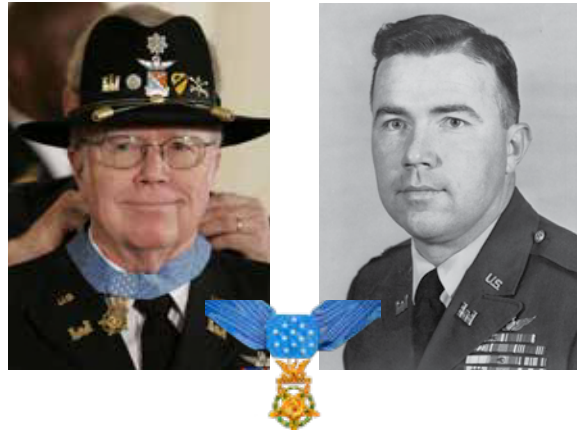
of." According to Doerer, the ACLC "ensures quality aircraft maintenance for the U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence, providing logistics support and quality oversight across a more than 200,000-hour flying program with over 500 aircraft. They work around the clock making sure our aviation Soldiers fly safe and reliable aircraft."

Doerer, who met Cribbins earlier in his career, also shared a personal reflection. "He was a lover of people as well as aviation," Doerer recalled. "He didn't talk about himself; he wanted to know about me." As Doerer put it, dedicating the building to Cribbins is a fitting tribute, ensuring his name will forever be linked to the people-focused, safety-oriented mission he championed throughout his life.

---

*John Drew Hamilton is the Fort Rucker, AL, Garrison Public Affairs Officer.*

# In Memoriam



## Colonel Bruce P. "Snake" Crandall, U.S. Army Retired

The Army Aviation community and the Nation lost one of its most revered heroes on May 31, 2026, with the passing of COL (Ret.) Bruce Perry Crandall, Medal of Honor recipient, combat leader, and Army Aviation legend. He was 93.

Born in Olympia, Washington, on February 17, 1933, Crandall dedicated his life to service, leadership, and the defense of his country. His extraordinary courage during the Vietnam War became one of the defining examples of heroism in American military history and earned him the Nation's highest award for valor.

Then-Major Crandall distinguished himself on November 14, 1965, while serving as a Flight Commander with Company A, 229th Assault Helicopter Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile), during the opening day of the Battle of Ia Drang. Flying an unarmed UH-1 Huey helicopter, he led aircraft carrying Soldiers into Landing Zone X-Ray, where American forces were engaged in one of the most intense battles of the war.

As enemy fire intensified and helicopters became prime targets, Crandall repeatedly flew into the embattled landing zone despite overwhelming danger. When ammunition supplies ran critically low and wounded Soldiers required evacuation, he voluntarily continued missions that others believed impossible. Throughout the day and into the evening, he completed 22 flights under relentless enemy fire, delivering critical ammunition, evacuating wounded Soldiers, and sustaining the combat effectiveness of the surrounded infantry battalion.

On February 26, 2007, President George W. Bush presented Crandall the Medal of Honor during a ceremony at the White House. His Medal of Honor citation noted that his actions "instilled in the other pilots the will and spirit to continue and reassured ground forces that they would not be abandoned. His courage and determination directly contributed to the survival of countless Soldiers fighting on the ground."

His total number of combat operations in Southeast Asia totaled 750.

While his actions in the Ia Drang Valley defined his public legacy, those who knew him best remember a man of humility, integrity, and unwavering devotion to Soldiers. Following his combat service in Vietnam, he continued a distinguished Army career before retiring in 1977 as a lieutenant colonel after more than two decades of service.

In 2010, more than 30 years after his retirement from the Army, he was promoted to the rank of colonel during the AAAA Convention in Fort Worth, Texas by the Army Vice Chief of Staff in recognition of his accomplishments.

Throughout his retirement, COL Crandall remained a passionate advocate for Army Aviation and veterans.

He frequently spoke at military ceremonies, professional development events, and veterans' gatherings, sharing lessons on leadership, courage, and selfless service. Despite receiving the Nation's highest military decoration, he consistently redirected attention to the Soldiers who fought beside him.

His story inspired generations through the book and movie, "We Were Soldiers Once... and Young." Yet his greatest impact was felt within the Army Aviation community, where he embodied the profession's highest ideals of courage, duty, and commitment to others.

Inducted into the Army Aviation Hall of Fame in 2004, he leaves behind a grateful Nation, a proud Army Aviation community, and generations of Soldiers whose lives were touched by his example.

COL Bruce P. Crandall's name will forever stand among the giants of Army Aviation and among the greatest heroes in the history of the United States Army.

Funeral arrangements have not been announced at the time of this writing.

May he rest in peace on Fiddler's Green.

## ► Historical Perspective

# “The Eggbeater” Part 1

By Mark Albertson



**T**he Sikorsky R-4 was the world's first successful mass-produced helicopter, tracing its lineage to the experimental VS-300. On September 14, 1939, Igor Sikorsky achieved stable, controlled flight with the VS-300, marking a significant milestone in aviation history and laying the foundation for the modern helicopter.

Seeking military interest in his revolutionary aircraft, Sikorsky traveled to Wright Field, Ohio on May 26, 1940, where he presented a film demonstrating the VS-300's capabilities. At the time, the primary competitor was the Platt-LePage XR-1, a helicopter design plagued by controllability issues. Sikorsky instead proposed a new aircraft, designated the VS-316. The Army Air Forces Material Division approved the concept and awarded Sikorsky a \$50,000 development contract on January 10, 1941.

The XR-4 made its first flight on January 14, 1942, and soon demonstrated capabilities that had never before been available to military planners. The helicopter could hover, ascend and descend vertically, and fly in multiple directions, opening entirely new possibilities for military operations.

The successful demonstration of the aircraft generated interest in missions ranging from medical evacuation and observation to reconnaissance, res-

cue operations, and transportation of personnel and supplies. A subsequent long-distance flight from Connecticut to Ohio further validated the helicopter's reliability and secured Army confidence in the platform.

On May 6th and 7th, 1943, LT Frank Gregory conducted takeoff and landing trials aboard a tanker in Long Island Sound, demonstrating the helicopter's potential for shipboard operations.

CMDR Frank A. Erickson of the U.S. Coast Guard recognized the aircraft's potential for anti-submarine warfare and later demonstrated its practical value during the response to the destruction of USS *Turner* in January 1944. Erickson flew life-saving plasma through severe winter weather to wounded sailors ashore, showcasing the helicopter's value in emergency medical support.

Yet it was in Burma on April 26th and 27th, 1944, that the helicopter would perform its most historic mission. After an L-1 Vigilant crashed behind Japanese lines, Sergeant Ed Hladovcak and three wounded British commandos were stranded deep in enemy territory.

COL Philip Cochran, commander of the famed 1st Air Commandos, ordered the only available R-4 helicopter into action. Flown by LT Carter Harmon, the aircraft conducted repeated flights into hostile territory, evacuating the survivors one at a time to safety.

*Above left: The R-4 demonstrated its value performing many varied missions.*

*Above right: Igor Sikorsky in a U.S. Coast Guard HNS-1, August 14, 1944.*

On the final sortie, Harmon rescued Hladovcak as Japanese forces closed in on the crash site. The mission marked the first helicopter rescue in history.

Additional rescue operations soon followed, and the helicopter began proving its worth as more than an aviation curiosity. With each mission, the rotary-wing aircraft gained new advocates and demonstrated capabilities that fixed-wing aircraft simply could not match.

What COL Cochran had jokingly referred to as the “Eggbeater” was rapidly becoming one of the most important innovations in military aviation history. The helicopter had arrived.

### Endnotes

1. The present effort is a condensed version of an article published earlier by the author in *World War II History*, “Saga of the Eggbeater.” That article was reviewed by Sikorsky Aircraft prior to publication.

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



AAAA  
Cribbins Futures Forum

**SAVE  
THE DATES!**

November 17-19, 2026  
Von Braun Center, Huntsville, AL

[quad-a.org/26Cribbins](http://quad-a.org/26Cribbins)



**Pain-Free Flying  
for Aircrew Endurance**

Upgraded "AWR Approved" Seat Cushions

**H-60  
Blackhawk**

**AH-64  
Apache**

**CH-47  
Chinook**

**OH-6  
Little Bird**



View a Full Range of US Army "AWR Approved" Products On our Website and Order Now!

**Coastal Seat Cushions, Inc**  
 Email: [Sales@CoastalSeatCushions.com](mailto:Sales@CoastalSeatCushions.com)  
 Tel: (954) 980-6929




[aresia.com](http://aresia.com)

**ALKAN racks by ARESIA**  
 Engineering, Manufacturing & Customer Services

**Real Time Scoring  
& Radar solutions**



**Stores Carriage  
& Release Systems**



**Internal or External  
Auxiliary Tanks**





Supporting Aviation for over 100 years  
(ALKAN, AEDS, LACE, RAFAUT, SECAPEM)

[christophe.labenelle@aresia.com](mailto:christophe.labenelle@aresia.com)  
 1509 Oliver Walcott Spur  
 Williamsburg, VA 23188 - 7657 - USA  
 C. +1(334) 861-2570 - C. +33 6 70 25 21 93

**Cargo Hook  
Systems**





## Army Pilot Reunites with Navy Pilot Who Rescued Him in Vietnam!

By H.H. (Rick) Roll



PHOTO COURTESY OF PUBLIC DOMAIN

*The OH-23 saw extensive use in Vietnam.*

**A**s a U.S. Army 1LT, I flew an OH-23G for John Paul Vann, the protagonist of Neil Sheehan's "A Bright Shining Lie," for the last six months of my tour; July 1967-December 1967. Prior to this, I had flown "Charlie" model gunships & Raven scouts for "D" Troop, 3rd Squadron, 5th Cavalry Regiment.

In Oct. of 1967, Vann sent me on a highly classified mission to Can Tho, deep in the Mekong river delta, to pick-up a South Vietnamese Army Colonel and fly him to Saigon. En route to Saigon, right after crossing the Song River and less than a minute after I tuned to the Dong Tam firebase frequency, the engine of my Raven failed catastrophically. I made a successful "0" groundspeed autorotation to the center of a rice paddy that was submerged under 1 foot of water. We ended up, sitting dry as a bone, in the middle of the paddy. All we had for personal protection were a half dozen HE grenades and a 9mm Swedish K submachine gun.

During the very rapid autorotative descent I recall making a 180 degree turn & checking my airspeed for 60mph but I remember nothing about the flare and pitch pull; a credit to my flight school training. I had broadcast multiple "May Days" on the way down and in less than 10 minutes, a solo U.S. Navy "Seawolf" UH-1B "gunship" shot an approach to our right-hand side to pick us up. After I pulled my radios, I don't think my boots got wet as I raced across the rice stalks. The Seawolf flew us back to Dong Tam, a U.S. Army COL grabbed my passenger, while I hitched a ride on an Army Caribou back to my base at Bear Cat.

Ever since that day I have had a deep need to find and thank that anonymous pilot and his crew. In 1999, better late than never, I posted a message on the Seawolf Association's website in an attempt to locate my savior.

Eight years later, much to my great surprise and pleasure, on April 20, 2007 I received a letter from CMDR Mike

Stock, Seawolf 62, informing me that he was the pilot who had picked me up. I called him immediately and talked to his wife, Barbara, and learned that he was on a corporate flying trip and would return on April 22nd. I then asked her what was Mike's favorite "adult" beverage and she told me he enjoyed Chardonnay wine. After hanging up with Barbara I arranged to have a twelve bottle case of Kendall Jackson's finest "Vintage Reserve" Chardonnay FedExed to the Stock residence in Traverse City, MI.

I called Mike on the 22nd and, as you might imagine, we had a great conversation. He's now retired from the Navy and, after flying multiple aircraft, helos and fixed-wing, literally all over the world, has settled in MI. He flies DeHavilland Beaver on floats in Alaska during the summers; a real "pilot's pilot" to be sure!

During the first conversation I learned, for the very first time, the details of Mike's side of this event. He was alone in his Navy UH-1B at Dong Tam (approx. 10 miles East of my location) hovering a short distance to refuel, when he heard my radio transmission, and knowing that I was going down in "very nasty Viet Cong territory," pulled pitch and went searching for me. His 7.62mm pylon mounted M-60s were still wrapped in their protective canvas coverings. He worried en route that the covers might fly off and hit his main or tail rotors but he knew he had to get to me and my passenger very quickly. He saw my flare. I had forgotten I had even fired one, and made the pick-up. On his way in, he told me he saw multiple armed VC moving towards my location along the paddy dikes; some within 100 meters of my position. After dropping us off at Dong Tam, he manned his helo with the rest of his crew, teamed up with two Army gunships, and headed back to the paddy to fend off the VC until an extraction team was dropped in to secure the area and pick-up my chopper. While the extraction crew was doing its work, it was mortared by the VC but neither the extraction team nor the Army platoon securing the area were hit; much to my relief.

Hearing this narrative for the 1st time, forty years later, made my skin crawl. No other aircraft had responded to my "May Day" so if Mike had not been on frequency at that time, I probably would not be alive to tell this story today. I owe him my life. Fittingly, Mike's wife Barbara had told me that he had been awarded the Silver Star for his actions in rescuing me and in assisting with the extraction of my Raven while under fire. I wish I had pinned it on his chest!

To bring this story full circle, Mike and Barbara visited us in Wyoming, DE in April of 2008. Shaking his hand for the second time, the first was through his cockpit window in 1967, was a very special moment for me and my family. Before the Stocks arrived, my eldest son Adam asked me; "What do I say to a person who, were it not for his heroism, I would not even exist?" My wife Pat and I threw a big reunion barbecue for the Stocks and after the tables were cleared, Mike presented me with his framed "Seawolf Drinking Flag" that he had signed; "We share a bond that few will ever know!" Mike had carried this flag with him everywhere since he left Vietnam in 1968.

Mike and I correspond regularly and we plan to visit the Stocks in IN next spring. As a side note, the Stock's youngest child, Julie, is a U.S. Army Captain and just got back from her second tour in Iraq.

*H.H. (Rick) Roll is a lifetime member of VHPA and lives in Wyoming, DE. He can be reached at rroll@comcast.net*

**PROCUREMENT | PROGRAM SUPPORT | FOREIGN MILITARY SALES**

# Greenwood AEROSPACE

**HUBZONE | NATIVE - AMERICAN | SMALL BUSINESS**

ISO 9001:2025 - AS9120B

**Now, just a click away.**

**GSA Contract Holder**  
**#47QSMS25D00B8**

**42 PROGRAMS 17+ NATIONS**

**Greenwood.Aero | 833-GSA-EBUY**  
**GSASales@Greenwood.Aero**



# AAAA

NETWORK | RECOGNITION | VOICE | SUPPORT

## AAAA Chapter Affairs By COL (Ret.) John Broam

*I greatly appreciate the support from COL Shawn Keeter and 1LT Alexandria Delgado, Diamond State Chapter President and Secretary, for authoring and sharing this information with our membership.*

# The Diamond State Chapter Building Unity, Honoring Legacy: The First Year of the Diamond State Chapter

When the Arkansas Army Aviation community established its Army Aviation Association of America (AAAA) chapter, it marked the realization of a long-held vision rooted in unity, tradition, and legacy.



The Diamond State Chapter gives Arkansas aviators a home for scholarships, recognition, and connection.

For Chapter President COL Shawn Keeter, the drive came from years of seeing Arkansas without a recognized chapter. AAAA mattered across his career, but local families often relied on other states to access benefits.

“I saw the value of AAAA long before this chapter ever existed,” COL Keeter explained. “I had experienced the impact personally when my daughter received a \$3,000 AAAA scholarship from a chapter in another state. That was a moment where it really clicked—why don’t we have this here for our own aviation families?”

When Keeter returned to Army Aviation and assumed duties as the State Aviation Officer, establishing a chapter became a priority.

### From Vision to Reality

Official recognition required membership, elected officers, and bylaws aligned with national standards. Momentum built by bringing together active and retired leaders and deliberately creating an inclusive team. Keeter emphasized representation across Active Guard/Reserve, M-Day Soldiers, full-time technicians, retirees, officers, warrant officers, and enlisted aviators.

“Everything that makes up Arkansas Army Aviation—then and now—needed a seat at the table,” he said.

COL (Ret.) John “Jack” Frost coordinated with AAAA National headquar-

ters, LTC Randal Hobbs helped unlock award nomination processes, and CPT Michael Shinn and other senior aviators advocated for membership through outreach. By the end of year one, the chapter grew to more than 60 members and established a leadership structure for long-term success.

### A Defining Moment

The chapter’s milestone event was the inaugural Order of Saint Michael Banquet at the Camp Robinson Professional Education Center. Held during Arkansas’ National Guard Minuteman Days, the event brought together active Soldiers, retirees, families, and partners to honor Army Aviation heritage and excellence.

The banquet was organized by Chapter Secretary, 1LT Alexandria Delgado, who served as officer in charge. Working under the vision of COL Keeter, she coordinated planning with chapter leadership and installation partners to deliver a professionally executed and financially accessible banquet. Rachel Brewer, wife of CW5 Cole Brewer, and LTC Clara Moser also provided support.

Through teamwork and creative resourcing, the banquet delivered a formal experience at a low-ticket cost, leveraging AAAA chapter funds, volunteer support, and contributions such as the 106th Army Band jazz ensemble.

“That night elevated Army Aviation,” Keeter reflected. “It reminded people of who we are, where we’ve been, and why this community matters.”

### Looking Ahead

The Diamond State Chapter connects past, present, and future generations of Army Aviators across Arkansas. Keeter’s near-term goals include locally funded scholarships, stronger industry partnerships, increased statewide visibility, and preserving Arkansas Army Aviation history.

“I want AAAA to become a focal point—a rallying center that aligns everything we do as an aviation enterprise,” he said. “When we’re aligned, momentum builds. Energy builds. And the legacy continues.”

In just one year, the Diamond State Chapter has transformed a long-standing vision into a thriving organization grounded in heritage, unity, and commitment to the Army Aviation community.

### Contact Us!

Feel free to contact me or Chelsea Jarvis, our AAAA Assistant Director of Member Engagement, if you need help with your Chapter, Executive Board support, would like your chapter featured in the AAAA magazine, or to obtain clarification of National procedures. Chapters are the backbone of AAAA. I can be reached at [john.broam@quad-a.org](mailto:john.broam@quad-a.org). I look forward to working with you and supporting AAAA.

*COL (Ret.) John Broam  
AAAA VP for Chapter Affairs*

## AAAA Chapter News

### ShowMe Chapter Holds Annual AAAA Ball and Safety Stand-Down Weekend



CHAPTER PHOTO

The ShowMe Chapter of AAAA recently hosted their annual Aviation Ball in conjunction with the Missouri National Guard's Aviation Safety Stand Down weekend. The event was a celebration of excellence within Army Aviation. The chapter used the opportunity to induct the following individuals into the Honorable Bronze Order of St. Michael: **CW5 Shannon Martin, CSM (Ret.) Lawrence Welty, LTC Jeff Godfrey, CW3 Dan Schremser, SGM Bo Epple, CW5 Shane Luke, CW5 Charlie Brower, MAJ (Ret.) Jacob Ball. MSG (Ret.) Mike Lewis** was inducted into the Honorable Order of St. Michael as a Knight at the same event.

### Washington-Potomac Chapter Awards First Ever TLC Grant



CHAPTER PHOTO

Alisia Amaro was presented with a Trade School, Licensing, and Certification (TLC) award on April 22nd in Orlando, FL, by her father, CW4 Juan Amaro, National Guard Bureau Senior Aviation Logistics Officer and Vice President for TLC of the AAAA Washington-Potomac Chapter. Amaro is the first member of the Washington-Potomac Chapter to receive such an award, and the TLC grant will assist her as she pursues a career as a front-end developer.

Visit our website for additional articles and updates.  
**ARMYAVIATIONmagazine.com**

### Washington-Potomac Chapter awards Department of the Army Civilian of the Month and Quarter Certificates of Outstanding Achievement



CHAPTER PHOTO

The Washington-Potomac Chapter 1st Quarter, FY26 Department of the Army Civilian of the Month and Quarter awards were presented to (left to right) Mr. Larry Grala (Oct 2025), Ms. Adriene Handy (Nov 2025), Mr. Eric Stith (1QFY26), and Mr. Marcellus Anderson (not pictured Dec 2026) on May 8th at the Woodlawn Golf Course, Fort Belvoir, VA. The awards were presented by (from left to right) Mr. James Boyd, The U.S. Army Aviation Brigade Chief of Staff and COL (Ret.) Ron Lukow, President of the AAAA Washington-Potomac Chapter. Grala, as an Information Technology Specialist, Handy, as a Lead Budget Analyst, Stith, as an Aircraft Mechanic, and Anderson, as an Aviation Maintenance Manager, were all recognized for their outstanding work and relentless dedication to the Brigade's mission accomplishment.

### WPC Holds Annual Spring Golf Tournament



CHAPTER PHOTO

The Washington-Potomac Chapter hosted its annual Spring Golf Tournament on May 8, 2026 at the Woodlawn Golf Course at Fort Belvoir, VA. The teams received awards presented by COL (Ret.) Ron Lukow, Chapter President (left) and CW4 Matt Vennie, Vice President for Operations (right). First Place Team (Score 59), Neal Skees, Jacob Simpson, Jake Amaya, Mike Beck.

### Order of St. Michael and Our Lady of Loreto Inductees

#### Air Assault Chapter

The Air Assault Chapter recently inducted six Soldiers into the Bronze Order of St. Michael during a Squadron Inactivation Ceremony Rehearsal on May 14th for the 2nd Squadron, 17th Cavalry Regiment.



CHAPTER PHOTO BY SGT BRANNA B. BODER

Featured in the photo (left to right) are - **LTC Stephanie A. Hartley, COL Tyler B. Partridge, MAJ Jon G. Thompson, MAJ Ty R. Dawson, 1SG Peter F. Pifer, 1SG Alan L. Yost, 1SG Jarrod K. Castillo, SFC Travis C. Eddy.** Inducting the honorees were AAAA Air Assault Chapter President COL Henry C. Ruth III (Ret.) and CSM Joseph H. Riddle.



CHAPTER PHOTO BY MAJ (RET) SCOTT W. HOLLINGSWORTH

**Mrs. Jennifer S. Wells**, wife of LTC Robert H. Wells, Commander, 6th Battalion, 101st Aviation Regiment (Assault Helicopter Battalion - Modified), Fort Campbell, KY, was recently inducted into the Honorable Order of Our Lady of Loreto for her more than 16 years of exceptional service to the Army Aviation community, leading and supporting Soldier and Family Readiness Groups, community support and family development programs, and outreach initiatives across multiple units and deployments. Wells and AAAA Air Assault Chapter President COL (Ret.) Henry C. Ruth III, posed for a photo following the ceremony.

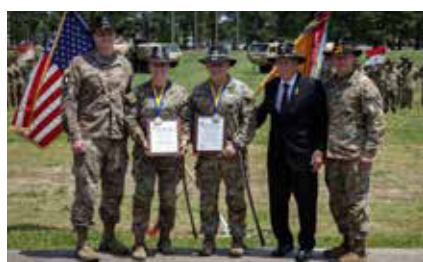


CHAPTER PHOTO BY MAJ (RET) SCOTT W. HOLLINGSWORTH

**Mrs. Jennifer Stewart** was inducted into the Honorable Order of Our Lady of Loreto. In attendance were (left to right) COL Tyler B. Partridge, AAAA Air Assault Chapter President, COL (Ret.) Henry C. Ruth III, Mrs. Stewart, CW4 Glenn E. Stewart (husband), LTC Stephanie Hartley. The induction took place on May 15th at the Division Parade Field, Fort Campbell, KY during the inactivation ceremony for the 2nd Squadron 17th Cavalry Regiment. Stewart received the honor for her unwavering support for over 26 years to the U.S. Army Aviation community.



## Air Assault Chapter *Continued*



CHAPTER PHOTO BY MAJ (RET) SCOTT W. HOLLINGSWORTH

The Air Assault Chapter inducted **LTC Stephanie A. Hartley** and **CW4 Glenn E. Stewart** into the Honorable Silver Order of St. Michael during ceremonies commemorating the inactivation of the 2nd Squadron, 17th Cavalry Regiment on May 15th at Fort Campbell, KY. Pictured left to right are COL Tyler B. Partridge, LTC Stephanie A. Hartley, CW4 Glenn E. Stewart, AAAA AAC Chapter President, COL (Ret.) Henry C. Ruth III, and CSM Anthony L. Mintz. LTC Hartley was recognized for her exceptional leadership of Air Cavalry formations across Afghanistan, Iraq, and Syria. Stewart was honored for a 26-year legacy of advancing Army Aviation safety, lethality, and tactical innovation.



CHAPTER PHOTO BY MAJ (RET) SCOTT W. HOLLINGSWORTH

The Air Assault Chapter inducted **CPT Jacob R. O'Neill** into the Honorable Bronze Order of St. Michael on May 15th at Fort Campbell, KY, during change of command ceremonies subsequent to his separation from the United States Army. Pictured left to right are AAAA Air Assault Chapter Vice President for Membership COL John D. Williams, CPT Jacob R. O'Neill, and LTC Kevin E. Lee. O'Neill was recognized for eight years of exemplary leadership and unwavering commitment to Army Aviation.



CHAPTER PHOTO BY SGT JOSEPH L. SPRINKLES

The Air Assault Chapter inducted **CW4 Alexander Pedraza** into the Bronze Order

of St. Michael during retirement ceremonies on May 1st at the General Brown Compound, Fort Campbell, KY. Pedraza was recognized for distinguished service to the United States Army during a career spanning more than 28 years, including 19 years with the United States Army Special Operations Aviation Command.

## Bavarian Chapter



CHAPTER PHOTO BY SFC KEVINA DANIEL

The Bavarian Chapter inducted **Mrs. Robin O'Brien** into the Honorable Order of Our Lady of Loreto on March 20th in Hohenfels, Germany, in recognition of her exceptional support to Army Aviation families and the military community. O'Brien was recognized for her sustained and selfless support to the United States Army Aviation mission since 2009. Mrs. O'Brien served as a mentor to spouses of junior officers, providing guidance, stability, and encouragement to families navigating the demands of the Army Force Generation cycle.

## Connecticut Chapter



CHAPTER PHOTO BY MAJIMIE WILCOXSON

**BG Jeffrey G. LaPierre**, Director of the Joint Staff, Connecticut ARNG was inducted into the Silver Honorable Order of St. Michael by CSM Tony Savino and COL Andrew Erickson, CSM and Commander respectively, 1109th TASMG on May 19th during a Connecticut AVCRAD workshop at Camp Nett, Niantic, CT. LaPierre was recognized for his successful tenure as the Aviation Group Commander (M-day) and State Army Aviation Officer, AVRAC group member -- a voice for all of National Guard Aviation. Appearing in the photo (left to right) are - COL Andrew T. Erickson, BG Jeffrey G. LaPierre and CSM Tony Savino.



PHOTO BY PATRICK O. LEVY

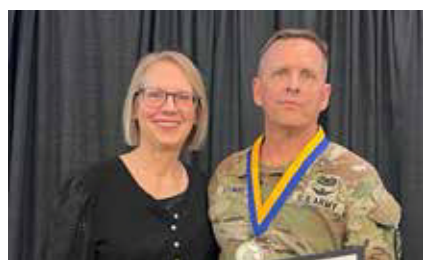
The AAAA Connecticut Chapter presented the Silver Order of St. Michael to **Mr. John H. Palumbo** during retirement ceremonies on April 2nd at the Racebrook Country Club in Orange, CT. Pictured left to right are Senior Vice President CW4(Ret.) Charles H. Brady, Connecticut Chapter President Mr. John H. Palumbo, and Vice President for Programs Mr. Dom Fernandes. Palumbo was recognized for more than three decades of significant contributions to the advancement of U.S. Army Aviation through both his professional career and dedicated volunteer leadership within the Army Aviation Association of America.

## Iowa Chapter



CHAPTER PHOTO BY SER WILLIAM F. MCQUINTECK

The Iowa Chapter inducted **COL Charles H. Lampe** into the Honorable Silver Order of St. Michael on March 27th. Pictured are COL and Mrs. Amber Lampe. COL Lampe was recognized for his distinguished service and significant contributions to Army Aviation throughout his career with the Iowa Army National Guard.



CHAPTER PHOTO BY SER WILLIAM F. MCQUINTECK

The Iowa Chapter inducted **CW5 Steven W. Stumbo** into the Honorable Silver Order of St. Michael on March 27th. Pictured are CW5 and Mrs. Colette Stumbo. CW5 Stumbo was recognized for his distinguished service and significant contributions to Army Aviation throughout his career with the Iowa Army National Guard.

**Savannah Chapter**



CHAPTER PHOTO

The Savannah Chapter presented the Bronze Order of St. Michael to **MAJ Jeremy Bowling** on March 10th at Hunter Army Airfield, GA, in recognition of his outstanding service and contributions to Army Aviation. Pictured left to right are MAJ Jeremy Bowling and AAAAA Savannah Chapter VP of Membership, SFC Zaw Aung. Bowling was recognized for his leadership and dedication while serving as Commander of Company C, 2nd General Support Aviation Battalion, 3rd Aviation Regiment.

**Tennessee Valley Chapter**



CHAPTER PHOTO BY GLORIA BELL

LTC James S. Lawson, Product Manager (right), U.S. Army Aviation Rockets and Small Guided Munitions (ARSGM), TAGM inducted **MAJ Lacey L. Losole**, Assistant Product Manager (left), Long Range Precision Munition (LRPM), Tactical Aviation and Ground Munitions into the Bronze Order of

St. Michael during a ceremony held on May 15th at the TAGM office at Redstone Arsenal, AL. In addition to her accomplishments as a combat-tested Apache PC/AMC, she played a critical role in shaping Army Aviation's future.



CHAPTER PHOTO BY RICHARD H. BRADEN

The Tennessee Valley Chapter inducted **Mr. Rudy Flores Jr.** into the Honorable Bronze Order of St. Michael on March 27th in Huntsville, AL, during retirement ceremonies. Pictured are Mr. Rudy Flores Jr. and CSM (Ret.) Tod L. Glidewell. Flores was recognized for exceptionally meritorious service spanning a 34-year federal career supporting Army Aviation.



CHAPTER PHOTO BY DAVID C. BENSON

The Tennessee Valley Chapter inducted **Mr. Robert R. Copeland** into the Honorable Bronze Order of St. Michael on May 19, 2026, at Redstone Arsenal, AL, in recognition of his outstanding performance and enduring contributions to Army Aviation. Pictured left

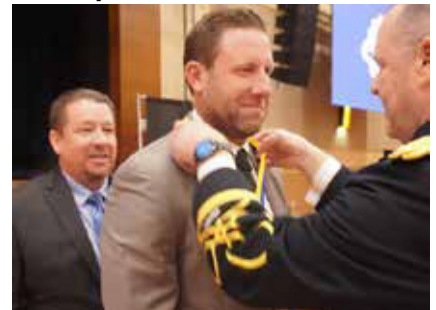
to right are CW4 (Ret.) Steven L. Sanders, Mr. Robert R. Copeland, and Mr. David W. Zecher, DEVCOM AvMC Deputy Director and Director of Strategic Technology and Integration. Copeland was recognized for more than 25 years of distinguished civilian service supporting Army Aviation as a Human Engineering Subject Matter Expert with the Systems Readiness Directorate.



CHAPTER PHOTO BY SGT JOSEPH L. SPANWIES

The Tennessee Valley Chapter inducted **Mrs. Manuela York** into Honorable Order of Our Lady of Loreto recently during retirement ceremonies for her husband, CW5 Daniel York, at Redstone Arsenal, Alabama. The award recognizes exceptional support to the Army Aviation Family and was presented in recognition of Mrs. York's unwavering dedication to her family and the Army Aviation community for nearly three decades.

**No Chapter Affiliation**



COURTESY PHOTO BY CINDY HERNANDEZ

**Ross A. Gwynn** was inducted into the Honorable Bronze Order of St. Michael on April 10th, during the U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground Spring Formal held at the Quechan Resort, Winterhaven, CA. Pictured left to right are Jeffrey Rogers, U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground Air Combat Systems Director; Mr. Ross A. Gwynn, Technical Director, U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground; and COL John Nelson, Commander, U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground. Gwynn was recognized for more than 20 years of dedicated service in support of the nation's aviation warfighters. As an aviation tester and evaluator, he was responsible for planning, execution, data collection, and reporting for a wide range of research and development and developmental test and evaluation programs supporting the Army's most advanced helicopters and sensors.

**ARMYAVIATION** *Upcoming Special Focus*

**July**  
Training & Simulation – Enabling Concept Driven Transformation Aviation Survivability in the Manned/Unmanned Mix



**August/September**  
**Blue Book Issue**  
Special Report – Future Long Range Assault Aircraft  
Blue Book Directory of All Aviation Commands & Activities  
AAAA Scholarship Foundation/TLC Foundation Winners



**Contact: Erika Burgess or Carmen Tuohy**  
[AAAAindustry@quad-a.org](mailto:AAAAindustry@quad-a.org) 203.268.2450 [ARMYAVIATIONmagazine.com](http://ARMYAVIATIONmagazine.com)



# AAAA

NETWORK | RECOGNITION | VOICE | SUPPORT

## AAAA Membership Update By COL (Ret.) Liz Martin

# Forged in Darkness: 48-years of Service to the Nation & Special Operations Aviation

For Army Aviators, the measure of a career is not simply the number of flight hours logged or leadership positions held. It is found in the quiet professionals who master their craft, demonstrate the utmost excellence of themselves, and devote a lifetime of committed service to their fellow Warfighters and the Nation.

Few embody these ideals more completely than LTC (Ret.) Patrick H. O'Hara III, a Life Member of the Army Aviation Association of America, who will conclude 48 years of military and civilian service in December 2026.

Born into an Air Force family at Patrick Air Force Base, FL, O'Hara's foundation for service started as a Boy Scout and cadet in Civil Air Patrol. Commissioned through the Army's Early Commissioning Program in 1981 after participating in ROTC at Florida Institute of Technology, he began his career in the Army Reserve with the 292nd Transportation Company, operating amphibious vehicles before earning his Army Aviation wings. After completing his degree at University of Central Florida, he reported to Fort Rucker, AL in 1984 for the Army's first Aviation Officer Basic Course and launched a military career defined by discipline, humility, and technical mastery.

O'Hara flew AH-1F Cobras with the 3rd Armored Division, standing watch behind the Fulda Gap, West Germany during the final years of the Cold War. This assignment forged the qualities that would define his reputation: meticulous preparation, calm execution, and quiet confidence earned



COURTESY PHOTOS



Left: Patrick H. O'Hara III, Deputy Chief of Staff, U.S. Army Special Operations Aviation Command (Abn.). Right: 1LT Patrick O'Hara III (left) with his Scout Track Instructor Pilot preparing to fly a training mission at Fort Rucker, AL in 1985

through professional competence.

In 1990, he assessed into the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne). For Army Aviators, few assignments demand more. As a Night Stalker, standards are absolute and excuses are irrelevant. Missions flown in darkness, often at the limits of aircraft and human performance, in support of the Nation's most sensitive missions. O'Hara thrived in that environment because he personified the Regiment's culture, a disciplined quiet professional whose expertise and mission focus always comes first.

Flying armed MH-6 Little Birds with the "Six Guns", O'Hara logged nearly 1,700 hours and flew combat missions during the first Gulf War, Desert Storm. He later served as an exchange AH-1W instructor pilot with the USMC's Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron One, commanded Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 160th SOAR(Abn.), served as Professor of Military Science at Austin Peay State University, and helped shape the 160th Regiment's future organizational design. A Master Army Aviator with more than 4,750 flight hours, O'Hara retired from active duty in 2009 and continues to serve as a critical senior civilian leader.

As the first Deputy Chief of Staff of United States Army Special Operations Aviation Command (Abn.), O'Hara has made a critical impact influencing the programs, resources, and aviation systems at the core of special operations aviation.

Throughout his 48-year career, O'Hara has exemplified a defining special operations principle: high execution of standards is what matters.

His legacy extends beyond the military. Together with his wife, Sharon, a former Army Quartermaster officer, he has built a family committed to service, mentored generations of aviators, served as a Scoutmaster, and champions opportunities for military families through the AAAA Air Assault and Iron Mike Chapters.

LTC (Ret.) Pat O'Hara III represents the very best of Army Aviation and Special Operations Aviation — demonstrated by a lifetime of service though mastery of craft, disciplined leadership, and quiet professionalism to support the success of America's National Security priorities.

*COL (Ret.) Liz Martin  
AAAA Vice President for Membership  
liz.martin@quad-a.org*



**New AAAA Life Members**

*Air Assault Chapter*  
LTC Brandy L. Fields  
*Aviation Center Chapter*  
Mr. Bryan Myers  
*Flint Hills Chapter*  
Mr. Jeffrey York  
*Jack H. Dibrell/Alamo Chapter*  
CW4 Kenneth Bouldin, AMSO  
MAJ Joshua E. Harriman  
*Magnolia Chapter*  
LTC Clarence S. Kelly, Jr.  
*Mount Rainier Chapter*  
COL Laurence McSheffrey  
*North Country Chapter*  
Mr. Mohammed Al Ibrahim  
*Volunteer Chapter*  
Ms. Jen Kay

**New AAAA Members**

*Air Assault Chapter*  
Mr. James Abbott  
Mr. Jerrad Ackerman  
SFC Diana Albizu  
SPC Derek Alstieux  
1stSgt Eduardo Alvarran  
MSG Eric Armitage  
Mr. Stanley Auredy  
Mr. Alan M. Backlund  
Mr. Zach Ball  
SSG Nicholas Ballew  
CPT Robin Beaugregard  
CSM Fredrick Benuzzi  
SPC Carlin Bratcher  
Mr. Johnathan Brill  
Ms. Alexandra Brown  
Mrs. Sammie Burchette  
PFC Timothy George Burke  
MSG Jose Carino  
CW3 Chase Carney  
SSG Jacob Centers  
Mr. Matt Chancey  
SFC Joshua Chick  
Ms. Tiffany Chitwood  
SFC Brandon Cox  
CW5 Mark Davis  
CW2 Avinash R. Desai  
Mrs. Annette Elliott  
Mr. Behnam Engheta  
SPC Alexis Feliciano  
SGT AJ Frank  
WO1 Malik George  
LT David Goulet  
Mr. Ian A. Greer  
Mr. Chris Harpster  
Mr. John Harrison  
Mr. Aaron D. Hill  
CW2 Trevor Hunter  
MAJ Timothy Hybart  
Mr. Christian Irvine  
1LT Matthew Jabloner  
SFC Ashley D. Johnson  
Mr. Tom Jones  
CW2 Joseph Kettley  
Mr. Naoki Konuma  
CPT Jacqueline Krawiec  
Mr. Trey Kreid  
Mr. Keith Link  
MAJ Laurencio Lopez  
PV2 Fabiola Macias  
Mr. Ryan Madigan  
Ms. Emily McFadden  
Mr. Keegan McHugh  
SSG Anthony Mendoza  
1LT Anna Morgan  
CPT Michael J. Orgeron  
Mr. Steve Paladino  
SGT Daniel Pawlikowski  
SGT Gene A. Phillips  
SGT Dominique Piffko  
CW5 Andrew Piarick  
Mr. Patrick Riley  
SPC Macros Rosales

CW3 Collin H. Roux  
SPC Konrad Schuessler  
CW3 Steven Scott  
SSG Joshua Smith  
Ms. Tara Stewart  
SPC Carson Stocke  
Mr. Brandon Stutte  
SSG Lincoln Tucker  
SSG William Urban  
CW2 Abigail Varela-Romero  
SPC Jacob Viola  
SFC Frank Walker  
LtCol Jake Way  
Mr. Chandler Welling  
Mr. Taylor Welling  
Mr. Jeffery Whitfield  
Mr. Richard Zirretta  
*Alaskan Midnight Sun Chapter*  
WO1 Sara Becker  
SGT Joseph Finkler  
SFC Eric Gossett  
PV2 Shujie Lin  
MAJ Alex McMahan  
SGT Mason Reynolds  
*Aloha Chapter*  
SSG Angelika P. Alegado  
MAJ Jerrod Avegalio  
COL Erin Braswell  
CWO3 Wesley Carter  
Larry Johnson  
MAJ Richard Johnson  
1LT Christian Ramirez  
CPT Sam Soliday  
Mr. Jerome Sutherland  
Mr. Jarrett Young  
*Arizona Chapter*  
Mr. Luis Baldenegro  
WO1 William Griffin  
Ms. Melissa Hess  
Mr. Azeem Khan  
Mr. John Martinoli  
Mr. Brandon Packman  
Capt Jeff Rogers  
PFC Rylan James Springfield  
Mr. Mark Van Gorkom  
SGT Ryan Vicente  
*Aviation Center Chapter*  
2LT Ella M. Acosta  
2LT Salvador J. Aguilar  
2LT bader A. Ahmed  
2LT Abdullah A. Aldhafiri  
2LT Abdulsalam Ali Alkhtemi  
2LT Fahad A. Alrashidi  
2LT Mohammed Saad Alshahrani  
WO1 Justin W. Anderson  
CW4 Seth Armstrong  
2LT Tysen C. Barbour  
2LT Calahan D. Barker  
WO1 Evesset D. Bates  
CPT Jacob Bickus  
WO1 Shane A. Boutwell  
2LT Kinsey E. Brandt  
CPT Jesse Britt  
2LT Russell B. Brown  
WO1 Robert C. Burnett  
2LT Michael J. Caciendo  
WO1 Alec J. Calhoun  
1LT Steven L. Canales  
2LT Dean C. Carlton  
2LT Caedin J. Carrabino  
2LT Priston J. Charles-Merrill  
2LT Matthew J. Chehovin  
WO1 Grace R. Clayton  
WO1 Jo S. Cruz  
2LT James T. Daniels  
2LT Cayde A. Davidson  
2LT Nicolas A. Delia  
2LT Enie G. Dono  
2LT Gillian T. Draft  
WO1 Atley T. Epping  
2LT Melissa R. Esswein  
2LT Meredith H. Estrada  
WO1 Spencer R. Faherty  
WO1 Daniel S. Fedorenko  
WO1 Joseph C. Finch

2LT Evan P. Fitch  
WO1 Aaliyah R. Fitze  
2LT Claire E. Flackenstein  
WO1 Julian A. Frazier  
WO1 James R. Gagne  
WO1 George Garcia  
WO1 Benjamin J. Gartlan  
2LT Amy V. Gastright  
WO1 Nicholas D. Glander  
WO1 Brandon L. Godwin  
WO1 Edward A. Golas  
WO1 Hayden E. Graff  
2LT Lucas M. Gum  
2LT Jerrome J. Hamilton  
WO1 Jase J. Hammes  
2LT Chloe N. Hampson  
WO1 Gabriel H. Haney  
2LT Gordon C. Hardy  
WO1 John C. Hardy  
2LT Joshua M. Harrelson  
Dr. Emily Hawker  
2LT Armando S. Hisquierdo  
WO1 kyle J. Hoggarth  
2LT Michelle N. Hon  
WO1 Dawson T. Honeycutt  
2LT Alicia M. Horecki  
WO1 Austin M. Houzell  
WO1 Vincent K. Humerickhouse  
WO1 whitfield M. Huntsman  
WO1 Garrett R. Hutchings  
2LT Kyrion J. Kern  
2LT Sion Kim  
WO1 Rhett P. Kline  
WO1 Kyle A. Kretz  
2LT William W. Laino  
WO1 Alex J. Lane  
2LT Daniel M. Laudadio  
2LT Joseph S. Lee  
2LT Elijah U. Lewis  
CW4 William Lovelace  
WO1 Jon E. Lupo  
1LT Philip M. Lynn  
2LT Lila S. Maddux  
Mr. Nathan Maples  
2LT Caleb J. Martin  
2LT Caleb E. Martus  
2LT Walker B. Mathews  
2LT William S. McKinney  
PFC Kemar Dalrio McLaren  
WO1 John R. McLean  
WO1 William A. Meadows  
WO1 Samuel A. Mercer  
2LT Elizabeth G. Michael  
Dr. Leonard Momeny  
Mr. Dennis Monagle  
PFC Luis Eduardo Mora-Gomez  
WO1 Christopher N. Motley  
2LT Natalie G. Mullen  
Dr. Erica Murray  
2LT Phillip A. Nance  
WO1 Daniel M. Ndungu  
WO1 jermaine Nixon  
2LT Rais A. Nurhidajat  
CW5 Keith Osterhoudt  
2LT Zachary Perez  
WO1 Daniel Peters  
2LT Luke P. Pleban  
RET Peter Presley  
2LT Austin W. Pritchard  
2LT Mary G. Quackenbush  
1LT Omar Quadri  
WO1 Trevor C. Ramesey  
WO1 Luis A. Ramirez  
WO1 Harrison T. Ramsey  
WO1 Orion J. Reed  
WO1 Jason D. Reese  
WO1 Timothy R. Robinson  
WO1 Rose L. Rohrbach  
WO1 Jacqueline Rojo Pinedo  
WO1 Christopher E. Rueth  
1LT Michael H. Ruoff  
WO1 Philip J. Ryan  
LT Marco A. Salinas  
WO1 Ian M. Scheel  
WO1 Michael A. Sellers

SFC Adam Serio  
WO1 Tanner Q. Serrano  
WO1 John D. Sheridan  
2LT Xander D. Shoemaker  
2LT Milaap Singh  
WO1 Christopher DT Slagle  
WO1 Gavin T. Slimmer  
SSG Michael Smith, Ret.  
WO1 Robert W. Sorenson  
WO1 Elijah T. Steiner  
WO1 Nicholas G. Stoddard  
CPT Jared J. Stratton  
WO1 Jacob D. Stritzinger  
2LT Nicholas T. Subong  
WO1 Dalton B. Sullivan  
2LT Timothy M. Surburg  
Mrs. LeeAnn Swartz  
2LT Matthew E. Thery  
WO1 Wyatt L. Thompson  
WO1 Eric M. Tomas  
2LT Xander L. Topos  
WO1 Thomas Tovar-Quimbay  
WO1 Mattew K. Tsuchida  
WO1 Jared turner  
WO1 Alexis O. Vazquez Feliciano  
WO1 Ethan Walker  
2LT Nate E. Walther  
2LT William C. Wiegand  
WO1 Seth A. Wild  
PFC Christopher Michael Willard  
2LT Kiersten E. Williams  
2LT Eva G. Wirth  
WO1 Hunter E. Wolf  
WO1 Lauren A. Wood  
2LT Katherine Zender  
*Badger Chapter*  
Mr. Alex Harris  
Mr. Klevin Nebiaj  
Ms. Heather Varney  
*Bayou Chapter*  
SGT Matthew Anthony  
MAJ Alan Fries, Ret.  
*Big Sky Chapter*  
Mr. Ryan Fenley  
CW5 Travis L. Gronley  
Mr. Trevor Howard  
*Bluegrass Chapter*  
Capt Ben Hek  
*Central Florida Chapter*  
Mr. Jaafar Asri  
CW3 Kurt Baum  
Mr. Bill Boucek  
Mr. Guy E. Breault  
Mr. Mathew Burch  
Mr. Gilbert Campos  
Mrs. Johana Campos  
Mr. Eric A. Carney  
Mr. Miguel Crespo  
Mr. Mike Davis  
CW3 Lance J. Demeter  
Mr. Nathan Dickstein  
Mr. Daniel J. Fletcher  
Mr. Eduardo Gadea  
Ms. Melissa Gillespie  
Mr. Brock Gooden  
Mr. Domanie Granger  
Mr. Robert Grueter  
SPC Ethan Hunt  
Mr. Jason Jones  
Mr. Erich Kaiser  
PFC Ian Kuhner  
Mr. Pierre Levesque  
Mr. Jose Llamas  
Mr. Rolando Lopez  
SPC Hayley Elaine Mcamis  
Mr. Scott McPhee  
Mr. Matthew Moore  
PFC Susana Olivares-Martines  
Mr. Joseph V. Orsi  
Mr. James Parks  
CPT William Pierce  
Mr. Dustin Poe  
Mr. Asaf Punis  
Ms. Caroline Reilly  
Ms. Maria Salamanca

PFC Oscar Sanchez  
COL Felipe Sandoval  
Mr. Santhi Sathya  
Ms. Danielle R. Schoppe  
Mr. Connor Shaw  
Mr. Jamie Shepler  
Mr. Jim Smith  
Mr. David Stowe  
Mr. Erik Thompson  
CWO3 Patrick Thompson  
Ms. Elizabeth Trammell  
Mr. Landon VanValkenburg  
Mr. Dan Veenstra  
Mr. Johnny Walker  
CPT Abigail Wingfield  
Mr. Brian Wisch  
*Colonial Virginia Chapter*  
Mr. Aaron Ahloe  
Mr. Roy Ash  
Mr. Johnny Baines  
SSG Daryl Emanuel  
PFC Brian Charles Floyd  
Mr. David Hurst  
Mr. Michael McIntire  
SFC Alexa Rentas  
SSG Asa Riggins  
PFC Liana Kaori Teague  
Mr. Dave Wyman  
*Connecticut Chapter*  
PVT Joao Gomez Borges  
Ms. Chelsea Collier  
Mr. Ken Demaree  
Mr. Christopher DeWitt  
Mr. Scott W. Heaney  
Mr. Kurt Lacoste  
Mr. Joe Lally  
Mr. Philip Otto  
Mr. Christopher Rabadi  
Mr. Peter Rabadi  
Mr. Anthony Ziotas  
*Corpus Christi Chapter*  
PFC Perla B. Puente  
PFC Jose Angel Sanchez  
*Delaware Valley Chapter*  
Mr. Andres Escobar  
Capt William Hodges  
Mr. Stephen Jenking  
SPC Gabriella Marie Lopez  
Mr. Jose Muniz  
Mr. James Thagard  
Mr. James Tuite  
*Desert Oasis Chapter*  
SFC Aaron Castelli  
SFC Barry Johnston  
*Diamond State Chapter*  
Mr. Jeffrey Ames  
CW2 Dickey Maylan  
SFC Lewis Neal  
CPT Aaron Tomaszewski  
*First Troop Philadelphia City Chapter*  
SPC Justus Croyle  
SPC Nicholas Fiorino  
SGT William Paris  
*Flint Hills Chapter*  
Mr. Ryan DeWeese  
Mr. Michael Duff  
1SG Louberto Huertas  
Mr. Jeffrey York  
*Follow Me Chapter*  
1LT Alexander Hunt  
*Free Dominion Chapter*  
SFC Matthew Jessel  
Mr. Peyton McCain  
Mr. R. Stanislaw  
*Frontier Army Chapter*  
Mr. Troy Batson  
Ms. Helena Boucard  
Mr. Alexander Walsh  
*Gold Standard Chapter*  
Mr. Nathan Andaya  
Mr. Aanand Balasubramanian  
Mr. Charles Cunningham  
Mr. Scott Cunningham  
Mr. Ronnie Dockery

*Continued on next page*



### New AAA Members *Continued*

1SG Chris Flodder  
 Ms. Whitney Freeland  
 Mr. Brent Gettelfinger  
 Ms. Patricia Hanlon  
 1LT Andras Juhasz  
 Mr. Robert Lien  
 Mr. Steve Minhinnett  
 SGM Michael R. Noche  
 Ms. Stoja Panic  
 Mr. Joe Rauner  
 CPT Tanner Reinhart  
 Mr. Chad Ross  
 Mr. Nick Scheumann  
 Mr. Corey M. Treadway  
 SGM Randy Weber  
 Mr. Larry Williams  
 SFC Nathan Wisner  
*Great Lakes Chapter*  
 Mr. Ryan Atkinson  
 Mr. Oliver Bucklin  
 PFC Abigail Jane Dennington  
 Mr. David Dornier  
 Mr. Gryson Gardner  
 LCol John "Mike" Henry  
 Ms. Traci Melville  
 Mr. Olivier Morisot  
 Mr. Nicholas Rauch-Smock  
 SPC Antonio Reyes  
 MAJ Stephen Tegge  
 Mr. Daniel Willis  
*Greater Atlanta Chapter*  
 Mr. Avery Austin  
 Mr. Joe Browning  
 PV2 Donovan Grier Dale  
 Mr. Darren DelSignore  
 Ms. Tami Draper  
 PV2 William Asher Fountain  
 Mr. Michael Gazarik  
 Mr. William Gould  
 Mr. Ethan Hayes  
 Mr. Matthew Krupczak  
 Dr. Robert Krupczak  
 CW2 Douglas Lackey  
 WO1 Deshawn Leonard  
 Mr. Grady Maddox  
 Mr. Dmytro Shust  
 Mr. Marc Skinner  
 Mr. Dakota Warwick  
*Green Mountain Boys Chapter*  
 Mr. Nicolas Bonneau  
 Mr. Nicolas Dupras  
 Mr. Brian Gebro  
*Griffin Chapter*  
 CW2 Austin W. Albany  
 WO1 James M. Allen  
 CW2 Antoinette Bisaba-Banson  
 PFC Calan M. Bushinger  
 CPL Christopher C. Carr  
 CW2 Alexander B. Duhaime  
 WO1 Manuel F. Echeverry  
 PFC Adrian G. Gordon Nunez  
 CPT Allen M. Grant  
 1LT Charles R. Hill  
 SFC Kristian D. Jimenez  
 SGT Francisco O. S. Vasquez  
 SGT Jacob Simpson  
 CW2 Frans D. Vandiepenhuisen  
 SFC Matthew Vasser  
 SSG Wyatt D. Warfe  
 SGT Christopher Wilson  
 Mrs. Merriah Wilson  
*Grizzly Chapter*  
 MAJ Quinetta Forby  
 Mrs. Selma Mayorga  
 Mr. Garry Pohrman  
 Mr. Russ Price  
 SPC Alex Ragan  
 Ms. Alicia M. Rock  
 Mr. Aidan Rock-Arnarson

Ms. Melanie Rust  
 Mr. Nathan Skillin  
*High Desert Chapter*  
 CPT Shane M. Bell  
 CSM Jeremy Bybee  
 CPT Hays Faulkner  
 CW2 Shaun Gardner  
 CPT Seth Koester  
 1LT Elias Utz  
 CPT Tyler Williams  
*Idaho Snake River Chapter*  
 Mr. Frank Bills  
 PVT Jasen Hadley Jeffries  
 Mr. Timmy Trojan  
*Iowa Chapter*  
 SSG Jonathan A. Mack  
*Iron Mike Chapter*  
 Capt. Jessie Andrews  
 COL Ben Boardman  
 SFC Raphael Boyce  
 PFC Miguel A. Cambray-Torres  
 Mr. Onwah Campbell  
 GySgt Paul Chambers, Ret.  
 Dr. Frank Christopher  
 WO1 Kenneth Dean  
 Mr. Michael Ferreira  
 CW5 Sean Hennessy  
 Mr. Thomas Klonk  
 MSG James Martz  
 Mr. Michael May  
 Ms. Carrie Smith  
*Jack H. Dibrell/Alamo Chapter*  
 Mr. Cameron Hines  
 Mr. Carlos Miranda  
*Jersey Chapter*  
 Mr. Jeff Darbig  
 Mr. Jacks George  
*Jimmy Doolittle Chapter*  
 SSG Paul Berry  
 SPC Jacob D. Farmer  
 CDT Olivia Gilbert  
 Mr. Paul Handakas  
 SGT Brodie R. Horton  
 Mr. Tom G. Jones  
 Mr. Kirk Martin  
 SFC Steven M. Massa  
 PFC Aaron Joshua Meddley  
 SPC Brandon M. Murphy  
 CW03 Ross O'Donnell  
 SPC Joshua R. Peacock  
 Mr. Matthew Smith  
 SSG John W. Thomas  
 SPC Taylor Thurman  
 MAJ Michael Troise  
*Keystone Chapter*  
 Mr. Reid Beal  
 Mr. John Burkhardt  
 Mr. Joseph C. Franken  
 PV2 Erich David Kudlik  
 1SG Jason Rex  
 MSG John Shaw  
 Mr. Craig Swaner  
*Land of Lincoln Chapter*  
 CW2 Tyler Baltrus  
 Mr. Blake Brown  
 Mrs. Kim Carter  
 Mr. Alex Hernandez  
 Mr. Tyler Kathan  
 Miss Danielle Kennefick  
 Mr. Alex Kosyakov  
 Mr. Jake Manganiello  
 Mr. David Muchow  
 Mr. Diego Quintana  
 Mr. Rodney Stolk  
 Mr. Evan Yeager  
*Lindbergh Chapter*  
 Mr. Jesse Barnes  
 PFC Nicole Blondet Rivera  
 CPT Joshu Hipenbecker  
 CW2 Nicholas LeBeau  
 PFC Ryan David Reinhardt  
 Mr. Nick Thenhaus  
 COL Jack Windes

*Live Free or Die Chapter*  
 Mr. Nicholas Coates  
 Mr. Kevin Colburn  
 Mr. Rayne DuPaul  
 SPC Eric Cameron Gage  
 Mr. Ralph Guevarez  
 Mr. Mike Huffman  
 PV2 Micah Daniel Knights  
 Mr. Eric M. Lachance  
 Mr. Dan Michelinie  
 SGT Ethan Moorhouse  
*MacArthur Chapter*  
 SGT Connor Besemer  
 CW2 Matthew Bonura  
 Mr. Kenneth Bram  
 Mr. Werner Buhler  
 CW4 David Cichowski  
 Ms. Andrea Cruz  
 Mr. Bernard Kierez  
 Mr. Michael Lavelle  
 Mr. Chris Mignano  
 Mr. Lyle Siegall  
 SPC Bryan Alonso Vasquez  
 Ms. Sheila Wasiak  
 SFC Stephen Wrobel  
 Ms. Ruth Zilberstein  
*Magnolia Chapter*  
 MSG John W. Bordages, Jr.  
 PFC Kaden Butler  
 SGT Richard Collins  
 CW3 Gary Cooley  
 SSG Robert Dickerson  
 SGT Bryce Fontenot  
 SSG Justin Gates  
 Pinocchio Hopson  
 PV2 Johnathan Jake Jackson  
 Miss McKenna Jones  
 Mr. David Lenoir  
 CW4 James Lynch  
 SGT Wesley Moffett  
 PFC Christopher Dylan Murray  
 SFC Chelsey Santellanis  
 CSM Richard Scrivner  
 MAJ Joseph Spears  
 CW3 Joseph Taylor  
 CW2 Kidron Taylor  
 CW5 James Waltress  
 CW3 Cameron Willingham  
 SFC Amber Wright  
*Mid-Atlantic Chapter*  
 Mr. Thomas Bachman  
 SSG Harold Beard  
 Ms. Madison Blake  
 WO1 Aaron D. Boyle  
 2LT Mackenzie L. Collins  
 Mr. Benny Fung  
 Mr. Guillermo Garcia  
 Mr. Norman Gregory  
 MAJ Steven Hartov  
 MSG William Hicks  
 Mr. Dwane Light  
 Mr. Elton Marchena  
 PV2 Ryan Matthew Puckett  
 Mr. David K. Sapp  
 WO2 Louis West  
*Minuteman Chapter*  
 SPC Hans Almanza  
 Mr. Chad Carlson  
 Mr. John Flynn  
 SPC Jeremy Alan Greenberg  
 Mr. Andrew Hickson  
 Mr. Millard Lawson  
 PV2 Omarylis Lopez  
 Mr. Daniel Morrissey  
*Mohawk Chapter*  
 PV2 Connor Jaden Aloisi  
 WO2 Ryan Heskett  
*Morning Calm Chapter*  
 SGT Khoa D. Cao  
 CW3 Vincent Kannair  
 SSG Jeremiah Kulkay  
 SSG Allyns Ringor  
 PFC Avery Snipes

*Mount Rainier Chapter*  
 Mr. Paul Allen  
 SPC Christopher Brooks  
 CW3 Michael Brownfield  
 Sherman Burkhead  
 SPC Edward Enriquez  
 CPT Raymond Gaspardo  
 MSG Brendan Hatfield  
 PFC Rayjay Howell  
 Ms. Ashley Lind  
 SPC Derek Metts  
 SFC Jeremy Rigby  
 COL David Walter, Ret.  
 PFC Jack Waverly Warwick  
*Narragansett Bay Chapter*  
 Ms. Emily Arroway  
 PV2 David Charles Cooley  
 Mr. Max Owens  
 SGM Amy Slater  
 Mr. James Templin  
*North Country Chapter*  
 Mr. Mohammed Al Ibrahim  
 Ms. Kelsey Blackley  
 Mr. Steven Brandt  
 Mr. Eric Burns  
 Mr. Steven M. Gorski  
 1LT Logan McNaughton  
 Ms. Felicia McPhail  
 CW5 Jason Sharp  
 CW4 Jared Tyler  
*North Star Chapter*  
 1SG Anthony Hutchinson  
 PV2 Jordan Tracy Knickel  
 Mr. Ben McNeill  
 SGT Kevin Palm  
 PFC Taydan Xavier Schaffner  
*North Texas Chapter*  
 Mr. David Albin  
 Mr. Reed Anderson  
 Mr. Bryan Berthy  
 SGM Jeffrey Bragg  
 Mr. Thierry Derrien  
 Mr. Matt Dowden  
 Mr. Derek Fahrer  
 Mr. Mark Goolsbay  
 Mr. Florent Groberg  
 Mr. Pete Hughes  
 Mr. Timothy Lopez  
 Ms. Tracy Madewell  
 Mr. Danny Maldonado  
 Mr. Jonathan Massias  
 Mr. Taylor Neitsch  
 Ms. Jill Peoples  
 Mr. Drew Rosek  
 Ms. Michelle Schiller  
 Ms. Jasmine Tillman  
*Northern Lights Chapter*  
 SPC Logan R. Kinner  
 CW4 Mike Lopez  
 SGT Stuart A. Luttrell  
*Old Tucson Chapter*  
 Mr. John Gunderson  
 GEN Angelica Huerta  
 Mr. Christopher Stemple  
 Miss Natalie Van  
*Oregon Trail Chapter*  
 Mr. Ezekiel Bierschank  
 Ms. Hillary Bierschank  
 CPT William M. Black  
 WO2 Lee Chambers  
 Ms. Susan Hoffman  
 PFC Asher R. Nottingham  
*Phantom Corps Chapter*  
 SGT Richard Bosquez  
 SPC Ryan Carle  
 CW2 Ryan Funk  
 SPC Dave Gomez  
 CW3 Scott Hamilton  
 WO2 Ranel McEntire  
 CW5 Shannon Martin  
 SGT Alfred Olonde  
 CW2 Joshua Pedersen  
 CSM Bobby Richards  
 SFC Blake Riddle

CW03 Joe Rodriguez  
 Romano Wilson  
*Pikes Peak Chapter*  
 Mr. Tre Blake  
 Mr. Tom Edwards  
 PFC Tennyson Francis  
 CPT Miles French  
 CW4 Tim Hall  
 Mr. Steve Hinton  
 Lt. Col. Benjamin Jackson  
 MAJ Jared Joern  
 Mr. Alexander B. Johnson  
 PFC William Hunter McRae  
 Mr. Tom Meenach  
 CW5 Todd Misurelli  
 SGT Timothy Mosher  
 CW2 Tyler Oliver  
 CW3 Robert Pratt  
 SSG Brian Ramos  
 Mr. Andrew Ruszkiewicz  
 Mr. Hank Scott  
 SGT Brandon Spencer  
 MAJ Shane Tracey  
 LTC Cora Wade  
 CPL Savannah Wade  
 Mr. Charles Webb  
 COL Chuck Webb  
 WO1 Connor Young  
*Prairie Soldier Chapter*  
 Mr. Benjamin Hand  
 Ms. Sarah Shain  
 Mr. Wayne Stewart  
 Mrs. Maria Thelen  
*Ragin' Cajun Chapter*  
 CPT Duncan Lloyd Anderson  
 Dr. Sreenivasa Sanakam  
*Rio Grande Chapter*  
 Mr. Raul Alborn  
 Mr. Jordan Auxt  
 PV2 Hushane Wayne Bedward  
 WO2 Tyler Campbell  
 Mr. Sean Carnahan  
 SGT Steve Cepeda  
 CW03 John Docksey  
 Mr. Aloysius Donovan  
 MAJ Tyler Edstrom  
 Mr. Mehmet Erengil  
 CPT Pershing Gervais, Ret.  
 SSG Fernando Gutierrez  
 CW2 Aaron James  
 CPT Seth Kaiser  
 MAJ Troy Koons  
 CPT Julian Lidback  
 MSG Colin Maas  
 SPC Noah Madrid  
 SGT Bhavin Naik  
 CW3 Brandon Norsesian  
 PFC Adam Jacob Rodriguez  
 Mr. Annusa Shanneb  
 Mr. Trey Sprinkle  
 CW3 Jeffrey K. Tucker  
 Mr. Kurt Turner  
*Savannah Chapter*  
 SPC Gabriel Castaneda  
 CW4 Derek Holloway  
 SSG Jordan Molyneaux  
 SFC Adam Ross  
 WO2 William Sparks  
 SFC Angel Torres-Arocho  
 Mr. Danny Wright  
*ShowMe Chapter*  
 MAJ Jacob Ball  
 SPC Logan Elmer  
 WO1 Brian Freeman  
 CPT Bernard Hainen  
 CW2 Wes Holtmeyer  
 CW2 Andrew Kifer  
 1SG Danielle Ledbetter  
 CW5 Shannon Martin  
 SGT Alfred Olonde  
 CW2 Joshua Pedersen  
 CSM Bobby Richards  
 SFC Blake Riddle



# AAAA Awards Excellence! AAAA Functional Awards Now Open

Suspense: August 1

Suspense: September 1

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

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

- Air/Sea Rescue Award
- ATC Controller of the Year Award
- ATC Technician of the Year Award
- ATC Manager of the Year Award
- ATC Facility of the Year Award
- ATC Unit of the Year Award
- DUSTOFF Medic of the Year Award
- Medicine Award
- Trainer of the Year Award

CW2 Zachary Schmidt  
 LTC Brett Slaughter  
 Mr. Austin Smith  
*Southern California Chapter*  
 Mr. Ahmad Abdallah  
 Mr. Marlon Aguirre  
 Mr. Isaiah Ahana  
 Mr. Robert Apodaca  
 Mr. Osei Appiagyei  
 Mr. Tom Beyerl  
 Mr. Bari Cashman  
 Ms. Janel Chavez  
 Mr. Jelani Crear  
 Mr. Ryan Dougherty  
 Mr. Marcelo Dutra  
 Ms. Jasmine Garcia  
 Mr. Peter Gondek  
 Mr. Russell Graves  
 Ms. Fatema Hamdani  
 Mr. Anthony Hnat  
 Mr. Ryan Holcomb  
 Mr. Barry Hou  
 Mr. Justin Jordan  
 Mr. Ben Kesling  
 Mr. Asad Khaqan  
 Mr. Adarsh Kulkarni  
 Mr. Ian Laffey  
 Mr. Desmond Lamont  
 Mr. Ian Locke  
 PFC Hai Lu  
 Ms. Trisha Navidzadeh  
 Dr. David O'Brien  
 Mr. Michael O'Brien  
 Mr. Arkadyi Okhman  
 Ms. Rachel Onassis  
 Mr. Harsha Pasupulati  
 Mr. Scott Persico  
 Mr. Zachary Plunkett  
 Mr. Tim Porcelli  
 Mr. Yeshwanth Premkumar  
 Mr. Ryan Purdy  
 Mr. Mark Roberti  
 Mr. Scott Rosebush  
 Mr. Bradford Shattuck  
 Mr. Ed Smetak  
 Mr. Pascale Sutterby  
 Mr. Brian Swanson  
 PVT Leland Russell Thomas  
 Ms. Erin Waidelich  
 Mr. Adam Warmoth  
 PFC Schuyler T. Williamson  
 Mr. Justin Wood  
*Tarheel Chapter*  
 Mr. Charles Byrd  
 Mr. R. Joseph Cox  
 Mr. Mark Hibbard  
 Mr. Marcus A. Jett  
 Mrs. Wendy Minton  
 Mr. Nick Rogers  
 Mr. Sam Subbarao  
 Mr. Pete Torriane  
*Tennessee Valley Chapter*  
 SGT Patrick Atkins  
 Mr. Jonathan Bailey  
 Mr. Diego Balcazar

Mr. Clint Ball  
 Ms. Laura Barlow  
 Mr. Russell Barlow  
 Mr. William J. Barnes  
 Mr. Eric Bartlett  
 Mrs. Amy Bell  
 Mr. Keith Blanks  
 Mr. Jarrett D. Bornstad  
 Mrs. Hayley Boyd  
 Mrs. Lori Campbell  
 Mr. Daniel Carlsson  
 Mr. Stephen Case  
 Mr. Randy Centanni  
 Ms. Kay Champagne  
 Ms. Meaghan Clark  
 Mr. Jon Clayton  
 Mr. Niko Connell  
 Mr. Barry Coppin  
 Mr. Jonathan Covey  
 Mr. Matt Crimi  
 Mr. Dennis Dease  
 Mr. Wyatt Earp  
 Mr. Bryce Files  
 LTC Michael Flint  
 Mr. Andre Florent  
 Mrs. Mara Flores  
 Mr. Rudy Flores  
 CW4 David Ford  
 Mr. Kyle Gibson  
 Mr. Jason Gilbert  
 Mr. Matthew M. Gilbert  
 Mrs. Ashley Gordon  
 Mr. Timothy Havard  
 Mrs. Susan Heeschen  
 Dr. Lionel Holguin  
 Ms. Mary Hughes  
 Mr. Chris Jackson  
 Mr. John H. Jenkins  
 Mr. Austin Johnson  
 Mr. Derryn Jones  
 Mr. Brian Keyser  
 MAJ Lacey Losole  
 Mr. Anthony S. Luchner  
 Mr. Andrew Martinez  
 Mr. Chuck Matheny  
 Ms. Liliana Maysonet  
 Mr. Andrew McDowell  
 CW5 William Miller  
 Mr. Mason Mills  
 Ms. Laura Morejon Ramirez  
 SPC Jonathan L. Morrill  
 CW4 Sean Mott, Ret.  
 Mr. Brian Murphy  
 Mr. Derek Newcomb  
 Mr. J. Michael Owens  
 Mrs. Jayden Pigg  
 Mr. Taylor Presley  
 Mr. William Propst  
 MAJ Bryan J. Pulicari  
 Mr. Mark Riddick  
 Ms. Caroline Rinks  
 Mr. Elijah M. Rose  
 CW3 Kenneth Rudo  
 Mr. Kurt Ryder  
 CW2 Archie Sanders, IV

Mrs. Stephanie Sandlin  
 Ms. Carolyn Scarborough  
 CW4 James Schmidt, Ret.  
 Mr. Jacob Scott  
 Ms. Katrina Selby  
 Ms. Amy Simmons  
 Mr. Dustin Simmons  
 Mr. James Simmons  
 Mr. Steven F. Snider  
 Mrs. Yolanda Stewart  
 SGT Caleb Stine  
 Mr. Scott Thibault  
 Mr. Donovan Thomas  
 Mr. Nicholas Thompson  
 steven Tibaldo  
 MAJ Melissa Vaughan  
 Mr. Jeffrey Vigne  
 Mr. Ian Villa  
 Mr. Tim Vockrodt  
 CW04 Michael Wade  
 Mrs. Sarah Walker  
 Mr. David Waltzman  
 Mr. Michael Ward  
 Ms. Jennifer Watson  
 Mr. Brian Weyenberg  
 Ms. Kathryn P. Wileman  
 Mr. Chase Wolk  
*Thunder Mountain Chapter*  
 1SG Nikolai Trent  
*Thunderbird Chapter*  
 W01 Adam Guthrie  
 SGT Ezekiel Henson  
 Ms. Lindsey Higgins  
 PFC Cole Anthony Hood  
 SFC Tyler Hosier  
 Mr. Mark Jackson  
 LTC Paul Maness, Ret.  
 MSG James McClain  
 Mr. Ron Synakowski  
 Mr. Kyle W. Warren, Ret.  
 Ms. Madison Zaber  
*Utah Chapter*  
 PFC Krischan J. Burl-Ohling  
 Mr. Bruno Camps  
 CW3 Kyle F. Nelson  
 PFC Lamecia Schaerrer  
 SPC Nathan P. Schild  
*Volunteer Chapter*  
 MSG Jeffery L. Barber  
 Ms. Maggie Baslow  
 Mr. Drew Belk  
 CW2 James Bell  
 Capt. Cynda Bradley  
 Mr. Cambrie Cook  
 Ms. Natalie Ebnet  
 Ms. Pam Garrett  
 Mr. Christopher Gordon  
 SGT Chris Griffith  
 CW4 Luke Hargrove  
 Mr. Simba Jonga  
 Mr. Wade Kennedy  
 Mr. Sean Kenzel  
 Mr. Dennis Kirby  
 Mr. Jason Lee  
 Mr. Christian Lenoir

Mr. Brandin Link  
 Ms. Caitlin Lozano  
 Mr. Sean Lyons  
 Ms. Kayla McGregor  
 CPT Jacob M. Moberly  
 Mr. Trenton Ownby  
 Mr. Aaron Reece  
 Mr. Noah Shertzer  
 Mr. Josh Shively  
 Ms. Mallory Stack  
 MAJ Elizabeth Stephens, Ret.  
 W01 Nathan Todd  
 BG Mark Tyndall  
 Mr. Michael Welch  
 Mr. Jake Wilkinson  
 LTC Clinton Woody  
*Voodoo Chapter*  
 Mr. Greg Igleharte  
*Washington-Potomac Chapter*  
 Ms. Jenny Acot  
 Mr. Marcellus Anderson  
 Ms. Tanya Bassett  
 CW4 Jonathan Billeck  
 Mr. David Bonilla  
 Mr. Russell A. Buckhalt  
 CPT Alexander J. Bur  
 Mr. Trace Campbell  
 LTC Charles Choi, Ret.  
 PFC Joshua Calin Cramlet  
 Dr. Tim Denning  
 SPC Kaila Eaker  
 SFC Bradford Fajfar  
 Mr. Daniel Fata  
 Mr. Shaun Fischer  
 Mr. Dennis Freeland  
 Mr. Larry Grala  
 Ms. Adrienne K. Handy  
 Mr. Matt Hederstrom  
 Mr. Nick Heil  
 SPC Colin Alexander Howard  
 Mr. Paul Jeong  
 Mr. Justin Johnson  
 Mr. Greg Kaufmann  
 PFC Seongjin Kim  
 Mr. Brian Kirtlink  
 Mr. Blaise Lemke  
 Mr. Gary Limon  
 Mr. Roy Littleton  
 Mr. Craig Madore  
 Mr. Chris Miller  
 Ms. Samantha Moore  
 Mr. Brit Nanna  
 Ms. Macey Norton  
 Mr. Michael Nye  
 CW3 Glory O'Neil  
 Mr. Christopher Ober  
 Mr. James Oleen  
 Mr. Scott Phillips  
 Mr. Neal Ropp  
 Mr. Craig Smith  
 Mr. Eric D. Stith  
 Mr. Sean Tait  
 Mr. Mark Talkington  
 COL Brent Templeton  
 Mr. Brent Templeton

Ms. Brooke Templeton  
 Mr. Peter Templeton  
 Ms. Winnie Templeton  
 Mr. Paul Toumayan  
 Mr. Randall Trent  
 Mr. Al Trimble  
 Mr. Jay Vizgaitis  
 Mr. Bill Watson  
 Mr. Jamie Willoughby  
 Ms. Victoria Wyler  
 Mr. John Zamboni  
*Winged Warriors Chapter*  
 CPT Alex Cipas  
*Wright Brothers Chapter*  
 Mr. Billy Gainey  
 Mr. Joseph Guintier  
 Mr. Tyler Hurley  
 Mr. Jacob Jenkusky  
 Mr. Pearl Johnson  
 Mr. Andrew King  
 Mr. Aram Kovach  
 Mr. Dennis Krause  
 Mr. Guan Kwok  
 Mr. Paul LaPlante  
 Ms. Angela Lisy  
 Dr. Frederick Lisy  
 Mr. Darrell Maxwell  
 LTC Charles Choi, Ret.  
 Mr. James McPherson  
 Ms. Wendy Newsome  
 Mr. Jason Pool  
 Mr. Yon Raz-Fridman  
 Mr. Robert S. Reyer  
 Mr. Matt Schron  
 PV2 Javier Villalón-Lopez  
 CW3 Shawn Willey  
 Ms. Carole Wilson  
*Yellowhammer Chapter*  
 SSG Brandon Reynolds  
 Mr. J. Roy Robinson  
*Zia Chapter*  
 Ms. Lisa Adkins  
 PV2 Adam Jason Huston  
*No Chapter Affiliation*  
 Mr. Ian M. Ahearn  
 Mr. Mohammed AlShetwey  
 W01 Juan Alvarez  
 Mr. Jacobi Anstruther  
 Mr. Martin Bitter  
 Mr. Chad Daring  
 SMSgt Daniel Eliasson  
 Mr. Mark Gruendemann  
 Mr. Jonathan Hayden  
 Mr. Sam Karazivan  
 BGen Patrick Lawless  
 Mr. Danny Logan  
 Mr. Leandre Masse  
 Mr. Blake Musgrave  
 COL Steven F. Rausch  
 Mr. Stephane Selim  
 Mr. Vinny Sharma  
 Mr. Serge Spoelstra  
 Mr. Ian Wilf  
 Mr. Dwayne Wilson



# AAA Family Forum By Judy Konitzer

*I respectfully thank Kim Cody, spouse of COL Clint Cody, AVCOE Chief of Staff, for her poignant reflections to honor our fallen.*

## The Profession of Arms and Caring for Those Who are Left Behind By Kim Cody

As the United States approaches its 250th year of independence, it is a moment to reflect on the sacrifices made by American military members and their families.

These brave individuals have safeguarded the freedoms we cherish, and their legacy deserves our deepest gratitude and respect.

From the very beginning, honoring and supporting those who serve—and their families—has been a cornerstone of our nation's values. Even before the United States was officially formed, the Second Continental Congress established the profession of arms in 1775. Led by General George Washington, who exemplified servant leadership, an understanding of the profound responsibility of caring for those who bore the burden of defending the nation.

The concept of survivor benefits has evolved significantly since our founding. At the conclusion of the Revolutionary War, officer widows could apply for small pensions for a limited period of seven years. It wasn't until 1818 that official pensions were offered to Revolutionary War veterans, and not until 1836 - 53 years after the war - that pensions were extended to the widows of Continental Army soldiers. Following the Civil War, widows' pensions ranged from \$8 to \$30 per month, and the establishment of national veterans cemeteries provided a dignified resting place for those who served.

Over the centuries, the United States has made significant strides in supporting military families, evolving from modest pensions to comprehensive survivor benefits. Almost a century after the Civil War, President Herbert Hoover consolidated the Bureau of Veterans, the Bureau of Pensions, and the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers into what is now the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). This marked a significant

step forward in providing comprehensive support to veterans and their families.

Two World Wars brought about a dramatic expansion of survivor benefits as the number of military families grew. Several generations of the GI Bill were introduced, culminating in the Post-9/11 GI Bill, which allowed benefits to be transferred to dependents, addressing the need for education benefits. Today, more than 670,000 surviving spouses of active-duty service members and veterans across all branches of the military rely on some form of survivor benefits provided by the VA.

In addition to federal programs, individual military units play a critical role in supporting families through casualty assistance, unit care teams, chaplaincy programs, survivor outreach initiatives, and nonprofit organizations. Command teams, soldiers, and military spouses also provide additional peer support. The Global War on Terrorism gave rise to a multitude of nonprofit organizations, born out of necessity, to address gaps in support and provide additional resources to grieving families. These organizations have become a vital part of the broader network of care.

As we honor the sacrifices of military families, we must also look to the future and ask: What does support for survivors look like in the years to come, and how can we continue to meet the needs of those who have lost loved ones in service to our nation? The profession of arms will always be integral to the defense of our country, and the responsibility to support the families of those who have paid the ultimate price will remain a solemn duty. While we can never replace the loss of a service member, we



*Military children showing their respect for our fallen.*

must strive to provide services that ease the burdens of daily life, foster connections within the military community, and honor the memories of the fallen.

As we reflect on the third anniversary of the tragic loss of nine Eagles from my husband's unit in one of Army Aviation's largest training accidents on March 29, 2023, we are reminded of the enduring responsibility to support their families and honor their legacies.

As we approach the 250th anniversary of our nation's independence, let us renew our dedication to acknowledging, remembering, and honoring the sacrifices of military families. Their strength and resilience are a testament to the enduring spirit of service that has defined our nation since its founding. Together, we can ensure that their sacrifices are never forgotten and that their families receive the support they deserve.

*Kim Cody is the spouse of COL Clint Cody, AVCOE Chief of Staff.*

# AAAA Awards



## Order of St. Michael Gold

*Aviation Center Chapter*  
CSM Kirk R. Coley  
*Morning Calm Chapter*  
MG William "Hank" D. Taylor  
**Silver**  
*Air Assault Chapter*  
CW5 David W. Hardin  
LTC Robert H. Wells  
*Alaskan Midnight Sun Chapter*  
COL Michele D. Edwards  
*Aviation Center Chapter*  
CW5 Jesse A. Martin  
COL John J. Venezia  
SGM Devon M. Weber  
CW5 Jeffery T. Woodham  
*Colonial Virginia Chapter*  
CW4 Joshua L. Hilsendager  
LTC Christopher Sood  
LTC Mark Sudweeks  
*Connecticut Chapter*  
BG Jeffrey G. LaPierre  
John H. Palumbo  
*Cowboy Chapter*  
CW5 Jeremy Sehler  
*Diamond State Chapter*  
CW5 Kenneth Hendrix, Ret.  
*Gold Standard Chapter*  
CSM Nathan A. Smith  
*Greater Atlanta Chapter*  
CW5 Timothy A. Stevens  
*Griffin Chapter*  
CSM Njikoka Anderson  
LTC Joshua A. Meyer  
Iowa Chapter  
COL Charles H. Lampe

Iron Mike Chapter  
MAJ Donald M. MacWillie  
Jimmy Doolittle Chapter  
SGM Michael F. Turner  
Morning Calm Chapter  
LTC William Carrion II  
LTC William H. Gratz  
Mount Rainier Chapter  
LTC Eric V. Trivette  
*National Office*  
Dominick Critelli  
*Prairie Soldier Chapter*  
LTC Kenneth E. Smith  
*Ragin' Cajun Chapter*  
CW3 Justin A. Stump  
CW3 Carlyle S. Swofford III, Ret.  
*Tennessee Valley Chapter*  
CW5 Paul I. McNeill  
*Washington-Potomac Chapter*  
LTC James Bell  
MG Daniel A. Degelow  
*Winged Warriors Chapter*  
LTC Joseph M. Alexander

## Bronze

*Air Assault Chapter*  
CW4 Timothy Evan  
CPT David Fucella  
CPT Zachary T. Lee  
CPT Christian McClure  
CPT Julian G. Uy  
CW5 James H. Woolley  
MAJ Claire L. Yakabe  
*Aloha Chapter*  
1SG Michael D. Allar  
CW3 Alexander Hanson  
CW2 Richard J. Hill III  
CW4 Dan Keslar

CPT Grayson Naquin  
CPT Cole Quednow  
CW2 Adrian A. Rendon  
SFC Andrew Voegel  
CPT Colton Whitener  
*Arizona Chapter*  
SFC Jose S. Rangel  
*Aviation Center Chapter*  
SFC Angel M. Agosto-Rivera  
SFC Travis M. Adams  
SSG Jordan C. Adams  
SSG James Banuelos  
CW2 Curtis L. Bartholomew  
CW3 Joshua M. Bone  
CW3 James A. Croft  
SSG Eddie M. Cuevas  
CW3 Joshua E. Dietsch-Sierra  
CPT Jonathan Dombrowski  
Frank Frederick  
SSG Ricky D. Freshour  
CPT Emmanuel (EJ) Gelvin  
CW3 Shane Hawkins  
MAJ Aldo Hernandez  
SSG Scott W. Hirschi  
CW4 Cody Jackson  
SFC Elijah L. Joice  
SSG Kyle R. Kauffman  
David Kober  
SFC Joseph M. Kurth  
CW4 Jacob Lawrence  
CW4 James R. Lewellyn  
Harley Mast  
MAJ John A. Phillips, USAF Ret.  
CW3 Erik R. Pollender  
Paul Santos  
Randy Schmitt  
Larry Squier  
CPT Kevin Sullivan  
SSG Kendra M. Weems  
Brian Wilkins  
*Bavarian Chapter*  
SFC Kevin A. Daniel  
MAJ Ronald J. Edwards  
*Black Knights Chapter*  
CPT Austin Lachance  
*Colonial Virginia Chapter*  
SSG Joshua D. Anderson  
SSG Curtis Arnette

SSG Tyler O. Barbour  
SSG Frank M. Bozynski  
SFC Jacob A. Cannon  
SFC Collin R. Chambers  
SSG Joshua T. Cooper  
SSG Tyrone Cruise  
SSG William D. Douglass  
SSG Daryl J. Emanuel  
SFC Marianna J. Feliciano  
Elliot A. Gordon  
SFC Morris S. Marshall  
SFC Daniel H. Martin  
CW4 Robert S. Owen  
SSG Michael Parrish  
SFC Samantha E. Reyes  
SFC Roberto Reyes Sandoval  
SSG Nicholas Schoenfeld  
SSG Justin Smith  
SSG Nicholas Thompson  
*Connecticut Chapter*  
CW5 Shawn Carey  
*Corpus Christi Chapter*  
CW3 Drew Fullmer  
*Cowboy Chapter*  
CW4 Kevin Marx  
*Follow Me Chapter*  
SGT Quentin N. Carr  
*Gold Standard Chapter*  
1SG Paul J. Barrett  
CPT Joshua E. Bell  
MAJ Jeremiah B. Benardis  
SFC Matthew R. Crum  
SGM Christopher R. Daniels  
CW4 Jason R. Driskill  
CW5 Joshua R. Lee  
CW4 Jeffrey M. Luther  
1SG Michael S. Mallett  
LTC Jacob M. Orndorff  
1SG Mark E. Rainsner  
CPT Benjamin H. Reinhart  
MAJ Thomas B. Sears  
LTC Austin S. Van Hise  
*Griffin Chapter*  
CPT Kylar J. Barrett  
SSG Adrian A. Batista Santiago  
CW3 Jamie M. Benson  
SFC Christopher A. Bernhardt  
1SG Samara S. Burnett

CW3 Eliana Cardenas  
CW4 David Cichowski  
SFC Arbel J. Connor  
CW2 Cristian Cruz De Jesus  
1SG D. Daniel Dehnel  
CW3 Samuel Hoffman  
1SG Kevin M. Johnson  
SFC Marlon Johnson  
MAJ Jonathan M. Kennaley  
SFC Tracy Lluellyn  
CW4 Bret Mathewson  
CPT Patrick Menkhaus  
SFC Reggie D. Morris  
MAJ Daniel T. Murphy  
MAJ Andrew G. Nagy  
SFC Danny S. O'Neal  
CW3 Robert Riedel  
MSG Richard E. Sadger  
SFC Kollegheu R. Tcheuko  
CW2 Frans Van Diepenhuisen  
SFC Lazaro V. Vargasondon  
*Grizzly Chapter*  
CPT Sashai Dawn\*  
SSG William "Buddy" Jarrell  
*Iron Mike Chapter*  
MSG Ryan C. Aderman  
SFC Raphael D. Boyce  
CPT Travis Chew  
SSG Nicholas A. Dennis  
CW4 Adam Kozel  
CW4 Adam J. Kozel  
CW2 Steven R. Lowe  
MAJ Kyle Palmer  
LTC Brandon A. Shah  
CPT Thomas Snowden  
*Keystone Chapter*  
1SG Marcus Benedict  
SFC Norman Clark  
CW4 Erik A. Clark  
CW3 Lucas P. Diehl  
SFC Rebecca P. Holman  
SFC Ryan Smith  
*Land of Lincoln Chapter*  
CW5 Michael J. Heuer  
*MacArthur Chapter*  
CSM Dolan P. Brammer  
CW4 Timothy Dahlen, Ret.  
CW5 Robert J. Hansen

CW5 Milton F. Mercado  
*Mid-Atlantic Chapter*  
SSG Adam S. Allis  
*Minuteman Chapter*  
MSG Thaddeus Chabior  
*Mohawk Chapter*  
CW4 Andrew J. Behrens  
1SG Nicholas E. Cook  
CW4 Kyle R. Monroe  
1SG Edward K. Rose  
SFC Jacob R. Weitzel  
CW3 Stephen F. Young  
*Morning Calm Chapter*  
CW2 Nicholas J. Campbell  
MAJ Ryan V. Coker  
CW3 Venroy R. Douglas  
MAJ Shawn M. Frazzini  
CW2 Guillermo Garcia-Galdamez  
CPT Benjamin B. Gerhart  
CPT Joseph W. Gray  
CPT Scott A. Keen  
SFC Jeffery K. Kilpatrick  
CW3 Ronald Lagasca  
CPT Sang Ho Lee  
1SG Ryan S. Lonergan  
CW2 Pantarat Peakpipat  
1SG Michael I. Penn  
CPT Hatem Smadi  
MAJ Andrew P. West  
*Mount Rainier Chapter*  
CW4 William Basel  
CW3 Matthew A. Conley  
SGT Michael Cummings  
CW3 Shawn Dickson  
SSG Zachary K. Keith  
SSG Thomas J. McNeely  
SSG Jacob M. Pedigo  
CW4 David W. Reynolds  
SFC Barbara R. Rich  
*North Texas Chapter*  
CW3 Joseph A. Villanueva  
*Old Tucson Chapter*  
CW4 Michael D. Clagg Jr.  
*Phantom Corps Chapter*  
SFC Jonathan W. Edwards  
MSG Cindy Flores  
CPT Derek Frazier, Ret.

*Continued on page 67*

## In Memoriam



### Brigadier General Orlin Lee Mullen, U.S. Army Retired

We are saddened to announce the passing of BG (Ret.) Orlin Lee Mullen, 83, on May 10, 2026, in Easton Maryland.

Born on October 10, 1942, in Muskogee Oklahoma, his service began at the Oklahoma Military Academy then continued at the United States Military Academy at West Point, where he graduated Class of 1965. He served two tours in the Vietnam War and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross recognizing his skill and courage under fire during his combat tour in 1971.

Throughout his 29-year career in the U.S. Army he served in numerous leadership positions culminating with his role as the Project Manager for the RAH-66 Comanche helicopter program.

A life member of AAAA, he continued to assist the defense industry following his retirement in 1994 with his expertise in weapons systems and strategic requirements during a second successful career at Cypress International.

Funeral services with full military honors will be held at the United States Military Academy at West Point July 8th.

May he rest in peace.



# AAAA

NETWORK | RECOGNITION | VOICE | SUPPORT

## AAAA TLC

Trade School, Licensing & Certification Foundation



*Building better futures, one grant at a time!*

# Fueling the American Dream: Sierra Nevada Corporation's (SNC) Commitment to Veterans and Workforce Growth

By Jennifer Potts

The lifeblood of any non-profit organization is the generosity of individuals and companies.

AAAA Trade School, Licensing and Certification (AAAA TLC) Foundation non-profit volunteers ensure the organization continues to move forward in meeting its mission and vision thanks to our philanthropic partners commitments, ensuring that critically needed financial resources are available when needed. In 2025, the AAAA TLC was fortunate to experience incredible generosity from our first two corporate sponsors. This month, we're highlighting SNC's partnership and what drove the company to be a trailblazer in supporting this tremendous benefit for the AAAA community.

A review of SNC's website provides clear insight into and leaves no room for doubt about their corporate priorities: "SNC is a global leader in aerospace and national security committed to moving the American Dream forward." The partnership with AAAA TLC underscores that priority through the avenues it provides for members to pursue their version of the American Dream.

When asked what prompted the financial partnership, SNC shared the following insights, "SNC decided to sponsor the AAAA TLC Foundation because of the company's strong commitment to supporting the military community and fostering the next generation of aerospace and defense professionals. SNC prides itself on being a veteran-friendly company with 30% of our employees having served in the military. We believe that investing in

these educational opportunities not only empowers transitioning soldiers, veterans, and their families but also strengthens the broader talent pipeline for critical aviation and technical roles. Also, we see this partnership is a natural extension of SNC's core values—service, innovation, and workforce development—while underscoring the company's dedication to supporting those who serve, as well as their loved ones.

"Recipients of TLC Foundation grants who pursue trade school training or technical certifications are exceptionally well-suited to fill key workforce gaps within SNC. Many of these individuals possess the technical know-how and dedication required for roles in aircraft maintenance, avionics, aerospace manufacturing, assembly, quality assurance, logistics, systems integration, and technical support. Beyond their technical skills, veterans and military family members bring invaluable qualities such as leadership, discipline, adaptability, and a strong sense of mission—all attributes that are deeply valued at SNC.

"By supporting the TLC Foundation, we believe SNC is not only helping to develop and prepare a highly skilled and motivated talent pool but is also addressing critical workforce shortages that challenge the broader aerospace and defense sector. This initiative bolsters SNC's commitment to workforce readiness and to the industry's long-term health and innovation. Moreover,

the sponsorship reinforces SNC's standing as an employer of choice among military-affiliated individuals and makes a meaningful, positive impact on the broader community. Ultimately, SNC's investment in the TLC Foundation represents a strategic and values-driven effort to ensure that both the company and the industry have access to the skilled professionals needed to meet current and future mission requirements."

The AAAA TLC Foundation is grateful to the partnership SNC has extended through its financial commitment. Doing so contributes significantly to impacting someone's dreams through allowing for eligible recipients: current and former Soldiers, members, and their families, as they gain hands-on experience and transition to civilian careers. The skills learned transfer well to a broad range of professions. Initially focused on providing financial aid for licensing, it now expands its support to various trades and certifications, aiming to offer grants for sustainable careers.

Trailblazing partners like SNC, who are dedicated to turning our members' educational goals into sustainable professions, are the lifeblood of organizations like AAAA TLC!

If you are interested in becoming a corporate sponsor or want more information, please email me at [pottsjennifer2005@gmail.com](mailto:pottsjennifer2005@gmail.com). I'd be thrilled to discuss potential opportunities! You can also learn more at <http://www.quad-a.org/tlc>.

*Mrs. Jennifer Potts serves as a member of the TLC Board of Directors.*

**Awards**

*Continued*

SFC Dustin R. McInelly  
 CW4 Steven M. Melvin  
 SFC Joshua M. Pierce  
 SSG Ryan M. Rogers  
 CW2 Edgar A. Surens  
 SFC Brent S. Uchiyama  
*Pikes Peak Chapter*  
 CW3 William King  
 CW4 Dylan T. Kovencz  
 SSG James M. Mowdy  
*Prairie Soldier Chapter*  
 CSM William C. Cary  
*Ragin' Cajun Chapter*  
 CW3 Bradley R. Fuller  
 SFC Shane C. Quitugua  
 CW3 Mariah D. Steinbock  
*Rio Grande Chapter*  
 CW3 Dallas H. Buxton  
 CW3 John T. Docksey  
 CW4 Jacob R. McGinley  
 CW4 Geoffrey C. Savage  
 CW3 Jeffrey K. Tucker  
*ShowMe Chapter*  
 MAJ Jacob J. Ball, Ret.  
 CW5 Charles W. Brower  
 LTC Jeffrey A. Godfrey  
 1SG Daryl R. Kelley  
 CW5 Shane J. Luke  
 CW5 Shannon T. Martin  
 1SG Kirt E. Orlando  
 CW3 Daniel J. Schremser  
 LTC Brett D. Slaughter  
 CW4 William B. Warren  
*Southern California Chapter*  
 SFC Gregory Fernandez  
*Tennessee Valley Chapter*  
 Jeffrey A. Bacon

Andrew E. Barber  
 Kenneth Chenoweth  
 Joshua Ciszczon  
 Robert R. Copeland  
 Kathy Drysdale  
 Rudy Flores Jr.  
 LTC Patrick J. Gargan  
 CW3 Joshua B. Jackson  
 Keith A. Jones  
 MAJ Lacey Losole  
 Frank Luria  
 Brian P. Murphy  
 MAJ Bryan J. Pulicari  
 Sean Tynan  
*Thunder Mountain Chapter*  
 SFC Oscar A. Garcia-Rosado  
 SSG Jakhaila D. Poole  
*Volunteer Chapter*  
 CPT Taylor R. Barrett  
 CPT Adam J. McCollum  
*Washington-Potomac Chapter*  
 CW3 Lauren Bloch  
 1SG Alex Borja  
 MSG Andrew Hernandez  
 MAJ Adrian Hill  
 CPT Gustavo Maldonado  
 1SG Matthew A. Mays  
 CW3 Jonathan D. Olson  
 CW3 Jean P. Pion  
 MAJ Chelsea E. Schellinger  
 CW4 Clifford J. Shaw  
 CW4 Gregory T. Silva  
 CW4 Jared W. Stanley  
 MSG David Torres  
 MSG Benito Villegas  
*No Chapter Affiliation*  
 CW4 Carlos M. Gonzalez  
 Ross A. Gwynn



**Knight**

*Air Assault Chapter*  
 CH (MAJ) Benjamin C. Behrendt  
 SFC Isaiah E. Lee  
 CH (MAJ) Mark "Bo" Waldo  
 CSM Charles D. Walker  
*Aloha Chapter*  
 CSM Shaun Curry  
 COL Jim D. Keirseay  
 COL Adisa King  
 COL David Lamborn  
 MAJ William McDermott  
 CW3 Natalie Smith  
 CPT Jim Torres  
 BG Jonathan Velishka  
*Aviation Center Chapter*  
 CSM Jean P. Alcedo  
 LTC Michael C. Frey  
 LTC Adam Keller  
 CPT Nichelle Pascoe  
 MAJ Daniella Pettinari  
*Badger Chapter*  
 CW4 Michelle Bethke  
*Bavarian Chapter*  
 CPT Ryan Pidcock  
*Connecticut Chapter*  
 Frederick Thorpe  
*Desert Oasis Chapter*  
 CW4 Raul Almdarez  
*Flint Hills Chapter*  
 MAJ Octavia L. Heningburg

MAJ Merrick A. Stewart  
*Gold Standard Chapter*  
 CSM Robert A. Bennett  
 1SG Gerardo Rubinos, Ret.  
 SFC Anthony M. Sarsano  
 LTC Shane T. Snelling  
*Griffin Chapter*  
 Hollis (Buddy) Hancock  
 SSG Devon Williams  
 CPT Ashley M. Wolfe  
*Iron Mike Chapter*  
 MAJ Jonathan Campbell  
 MAJ Elizabeth Deavila  
 CPT Adam Garfola  
 CPT Richard J. Glatz  
 MAJ Melody Thompson  
 CPT Briana Underwood  
*Keystone Chapter*  
 MAJ Samuel Debold  
 CW3 Robert E. Debonise Jr.  
 SSG Tyler D. Smith  
*Morning Calm Chapter*  
 Tae Heum Eom  
 MAJ Aaron C. Gilbert  
 MAJ Youngjae Ha  
 MSG Poong Hyun Han  
 COL Gyu Sup Heo  
 LTC Chang Seop Hwang  
 CW2 Song J. Kang  
 CPT Douglas Kim  
 Chi Hung Kim  
 1SG Jeremy W. Lamoureux  
 MSG Woo Seok Lee  
 CSM Richard C. Mcneely  
 MAJ Young Seok Oh  
 CPT Sungwoo Park  
 CPT Jin Yang Seo  
 MAJ Dong Han Son  
 Pyong Kwan Song  
 COL Brian W. Tinklepaugh  
*Mount Rainier Chapter*

SFC Moussa J. Bakayoko  
 CPT Joseph D. Phillips  
*Pikes Peak Chapter*  
 SFC Pedro X. Benavides  
 SFC Phillip K. Webb  
*Ragin' Cajun Chapter*  
 MAJ Shawn D. Douglas  
 CPT Colin J. Kelly  
*Rio Grande Chapter*  
 SSG Dean Ritz  
*ShowMe Chapter*  
 MSG Michael L. Lewis, Ret.  
*Washington-Potomac Chapter*  
 Nick Andreyko  
 1SG Frederick A. Avery



**Our Lady of Loreto**

*Air Assault Chapter*  
 Jennifer Stade  
 Desaray Stevenson  
*Aviation Center Chapter*  
 Abigail Barry  
 Sarah J. DeWitt  
 Ginny Fricks  
 Kimberly Gravitt  
 MAJ Leslie R. Helton  
 Marika Martin  
 Shelina G. Millan  
 Andi Mitchell  
 Chandra J. Reeb  
 Angel Smith  
 Donna L. Tompkins  
 Mallery T. Trant  
*Bavarian Chapter*

Carmen Kline  
 Robin O'Brien  
*Colonial Virginia Chapter*  
 Kathryn Cedillo  
 Beth Ewing  
 Valerie L. Smith  
*Griffin Chapter*  
 Katherine O. Dehnel  
 Ave Fields  
 Hannah Kennaley  
*Grizzly Chapter*  
 MAJ Heather Addison  
*Morning Calm Chapter*  
 Elvia A. Burg  
 Bianca Carrion  
 Michael P. Hunt  
 Nicole G. Keen  
 Kelly L. Lamoureux  
 Heather D. Rimmer  
 Kari West  
 Hyesung Yeom  
*Phantom Corps Chapter*  
 Kari S. Saad  
*Ragin' Cajun Chapter*  
 Chelsea Chavez  
 Nayree Griger  
 Laura Robichaux  
*Tennessee Valley Chapter*  
 Jennifer Gargan  
 Lorrie Peters  
*Washington-Potomac Chapter*  
 Donnetta Avery  
 Lindsey Mays  
*Yellowhammer Chapter*  
 Erin A. Fleet

\*indicates a posthumous award

**ARMY AVIATION** ▶ Advertiser Spotlight

**M1 Support Services**



M1 Support Services is a mission-first, force-multiplying partner solely dedicated to providing aviation solutions to the U.S. Department of War, Allies, and partner nations. Our complete spectrum of services includes flight training and simulation, maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO), flight operations, logistics, aircraft modifications and upgrades. The only company of scale focused solely on aviation solutions, we execute large, complex programs of National and International significance, supporting the most advanced military aircraft in the world.

M1 is ready now to deliver aircraft readiness worldwide through our expansive footprint, strategic partnerships, and targeted investments. We are prepared to rapidly execute the full spectrum of Army Aviation maintenance, repair, and modifications in support of every Combatant Command, quickly converting Army and SOF priorities into force-multiplying maintenance support operations.

M1 supports all branches of the military in managing, operating, and sustaining large-scale aviation training enterprises, including Army flight training at Fort Rucker. M1 currently supports more than 500 rotary-wing aircraft dispersed across five primary airfields, flying up to 400 sorties per day and 240,000 flight hours per year. We deliver hundreds of safe, quality aircraft ready for training every day.

M1's Flight School First initiative is a comprehensive, turnkey training & simulation solution featuring an AI-enabled virtual training environment, advanced simulation, proficiency-based learning, and safe, rugged, and reliable aircraft.

At M1, we put the Mission First. Exceptional Performance | Impactful Innovations | Unparalleled Partnership

SIZE OF COMPANY: Large, 1,000 Employees and Up

CATEGORIES: Maintenance & Product Overhaul, Consultant/Special Services

<https://www.m1services.com>

*Each month, one 2026 ARMY AVIATION Magazine advertiser will be spotlighted. If chosen, your company may submit newsworthy information that will appeal to the Army Aviation community. To qualify, your company must have a signed 2026 insertion order for print advertising (1 Ad Minimum). Selected company will be randomly chosen by the 15th of the month prior.*



# Thank You to Our Scholarship Fund Donors



AAAA recognizes the generosity of the following individuals, chapters and organizations that have donated to the Scholarship Foundation, Inc. from May 2025 through May 2026. The list includes donations received for all scholarships, as well as the General Fund which provides funding to enable the chapter, corporate, heritage and individual matching fund programs as well as national grants. Every penny donated to the Scholarship Foundation goes directly towards scholarships as a result of the Army Aviation Association of America subsidizing all administrative costs (minus investment brokerage fees).

The 13 Cares Foundation  
 Army Aviation Association of America  
 Army Aviation Association of America  
 AAAA Air Assault Chapter  
 AAAA Aloha Chapter  
 AAAA Arizona Chapter  
 AAAA Aviation Center Chapter  
 AAAA Badger Chapter  
 AAAA Big Sy Chapter  
 AAAA Central Florida Chapter  
 AAAA Connecticut Chapter  
 AAAA Corpus Christi Chapter  
 AAAA Delaware Valley Chapter  
 AAAA Free Dominion Chapter  
 AAAA Gold Standard Chapter  
 AAAA Griffin Chapter  
 AAAA Grizzly Chapter  
 AAAA Idaho Snake River Chapter  
 AAAA Keystone Chapter  
 AAAA Lindbergh Chapter  
 AAAA MacArthur Chapter  
 AAAA Minuteman Chapter  
 AAAA Mohawk Chapter  
 AAAA North Texas Chapter  
 AAAA Oregon Trail Chapter  
 AAAA Prairie Soldier Chapter  
 AAAA Southern California Chapter  
 AAAA Tennessee Valley Chapter  
 AAAA Thunderbird Chapter  
 AAAA Voodoo Chapter  
 AAAA Washington Potomac Chapter  
 Army Otter Caribou Association Inc.  
 Joan and David Ashcraft  
 AVION Solutions Inc.  
 Gerald E. Babor  
 Jeannie Bankston  
 Sandra & Todd Becker  
 Marilee F. Patrick & Sandra L. Beckner  
 Bell Textron Inc.  
 Harry H. Bendorf  
 Helen & Joseph Bergantz  
 Boeing  
 Celeste & Paul Bogosian  
 John S. Bolton-IHO Isaac Sheffield  
 Louis A. Bonham  
 Clinton B Boyd  
 Carol & Larry Brown  
 Taffee Cardenas-Scherer  
 Combined Federal Campaign  
 David Crocker  
 Patrick F. Curran-IHO Fallen Aviation  
 Brethren  
 Sabra Davis  
 Richard Dickerson-IHO Erin Dickerson  
 Thomas Dickinson-IHO Tim Crosby  
 DigiFlight  
 Lawyn C. Edwards  
 Jon C. Eidem

Rebecca L. Excario-IHO James & Joyce Hesson  
 Engenix, Inc.  
 Jenny & Paul Gale  
 Stephen Gayton  
 Hendrik A. Gideonse  
 Hendrik Gideonse  
 Steven C. Goetz  
 Rex Gooch  
 Jacqueline & Thomas Gordon  
 Mary Gorman Trust-IHO William H. Gorman  
 Jon Graft-IHO Joel R. Graft  
 Thomas O. Graft-IHO Joel R. Graft  
 Mark Grapin  
 Cindy & Heyward Hall-IHO Ingrid Strange  
 Constance Hansen-IHO Stephen A. Hansen  
 Katrina & Thomas Harrison  
 Michael Hickey  
 William F. Hipple  
 Scott Wayne Hollingsworth  
 Edward P. Iannone, Jr.  
 Jack A. James-IHO T/SGT Karl P. Danckwerth Sr.  
 Larry M. Jonas  
 Harold I. Koenig  
 Harold L. Koenig  
 Beth Kramer  
 Ronald Kurowsky

Donna & Hans Langhammer-IHO Ingrid Strange  
 Jeff Langhout-IHO Tim Crosby  
 Last Resort Guns, Inc.  
 Lockheed Martin  
 Renee Lomell-IHO John B. Swift  
 Timothy A. Lungert  
 Tommy Marks  
 Jeffrey A. Marlow  
 John R. Martin-IHOCSM & Mrs. Ed Iannone  
 Stephen T. Mauro-IHO COL Paul Kelly  
 Charles McCormick  
 Dale T. McDonough-IHO CW4 Anthony Lindner  
 John G. McElwee  
 Christopher Morris-IHO Scott Rose  
 Donald T. Munsch, Munsch & Co. Aeromechanics  
 Judy A. Murphy-IHO Richard O. Murphy  
 Michael Nearn  
 David M. Obriend  
 Lynn Osborn-IHO Joel R. Graft  
 Ostovich Enterprises, Inc.  
 The OV-1 Mohawk Association  
 Amber & Brent Pafford  
 Richard Palmer  
 Marilee Patrick & Sandra Beckner  
 Peduzzi Associates LTD  
 Gaines T. Pickett-IHO Cal Worth

Joe Pisano-IHO John Grove Traver III  
 William & Linda Pohlmann  
 Nicole Powell-Dunford-IHO Mark Burnett  
 Ian Reardon  
 Tammy & James Reeves  
 Render Forward LLC  
 Rick Rhodes-RPM  
 Marilyn C. Rickmeyer  
 Helen A. Roder-IHO Gerald T. Hipp  
 Kay & Everette Roper  
 S3-System Studies & Simulation  
 Latny & Jonathan Salt  
 Peter H. Smart  
 Alan M. Smith  
 Kimberley Smith-IHO COL Terry Peck  
 Sandy & Bill Smith-IHO Gerald T. Hipp  
 Marian Spencer  
 Karl V. Stahlecker & Tracey A. Lake  
 Diana Lee Swift-Monroe-IHO John Bolton Swift  
 ThistleGreen Technologies  
 Titos Handmade Vodka  
 Thomas H. Todd-IHO Tim Crosby  
 Utility Helicopters  
 Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association  
 Karen White-IHO CW5 Frank E. White  
 Wreaths Across America  
 Michelle Yarborough  
 Zieff Family Fund-IHO Bill Harris & Janis Arena

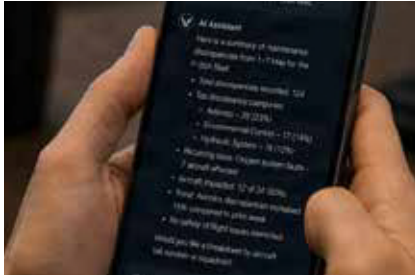
**THANK YOU TABLE SPONSORS**  
 2026 Army Aviation Warfighting Summit

PLATINUM	GOLD	SILVER
BOEING	AIRBUS	L3HARRIS
MISSION FIRST	CAE	StandardAero
Honeywell	SIKORSKY	DIGIFLIGHT
ROLLS ROYCE	LOCKHEED MARTIN	FSI DEFENSE
GE Aerospace	RTX	DILLON AERO
GENERAL ATOMICS AERONAUTICAL	amentum	DAE SYSTEMS
BELL	AVS	ROBINSON
	NEROS	RED CAT
	SES	AKIMA
		Elbit Systems

# Industry News *Announcements Related to Army Aviation Matters*

*Editor's note: Companies can send their Army Aviation related news releases and information to editor@quad-a.org.*

## Army Announces Agreements with Seven AI Companies



U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO BY RICHARD NICHOLAS

The Department of Defense announced agreements with seven artificial intelligence companies — SpaceX, OpenAI, Google, NVIDIA, Reflection, Microsoft and Amazon Web Services — to deploy systems within classified Pentagon networks for lawful operational use. The department said the agreements will accelerate transformation toward an AI-first fighting force and strengthen warfighters' ability to maintain decision superiority across all domains of warfare. Systems will be deployed within Impact Level 6 and Impact Level 7 network environments to streamline data synthesis, elevate situational understanding and augment decision-making in complex operational environments. Anthropic was absent from the announcement amid a dispute with Pentagon.

## Army Awards AeroVironment Prototype Agreement



U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY TIAO LORGRAY

The Army awarded AeroVironment a prototype agreement for its new Switchblade 400 drone under the Low Altitude Stalking and Strike Ordnance (LASSO) program, aimed at improving loitering munition capabilities for mobile brigade combat

teams. The program addresses battlefield gaps identified through lessons learned from the Ukraine-Russia war by providing soldiers with a lightweight, man-portable anti-tank weapon capable of day and night operations. The Switchblade 400 can autonomously detect and engage targets at ranges up to 65 kilometers and integrate with tactical networks. The Army plans to invest nearly \$1.2 billion in the LASSO initiative between fiscal years 2026 and 2031.

**Contracts** – (From various sources. An “\*” by a company name indicates a small business contract / “\*\*\*” indicates a woman-owned small business)

**Woodward Inc., Loves Park, IL**, was awarded a \$74,618,299 firm-fixed-price, indefinite-delivery contract for the overhaul and upgrade of the common hydro mechanical unit for the T700 engine on UH-60 and AH-64 aircraft. Work locations and funding will be determined with each order, with an estimated completion date of April 26, 2029.

**PCX Aerostructures LLC, Newington, CT**, was awarded a \$105,048,205 firm-fixed-price contract for maintenance and overhaul of the rotary wing head for the AH-64 Apache helicopter. Bids were solicited via the internet with one received. Work locations and funding will be determined with each order, with an estimated completion date of May 2, 2031.

**The Boeing Co., Mesa, AZ**, was awarded a \$51,914,082 modification (PZ0013) to contract W58RGZ-24-C-0002 for postproduction support services for the AH-6 in support of the Saudi Arabia Ministry of National Guard. The modification brings the total cumulative face value of the contract to \$76,867,117. Work will be performed in Mesa, Arizona, with an estimated completion date of May 31, 2028.

**Anduril Industries Inc., Costa Mesa, CA**, was awarded a firm-fixed-price contract for procurement of hardware and related components in support of Small Uncrewed Aircraft Systems for Ghost-X Systems with Trillium HD45LP in accordance with Department of War directives. The amount of this action is \$16,788,000. Bids were solicited via the internet with one

received. Work locations and funding will be determined with each order, with an estimated completion date of May 1, 2026.

**Performance Drone Works LLC, Huntsville, AL**, was awarded a firm-fixed-price contract to procure 40 C100X MRD Mission Bundles, 80 Next Vision Raptor EO/IR systems, and 17 UXV SROC Ground Control Stations for the Small Uncrewed Aircraft Systems Product Office. The amount of this action is \$15,259,840. Bids were solicited via the internet with one received. Work locations and funding will be determined with each order, with an estimated completion date of March 20, 2027.

**Auburn University, Auburn, AL**, was awarded a \$48,994,134 cost-no-fee indefinite-delivery contract for research and development engineering and aviation services supporting the Combat Capabilities Development Command Aviation and Missile Command. Work locations and funding will be determined with each order, with an estimated completion date of April 26, 2031.

## ADVERTISER INDEX

Amentum .....	13
Aresia .....	53
Army Aviation Museum Fdn. ....	72
Bell .....	1, 11
Coastal Seat Cushions, Inc.....	53
Dallas Avionics.....	31
David Clark Company .....	23
Dillon Aero.....	76
Enstrom Helicopter Corporation ...	14
FlightSafety.....	9
FLIR .....	7
Greenwood Aerospace.....	55
Inter-Coastal Electronics, Inc.....	27
M1 Support Services .....	15
North Atlantic Industries, Inc.....	21
Phantom Products, Inc.....	17
Red Cat Holdings .....	2
Rolin Industries, Inc. ....	4
S.A.F.E. Structure Designs, LLC ..	19
SKEDCO, Inc. ....	26
Transhield Inc .....	25
Yulista Holdings LLC.....	24



## People On The Move

### Undergraduate Flight Training Graduates

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

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



AAAA congratulates the following officers graduating from Undergraduate Flight Training at the U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence, Fort Rucker, AL.

#### 63 Officers, March 19, 2026 Class 26-011

- Commissioned Officers*
- 1LT Roos, Alexander R. \* -DG
  - 1LT Bennett, Shai E. -HG
  - 2LT Daane, Benjamin L. \* -HG
  - 1LT Hughes, Nicholas G. \* -HG
  - 1LT Schichtel, Jack R. -HG
  - 2LT Chastain, Nathan G. \*
  - 2LT Christian, Ian A. \*
  - 2LT Coleman, James F. \*
  - 2LT Cullura, Brendan A.
  - CPT Danielson, David A.
  - 2LT Davison, Tanner S. \*
  - 1LT de Frates, Matthew K. \*
  - 2LT Dotson, Joshua R.
  - 2LT Ebenstein, Matthew R. \*
  - 1LT Gaines, North W.
  - 2LT Kendrick, Charles M. \*
  - 1LT Kessler, Annmarie N.
  - 2LT LaDue, Jack A.
  - 2LT LaMaster, Allen J. \*
  - 2LT Leonard, Ryan M. \*
  - 2LT McFadden, Aries D. \*
  - 1LT Monson, Aaron J. \*
  - 1LT Peel, Cullen M.
  - 2LT Saval, David C. \*
  - 1LT Ticer, Cody S.
  - 1LT Wallace, Kyle R.
  - 2LT Wallace, Zoe C.

- Warrant Officers*
- WO1 Whitehead, Ayden W. \* -DG
  - WO1 Bradley, James C. -HG
  - WO1 Fry, Jaren T. -HG
  - WO1 Shozda, Ethan S. \* -HG
  - WO1 Wright, Kenneth L. -HG
  - WO1 Baumgartner, Matthew J. \*
  - WO1 Beimler, William B.
  - WO1 Berry, Kendrick T.
  - WO1 Brush, Samara J. \*
  - WO1 Buss, Austin C. \*
  - WO1 Collins, Matthew C.
  - WO1 Cooper, Clayton S.
  - WO1 Crosslin, Joshua L. \*
  - WO1 Fernandez Nunez, Roberto A.
  - WO1 Franco, Alexander
  - WO1 Gordon, Justin K.
  - WO1 Gromala, Kayla M.
  - WO1 Gyhra, Bradley R.
  - WO1 Haderlie, Adam J.
  - WO1 Hiatt, Thorn L.
  - WO1 Hoke, Kristopher W.
  - WO1 Kocher, Mark A.
  - WO1 Maxwell, Rylan J.
  - WO1 McCarty, James M.
  - WO1 Morris, Logan G.
  - WO1 Reynolds, Jacob C.
  - WO1 Schmutz, Ethan A.



UFT Class 26-011



UFT Class 26-012



UFT Class 26-013

- WO1 Smith, Ashton G.
- WO1 Stephens, Bradley R.
- WO1 Templeton, Jerren G. \*
- WO1 Tipton, Thomas B.
- WO1 Upton, Kendall J. \*
- WO1 Wilder, Nicholas D.
- WO1 Witt, Theodore E.
- WO1 Worden, Hannah J. \*
- WO1 Wunker, Terry A.

#### 27 Officers, April 16, 2026 Class 26-012

- Commissioned Officers*
- 2LT Tartamella, Maxx D. \* -HG
  - 2LT Allen, Aaron J. \*
  - 1LT Dunn, Jackson T. \*
  - 2LT Evans, Zackery J. \*
  - 1LT Gehl, Grace R. \*
  - 1LT LePere, Tyler L. \*
  - 1LT O'Neil, Darby R. \*
  - 1LT Taradash, Robert L.
  - 2LT Williams, Owen S. \*
- Warrant Officers*
- WO1 Kirkendall, Joshua A. -DG
  - WO1 Elfreich, Nickolas C. -HG
  - WO1 Calderon, David A.

- WO1 Caver, Jacob N.
- WO1 Davis, Curtis C.
- WO1 Dolan, Hayden O.
- WO1 Farmer, Nicholas G. \*
- WO1 Gordon, William S.
- WO1 Hoeldtke, Jalen C.
- WO1 Kent, Kyle L.
- WO1 McClure, Evan J.
- WO1 Mesa Torres, Jean P.
- WO1 Nelson, Shane G.
- WO1 Pasquale, Paul M. \*
- WO1 Price, Jason D.
- WO1 Schnautz, Hans R. \*
- WO1 Thomas, Joseph E. \*
- WO1 Trujillo, Christian R.

#### 36 Officers, April 30, 2026 Class 26-013

- Commissioned Officers*
- 1LT Murawski, Alex M. -DG
  - 1LT Morehart, Benjamin J. -HG
  - 1LT Rothstein, Samuel T. -HG
  - 1LT Arnone, Ashley E.
  - 1LT Brininger, Adler W.
  - 1LT Brininger, Tricia L.
  - 1LT Clenin, Joshua W.
  - 2LT Jones, Denison H. \*

- 2LT Quiroz, John Patrick P.
  - 2LT Riesing, Reed R. \*
  - 1LT Shackelford, Isaac J.
  - 1LT Wagner, Warren A. \*
  - 1LT Young, Rachel S.
- Warrant Officers*
- WO1 Limberg, Everett R. -DG
  - WO1 Calhoun, Connor M. -HG
  - WO1 Kessler, Andrew C. -HG
  - WO1 Little, Jonathan R. -HG
  - WO1 Whited, Terrell J. -HG
  - WO1 Briggs, Brian L.
  - WO1 Camarato, Anthony N. \*
  - WO1 Frye, Clayton H.
  - WO1 Garcia, Lane R.
  - WO1 Gilman, Kyle E.
  - WO1 Glover, David A.
  - WO1 Kaufman, Cody R. \*
  - WO1 Lindsay, Ruel D. II
  - WO1 Merino, Daniel J.
  - WO1 Olmedo Kovacic, Yanko J. \*
  - WO1 Perper, Eric N.
  - WO1 Ramirez, Austen J.
  - WO1 Reid, Jacob B.
  - WO1 Robinson, Jadea R. \*
  - WO1 Shook, Zarin P.
  - WO1 Stutts, Keith D. II

- WO1 Wager, Lansing T.
- WO1 Whitney, Samuel B.

#### 42 Officers, May 14, 2026 Class 26-014

- Commissioned Officers*
- 1LT Buczak, Abigail C. -DG
  - 1LT Barco, Jasmine M. -HG
  - 2LT Dore, MacKenzie L. \* -HG
  - 1LT Madani, Margaret A. \* -HG
  - 1LT Wolf, Edward J. -HG
  - 1LT Barnett, William L.
  - 2LT Bartz, Jere A. \*
  - 1LT Bridgewater, Larry K. \*
  - 1LT Cordova, Jared T.
  - 1LT Funck, Connor T.
  - 1LT Gonzalez-Cordero, Yariela. \*
  - 2LT Lewis, Michael R. \*
  - 1LT Maune, Darby L. \*
  - 1LT Nitti, Michael D. \*
  - 2LT Ouellette, Donald D.
  - 2LT Oyler, Gabriel A. \*
  - 1LT Redmon, Alexander S.
  - 1LT Rocco, Zachary J.
  - 2LT Rupperecht, Matthew D.
  - 1LT Sacripante, Alexandra
  - 1LT Seymour, Anthony S.

1LT Tucker, Alexander N.  
**UFT Graduates** *Continued*

- 1LT Vuleta, Daniel J.
- 2LT Weiland, Alexander J. \*
- 1LT Wilkinson, Camden J. \*
- 1LT Yi, Ryan Y.
- Warrant Officers*
- WO1 Baldwin, Matthew S. \* -HG
- WO1 Hadley, Kyle J. -HG
- WO1 Martin, Daryl J. \* -HG
- WO1 Reyes, Dallas L. -HG
- WO1 Adam, Paul W.
- WO1 AIDakheeli, Ali H.
- WO1 Bender, Noah J. \*
- WO1 Bogle, Kraig R.
- WO1 Boyd, Michael E.
- WO1 Burke, Shemar A. \*
- WO1 Carswell, Dawson C. \*
- WO1 Copen, Hayden R.
- WO1 Dennis, Jacob E.
- WO1 Dove, Shawn M.
- WO1 Eisenhart, Zachary H. \*
- WO1 Faust, Brian S.
- WO1 Fishinghawk, Jesse
- WO1 Kenney, Michael S. \*



UFT Class 26-014

- |  |   |   |   |
|--|---|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WO1 Kim, Junam</li> <li>WO1 Le, Sang T.</li> <li>WO1 McCoy, Jonathan A. *</li> <li>WO1 Murphy, Nicholas A. *</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WO1 Olson, Ethan C.</li> <li>WO1 Quinn, Allison R.</li> <li>WO1 Reeck, Paul D. *</li> <li>WO1 Rustad, Connor B.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WO1 Seedorf, Colin S.</li> <li>WO1 Servito, Dean Patrick C. *</li> <li>WO1 Snow, Isaac B. *</li> <li>WO1 Soreide, Hunter S. *</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WO1 Strickroth, Tucker I. *</li> <li>-DG: Distinguished Graduate</li> <li>-HG: Honor Graduate</li> <li>* = AAAAA Member</li> </ul> |
|--|---|---|---|

## ADVANCED INDIVIDUAL TRAINING (AIT) GRADUATIONS

AAAA congratulates the following Army graduates of the indicated Advanced Individual Training (AIT) courses and the Warrant Officer Training courses at the 128th Aviation Brigade, Joint Base Langley-Eustis, VA and the U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence, Ft. Novosel, AL.

### Aviation Maintenance Technician Advanced

- Class 002-26*
- CW3Lance J Demeter \* -DG
- CW3Thomas J Ashcraft
- CW3Johan A Cantu
- CW3Raymond L Phillips
- CW3Christopher Romero
- CW2 Cameron B Warren
- CW2 John M White
- Aviation Maintenance Technician
- Class 003-26*
- WO1 Pedro Amezolavelazquez \*
- WO1 Carlos, Jr Castellanos
- WO1 William M Griffin \*
- WO1 Edil M Laocarrero
- Class 004-26*
- WO1 Tony, Jr Brunson
- WO1 Rahnjames K. Clements \*
- WO1 Joseph K. Hipp \*
- WO1 Timothy R. McCann
- WO1 Nathan N. Todd \*
- WO1 Austin G. Winn

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

- Class 008-26*
- PVT Johnathan Jake Jackson- \* DG
- PVT Caroline Garnell E. Beamon
- PV2 Brycen Richard Bryan
- PVT Dylan Jeffrey Clark
- PV2 Austin Jayce Cole
- PVT Jasmine S. Flint
- SPC Christian Alexan Homerortiz
- PV2 Skyler Tristan Rutland
- PFC Axum Mukiibi Semakula
- PV2 Ayonna Marie Sexton
- PV2 Oren Ezekiel Walker
- PFC Devin Keith Weber
- Class 010-26*
- SPC Shaleen Nelson Judd \* -DG
- PFC Dennis Javier Aleman
- SPC Kaitlin Christine Bunton

- PFC Isaiah William Cruz
- PVT Fabian Ya Elizondo-Corona
- SPC Michael Gene Fulp
- PFC Cesar Omar Lebron
- PVT Jordan Truett Mears
- PFC Hoang Phuc Nguyen
- PFC Mia Marie Schreck
- SPC Damien S. Sims
- PVT Elijah Michael Tillman
- Class 011-26*
- PVT Michael Peyton Foy-DG
- PVT Kaegan Lloyd Baglien
- PV2 Devin Tyriet Fitzhugh
- PV2 Landon Chadwick Humes
- PV2 Brandon Lee King
- PFC Curtis Russell Lane
- PFC John Walnest Montero
- PVT Jennifer Koral Mosqueda
- PV2 Nicholas Andrew Owen
- PVT Ethan Vincent Perera
- PFC Je Shaquille Williams

### UH-60 Helicopter Repairer (15T)

- Class 015-26*
- PV2 Richwell Ebo Ampere
- PV2 Kamron Alexander Basteau
- PFC Anna Rose Elliott
- SPC James Jay Frischman
- PV2 Edward Jesus Roof
- PFC Jack Waverly Warwick \*
- PVT Bryce Timothy Williams
- Class 016-26*
- PFC Timothy George Burke \* -DG
- PV2 Noah Bareither
- PVT Christopher Hale Cardenas
- PV2 Eugene Catalano Jr.
- PFC Aukeleluaiaku J.K. Cuarisma
- PFC Yensie V.Cuevas Silvestre
- PFC John Hunter Dean
- PV2 James Dennis Dilossi
- PV2 Jack Henry Eastman
- PV2 William Patrick Erickson
- SPC Timothy Frederick Henze
- Class 017-26*
- PV2 Nathan Michael Zane Bardin
- PV2 Bryce Ryan Bobb
- PV2 Jordan Andrew Christensen
- PV2 Clayton Lohrum Hatchell
- PFC Kage Daniel Hiestand
- PV2 Jake Robert Kanning
- PFC Brandon Michael King
- PV2 Mark Dwain Patton

- SPC Robinpreet Singh Pelia
- PV2 Kyle Jay Redmond
- Class 018-26*
- PFC Brian Charles Floyd \* -DG
- PFC Jose Urbano Davila
- PFC Jeffery John Delaney
- PV2 Aiden Michael Freese
- PFC Corbin Taylor Garrett
- SPC Alix Anthony Messina
- PV2 Dominic John Santero
- PV2 Owen Dean Seaquist
- PV2 Tristen Rossbach Teatro
- PVT Landon James Vanfleet
- PFC Zachary Andre Yzaguirre
- Class 093-26*
- PV2 Erich David Kudlik \* -DG
- PVT Trace Thomas Adams
- PV2 Cort Jeffrey Bethel
- PV2 Paul August Broberg
- PFC Dominic James Corso
- SPC Nishant Dhungana
- PFC Eric Lee Flores
- PFC Alfonso Sergio Herrera
- PV2 Elijah Keith Jakubisin
- PV2 Ryan Lane Lee
- PV2 Keiton Adam Miller
- Class 094-26*
- SPC Radu Gabriel Vilceanu \* -DG
- SPC Daniel David Blouch
- PV2 Theron James Citrowske
- PFC Landon Jase Macdougall
- PV2 Joseph Dariel Mercado
- PV2 Johnny Davi Morales
- PFC Cameron Allan Parker
- PV2 Kyler Allen Pope
- PFC Thomas Wyatt Reibling
- PV2 Gerardo A.Rodriguez Guzman
- PVT Everett Quinn Thomas
- PV2 Matthew Grant Ulrey
- Class 019-26*
- PFC Schuyler T. Williamson \* -DG
- PFC Timothy Justin Hinds
- PFC Zachery Paul Houbbeck
- PFC Cameron Dean Kline
- PV2 Avannea Danyelle Morris
- PV2 Emma Elizabeth Morrison
- PV2 Christopher William Pagan
- PVT Caeleb Walker Stelker
- PV2 James David Tedeschi
- PFC Garrett Corbin Wood
- Class 020-26*
- PFCRyanDavidWilliamReinhardt \* -DG
- SPC Landon Patrick Bunting

- PV2 Daniel Michael Cox
- PV2 Tyler James Dobis
- PV2 Dashed Roman Faulkner
- PFC Jackson James Fry
- PFC Landon James Hankemeier
- PFC Scout Benjamin Koch
- PFC Sean Duncan McArn
- SGT Jesus Ruiz Abrica
- SPC Khoa Nguyen Anh Tran
- PV2 Taylor Scott Wenzlaff
- Class 021-26*
- PFC Christopher Michael Willard \* -DG
- PV2 Dave Alexander
- PVT Joseph M. Bisceglia-Vanderlinde
- PV2 Ethan Michal Bosch
- PVT Jack Seabury Brown
- PFC Jeffery Michael Caldwell
- PFC Jada Grace Macias
- SPC Heidi Dickinson
- PV2 Miles Jeffrey Nordquist
- PV2 Jaydon Ryder Rabatin
- PFC Kaylin Paige Tonniges
- Class 022-26*
- PV2 Adam Jason Huston-DG
- SGT Zachary Christopher Brooker
- PV2 Rafael Carrizales
- SPC Miguel Jose Cruz
- SPC Nathan James Dulin
- PFC Titan Albert Earley
- SPC Heriberto Gonzalez Bowden
- SPC Michael Scott Mejia
- PV2 Andrew Paul Roach
- PV2 Morgan Cole Robinson
- PV2 Jacob Michael Shore
- SPC Jonathan Ethan Walker

### Cargo Helicopter Repairer (15U)

- Class 007-26*
- PFC Jack Waverly Warwick \* -DG
- PV2 Richwell Ebo Ampere
- PV2 Kamron Alexander Basteau
- PFC Anna Rose Elliott
- SPC James Jay Frischman
- PV2 Edward Jesus Roof
- PVT Bryce Timothy Williams
- Class 008-26*
- PV2 Jaden Aloisi Connor-DG
- PV2 Edgar Carmelo Jose Alvarado
- SPC David John Breiling
- SGT Nicholas Cesar Claudio
- PV2 William Charles Dewolf
- PFC Jaime Espindola Romero
- PV2 Grant Nathaniel Jackson

- PV2 Clint Cleo Kuykendall
- PV2 Christopher Louis Madagame
- SGT Demetrio Blanco Martinez
- SPC Jose Manuel Pena Navarro
- Class 009-26*
- PFC Aaron Joshua Medley-DG
- PV2 Peyton Chance Blair
- PV2 Levi Thomas Escobedo
- PVT Shane Oneil Gayle
- SPC Alec Brennan Kappel
- PFC Benjamin Neel Martin
- PVT Chase Anthony Mlitch
- PFC Ryan Jay Perkins
- PFC Jacob William Perry
- PV2 Remone John Lalone Pitcher
- CPL Caden Michael Sell
- SGT Robert Edward Wade
- Class 010-26*
- PV2 Shujie Lin-DG
- PVT Jeffrey Rushane Belinfantie
- PFC Gabriel M Bertrand
- PV2 Zevin Gerik Bogaczyk
- SPC Kaleb McKay Burkhart
- PV2 Helaman Reed Cox
- PV2 Jacob Douglas Emmons
- PV2 Isaac Alton Kuyper
- PFC Cameron Paul Ricks

### Aircraft Powerplant Repairer (15B)

- Class 002-26*
- PVT Leland Russell Thomas \* -DG
- PVT Aaron Michael Baykov
- PV2 Logan James Bohn
- SPC Shelbi Morgan Capell
- PVT Zariah Nevaeh Deems
- PV2 Eli Christian Hansell
- SPC Cedric Princeton Kengue
- PV2 Eddie Ariel Meneses
- PV2 Andrea Okello Mills
- PFC John David Nowlin
- PV2 Jedaiah Leshawn Vialpando
- PFC Carlos Vittorio Zamora
- Class 003-26*
- PFC Hai Lu \* -DG
- PFC Pedro Alexis De Ona
- PVT Joseph James Fegan
- PVT Ivan Garza
- SPC David John Breiling
- SGT Nicholas Cesar Claudio
- PV2 Flor Marciela Mejia Vasquez
- PFC Raheim Ralston Patrick Nelson



### AIT Graduations

*Continued*  
PVT Joseph Collin Parks  
PVT Arturo David Perez Bracho  
PFC Enrique Manuel Perez Espada  
PV2 Jackson Christopher Powell  
SPC Joemo Samora Williston

### Aircraft Powertrain Repairer (15D)

*Class 002-26*  
SPC Bryan Alonso Vasquez \*-DG  
SPC Cosmin Alexandru Bujoreanu  
PFC Omar Castro  
PFC Junjie Chen  
PV2 Gavin Michael Johnson  
SPC Alex Korny  
PV2 Olin Carter Link  
PVT Aiden Gage Soto  
PV2 Reid Christopher Thompson  
PV2 Connor Glen Watkins  
PVT Jack Bradford Yocca

### Aircraft Electrician (15F)

*Class 003-26*  
PFC Seongjin Kim \*-DG  
PVT Kimberly Kay Chandanais  
PV2 Ahian Semed Diaz Larios  
PFC Kendall Marie Minick  
PVT Keagan Drew Myers  
PFC Andrew Noah Rivas  
PVT Mari Elizabeth Robertson  
*Class 004-26*  
PFC Tennyson Francis \*-DG  
PVT Wyatt McCoy Braun  
PVT Mikial Todd Buluc  
PV2 David Alexander Bunting  
PVT Jacob Michael Johnson  
PFC Zarien Andrew Hansen

### Aircraft Structural Repairer (15G)

*Class 003-26*  
PVT Joao Gomes Borges \*-DG  
SGT Ricardo Ramon Acosta

PFC Jacob Core  
PV2 Max Archer Boudreaux  
PVT Sete Sebastian Gutierrez  
PFC Garrett James Harris  
PFC Dariela Marina John  
PV2 Andrew Patrick Karr  
PFC Ramsey Robert McClintock  
PFC Josiah Meert  
SGT Bayleigh Rae Powers  
SPC Jacob Brennan Rippe

### Aircraft Pnedraulics Repairer (15H)

*Class 003-26*  
PV2 Hushane St. Michael W. Bedward \*- DG  
PV2 Maison Lee Puente  
PV2 Trace Allan Toteff  
PV2 Thomas James Walkosak  
PV2 Thomas Lee Wolfrum

### Avionic Repairer (15N)

*Class 027-26*  
PV2 Jayden Desean Bohannon  
PFC Ruben Castillo Jr  
PVT Troy Walker Davis  
PFC David Alberto Diaz  
PV2 Jackson Lee Gleaton  
PV2 Solrae Samuel Klein  
PV2 Justin Tyler Moore  
*Class 028-26*  
PFC Adam Jacob Rodriguez \*-DG  
PV2 Orlando Calvillo  
PV2 Donovan Douglas Johnson  
SPC Christopher Nunez  
PFC Gavin Matthew Owen  
PFC Kyle Chason White

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

*Class 001-26*  
PV2 Ryan Matthew Puckett \*-DG  
PVT Jesse James Buie  
PV2 Ryan Anthony Csicsak  
PV2 Damian George  
PV2 Diego Gonzalez  
PV2 Julian Tyquan Jones

PFC Emmaline Elizabet Meadows  
SPC Isaac Morantes  
PVT Julian James Noga  
PV2 Alexander Ryan Webb  
*Class 002-26*

SPC Brandon Amaro  
PV2 Ezequiel Gardea  
PFC Isaiha Arza  
PVT Logan Michael Jacofsky  
PV2 Thomas Andrew Laux  
PVT Brady Chase Lusk  
PV2 Titan James Papanikolas  
PVT Frantz Marc Donald Séance  
PFC Joseph Edward Shook  
SPC Brandon Leevirgi Strickland  
*Class 003-26*

PFC Oscar Sanchez \*-DG  
PV2 Emauel James Anderson  
PVT Jose Luis Barboza  
PV2 Ellic David Boulanger  
PVT Jaiden Riley Lazaro  
PV2 Keagan Ray Wilson  
*Class 004-26*

PV2 Donovan Grier Dale \*-DG  
PFC Ethan Homas Craner  
PFC Michael Kent Coleman  
PV2 Jessy Hernandez  
SPC Dongbin Lin  
PVT Gavin Creed Lucas  
PFC Jaxson Martin McGahern  
SPC Aldyn Michael Obirek  
PFC Carter Chinh Vu

### Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Graduations

### Tactical Unmanned Aerial Systems (TUAS) Operations Technician

AAAA congratulates the following Army graduates of the Tactical Unmanned Aerial Systems (TUAS) Operations Technician, MOS 150U at Fort Huachuca, AZ.

### UAS REPAIRER

AAAA congratulates the following Army graduates of the Unmanned Aircraft Systems Repairer Course, MOS 15M at Fort Huachuca, AZ.

### Shadow UAS Repairer Course

15 Graduates, 23 April 2026  
PFC Sidni Tyron -(DG)  
PFC Damian Flowers -(HG)  
PFC Michael Debard  
PFC Edgar Garcia  
PFC Steven Jacka  
PFC Jacob Jarvis  
PFC Fisher Klein  
PV2 Ryley Mallory  
SPC Mathew Mitchell  
SPC Americo Pena  
PV2 Michael Pereira  
PFC Andrew Riley  
PFC Vera Romero-Mendez  
PFC Ariane Shears  
PFC Joshua Zietlow  
12 Graduates, 07 May 2026  
PFC Jeremiah Camacho -(DG)  
PVT Joshua Byrom  
PVT Mark-Dillon Guildarie  
PV2 Luke Jasper  
PV2 Austin Lehman  
PV2 Joseph Loeffler  
PFC John Martelli  
PV2 Gustavo Martinez  
PFC Omar Padilla  
PFC Jett Rodgers  
PV2 Gage Smith  
PFC Hamir Vazquez

### Gray Eagle Repairer Course

8 Graduates, 20 April 2026  
PV2 Jared Traverse -(DG)  
PFC Anthony Aguilar  
PV2 Ethan Dawson  
PV2 Matthew Estrada  
PFC McKay Jones  
SPC Colton Lee  
PFC Nathan Martinez

### PFC Anita Thompson UAS Operator

AAAA congratulates the following Army graduates of the Unmanned Aircraft Systems Operator Course, MOS 15C and 15W at Fort Huachuca, AZ.

### Shadow UAS Operator Course

6 Graduates, 23 April 2026  
PFC Matteo Acevedo  
PV2 Jazmin Ascencion  
PFC Hudson Batchelor  
PV2 Gabriel Chavez  
PFC Gavyn Friend  
PV2 John Nolan  
SPC Christopher Novoa  
PFC John Titus  
11 Graduates, 07 May 2026  
PFC Andrew Riley  
PFC Matthew Byrne  
PFC Avery Casanova  
PV2 Nicholas Chesley  
PFC Griffin Davies  
PFC Killian Green  
PFC Troy Green  
PV2 Steven Mills  
PFC Jonathon Roque  
PFC Anthony Sigler  
PV2 Benny Zeng

### Gray Eagle Operator Course

9 Graduates, 20 April 2026  
PV2 Noah Crites -(DG)  
SPC Nicholas Siragosa  
PFC Christopher Belcher  
PFC Cody Cormier  
PFC Diego Martinez  
PFC Drake Squires  
PV2 Jordan Hinojosa  
PV2 Markkiss Lopez  
PV2 Collin Osborne

DG-Distinguished Graduate  
HG-Honor Graduate  
\* = AAAA Member

**PROUDLY SUPPORTING THE U.S. ARMY AVIATION MUSEUM SINCE 1970**

**ARMY AVIATION MUSEUM FOUNDATION**

**Museum & Gift Shop Hours**  
TUESDAY - FRIDAY 10 - 4  
SATURDAY 10 - 3  
Closed Sundays, Mondays, & all federal holidays.

**BEAT THE HEAT THIS SUMMER AT THE ARMY AVIATION MUSEUM**

**Save the Date**

**NATIONAL AVIATION DAY CELEBRATION**

**SATURDAY AUGUST 15 10-3 PM**

**WWW.ARMYAVIATIONMUSEUM.ORG**



## AAAA Legislative Report

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

[kevin.cochie@quad-a.org](mailto:kevin.cochie@quad-a.org)

### The FY27 Defense Budget Arrives: What It Means for Army Aviation

After months of delay and growing frustration across Capitol Hill, the Administration has finally transmitted the FY27 defense budget request to Congress. For Army Aviation leaders, industry, and congressional defense committees, the release of the budget begins the most important phase of the annual cycle: determining what priorities survive the legislative process and which programs face increased scrutiny.

The headline number surrounding this year's defense plan has created understandable confusion. Administration officials have repeatedly referenced a "\$1.5 trillion national defense investment," but that figure combines two separate funding mechanisms: the traditional annual defense budget request and additional defense-related spending proposed through congressional reconciliation legislation.

Of the roughly \$1.5 trillion total, approximately \$1.15 trillion would flow through the normal congressional appropriations process, while roughly \$350 billion would be authorized through reconciliation legislation. Put simply, the annual appropriations process funds the core operations of the Department of Defense; pay, training, readiness, procurement, research and development, and sustainment. Reconciliation, by contrast, allows Congress to move certain spending measures under expedited Senate procedures that bypass some of the traditional budget constraints and voting thresholds.

The easiest way to think about it is this: the \$1.15 trillion appropriated budget represents the "base" defense program that Congress reviews annually through the Armed Services and Appropriations Committees, while the additional \$350 billion reconciliation package represents supplemental defense-related investments layered on top of the base request. Together they create the much larger topline figure now being discussed publicly. For many lawmakers, the debate moving forward will center less on the topline itself and more on how quickly funds can be executed and whether the spending aligns with emerging operational priorities in Europe, the Middle East, and the Indo-Pacific.

For Army Aviation, the FY27 request reflects a continued balancing act between

modernization, readiness, and affordability.

The budget continues significant investment in the Future Long Range Assault Aircraft (FLRAA) program, which remains one of the Army's highest aviation modernization priorities. Congressional support for FLRAA has remained relatively strong due to the Army's consistent messaging that the platform is essential for future operations in the Indo-Pacific and other contested environments. Lawmakers continue to view FLRAA as a cornerstone capability designed to replace aging portions of the UH-60 Black Hawk fleet over time.

The request also continues funding for improvements across existing aviation fleets, including modernization efforts tied to the Apache, Chinook, and Black Hawk, and huge investments in the unmanned aircraft and counter-UAS systems. Congress historically remains supportive of aviation readiness and sustainment accounts because of their direct impact on operational availability and deployment readiness.

Unmanned systems and counter-UAS capabilities also receive notable attention throughout the FY27 request. Lessons from Ukraine continue driving congressional interest in low-cost autonomous systems, electronic warfare integration, and survivable networked aviation capabilities. Army Aviation leaders should expect increasing pressure from lawmakers to demonstrate how aviation formations will integrate manned and unmanned systems at scale during future operations.

The budget also sustains investment in aviation survivability upgrades, digital interoperability, and aircraft sustainment. While these programs rarely generate headlines, congressional staff increasingly recognize that readiness and fleet availability remain persistent concerns across Army Aviation formations. Investments in condition-based maintenance, supply chain resilience, and data-driven sustainment continue gaining traction with both authorizers and appropriators.

Congressional attention on industrial base capacity is also growing. Concerns surrounding munitions production, workforce shortages, and aviation supply chain fragility are now influencing aviation discussions as much as platform performance itself. Lawmakers increasingly want assurance that the defense industrial base can sustain long-term competition and surge

production requirements during crisis scenarios.

Despite the long-awaited arrival of the budget, significant turbulence still lies ahead. The House Armed Services Committee (HASC) is expected to be the first committee to formally mark up the FY27 defense authorization bill in early June. The House Appropriations Defense Subcommittee (HAC-D) is also expected to begin its markup process in June, with the Senate Armed Services Committee (SASC) and Senate Appropriations Defense Subcommittee (SAC-D) likely following in July. These markups will provide the first real indication of congressional priorities, potential funding adds, and areas where lawmakers may diverge from the Administration's request.

The delayed submission once again compresses the congressional timeline for hearings, markups, and negotiations. Armed Services and Appropriations Committee staff now face the difficult task of reviewing thousands of pages of budget justification material under increasingly compressed timelines. As in recent years, the likelihood of a continuing resolution remains high, particularly given broader political disagreements over overall federal spending levels.

For Army Aviation programs, continuing resolutions create immediate complications. New program starts are delayed, production increases become difficult to execute, and modernization timelines slip. Industry partners face uncertainty in contracting actions, while operational units absorb the downstream effects in readiness and sustainment.

At the same time, global instability continues shaping congressional priorities. Ongoing support requirements around the globe coupled with ongoing operational requirements in the Middle East are forcing lawmakers to balance immediate operational demands against long-term modernization investments. In practice, Congress will spend much of the summer determining how to simultaneously fund today's conflicts while preparing for tomorrow's.

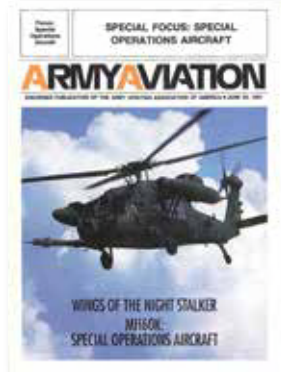
For Army Aviation, the months ahead will require disciplined engagement with Congress, clear articulation of operational requirements, and continued emphasis on readiness and modernization priorities. The FY27 request may finally be on Capitol Hill, but the real legislative work is only beginning.

# Art's Attic

By Mark Albertson



Art's Attic is a look back each issue at 25 and 50 years ago to see what was going on in ARMY AVIATION Magazine. Contributing editor Mark Albertson has selected a few key items from each decade's issues. Art Kesten is our founder and first publisher from 1953 to 1987. He is also the founder of the AAAA in 1957 and served as its Executive Vice President. The cartoon, right, was created back in 1953 by LT Joe Gayhart, a friend of Art's and an Army Aviator, showing the chaos of his apartment-office in New York City where it all began.



## 25 Years Ago June 30, 1991

### Guardian Soldiers Cover the Peninsula of Korea

On one of the most sensitive postings in the Pacific Theater is the Korean peninsula. And it is here that Army Aviation traffic controllers play a significant role. Pictured is the air traffic central

control, AN/TSW-7A, in its tactical configuration. This TSW-7A was operated by the 1<sup>st</sup> PLT, B Co., 4-58<sup>th</sup> AVN during TEAM SPIRIT '91 at DRAGON FARP in support of the 1-501<sup>st</sup> AVN.



### Briefings

Bell Helicopter's AH-1F Cobra, a major component of the U.S. Army's gunship fleet during Operations: DESERT SHIELD/STORM, is to receive a significant upgrade, which will provide the Cobra with an improved day/night fighting capability. Effective immediately, the Army is equipping over 50 AH-1Fs with Cobra-Nite (C-NITE) targeting systems manufactured by Hughes Aircraft Company, Electro-Optical & Data Systems Group, El Segundo, California. The installations will take place at Camp Humphries, Korea, on AH-1Fs assigned to the U.S. 8<sup>th</sup> Army.



### Sharpening Skills

Here we see Colonel R. Potter Campbell, (Ret.), former commander of the 12<sup>th</sup> Aviation Group, keep his skills sharp at a neighborhood video arcade. A member of AAAA since 1963, he has his daughter to thank for this candid camera

moment. Send in your favorite AAAA member photos to the National Office. They will be published as space allows.



## 50 Years Ago June 30, 1976

### A Replica from AAAA

Left-to-right beginning with, Vic Schulte, Vice President of the Lindbergh Chapter of AAAA; Colonel John Klingenhagen, representing U.S.A.T.M.C., St. Louis and, Charles Sherry, President of the

St. Louis Jaycees, view a photo of the replica of the "Spirit of St. Louis," later presented to the City of St. Louis by owners Paul Mantz and Frank Tallman. The replica had been flown in the June 3 Army Air Show by Major Emil E. "Jack" Kilever.



### Unique

This gentleman is a master of earth, sea and sky... That man is C.W.O. Jerry D. McKinney of the 101<sup>st</sup>'s 17<sup>th</sup> Cavalry. McKinney is a former Navy diver who, during his six-year career, placed underwater nuclear charges in the waters off Eniwetok Island during scientific tests. McKinney transferred to the Army's Nike missile program. By 1970, he was on his way to flight school. A talented illustrator, McKinney is Troop C's test pilot, tech supply officer, and the unit's pet advisor, since he owns a pet shop just outside the Fort Campbell main gate.



### Defense Secretary Rumsfeld Visits 101<sup>st</sup>

A non-stop, 6 1/2 hour tour of Fort Campbell was conducted by Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld in mid-May. He observed helicopters and crews during 101<sup>st</sup> Division maneuvers. At one point during the proceedings, Rumsfeld manned a Huey to launch a simulated attack. Clearing the trees using N.O.E. flying, the former Navy flyer fired 2.75-inch rockets and, fired turret mounted mini guns from an AH-1G Cobra.



The Army Aviation Hall of Fame, sponsored by the Army Aviation Association of America, Inc., recognizes those individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to Army Aviation.

The actual Hall of Fame is located in the Army Aviation Museum, Fort Rucker, AL.

The deadline for nominations for the 2027 induction is June 1, 2027

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

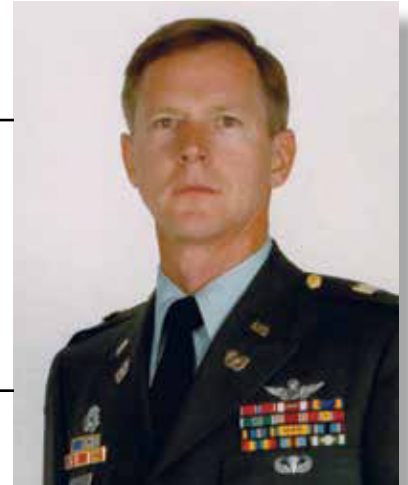
# Army Aviation Hall of Fame

---

CW5  
Thomas J. Janis,  
Deceased

*Army Aviation Hall of Fame Induction 2023 –  
Nashville, TN*

---



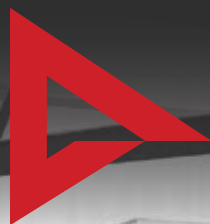
**D**rafted in 1966 and completing flight school in 1969, Tom Janis deployed to Vietnam where he distinguished himself as an OH-6 pilot, flying hundreds of missions and earning multiple decorations.

Returning from Vietnam he became an Instructor Pilot, which truly capitalized on his ability and passion to teach and mentor. Tom spent the rest of his career as an instructor pilot, influencing thousands through his selfless leadership, instruction, and mentorship – a role model to everyone he served with, regardless of status or rank.

Spending the final ten years of his career assigned to a Special Mission Unit, CW5 Janis flew multiple platforms, deploying on numerous classified missions. Selected to lead the first practical application of recently invented classified Unmanned Aerial Vehicles, he developed the techniques, tactics, and procedures to employ UAVs on classified national security missions which are still used today.

Retiring from the Army in 1998 with over 32 years of service and 9,300 flight hours, he began flying sensitive State Department missions. On February 13, 2003, over the mountain jungles of Colombia, his aircraft suffered an engine failure. He miraculously found a small clearing and “dead-sticked” the airplane to a crash landing that everyone on board survived. After safely exiting the aircraft and while trying to protect his injured Colombian Crew Chief, Janis was murdered by FARC (Revolutionary Armed Forces of Columbia) rebels. The remaining three Americans were instantly captured and spent the next five years in captivity.

At the time of his death, CW5 Janis amassed more than 17 separate aircraft type ratings and over 11,000 flight hours. More importantly he had taught and instructed hundreds of aviators the finer points of aviation skills, all while being an exceptionally caring and compassionate leader, who always set an unequivocally positive example for all with whom he served.



# DILLON AERO



## THE MODERN GATLING GUN

For over 20 years, the U.S. Military and over 50 partner nations have relied on Dillon Aero to protect aircrews, aircraft, and ground troops during high-risk insertions and extractions.

The M134D is a proven C-UAS Hard Kill solution for Air-to-Air and Ground-to-Air missions.

We conduct factory training (Operations & Maintenance) for customers in Arizona and worldwide.

We designed the 503D Gatling Gun to be lighter, faster, and stronger—delivering .50 Cal firepower at 1,500 rounds per minute.

***When the fight is hard & reliability is non-negotiable, operators don't compromise. They choose Dillon Aero.***



Connect w/ Us

AIR, LAND, SEA, CUAS Air to Air CUAS Ground to Air

WWW.DILLONAERO.COM