

DESERT WINGS

Public Affairs, Volume 63, Number 70

Dec. 9, 2016

F-35s take to the skies to test communication data links

By Kenji Thuloweit

412th Test Wing Public Affairs

All three variants of the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter are being used by the 461st Flight Test Squadron in current multi-ship testing, which employs four or six jets to ensure communication systems between the planes are working properly and accurately.

The F-35 contains state-of-the-art tactical data links that provide the secure sharing of data among its flight members and other airborne, surface and ground-based platforms required to perform assigned missions.

“One of the primary reasons we do multi-ship testing is to ensure data is shared appropriately between aircraft in order to maximize lethality and survivability,” said Maj. Raven LeClair, 461 FLTS, F-35 test pilot. “The F-35 uses [Multi-function Advanced Data Link] to share information on air and ground threats in order to more effectively target. This is especially applicable to one of the F-35’s primary mission -- finding and killing advanced surface-to-air missile systems.”

The MADL is a high-data-rate, directional communications link that allows secure transmission of coordinated tactics and engagement for the fifth-generation fighter when operating in high-threat environments.

LeClair said his squadron is specifically testing the ability to find SAM systems using a capability called Enhanced Geo Location.

“After the threat is accurately located, it can be jammed and targeted.”

He added that the MADL architecture is divided into flight



Flocking together: Three F-35As and an F-35C are pictured with the California Desert below during a recent four-ship test sortie conducted by the 461st Flight Test Squadron. Testing is done to ensure data is shared appropriately and accurately between aircraft. (Courtesy photo by Darin Russell/Lockheed Martin)

groups so it is important to test the capability to pass data between flight groups using four or six aircraft to ensure system accuracy, stability and usability during large force exercises and actual combat.

According to the Air Force, the F-35 has unprecedented situational awareness. The F-35’s advanced sensor package is designed to gather, fuse and distribute more information than any fighter in history, which gives pilots a decisive advantage over all adversaries.

“Having a common battlefield picture is one of the greatest assets in combat,” LeClair said. “This capability must be proven

See JSF, page 2

TPS Class 16A Test Eagles ready to soar to new heights

By Kenji Thuloweit

412th Test Wing Public Affairs

Twenty new test pilots, flight test engineers and combat systems officers enter the test world Dec. 9 as Class 16A graduates from the U.S. Air Force Test Pilot School.

Each graduate is awarded a Master of Science in Flight Test Engineering from Air University.

The students endured a rigorous schedule where they have to balance intense academics while flying a wide variety of aircraft.

“The students of TPS Class 16A have just completed what I believe is the most challenging year of training in the Air Force,” said Col. Charles Webb, USAF TPS commandant. “They executed an 18-month master’s degree program in 11 months while tackling a flying syllabus equivalent to the year at pilot training. The fledgling testers of Class 16A are ready to join the ranks of the developmental test community and will quickly become critical members of the test teams delivering weapons and weapon systems to the warfighter.”

Another portion of the 11-month course is the Test Management Program, a six- to eight-month project that gives the



Students from USAF Test Pilot School Class 16A pose in front of a KC-135 Stratotanker from the 418th Flight Test Squadron. During their 11-month course, the 20 students flew in 35 different aircraft as part of the curriculum. (Courtesy photo)

students hands-on experience and oversight of a real test program. The graduation requirement serves as a thesis project and authorizes students to be awarded a master’s degree.

See Graduates, page 2

Twenty new graduates will now enter flight test world

From Graduates, page 1

Four projects were completed by four teams. The titles of the projects were HAVE VISA, HAVE VAPOR, HAVE LIGHT TOO and HAVE SEXTANT. The focus of the projects varied on subjects such as comparing a new targeting system to a current production system; researching a new precision navigation system; evaluating a flight simulator's qualities; and adaptive flight control testing. These real-world test projects can come from outside agencies or the school can be asked by the Air Force to conduct the projects.

The test management projects are relatively inexpensive to the customers due to TPS's wide range of resources and personnel.

In addition to honoring the graduates, TPS Class 16A will present the David A. Lazerson Outstanding Instructor Flight Test Engineer Award, which is presented to the staff member whose diligence, attention to detail, professionalism and passion for flying set the standard for airborne and control room test conduct instruction. Lazerson was a TPS staff member who is remembered as an exceptional flight test engineer and an excellent pilot.

The graduates will now be integrated into teams throughout the flight test world and begin shaping the technology and weapon systems of the future for the Air Force, sister services and allied nations.

"Congratulations to Class 16A on their



United States Air Force Test Pilot School Class 16A students pose in front of the NF-104 next to the school house. (U.S. Air Force photo by Ethan Wagner)

USAF TPS Class 16A

Capt. Craig Bayer
Capt. Michael Coleman
Capt. Mark Gabbard
Capt. Thomas Herold
Maj. Philip Jackson
Capt. Gregory Duckett
Capt. Daniel Edelstein
Comdt. Nicolas Langevin (France)
Capt. Gregory Marcus
Capt. Clark McGehee

Capt. Matthew Moser
Capt. Raffaele Odesco (Italy)
Capt. Anthony Paladino
Capt. Craig Porter
Capt. Joseph Sabat
Lt. Jared Shullick (U.S. Navy)
Capt. Joshua Thomas
Capt. Samantha Thorn
Maj. Mark Vahle
Capt. Matthew Welch

Test Pilot School graduation," said Maj. Carlos Pinedo, Class 16A assistant director of operations. "The newest flight test professionals included members of the U.S. Air Force and Navy, as well as members from France and Italy. They

completed an intense year-long course that included 640 classroom hours and 140 flight hours in 35 aircraft. We are all proud of their accomplishment and they are well prepared for their first flight test tour. Scientia est Virtus!"

461st FLTS conducts multi-ship tests with all JSF variants

From JSF, page 1



Three F-35As and an F-35C are pictured with the Sierra Nevada Mountains during a recent four-ship test sortie conducted by the 461st Flight Test Squadron. (Courtesy photo by Darin Russell/Lockheed Martin)

to be secure and ensure maximum interoperability between 4th- and 5th-generation fighters. The F-35 has an incredible capability to show the entire tactical picture and being able to share this tactical picture with all forces is critical to maximizing lethality, survivability and minimizing the risk of fratricide."

The F-35 is designed to replace aging fighter inventories including U.S. Air Force F-16s and A-10s, U.S. Navy F/A-18s, U.S. Marine Corps AV-8B Harriers and F/A-18s, and U.K. Harrier GR.7s and Sea Harriers.

The 461st FLTS and Joint Strike Fighter Combined Test Force at Edwards conducts developmental test and evaluation of the F-35 with all three variants – the A, B and C models. Developmental test and evaluation will make way for future operational tests.

"As we approach the end of System Development and Demonstration phase, many of our capstone testing events will be multi-ship to ensure compliance with the requirements before transitioning to operational testing," said LeClair.

AAFES X-mas holiday hours Dec. 26

Exchange.....	10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Express.....	9 a.m.-8 p.m.
Burger King.....	8 a.m.-6 p.m.
Starbucks.....	Closed
Arby's.....	11 a.m.-4 p.m.
Charley's.....	Closed
Taco Bell.....	11 a.m.-4 p.m.
Popeye's.....	11 a.m.-4 p.m.
NASA food court.....	Closed
Mary's Place.....	Closed
Domino's (Bldg 7210).....	11 a.m.-9 p.m.
The Cleaners.....	Closed
Stripes Alterations.....	Closed
Enterprise.....	Closed
Beauty Shop.....	Closed
Barber Shop.....	Closed
GNC.....	10 a.m.-3 p.m.
Petals & Blooms.....	Closed
Lock & Leave Storage.....	Closed
Firestone.....	9 a.m.-6 p.m.
NAPA Auto Parts.....	10 a.m.-3 p.m.
King Photography.....	Closed

AAFES New Year's Day hours Jan. 1

Exchange.....	Closed
Express.....	10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Burger King.....	10:30 a.m.-4 p.m.
Starbucks.....	8 a.m.-2 p.m.
Arby's.....	Closed
Charley's.....	Closed
Taco Bell.....	Closed
Popeye's.....	Closed
NASA food court.....	Closed
Mary's Place.....	Closed
Domino's (both).....	Closed
The Cleaners.....	Closed
Stripes Alterations.....	Closed
Enterprise.....	Closed
Beauty Shop.....	Closed
GNC.....	Closed
Petals & Blooms.....	Closed
Lock & Leave.....	Closed
Firestone.....	8 a.m.-6 p.m.
NAPA Auto Parts.....	Closed
King Photography.....	Closed
Barber Shop.....	Closed

FSS Christmas holiday hours Dec. 26

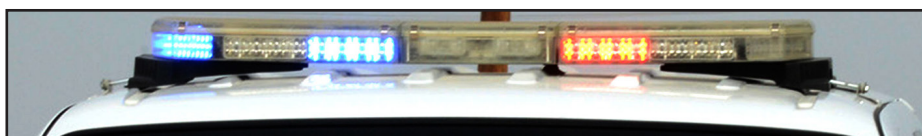
Aero Club	Flying from sunrise to sunset. Office closed.
Joshua Tree Dining Facility	
Breakfast	6-8 a.m.
Lunch.....	11 a.m.- 2 p.m.
Dinner.....	4-6:30 p.m.
Midnight Meal	11 p.m.-1 a.m.
High Desert Inn	Always open
Club Muroc (reservations only).....	Closed Dec. 24-Jan. 2
Library	Closes Dec. 24.

FSS Family Day hours Dec. 27

Aero Club	Flying from sunrise to sunset. Office closed.
Joshua Tree Dining Facility	
Brunch	6 a.m.-1 p.m.
Dinner.....	4:30 p.m.-7 p.m.
Midnight Meal	11 p.m.-1 a.m.
High Desert Inn	Always open
High Desert Lanes Bowling Center.....	10:30 a.m.-midnight
Rosburg Fitness Center.....	8 a.m.-4 p.m.

**All other FSS facilities will close
for Dec. 26 and Family Day.**

Normal hours will resume Jan. 2, 2017



412th Security Forces Squadron issues speeding citations

The 412th Security Forces Squadron issued three speeding citations and processed one driving suspension from Nov. 28 through Dec. 4.

Citations issued

1 to 10 mph.....	0
11 to 15 mph.....	1
16 to 20 mph.....	2
21 to 24 mph.....	0
25+ mph.....	0

Driving privilege suspensions (current)

15 days	1
30 days	0
45 days	0
90 days	2
180 days (six months)	1
365 days (one year).....	17
730 days (two years)	0
1,095 days (three years).....	0

Per AFI 31-218 and EAFBI 31-218, a DD Form 1408 Armed Forces traffic tickets (no-fine) are issued to military members. Military members receiving 1408s are subject to Uniform Code of Military Justice action. A U.S. District Court Violation Notice (USDCVN) (a fine) is issued to all civilians, dependents, and retirees. If issued a USDCVN, violators may be required to be present at Magistrate Court in Bakersfield, California, receive traffic violation points against their state-issued driver's license, and potentially receive suspension of on-base driving privileges.

412th Force Support Squadron upcoming events

Aero Club 275-AERO

Aero Camp is Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Three winter sessions available: Dec. 19-23 and 26-30; Jan. 2-6, 2017. Learn the first steps in training our future pilots. Minimum of three to a maximum of six participants. Includes private pilot ground school kit. Pre-registration required. Call for price and registration.

Airman and Family Readiness 277-0723

Pre-Separation Counseling is Wednesday, 8:30 a.m.-noon. Pre-Separation Counseling is a prerequisite for the 5-day Transition Assistance Program. Spouses are highly encouraged to attend.

Newcomer's Orientation is Thursday, 7:40 a.m.-2 p.m. Orientation is required for all active duty members and provides vital information regarding base resources and services, policies, procedures, recreation opportunities and more. Spouses are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Hearts Apart is Thursday, 5-7 p.m.

Our monthly event for families of service members who are deployed, on an extended TDY or on a remote tour assignment. Join us for dinner and fun activities

Pre-Separation Counseling is Dec. 28, 8:30 a.m.-noon. Pre-Separation Counseling is a prerequisite for the five-day Transition Assistance Program. Spouses are highly encouraged to attend.

Smooth Move is Dec. 28, 2-3 p.m. Edwards Smooth Move seminar will assist in ensuring you select the proper path for a successful PCS whether it be planning for an OCONUS or CONUS move. The goal is to ensure you receive valuable information necessary to make informed decisions and alleviate stress that might come with a relocation.

Club Muroc 275-CLUB

Fight Night: UFC 206 is Dec. 10, Doors open at 5 p.m.

Club Muroc will close for the holidays Dec. 24-Jan. 2. Happy Holidays!

Members Appreciation Breakfast is Dec. 12, 7:30-9:30 a.m.

Kids Club is Dec. 13, 5-7 p.m. Games, prizes, Members' children eat for free. Adults must supervise their children. Members only.

Arts and Crafts Center/Auto Hobby 275-ARTS/AUTO

What We Offer: Custom engraving (wood, plastic, ceramic, acrylic, glass, leather, aluminum, and brass); custom framing; wood hobby shop; embroidery; dye sublimation; vinyl printing (custom shirts, wall and window decals, etc.). Visit us today!

Classes Starting Soon so we are looking for instructors for painting, stained glass, sewing, and crocheting.

High Desert Lanes Bowling Center 275-BOWL

Breakfast with Santa is Dec., 11, 9-11 a.m. Pancakes, scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage served with juice. Unlimited games and shoes with purchase of breakfast. Fun for the whole family. Visit with Santa and don't forget your camera!

NFL Sunday Ticket is 9:30 a.m.-7 p.m. The Big Game is on at High Desert Lanes Bowling. Active duty who wear their team's shirt get a free game of bowling with rental shoes! Breakfast served all day. Appetizers and wing specials!

Library 275-BOOK

Children's Story Time is every Wednesday and Friday at 10 a.m. Toddlers and pre-school children are invited for story time and to create very unique craft projects. Volunteer readers are welcome. Special Holiday Story Time for Christmas is Dec. 16 and Dec. 30 for New Year's.

Muroc Lake Golf Course 275-PUTT

Spirits Tournament is Dec. 17, 8 a.m., with a shotgun start if not frosty. Sign up by Dec. 14 at the MLGC golf shop. Call for prices. Fun format with choice of prizes based on finishing order. One of our most popular events. Food is included! Holiday-themed attire is appropriate! SCGA membership required.

Twilight Golf is daily, 1-5 p.m. Had a long day at work? Take a little time to relax and enjoy some golf! Our "Twilight Special" is a great way to end the day, get a few holes in before dark and save money! Golf carts need to be returned by 6 p.m.; walkers can play until dark.

Oasis Community Center 275-CNTR

Lunch Hour Table Games Tournament is Dec. 16, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Foosball, ping pong, air hockey, shuffleboard and pool are available.

Madden 16 Tournament (PS4) is Friday, Dec. 16, 5-7 p.m. Entry fees go to the overall winner.

Christmas Craft Night is Dec. 22, 5-7 p.m. Unfinished wooden Christmas ornaments.

Outdoor Recreation 275-CAMP

Big Bear Ski Trip is Dec. 17. Trip departs at 6 a.m. from Outdoor Recreation and returns approximately 7 p.m. Registration deadline is Dec. 15. Maximum participation: 15; minimum participation: 10. Gear can be rented. Cost includes transportation, ski and snowboard gear. Lift tickets are not included, but can be purchased at ITT located at the Oasis Community Center. Minimum age requirement is 6 years. Anyone under 18 years must be accompanied by a parent or adult guardian. Fitting required NLT Dec.

**For more information
about 412th FSS offerings, visit
www.edwardsfss.com/wordpress**

15! We will be heading to Big Bear Mountain for a day of skiing and snowboarding. Socialize with other skiers and snowboarders during the trip. Big Bear provides slopes for all skill levels. Tubing available for a fee. Alcoholic beverages not permitted.

Need Ski or Snowboard Gear? Outdoor Rec has all of the equipment you need. Check out the equipment rental pricelist on ODR's page at www.edwardsfss.com or come stop by Outdoor Recreation today!



Adopt me!

Sushi is a calm relaxed young kitty just waiting on a home. He is often found lounging in the cat trees but does love to be pet and loves a good toy. He is already neutered, vaccinated, microchipped, and tested negative for FIV/FELV. All he needs now is a home! Contact APET to adopt Sushi. APET is located at 615 S. Forbes Ave. They're open Monday-Friday, 4:30-6 p.m.; and Saturday and Sunday, 3:30-5 p.m. 661-258-9525.

Law enforcement shares tips on social media security

By Christopher Ball
412th Test Wing Public Affairs

Representatives of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department recently visited Edwards to share their knowledge about social media with Team Edwards members.

Commander Mike Parker and Detective Tony Moore of the Los Angeles County Sheriff Department joined Team Edwards at the Airman and Family Readiness Center for a morning of discussion and education on cyber security and social media Dec. 1.

The commander and detective briefed nearly 100 people on some of the potential hazards of social media, and ways to keep members and their families safe.

"You, as military and family members, are potential targets for terrorists," Parker said. He then explained some of the personal information people often put out on social media that can give potential bad actors ways to do harm.

"Has anyone seen the Facebook post asking where you were born?" Parker asked. "It seems like good fun, but it can be combined with other information available on your profile by identity thieves."

Many people freely share their name, birthday and plenty of other personal details on social media, according to Parker.

The commander and detective also described some of the different situations they've encountered where social media was a big factor in saving lives and preventing crimes. They



Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Commander Mike Parker (left) and Detective Tony Moore speak at the Airman and Family Readiness Center Dec. 1 about social media security. (U.S. Air Force photo by Christopher Ball)

spoke at length about keeping personal and professional social media separated, outlining some of the mistakes people can make on their personal social media accounts that can negatively affect their professional life.

The scheduled one-hour briefing went overtime, since the officers were trying to share two-week's worth of information in one morning, according to Parker. People were given the chance to take a break and leave the briefing if they chose. Many opted to stay to glean more information.

AFMC encourages sober driving during holiday season



(U.S. Air Force graphic)

From Air Force Materiel Command Health and Wellness Team

The holiday season is a time of year for family gatherings, office parties, and socializing with friends, but the holiday season is also known for being the deadliest season when it comes to buzzed driving. A driver's license mixed with a few alcoholic beverages is dangerous. No one intends for alcohol-impaired accidents to happen, but they do.

According to the National Highway Traffic Administration, 10,265 people were killed in alcohol-impaired crashes in 2015. Drunk driving affects not only the person driving, but everyone in the vehicle, as well as the innocent victims in the driver's path. It is up to each of us to do our part to prevent alcohol-impaired driving fatalities.

The NHTSA offers the following tips to stay safe and drive sober:

- Designate a driver who drinks no alcohol before the party begins; plan a way for everyone to get home safely at the end of the night.

- Be responsible. If someone you know is drinking, do not let that person get behind the wheel.
- If you see someone driving impaired, contact law enforcement with a vehicle description when it is safe to do so. It is your business. Getting drunk drivers off the road saves lives.
- Walking while alcohol-impaired can be just as dangerous as drunk driving. Designate a sober friend to walk you home.
- If you have been drinking, there is always another way to get home safely. You can call a taxi, phone a sober friend or family member, or call your local free ride program.

Airmen Against Drunk Driving was formed to eliminate DUIs/DWIs on Air Force bases and in surrounding communities. The goal of AADD is to safely return all military members and Department of Defense civilians to a residence if they are unable to drive themselves. Individuals that choose to drink should plan ahead for a designated sober driver or ride home, but if the plan fails, call AADD.



This Week in Edwards Flight Test History

On Dec. 5, 1963, U.S. Air Force Pilot Maj. Bob Rushworth flew an X-15 to Mach 6.06, which at the time, was the highest speed achieved by a winged aircraft. During his time with the program Maj. Rushworth completed 34 X-15 flights, more than any other pilot. (Edwards History Office file photo)



Lighting the way

Rudolph the red-nosed reindeer coaxes a pint-sized runner across the finish line with the offering of a high five (high two?) at the end of the Reindeer Run Dec. 2. The run was one of many events and attractions included in Edwards' Winterfest, which culminated in the annual tree-lighting ceremony. (U.S. Air Force photo by Christopher Ball)

JUGGLING SCHOOL, FAMILY & WORK?



Corvias Foundation wants to help.

If you are attending college or want to return to school and are the spouse of an active-duty service member stationed at any of the following installations, you are eligible to apply for a scholarship of up to \$5,000:

- Fort Meade, MD
- Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD
- Fort Bragg/Pope AFB, NC
- Fort Polk, LA
- Fort Rucker, AL
- Fort Riley, KS
- Fort Sill, OK
- Edwards AFB, CA
- Eglin AFB, FL
- Eielson AFB, AK
- Hurlburt Field, FL
- McConnell AFB, KS
- Seymour Johnson AFB, NC

Visit corviasfoundation.org to learn about our program and access the application.

We welcome your questions.
Call 401-228-2836 or
email info@corviasfoundation.org
for more information.

Applications are due May 4, 2017.

APPLICATIONS
DUE BY:
**MAY
04
2017**

Corvias
foundation

imagine. empower. reach higher.

Follow EAFB online



[EdwardsAirForceBase](https://www.facebook.com/EdwardsAirForceBase)



[@EdwardsAFB](https://twitter.com/EdwardsAFB)



[EdwardsAirForceBase](https://www.youtube.com/EdwardsAirForceBase)



[@EdwardsAirForceBase](https://www.instagram.com/EdwardsAirForceBase)

**To start receiving
Edwards Alerts text messages
on your phone, text
"Follow EAFBAlerts" to 40404**



<http://issuu.com/desertwings/docs/current>



Commander, 412th TW Brig. Gen. Carl Schaefer
Installation Support Director Dr. David Smith
Command Chief Chief Master Sgt. Todd Simmons
Director, 412th TW, Public Affairs Ed Buclatin
Editor Kenji Thuloweit
Contributors Christopher Ball, Dawn Waldman

To submit articles or upcoming events
send an email to
newsroom@edwards.af.mil