

F.E. WARREN AIR FORCE BASE

PEACEKEEPER

MAY 2021

F.E. Warren renames dormitories on base

Story and photos by Glenn S. Robertson

Eleven dormitories were officially renamed at a ceremony in the newly renamed Romero-Jacques Hall, April 14, 2021 on F.E. Warren Air Force Base, Wyoming.

Each of those buildings were named for someone who left a lasting effect on the Air Force, either through breaking barriers for those who would come after them or through acts of combat heroism, where before the dorms were merely numbered.

The list of honorees includes three Medal of Honor winners, the first African-American Chief Master Sergeant, one of the first Hispanic women to serve and the U.S. Army's Buffalo Soldiers, among others.

Diversity and airman empowerment were the primary focus areas for this effort, and while the renaming was part of a directive from the 20th Air Force, there was a strong push to ensure Airmen had ownership over the change, according to Tech. Sgt. Jennifer Vittetoe, dorm management NCO in charge with the 90th Civil Engineering Squadron.

"The dorm council, made up of elected Airmen from within the dorms, were able to choose the honoree," said Vittetoe. "It was up to them to research the names, find someone who resonated with them personally and present a case for that individual to have his or her name attached to their dorm. The Airmen were responsible for the names that their own dorms would have."

Several of those chosen were picked because of the doors they opened for Airmen who came after.

"While there are a lot of people who have done great things in the Air Force, we wanted to recognize diversity and breaking barriers," said Vittetoe. "These Airmen picked people who embody those things."

During the ceremony, Col. Peter Bonetti, 90th Missile Wing commander, drew parallels to the Airmen and soldiers honored during the ceremony to those currently residing within the dorm halls and how our past rings through to the present through those honored.

"This is the kind of Airman that we're talking about at the 90th Missile Wing and that's the kind of Airman we want to remember every single time we talk about heritage," said Bonetti. "Our heritage is important as it is the values that we espouse and the pieces



Honoree plaque prior to placement on the dorm renamed in honor of the named servicemember who broke barriers or acted heroically in combat. (U.S. Air Force photo by Glenn S. Robertson).

and parts of our culture we believe are important."

As he closed, Bonetti expressed hope that the lessons taught by those honored continue to be remembered by the generations of Airmen that come after and live in those dorms.

"When Airmen walk through these halls, I hope they learn about their Air Force heritage and I hope they're proud of the sacrifices made by the Airmen before them to give us this incredible institution," said Bonetti. "Everyone that we've honored today, everyone that we've named one of our halls after has exhibited incredible core values and in some cases, made the ultimate sacrifice."

Operations commanders stand alert together

Story by Glenn S. Robertson

In an unprecedented endeavor, all four 90th Operations Group squadron commanders pulled alert at the India-01 Missile Alert Facility, April 2 - 9, 2021

near Sidney, Nebraska.

Lieutenant Colonels Robert Mack, Katherine Mack, Amy Grant and Michael Suden, commanders of the 319th, 320th, 321st Missile Squadron and the

Operations Support Squadron, respectively, presented this idea to Col. Tytonia Moore, 90th Operations Group Commander, with the intent to bolster the pride of being in the 13N career field from a senior leader's perspective and to demonstrate enthusiasm for pulling nuclear alerts as a four-person crew.

The idea became reality as they planned to stand alert at the alternate command post for the 90th Missile Wing: India-01. The ACP Launch Control Center is typically the most intense and demanding capsule to pull alert, according to Moore and, under the current deployment construct, they would be there for an entire week together.

"For those seven days, no matter what time of day you called, if you had called the Alternate Command Post at India-01, you'd have spoken to a sitting operations squadron commander," said Moore.

During the week, Katherine Mack and Grant were the A1 crew, serving in the capsule during the day shift, while Robert Mack and Suden were the A2 crew, serving in the capsule during the night shift.

Four-person crews were not typical before COVID-19, but even before the changes brought

on by the pandemic, two squadron commanders pulling alert together was unheard of, according to Robert Mack. However, the leadership team saw this as a perfect opportunity to show their personnel that they were willing to do the job that they ask their subordinates to do every day.

"When a young missileer sees a squadron commander standing alert like this, it shows their commitment and willingness to sacrifice right along with their troops," said Moore. "These commanders standing alert together epitomizes leading from the front from a tactical, operational, and strategic level."

It was a sentiment echoed by the commanders.

"At least for myself, I wanted to show the crew force and those around the business that squadron commanders are willing to be in the trenches with our folks," said Robert Mack. "Even though I don't go to the field nearly as often as my people, when I do go, it's important for me to live the same life they do so I can learn what's good in the field as well as what needs improvement."

Though there were risks of consolidating leadership in one location, it was ultimately decided that a unique opportunity

presented itself because of COVID-19 and that the benefits to the broader 13N community messaging was considered a greater good, according to Moore.

"We weighed the risks of having all four commanders out in the field at the same time and decided this was an opportunity to showcase the all-in attitude and leadership from the front demonstrated by the squadron commanders," said Moore.

While not part of the decision-making process, another personal bonus to Grant and Robert Mack was the completion of "MAF Bingo": achieving the goal of pulling an alert at all 15 MAF sites in the 90th Missile Wing.

Even though the effort by these commanders may have been something not seen before, there was still a strong sentiment that it was the troops that do this every day that deserve the credit.

"Our missileers, facility managers, defenders and chefs spend upwards of half of every month in the field," said Robert Mack. "These airmen who do this job day in and day out inspire me to come to work each day."



90th Operations Group squadron commanders (from left) Lt. Col. Michael Suden, 90 OSS commander, Lt. Col. Amy Grant, 321 MS commander, Lt. Col. Robert Mack, 319 MS commander, and Lt. Col. Katherine Mack, 320 MS commander stand in front of the India-01 Missile Alert Facility outside Sidney, Neb., April 9, 2021. The commanders all pulled alert together as part of a four-person crew April 2 - 9 to bolster the pride of being in the 13N career field from a senior leader's perspective. (Photo courtesy of the 90th Operations Group)

90th Missile Wing says goodbye to base legend

Story and photos by Glenn S. Robertson

The 90th Missile Wing bid farewell to a local legend at a ceremony Jan. 29, 2021, inside the base museum on F.E. Warren Air Force Base, Wyoming. Museum Director Paula Taylor leaves the museum after dedicating 29 years to F. E. Warren in the role that only she has ever held.

Taylor's departure will be the end of an era on F.E. Warren, as there were many whom she personally affected over her tenure at the museum.

"What Paula has been able to do, one person at a time, one artifact at a time, across two facilities and the considerable community outreach is truly amazing," said Col. Deane Konowicz, 90th Missile Wing vice commander. "I know that will not end here today as I think we will see you in the near future at opportunities that will let you reconnect with F.E. Warren."

One of her many responsibilities was to provide tours of the museum to first term Airmen recently stationed on F.E. Warren, to provide them a sense of past and purpose to their daily mission.

"I remember her infectious enthusiasm for the base and the local history when I went through FTAC," Senior Airman Braydon Williams said. "I appreciated how much she loved what she was teaching us and how she helped us realize why we were here and the shoes we were trying to fill."

Taylor's efforts at the wing and the marks she left on others were not limited to the purely professional, however.

"Immediately after arriving in Wyoming, Paula provided me with all the knowledge I could ask for about the local community and the Might Ninety," said Kyle Brislan, the historian for the 90th Missile Wing. "She treated my wife and I as family members and truly welcomed us to the community, easing our recent move across the country, plus being able to draw from her 29 years of experience allowed me to hit the ground running as the historian."

In her 29 years at F.E. Warren, she educated



Col. Deane Konowicz, 90th Missile Wing vice commander, presents Paula Taylor with the Outstanding Civilian Career Service award during her retirement ceremony Jan. 29, 2021, at the base museum on F.E. Warren Air Force Base, Wyo. Taylor retired from civil service after working in the same position for 29 years. (U. S. Air Force photo by Glenn S. Robertson)

an estimated 10 million visitors, maintained 2,500 historical artifacts, and founded the base open house – D.A. Russell Days – managing it for 25 years. She also had an operational effect, a feat not common for someone managing a museum.

"Paula's actions as the museum director went far beyond the norm, as her preservation expertise eventually aided Air Force ICBM operations after the service reclaimed certain historical artifacts," said Brislan. "It's an achievement that few people within the Air Force's museum's program can say they have accomplished."

The Wyoming native says that she is excited to retire, but there is a bittersweetness to leaving.

"It's been an incredible experience to teach

generations of Airmen and visitors about the 90th Missile Wing and the ICBM mission," Taylor said. "I love how many people I've been able to meet and work with, the things I've been a part of, and I feel proud of my time here."

Though she is retiring, she is hopeful to keep a role within the museum as a volunteer or a board member, but she does plan to make the most of her retirement.

"I plan to enjoy my family and work on my hobbies of stained glass, quilting, making jewelry," said Taylor. "Plus, I will be traveling with my husband in our RV throughout our wonderful nation."

Taylor cites the relationships she built over nearly three decades as an inspiration to do what she did for the museum and that base community.

"It's hard to pick a single favorite thing about working here, but I would have to say that meeting the wonderful Airmen and their families who have dedicated their lives to protecting this nation would be at the top of the list," said Taylor. "Learning about the rich heritage and history of F.E. Warren is second."

Taylor leaned on her close ties to the area and her deep love and appreciation for local history as she served as the museum director through the leadership of 17 wing commanders and four different major commands – Strategic Air Command, Air Combat Command, Air Force Space Command and Air Force Global Strike Command.

Years of accomplishments and accolades are displayed after Paula Taylor's retirement ceremony Jan. 29, 2021, at the base museum on F.E. Warren Air Force Base, Wyo. Taylor retired from civil service after working in the same position for 29 years. (U. S. Air Force photo by Glenn S. Robertson)



Local hotel comes through for 90th Missile Wing

Story by Airman 1st Class Faith MacIvaine

The Plains Hotel in downtown Cheyenne housed 25 Airmen from F.E. Warren Air Force Base, Wyoming, Jan. 27, 2021, due to a facility gas leak displacing Airmen.

The F.E. Warren Fire Department received a call Wednesday morning reporting the smell of natural gas. Upon investigation, firefighters discovered the presence of gas in the building. To ensure the safety of the Airmen, all service members were evacuated from the facility. Within an hour, another unit from the 90th Civil Engineering Squadron responded to the situation.

The Water and Fuels System

Maintenance shop, responsible for natural gas on the base, worked to trace and identify the gas line leak.

"Due to the age of our facilities, and the amount and condition of infrastructure in the ground the troubleshooting process can be difficult," said Lt. Col. Brian Low, 90 CES commander. "These facilities are at least 120 years old, which means there are many layers of abandoned infrastructure that we have to work around."

Due to the age of the pipes and difficulty in finding the leak, CE had to continue working into the evening. Given the timing and concern for the Airmen's safety, the decision was made to find alternative housing for the dorm residents in an adjacent facility affected by the gas leak.

Of the 63 displaced residents, 25 needed a place to stay outside of friends and family. Master Sgt. Kristian Hollingshead, 90th Contracting Squadron superintendent, reached out to the Plains Hotel.

"The Airmen who couldn't find a friend to stay with needed a place to stay for the night," said Hollingshead. "Luckily, the Plains has been very open and willing to work with us on any requirements we have."

The partnership between the Plains Hotel and F.E. Warren Air Force Base, Wyoming has a storied history, which has been

reinvigorated over the past year.

"Because of the relationship we've built together, the process was a lot less stressful," said Hollingshead.

This is not the first time The Plains Hotel has helped F.E. Warren in recent months. The Plains housed more than 130 quarantined Airmen during the months April, May and June. The support from the Plains Hotel helped the new Airmen's transition to Cheyenne run smoother.

"It's a 150 year relationship," said Astrid Starship, owner of the Plains Hotel. "Not many businesses can say that."

Between the contracting squadron and the staff at the Plains, Airmen had a safe place

to stay for the night.

"I am so proud of my crew, as everyone raced in to help," Starship said. "Everyone kept such a positive attitude."

The relationship between F.E. Warren and the Cheyenne community continues to flourish.

"We are happy to help," Starship said. "It's been wonderful to be able to serve in this capacity and keep that historic relationship alive."

Despite some challenges, Airmen from the 90 CES were able to alleviate the problem, allowing Airmen to safely return to their dormitory after a night staying with one of the base's long-term community partners.

Diverse team supports MMIII operational test launch

Story by Capt. Ieva Bytautaitė, 20th Air Force Public Affairs

An operational test launch of an unarmed Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missile is a sight to see. The ground rumbles as the missile roars upward and lights up the night sky. After a minute or so, the night goes quiet again and the MMIII missile travels thousands of miles to its destination.

For the bystanders watching the launch, the show may only last a couple of minutes, but for 20th Air Force Airmen, launch night is the culmination of months of preparation and hard work, from security forces defenders, maintainers and operators, to contractors, Guardians and other support personnel. The MMIII test launch mission, the primary responsibility of the 576th Flight Test Squadron, headquartered at Vandenberg Air Force Base, California, is a mission that requires precision, excellence and teamwork.

"We truly have a wealth of talent, expertise, and competency within our squadron," said Col. Omar Colbert, 576 FLTS commander. "Our members are capable of resolving any technical issue and devising some of the most creative solutions you'll ever see, which have enabled an over 50-year-old ICBM to remain confidently on alert."

For the test launch last night, referred to as Glory Trip 237, Airmen from different career fields came together to ensure mission success. An immense amount of planning and fine tuning the smallest details goes into an operational test launch.

"From the moment the sortie [missile] is selected by Air Force Global Strike Command, the 576 FLTS engages the whole operational test launch team to tackle the arduous task of preparing the ICBM for launch," said Lt. Col. Janet Dewese, 576 FLTS director of operations. "The defenders, maintainers, and operators at the operational missile wing work together to disassemble and ship the components for launch. Air Force Nuclear Weapons Center personnel and contractor partners analyze missile component history and condition while aiding the shipment process. Finally, maintainers and operators at the 576 FLTS with the help of missile wing task force members, reassemble the ICBM and install the Department of Energy test reentry vehicle to posture the missile for alert. Teamwork is what gets this mission done; the support, commitment, and outstanding professionalism of each of these mission partners is critical to mission success."

Capt. Tarina Crook, missile combat crew commander at the 741st Missile Squadron, Minot AFB, North Dakota, is one of the missileers who was selected for GT237.

"I definitely had the opportunity to experience and grow from the enormous amount of teamwork between the missileers, maintainers, and other personnel while at Vandenberg AFB," Crook said. "A big part of making this teamwork successful is simply taking the time to learn what other parts of the team have to do to contribute to the mission. Realizing that everyone plays an essential role, learning that role, and respecting it is the difference between having a vision and actually executing it."

1st Lt. Haylee Saucedo, mission lead commander, 10th Missile Squadron, Malmstrom AFB, Montana, was also part of the launch and was grateful to get a closer look at some of the maintenance operations she doesn't get to see first-hand.

"Typically, the relationship between maintainers and operators is through the phone," Saucedo said. "It was great to be able to go out to site and actually watch them do their thing."

Diversity and inclusion is an important priority for the Air Force, AFGSC and 20 AF. A diverse and inclusive environment ensures that not only the mission is accomplished, but a high degree of excellence is reached as well.

"Our squadron succeeds in mission execution because we do such a phenomenal job of including our entire team, as well as mission partners, in game planning and execution," Colbert said. "I often refer to our active duty, Reserve, civilians, and contractors simply as 'Airmen', so when we roll up our sleeves to attack a problem, we can bring the entire weight of our in house team, the Minuteman III System Program



Capt. Emma Stonehill, 321st Missile Squadron missile combat crew commander at F.E. Warren Air Force Base, Wyoming, poses for a photo in front of the 576th Flight Test Squadron headquarters at Vandenberg AFB, California, Feb. 18, 2021. Stonehill was one of the six Minuteman III operators selected for the operational test launch of MMIII, referred to as Glory Trip 237. The unarmed MMIII intercontinental ballistic missile was launched at 11:49 p.m. PT Feb. 23, 2021. (U.S. Air Force photo by Michael Peterson)

Office, Air Force Global Strike Command, and Headquarters 20 AF, to bear and we always come up with solutions together. I don't think we could ever complete an ICBM test event successfully and on time without the efforts of our entire team, and we wouldn't have it any other way."

A diverse and inclusive environment fosters teamwork and innovation, and with a mission as important as ensuring the Nation's most responsive leg of the nuclear triad remains ready and lethal, failure is not an option.

"When Airmen perceive they're not a part of the team, when they clearly see they are not being included on key projects and social outings, when other Airmen use inappropriate or derogatory language and no one corrects them, and when they feel their opinion and perspectives are often discounted, squadron members may show up for work, but they won't effectively complete their missions with initiative and innovation as we desire and expect them to," Colbert said. "Optimizing the work environment and pool of diversity allows for the development of a greater wealth of ideas and talent which can be applied to our ICBM test mission and significantly enhance our mission readiness."

"The 10th Missile Squadron is the most diverse organization I've ever been a part of, having grown up and attended school in largely homogenous areas," Saucedo said. "Mere exposure to a diverse group of others has helped me improve my leadership skills and perspective on life. But it's not enough to have people around who look and think differently than each other. We need to pay attention to who is making decisions for our force, and how those decisions affect all of their people."

Although the Air Force has made great strides toward inclusivity, more work remains to be done. Recognizing how diversity positive affects the mission is vital and a great step in making positive and lasting change.

"Diversity is integral and fundamental to our daily mission," said 1st Lt. Shane Knowles, deputy combat missile crew commander, 740th Missile Squadron, Malmstrom AFB, and one of the six operators selected for GT237. "Our operations require a vast number of personnel to come together for our common goal. In that pursuit, individuals from all walks of life, backgrounds, and perspectives are serving our country; diversity in all aspects will only help our force grown stronger and adequately represent the country we serve."

F. E. WARREN AIR FORCE BASE



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90th Missile Wing Public Affairs
5305 Randall Ave. Ste. 201,
Cheyenne, WY 82005
307.773.3381
90MW.PA@US.AF.MIL




Col. Peter Bonetti	Wing Commander
Col. Deane Konowicz	Vice Wing Commander
Maj. Victoria Hight	Chief of Public Affairs
Editorial Staff	
Joseph Coslett	Public Affairs Operations Chief
Master Sgt. Juaacklyn Jackson	Superintendent
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Airman 1st Class Darius Frazier	Photojournalist
Airman 1st Class Anthony Muñoz	Photojournalist
Airman Faith MacIvaine	Photojournalist

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MINUTEMAN III : LGM-30G

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS

PRIMARY FUNCTION: INTERCONTINENTAL BALLISTIC MISSILE

CONTRACTOR: BOEING CO.

WEIGHT: 79,432 POUNDS (36,030 KILOGRAMS)

DIAMETER: 5.5 FEET (1.67 METERS)

RANGE: 6,000-PLUS MILES (5,218 NAUTICAL MILES)

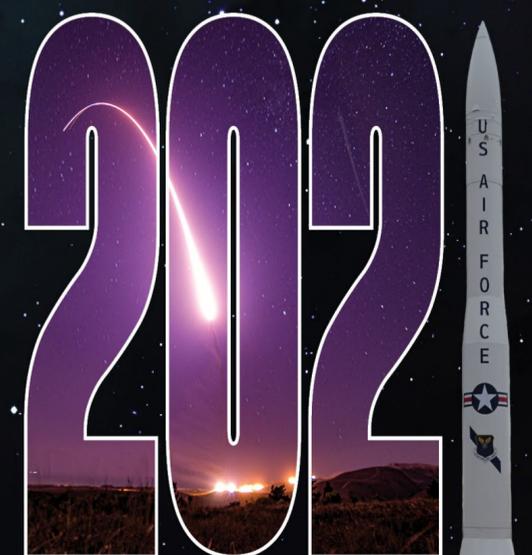
SPEED: APPROXIMATELY 15,000 MPH (MACH 23 OR 24,000 KPH) AT BURNOUT

CEILING: 700 MILES (1,120 KILOMETERS)

DATE DEPLOYED: JUNE 1970, PRODUCTION CESSATION: DECEMBER 1978

CURRENT ARMAMENT: ONE MK12A-W78 OR ONE MK21-W87 WARHEAD

INVENTORY: ACTIVE FORCE, 400; RESERVE, 0; ANG, 0





Above: Mark Gordon, Governor of Wyoming, signs Wyoming House Bill 57, while Wyoming Rep. Landon Brown, 90th Missile Wing Commander Col Peter Bonetti and 90th Missile Wing Command Chief Master Sgt. Nicholas Taylor look on at the Capitol Building in Cheyenne, Wyo. April 6, 2021. This bill supports military families by allowing them to enroll their student children into school early when expecting a change of station into Wyoming. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Faith MacIvaine).
 Below: Mark Gordon, Governor of Wyoming, shakes hands with Col. Deane Konowicz, Vice Wing Commander of the 90th Missile Wing at the Capitol Building in Cheyenne, Wyo. April 6, 2021. Konowicz was present for the announcement of Senate File 18 (2021). This bill would allow military spouses coming to Wyoming to obtain equivalent licensure that they had in their previous home state. (U.S. Air Force photo provided by Airman 1st Class Darius Frazier.)



Air Force Gaming League comes to F.E. Warren

Story by Airman 1st Class Darius Frazier

F.E. Warren Air Force Base, Wyoming, has recently started up its own gaming league. While an Air Force-wide gaming league already existed, F.E. Warren AFB is also giving its Airmen more chances to get involved with gaming on a local level.

“Big Air Force’s gaming league was put together by some very passionate Airmen in an effort to make an inclusive gaming community for everyone across the board,” said Amy Hebert, the community communications manager on F.E. Warren AFB. “Whether they be dependents, guard, or active duty, it doesn’t matter. They’re trying to unite people through a love of gaming.”

A dedicated server has been created for the gaming league on F.E. Warren AFB for anyone wanting to join.

“You can join the Discord server and you’ll get to meet new people, play games, and stay motivated all of which goes into boosting morale,” said Hebert. “The local server happened as a result of COVID-19 last summer. We created that when all of our facilities were shut down that way we could still reach out to people in the missile field and host a bunch of pop-up tournaments.”

The server has multiple channels dedicated to specific games to assist users in finding other Airmen to play with.

“The Air Force has its own programs and tournaments that you actually have to sign up for and get to compete in,” said Hebert. “For example, this weekend they’re having a Valorant tournament as well as a Magic: The Gathering tournament.”

The Air Force Gaming League is hosting their first official Season of Air Force Gaming League where Airmen and Guardians can compete with other teams to be champions across different video game titles.

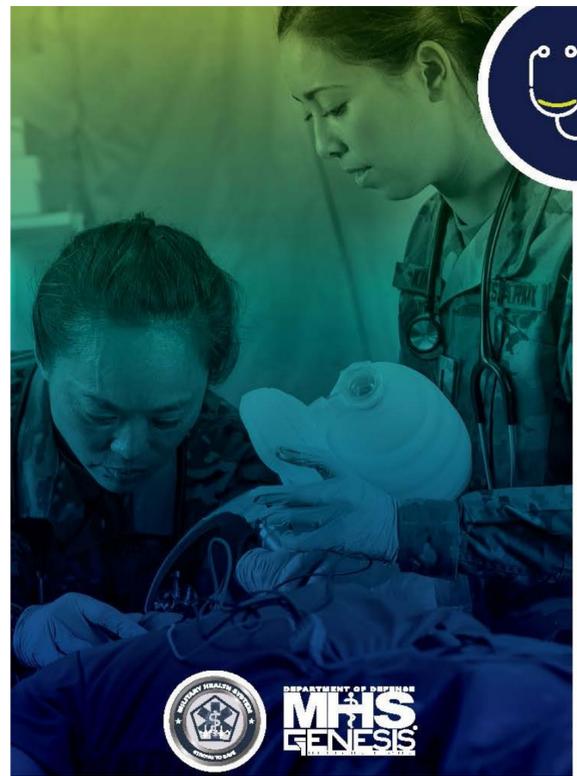


“Here locally on Feb. 14, we’ll be holding a Call of Duty: Modern Warfare tournament,” said Hebert. “Basically there’s always something going on every weekend.”

Finding commonality amongst a group of diverse people in the Air Force can help unite people and make people feel like one team.

“There is a market now based on people’s work schedules and COVID-19 restrictions whether that be you’re in quarantine or maybe your schedule puts you up all night and you’re not able to communicate with people in person,” said Hebert. “This is a convenient work around that allows that communication. You can be in the field, at your home in your basement or even TDY and you’re still able to login and reach a supportive community.”

The F.E. Warren Discord server shows another element of the Air Force’s continuous pursuit of innovation.



MILITARY HEALTH SYSTEM MHS GENESIS

MHS GENESIS is the new, modern electronic health record (EHR) for the Department of Defense.

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- Access to medical records through a new patient portal
- Improved communication with military hospitals and clinics, as well as the Department of Veterans Affairs and civilian providers

To learn more about MHS GENESIS and when it’s coming your way, visit health.mil/mhsgenesis.





2020 ECONOMIC IMPACT

F.E. WARREN AIR FORCE BASE



Total Personnel:
6,909



Total Annual Payroll:
\$ 270,061,850



Total expenditures :
\$53.15 Million



Est. Local Jobs Created: 1,595
Est. Employment Impact: \$80 Million

TOTAL ECONOMIC IMPACT:
\$403.3 MILLION

