



# U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command FLIGHT

August 2021

Volume 3 • Issue 7



## Senior enlisted advisor readies for next chapter



After 27 years, Command Sgt. Major George “Mike” Dove is about to lace up his boots for the last time.

The command sergeant major of U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command has lots of stories to tell – from his grandfather and his grandfather’s twin being prisoners of war during World War II to multiple combat deployments and the fact that Rosie the Riveter is one

of his grandmothers (yes; he just glossed over that one).

But it all started in San Angelo, Texas, where Dove grew up as big brother to Bobby.

Though there was a rich family history of military service, it was the pursuit of an airframe and power plant mechanics license that ultimately led Dove to join the Army...[READ MORE](#)

## Redstone lab responsible for all DoD gas masks

Not many Soldiers know about the Protection Assessment Test System laboratory located in a nondescript building in the back of Redstone Arsenal, Alabama, but they all benefit from its services.

The PATS lab, which is part of the U.S. Army Test, Measurement, and Diagnostic Equipment Activity, is responsible for ensuring every gas mask tester in the Department of Defense functions appropriately. Lab technicians calibrate these machines, which are used to test gas masks for leaks prior to deployments or field exercises for units from every branch in the military.

Nearly every American warfighter around world will check the fit of their gas mask on a unit that was serviced by the PATS lab.

“This laboratory focuses on counting vapor droplets,” said Robert Branin, USATA deputy director for management and operations. “We manage the science of measuring droplet particles down to the parts per million that you can’t see with your eye because, in the case of the tester, we want to make sure that it can measure particulates that might get into the Soldier’s gas mask.”

PATS lab Team Lead Travis Robbins said each tester services a battalion-sized unit or larger and should be calibrated approximately every eighteen months to ensure accuracy.

When testers arrive for calibration, a PATS technician performs...[READ MORE](#)



## 'Planning ahead'

*Over the past month I had the opportunity to take a little leave and visit not only each of my parents, but my mother-in-law as well.*

*All three of them are reaching a point in their lives where they are making choices about their future. As my wife and I were talking to each of them separately, it became apparent that each had undertaken a different level of planning and so each had a different level of comfort going forward. It was a great reminder to me about the general importance of planning ahead.*

*In my opinion, planning ahead applies to almost everything we do. If we plan ahead, we enable our own success in several ways.*

*First, we think through potential issues and problems before they arise. Second, planning provides the time and space to react before it's potentially too late. And finally, documenting our plans help others carry out our vision.*

*However, I'm conscious of the fact that sometimes planning ahead is just plain hard to do. We'll never have perfect insight as to the conditions that lie before us and, well, we just can't plan for everything.*

*Even with valid assumptions, it's also just hard to find...*



continued on Page 2

**'Planning ahead'**

continued from Page 1

*the time given the myriad of current requirements. The alternative to not planning, though, is even worse – we're ill-prepared for anything that comes our way.*

*Planning certainly takes time and effort. I urge each of us to take at least a few minutes every day and think and plan for what may be next. Doing so is our best chance to succeed not only personally, but also in our support to warfighters.*

*Army Strong!*

Maj. Gen. Todd Royar  
AMCOM commanding general

**USATA calibration lab renovated after 50 years**

Leaders from the U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command celebrated the renovation of the U.S. Army Test, Measurement, and Diagnostic Equipment Activity headquarters building during a ribbon-cutting ceremony June 29 at Redstone Arsenal, Alabama.

The celebration marked the completion of the first major renovation to the Maj. Gen. John M. Cone Metrology Laboratory in USATA's more than 50-year history on the installation. Cone served as the director of quality assurance at the U.S. Army Materiel Command in the mid-1960s.

During his remarks, USATA Director Dr. Richard Parker described Cone as a pioneer in the field of calibration and recognized him as one of the Army's leading authorities on quality assurance.

The original building was dedicated to Cone following his death in 1966.

Parker said, "At the time, this was the nation's largest, most completely equipped laboratory for precise calibration and measurement of guided missile equipment..." [READ MORE](#)

**Sparkman Wellness Center announces extended hours of operation**

If the "19" in COVID-19 refers to the number of pounds you gained during the pandemic, then the Sparkman Wellness Center has good news for you! Effective July 7, hours of operation will be extended from 5 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday to get employees back into pre-quarantine shape.

It's no secret physical activity improves physical and emotional wellbeing, but it also provides both immediate and long-term health benefits. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, immediate benefits include improved sleep, reduced anxiety and lower blood pressure. Long-term benefits include reduced risk of dementia; lower risk of heart disease, stroke, type 2 diabetes and eight types of cancer (bladder, breast, colon, endometrium, esophagus, kidney, lung and stomach); improved bone strength; and improved balance and coordination, which reduce the risk of falls.

The Sparkman Wellness Center has a plethora of fitness equipment for beginners and experienced exercise enthusiasts. Before hopping on that exercise bike or treadmill for the first time, employees will need to sign a release and waiver of liability form and fill out the sign-in sheet at the front... [READ MORE](#)

**P2P** Performance-to-Promise is a measurement of how an organization holds itself accountable to the commitment to meet worldwide customer-required delivery dates.

July 2021

**Letterkenny Army Depot**

**93.0%**

1.6%

**Corpus Christi Army Depot**

**86.5%**

7.3%

**Missile SA**

**76.23%**

Second pass

6.03%

**Aviation SA**

**88.95%**

Second pass

.45%

**SA**

July 2021

Supply availability is defined as the percentage of demands placed on the wholesale echelon of supply that are not backordered, excluding future material obligations.

**Aviation Center Logistics Command**

**Mission-capable aircraft**

**72.5%**

**6.4%**

**Non mission-capable supply**

June 16 - July 16



## Museum reopens in new facility, preserves history of local veterans



U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command Commander Maj. Gen. Todd Royar participated in the grand reopening of the Alabama Veterans Museum & Archives July 1 in Athens, Alabama.

Alabama Gov. Kay Ivey, as well as other state and local officials, also attended the ceremony which celebrated the new location of the museum in much larger venue.

During his remarks, Royar spoke about the role museums play in teaching and preserving the nation's history. He quoted President Theodore Roosevelt, "The more you know about the past, the better prepared you are for the future."

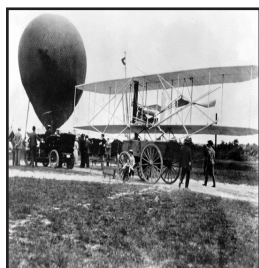
Royar said Alabama leadership is absolutely preparing for the future by investing in the veterans museum and expanding its footprint.

"That preparation doesn't happen by accident," he said. "It happens because folks care about it; it happens because they planned it. This facility, this museum, these sets of archives are what makes a difference. And if you want to teach about the past, if you want to teach about history, you have to have a means to do it. You have to have a way to tell the story."

Museum Director Sandy Thompson, a veteran herself, retired from the Air Force in 2007 after 22 years on active duty. She said she enjoys teaching younger generations about service and sacrifice through the displays in the museum.

Thompson said all the artifacts in the museum were donated and telling t of them come in with a story. We try to have the family members...[READ MORE](#)

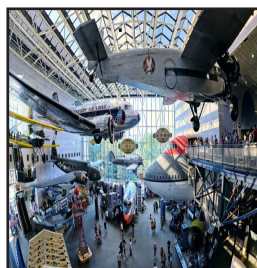
## This month in history



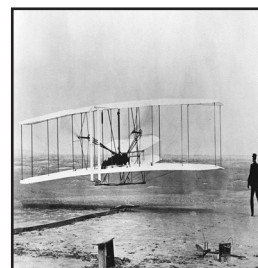
August 1, 1907: The Aeronautical Division of the U.S. Army Signal Corps was created to take charge of "all matters pertaining to military ballooning, air machines, and all kindred subjects." The work completed by the Aeronautical Division between 1907 and 1917 laid the foundation for the creation of the U.S. Army Air Corps, the U.S. Air Force, and the U.S. Army Aviation Branch.



August 7, 1990: Operation Desert Shield began in response to the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait Aug. 2, 1990. The United States of America, led by President George H.W. Bush, built an international coalition of 35 nations to stop Iraqi aggression and liberate Kuwait. The U.S. Army's aviation assets used during Operation Desert Shield (and later Operation Desert Storm) included the AH-64 Apache, the CH-47 Chinook, the UH-60 Black Hawk and the UH-1 Iroquois.



August 12, 1946: President Harry Truman signed an appropriation bill authorizing \$50,000 to establish a National Air Museum at the Smithsonian Institute. The initially small museum eventually became the National Air and Space Museum, which currently contains more than 60,000 items on display and sees an average of more than 8 million visitors per year.



August 19, 1871: Orville Wright was born in Dayton, Ohio. He and his brother Wilbur covented the first airplane to achieve powered, sustained and controlled flight. Orville was the pilot for their famous first flight at Kill Devil Hills, North Carolina, Dec. 17, 1903.



August 25, 1921: Lt. Gen. Allen M. Burdett Jr. was born in Washington, D.C. He is considered a pioneer in Army rotary-wing aviation and received his initial rating as an Army aviator in June 1960. Burdett served as the 1st Aviation Brigade commander in Vietnam from 1968-1970, director of Army aviation in 1970, and the commanding general of the U.S. Army Aviation Center at Fort Rucker, Alabama, from 1970 to 1973. Burdett passed away July 8, 1980, in San Antonio, Texas.



*The AMCOM Flight* is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command. Contents are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government or the Department of the Army. Questions, comments and story ideas may be [emailed](#) to AMCOM's Public and Congressional Affairs Office, or call 256-842-3546. [Past editions](#) of *The AMCOM Flight* are available on AMCOM's [Command Information Portal](#).