

THE BEACON

TEAM MARCH MONTHLY MAGAZINE



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HERE TO SERVE THE MARCH ARB COMMUNITY

COMMANDER'S CORNER

Knights,

As we step into a new year, I want to take a moment to reflect on where we've been—and, more importantly, where we're headed. A new year always brings fresh energy, renewed focus, and a chance to recommit ourselves to the mission and to one another. At March Air Reserve Base, 2026 is shaping up to be a year that will test us, sharpen us, and ultimately make us stronger.

This will be a busy year by any measure. We have inspections on the horizon, major exercises to prepare for, and no shortage of real-world demands that require us to be ready at a moment's notice. These events are not interruptions to our mission—they are the mission. They are opportunities to demonstrate the professionalism, discipline, and excellence that define the Knights of March.

I have complete confidence in this team. Every day, I see Airmen, Guardians, civilians, and contractors who take pride in their work and understand the importance of what we do here. Whether you wear the uniform full-time, serve part-time, or support the mission from behind the scenes, your role matters. Readiness is not achieved overnight—it's built through consistency, accountability, and teamwork.

As we move forward, I ask each of you to stay engaged, stay flexible, and take care of one another. A demanding year requires strong communication, trust across units, and leaders at every level who are willing to step up and support their teams. Don't lose sight of the fundamentals: train hard, follow standards, and never forget that our people are our greatest strength.

Thank you for everything you do for March ARB, for the Air Force Reserve, and for our nation. I'm proud to serve alongside you, and I'm excited to see what we accomplish together in the months ahead.

Let's make this year count.

DEFEND. MOBILIZE. FIGHT!

—
Colonel Bryan "BAM" Bailey
Installation Commander, March Air Reserve Base

CHIEF'S CORNER

On behalf of Col Bailey, Col Oberoi and me, we proudly recognize the following quarterly award recipients whose exceptional performance, dedication, professionalism, and commitment to excellence have set the standard for the 452nd Air Mobility Wing:

Amn Category:

SrA Jeriel D. Apelar, 452 MXG Group Staff (MXG)

NCO Category:

SSgt Shawna Z. Hinojoza, 452 MXG Group Staff (MXG)

SNCO Category:

MSgt Matthew M. Hamilton, 452 AMXS (MXG)

CGO Category:

Capt Adam M. Bevere, 452 MXG Group Staff (MXG)

Civilian Category I:

Ms. Peggy L. DeBord, 452 SFS (MSG)

Civilian Category II:

Ms. Kathryn L. Johnson-Rodriguez, 452 MXG Group Staff (MXG)

Civilian Category III:

Mr. James D. Elson, 452 AMXS (MXG)

Team Category:

Security Forces Training Team, 452 SFS (MSG)

Thank you,
CMSgt Degonia

KC-46 HANGAR PROJECT BREAKS GROUND AT MARCH ARB

BY: WENDY DAY

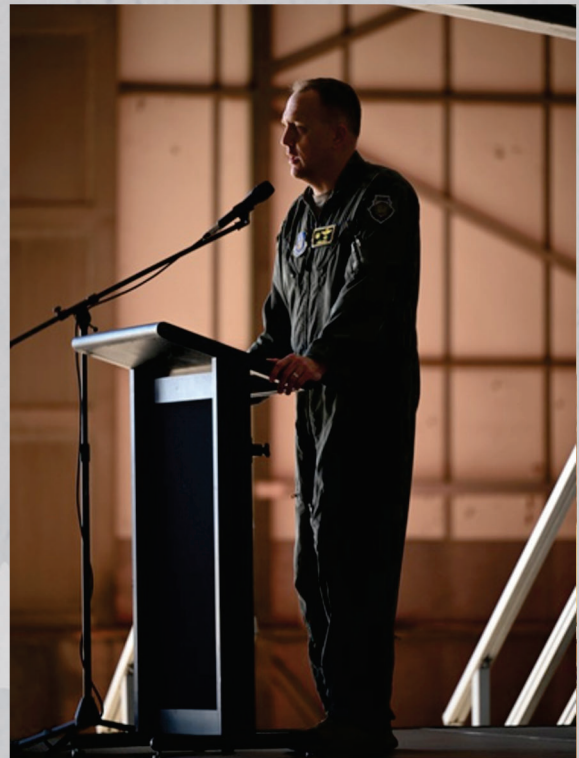
MARCH AIR RESERVE BASE, Calif. — Air Force leaders, community partners and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers officials gathered at March Air Reserve Base Dec. 16 to mark the start of construction on a new KC-46 Pegasus maintenance and fuel hangar, a \$133 million military construction project that will modernize infrastructure and support long-term mission readiness for the 452nd Air Mobility Wing.

The groundbreaking ceremony was hosted by Lt. Col. Nate Chal, KC-46 Program Integration Office, who highlighted the significance of the project within the long history of tanker operations at March.

“It has been almost half a century since a new tanker mission came to March,” Chal said. “This hangar represents an infrastructure investment not just for today, but for the next half century of aerial refueling operations.”

Lt. Col. Stephen Brooks, deputy commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Los Angeles District, said the project reflects years of planning and coordination among Air Force Reserve Command and multiple USACE districts. The Louisville District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, awarded the contract in support of AFRC, while the Los Angeles District will oversee execution.

“Today marks the official start of construction for a project of vital importance to our nation’s security and military readiness,” Brooks said. “This facility will ensure March Air Reserve Base continues its legacy of excellence by providing modern, world-class infrastructure for the Airmen who serve here.”



The project includes construction of a state-of-the-art, two-bay hangar designed to support the KC-46A Pegasus, the Air Force’s newest multi-mission aerial refueling aircraft. One bay will support aircraft maintenance, while the other will be dedicated to fuel system maintenance. The facility will also feature modern fire suppression systems, fall protection, utilities, communications infrastructure and environmental controls. In parallel, Building 1244 will be renovated to provide classrooms, briefing rooms and covered storage for a fuselage trainer.

KC-46 HANGAR PROJECT BREAKS GROUND AT MARCH ARB

BY WENDY DAY

Col. Bryan M. Bailey, commander of the 452nd Air Mobility Wing and installation commander, said the new facility directly supports Airmen and reinforces the Air Force's commitment to March Air Reserve Base and the Inland Empire community.

"This isn't just about pouring concrete and raising steel," Bailey said. "It's about giving our Airmen the infrastructure they need to train, maintain and operate safely and effectively as we prepare for the future fight."



Industry partner Harper Construction serves as the project's prime contractor, bringing a unique personal connection to the installation. Ron Harper, founder and chairman of Harper Construction and a former Air National Guardsman, served at March as a traditional "weekend warrior" in the early 1960s, when the base was beginning to receive its first KC-135 Stratotankers.

"It's kind of fun to come back here," Harper said. "I spent time on this base years ago, and to return now and be part of something that adds to its history is something I'm personally proud of."

Harper also emphasized his company's commitment to safety throughout the construction process.

"Our company has been in business for 51 years, and safety has always been our top priority," Harper said. "We want to do good work, deliver a quality product and, most importantly, make sure everyone goes home safe."

KC-46 HANGAR PROJECT BREAKS GROUND AT MARCH ARB

BY WENDY DAY

The ceremony also highlighted the role of civic partnerships in shaping the future of March Air Reserve Base. Jamil Dada, honorary wing commander and long-time community leader, said the project reflects a continued bond between the installation and the surrounding region.

“March Air Reserve Base has been a cornerstone of this community and a key economic contributor for more than a century,” said Jamil Dada, honorary wing commander for March Air Reserve Base. “After more than 30 years of supporting the base, I am proud to continue advocating for its mission, it’s people and our local community.”



KC-46A PEGASUS

Primary Capabilities: Aerial refueling and airlift

Wingspan: 156ft, 1in.

Thrust: 62,000 pounds ea.

Speed: 0.86 Mach (650 mph)

Maximum Transfer Fuel Load:
212,299 pounds



FINANCIAL WELL-BEING

BY KEVIN APOLINAR

January often brings motivation to “do better” with money—but before making changes, it’s important to understand where you stand today. Financial readiness starts with clarity.

Step 1: Check Your Financial Well-Being

The Financial Well-Being Assessment is a quick tool designed for Service Members to help assess four key areas:

- Present financial security
- Future financial security
- Freedom of choice today
- Freedom of choice in the future

It takes only a few minutes and can highlight strengths as well as areas that may benefit from attention.

Step 2: Review Your LES and Accounts

January is a good time to:

- Review your Leave and Earnings Statement (LES)
- Confirm pay, allowances, deductions, and TSP contributions
- Verify automatic payments and savings transfers are working as expected

Small errors can add up over time—catching them early matters.

Step 3: Establish Your Financial Baseline

Understanding your net worth—what you own versus what you owe—creates a starting point you can track over time. This isn’t about judgment or comparison; it’s about awareness.

FINRED offers a simple tool to help track net worth through life’s changes, including promotions, PCS moves, deployments, and major purchases.

Want Help Getting Started?

Personal Financial Counselors are available at no cost to help:

- Review your assessment results
- Walk through your LES
- Identify next steps based on your situation

Taking 30–60 minutes now can set the tone for the entire year.

Links for resources:

[FINRED | Financial Well-Being Assessment](#)

[FINRED | Tracking Your Net Worth Through Life's Changes](#)



For more information contact:

Kevin Apolinar, AFC ®

Personal Financial Counselor, PFC

Magellan Federal

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MagellanFederal.com

AIRMAN COMMISSIONING PROGRAM

Your leadership journey has prepared you for the next step. Now, it's time to take it.

Team March, the opportunity to commission as a USAF Reserve Officer is here! The Non-EAD Airman Commissioning Program provides a clear path for dedicated enlisted Airmen of the 452nd AMW to earn their gold bars as non-rated, line officers. We are looking for motivated SSGts with a bachelor's degree who are ready to lead at a new level.

Your future as an officer is closer than you think. Secure your opportunity by meeting these critical deadlines:

- AFOQT Special Session: 10-11 Jan 2026
 - Contact the 452 FSS Base Education & Training Office at udg_452msg_marcheducation@us.af.mil to schedule your test.
- Medical Pre-Screening DUE:
 - 1 Feb 2026 Submit your signed Medical Screening Letter to the Medical Documentation Org Box: 452amds.documentation.review@us.af.mil
- Application Packages DUE: March 2026 UTA
 - Email the complete, tabbed package to the Non-EAD ACP workflow box: 452FSS.MarchARB.NonEADACP@us.af.mil
- Selection Board Convenes: April 2026 UTA

Your journey starts with one step: completing the medical pre-screening. Don't delay—the deadline is firm.

Questions? Full details are on the Non-EAD Commissioning Board Teams Page. [General](#) | [452 AMW Non-EAD Airman Commissioning Program Page](#) | [Microsoft Teams](#)

Email: 452FSS.MarchARB.NonEADACP@us.af.mil

EVENTS



**COMPOSITE SQD. #45
CIVIL AIR PATROL
CADETS ARE IN DIRE NEED
OF DONATED USED ABU's.**

**CONTACT MSGT. BREAZEALE
909-238-2625
ALAWDOG7@AOL.COM**

MARCH ARB CHAPLAIN CORPS

Every Warfighter... Spiritually Fit and Ready!



SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

PROTESTANT:

0630 - 50 & 56 APS Large Classroom (Bldg 2340)

0730 - 701 Auditorium (Bldg 601)

1200 - Chapel Sanctuary (Bldg 468)

CATHOLIC:

1100 Catholic Mass - Chapel Sanctuary (Bldg 468)

**Confession 30 Min Prior to Mass*

ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Unit Engagement * Confidential Counseling

Resilience Programs * Religious Observances

Facilitated Discussions * Weddings * Memorials

Invocation Requests * Commander Calls

Leadership Advise ment * Religious Accommodation

Phone: 951-655-4105

Email: 452AMW.HC.MarchChapel@us.af.mil

Address: 880 Baucom Ave, Bldg 468; NW March ARB, CA 92518

