Presentation by George Muellner and Scott Van Cleef at the National AFA Convention. This’ll look good on Ed’s OPR!

Great job Chapter 147

Wayne Kaufmann with his national Chairman’s Citation

Congratulations AFA Medium Chapter of the Year!

Outstanding Medium Chapter
Gen Bernard A Schriever Chapter, California
I hope all of you had a good summer, which for many of us is a time for travel, vacations, and family. The third quarter began quietly for us in Chapter leadership positions, after wrapping up a successful Salute Banquet and Schriever Wall of Honor Unveiling Ceremony in June. As I write this in October, the pace has picked up, and we are now well into planning for the Air Force Ball and Executive Reception, under the able guidance of event chair Alison Schneider. We sent out invitations to industry for sponsorship of our Executive Reception on the 20th of November and for table and seat purchases at the Ball the following evening. Both events will be held at the Beverly Hilton Hotel in Beverly Hills.

The main activities in August and September were the State and National Conventions. Marcia and I had the honor of representing our Chapter at both, along with Wayne Kauffman; Martin Ledwitz joined the three of us at state. The California AFA (CAFA) Convention was held at Vandenberg AFB 15–16 August. New officers were elected: President – Juan Cruz, Goddard Chapter; Vice President and Area 3 President – Martin Ledwitz, Schriever Chapter; Secretary – Rhoda Weiss, Doolittle Chapter; and Treasurer Leigh Kelly, Pete Knight Chapter. Perhaps the most significant presentation was by Georgia Jones, who addressed Air Force Wounded Warrior programs. She is a contract employee headquartered at Vandenberg with regional responsibility, including LA AFB, to ensure those in need have access to support provided by the Air Force and other government agencies. Schriever Chapter received two CAFA awards: Area 3 Chapter of the Year and Distinguished Achievement Best Single Program (Executive Forum). The 11 individual CAFA award winners are pictured elsewhere in this newsletter.

The AFA National Convention was held 13–14 September at the Gaylord Convention Center at National Harbor. On Sunday we elected Scott Van Cleef as Chairman of the Board, David Dietsch as Vice Chairman Field Operations, Martin Tooman as Secretary, and Nora Ruebeck as Treasurer. These elections were conducted by vote of State delegations, with California having 35 votes. The allocation of California’s 35 votes was decided during a caucus of Far West Region delegates late Saturday evening after the Awards Dinner. During this caucus Lee Barnby was elected to replace Wayne Kauffman as Far West Region President.

On Saturday we received reports from Board Chairman George Muellner, Vice Chairman Field Operations Scott Van Cleef, Vice Chairman Education Jerry White, and President Craig McKinley. Suffice it to say Field Operations’ major concerns again are membership retention, attracting new members, and viability of chapters. Many of the Field Operations training modules have been completed and are now available at afa.org. We also received an energetic presentation from the National Teacher of the Year, Kacy Heins, of Flagstaff Arizona. During the Awards Dinner Saturday evening, our Chapter was honored with Medium Chapter of the Year, and Wayne Kauffman received the Chairman’s Citation. There were two additional national awards: Tav Taverney, Exceptional Service Award, and Ed Peura, Medal of Merit.

In closing I want to return to the upcoming Executive Reception and Air Force Ball. As I indicated earlier, we are working feverishly to get sponsors and fill tables. Unlike past years when we were in partnership with AFA National, we are on our own this year. We are planning a similar stellar black tie event with dance music and presentation of the Thomas D. White Award to General John E. Hyten, Commander Air Force Space Command. The General Chairman and host for the Chairman’s reception is former astronaut Charles J. Precourt, Vice President and General Manager, Space Launch Division, ATK Aerospace Group. Check the Chapter’s web site (http://afa147.org/) for information on sponsorships, table purchases, or individual seats. We need your support. Companies reserving seats or tables by the 31st of October will be named in the Air Force Ball program.

— Ed Peura, President, AFA Chapter 147
Board Members Help with CAFA Silent Auction

The California AFA (CAFA) Convention was held at Vandenberg AFB 14-16 August, and each chapter was asked to donate an item or two for a silent auction to help raise funds for the CAFA Education Foundation for aerospace scholarships and Teacher of the Year checks. Our board members and two of our Community Partners stepped up to help, and we sincerely appreciate their donations.

- 2 six-packs of 2012 Matanzas Creek Sauvignon Blanc ($114 each), donated by Schriever Chapter BoD
- Passes to Fleming’s Prime Steakhouse & Wine Bar, Manhattan Beach ($200), donated by Continental Development, thanks to Jerry Saunders
- LA Airport Marriott certificate for two weekend nights (includes room, taxes, & valet parking) ($350), donated by Marriott, thanks to Alison Osterberg
- Manhattan Beach Marriott certificate for one weekend night (Friday or Saturday, room and taxes) and breakfast for two ($300), donated by Marriott, thanks to Alison Osterberg

The Chapter owes a special thank you to Karen Austin of the History Office, who donated a piece of her artwork … a pastel with acrylic highlights of a Ballona Creek scene. Also look for Karen elsewhere in this newsletter. Dick Jefferies, the auction organizer, said, “The Schriever Chapter has outdone themselves on donations.”
….. From the 2014 California AFA Convention. Takin’ home the hardware....

Schriever Chapter 2014 CAFA Area 3 Chapter of Year

Col Max Lantz, 381st Training Group Commander, VAFB, CAFA Speaker

Lee Barnby, CAFA President

Ed Peura
Sustained Outstanding Performance Award

Marcia Peura
Meritorious Service Award

Steve Pluntze
Exceptional Service Award

Tav Taverney
Golden Bear Award

Wayne Kauffman
Distinguished Service Medal

Rick Reaser
President's Award

Ed accepting the CAFA Chapter award

Martin Ledwitz
Distinguished Service Medal

Col Max Lantz, 381st Training Group Commander, VAFB, CAFA Speaker

Lee Barnby, CAFA President

Ed Peura
Sustained Outstanding Performance Award

Marcia Peura
Meritorious Service Award

Steve Pluntze
Exceptional Service Award

Tav Taverney
Golden Bear Award

Wayne Kauffman
Distinguished Service Medal

Rick Reaser
President's Award

Ed accepting the CAFA Chapter award

Martin Ledwitz
Distinguished Service Medal
Schriever Chapter - Area 3 Chapter of Year
Schriever Chapter - Distinguished Achievement Best Single Program
Taverney, Tav - Golden Bear Award
Kauffman, Wayne - Distinguished Service Medal
Ledwitz, Martin - Distinguished Service Medal
Tomajan, Don - Distinguished Service Medal
Reaser, Rick - President's Award
FitzGerald, Nancy - Sustained Outstanding Performance Award
Peura, Ed - Sustained Outstanding Performance Award
Pluntze, Steve - Exceptional Service Award
Peura, Marcia - Meritorious Service Award
Schneider, Alison - Meritorious Service Award
Streland, Arnie - Meritorious Service Award
At the October mixer in 2012 many Schriever Chapter members first met Robert Hecker. At that time he regaled all of us with his stories of WWII and life growing up in Southern California before and after the war. It was with great delight that we welcomed Robert to this October’s mixer. Robert L. Hecker was just 19 years old when the U.S. entered WWII. In 1944 and 1945 Robert served in the Army Air Corps as a bombardier, flying B-17s in 30 missions over Europe and earning five Air Medals and the Distinguished Flying Cross. Today he is an author, a composer, and a playwright and has a musical (Honestly Abe) that has been playing off-Broadway since early 2012. Later this month his new musical, Flak House, set in WWII, will open for six weeks off-Broadway.

When asked to say a few words at the mixer, Robert took the microphone and for the next fifteen minutes had everyone in the room in the palm of his hand as he answered questions and shared funny memories. This time his stories centered on his off-duty hours in London during the war, and he had everyone laughing with delight as he told of some of his adventures, including meeting a group of British theater usherettes, all of whom wanted Robert to have their phone numbers! For anyone interested in reading about some of his WWII mission adventures that he incorporated into one of his novels, try Rush to Glory, written in 2002.

We never know when Robert is going to show up at a mixer, but he certainly has a way of making it a great experience! Many enjoyed talking with Robert, including General Greaves. Our next mixer will be in early April of 2015. We want every Chapter member to come and meet new friends and introduce others to AFA.

**Announcing your AFA LAAFB scholarship winners:**

- Capt Kevin Rivers
- Capt Michael Krogh
- 1Lt Shawn Hempsey
- SRA Levi Mburu
- SSgt Katelin Robinson
- SRA Jessica Bridges
- Mr. Nelson Macabasco
- Ms. Susan Cleveland
- Capt Kevin Rivers
- SSgt Katelin Robinson
- Col Phil Garrant (Director of SY) accepted on behalf of Capt Rivers

Our Chapter’s Base Scholarship Program is run by Col (ret) Bill Harding, here presenting the awards at the Mixer with Ed.
It's always a great day when we receive a 'thank you' from one of our special recipients. Here's a letter from one of our three local ROTC Chapters (UCLA, USC, LMU). The other is from Dr Simon Ramo, who was one of our first inductees earlier this summer on the Schriever Wall of Honor at SMC. Dr Ramo started the Ramo-Wooldridge Corp, which later became TRW and part of it spun off to become Aerospace. The original is proudly displayed on the wall behind our new trophy case near the LAAFB Club entrance.

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Simon Ramo
1221 Ocean Avenue, Suite 1003
Santa Monica, CA 90401

Tel: 310.451-0408 Fax: 310.451-0518

July 10, 2014

Edwin W. A. Peura
President
Air Force Association
Post Office Box 394
El Segundo, CA 90245

Dear Mr. Peura:

Having reached my one hundred and first birthday some months ago, it was not surprising that I was unable to attend your truly remarkable engraving of the Schriever Wall of Honor.

I cannot express adequately my pride and joy in being named along with those five other close friends of each other, and of Benny Schriever, who were able to accomplish some wonderful tasks.

How marvelous it is that we now each have the same beautiful medals to help us remember that we were so right together and that so beautiful a recognition of that past now exists.

Sincerely,

Simon Ramo

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July 21, 2014

Mr. Richard L. Reaser, Jr.
Chapter Treasurer
General Bernard A. Schriever Los Angeles Chapter 147
Air Force Association
P.O. Box 394
El Segundo, CA 90245-0394

Dear Mr. Reaser:

As dean of UCLA's Division of Social Sciences, I would like to offer my sincere thanks for the recent $7,000 gift from the General Bernard A. Schriever Los Angeles Chapter 147 of the Air Force Association. This contribution will provide support for the UCLA Aerospace Studies Program Fund, and such generosity is vital to the continued success of the department's training of current and future cadets of the Bruin Battalion.

The military science department offers one of the best leadership courses in the country. During classes and field training, cadets learn first-hand what it takes to lead others, motivate groups and how to conduct missions as tomorrow's Air Force officers. Thank you for your commitment to these outstanding young men and women.

By making a gift to the social sciences, you have also contributed to UCLA's Centennial Campaign. Your generosity plays an important role in supporting the entire University today and in shaping our future. Thank you again for your continued dedication to UCLA.

Sincerely,

Alessandro Duranti
Dean of Social Sciences
The General Bernard A. Schriever Chapter faced a challenge. Since 1981 the chapter has recognized SMC’s best and brightest with the annual “Salute to SMC Awards” every June. Nine of these awards are represented with permanent trophies in addition to the plaques handed out to the winners every year. These permanent trophies uniquely capture part of SMC’s history. For example, a search of some of the junior officer trophies reveals familiar names of very successful junior officers who continued on to greater senior leader roles including past SMC Vice Commander, Maj Gen Roger Teague, and our current commander Lt Gen Sam Greaves. The challenge was where to keep these trophies in between the annual awards dinners?

For years the trophies have been located at the Ft MacArthur Community Center. While the Community Center is a great venue hosting many activities each year, it was not the ideal place for the trophies. They were located in a side entrance hallway where not everyone would see them. Furthermore the Community Center is remote from Los Angeles Air Force Base. This means that these unique pieces of SMC’s heritage were really only viewed publically for a few hours a year during the Salute to SMC Banquet and then only by those fortunate enough to attend the event. We needed a way to share them with the entire SMC community on a regular basis.

The answer came through the generous help of the SMC History Office. The History Office worked with the SMC Chief of Staff’s office to find a better location. A perfect location was found on base, in Building 270, right next to the entrance to the Club. Much of the SMC community passes this location on a daily basis so it was the perfect spot for the Salute to SMC trophies. The next thing was to figure out how to get the trophies and the trophy case to the new location. The five foot tall trophy case did not fit easily into the back of the average car or even the average SUV.

The answer again came from the SMC History Office. Karen Austin volunteered to get a motor pool truck and move the trophy case. On Monday, September 29th, I met Karen, history office employee Eric Figi, and their 1 ton govt truck at the Ft Mac Community Center. We carefully packed the trophies and case and set off for Los Angeles AFB. 22.4 miles later the trophies and case arrived safe and sound. Two hours of cleaning and careful reassembly followed, and by 1:30 the case and its contents were proudly displayed in their new location. The Great Trophy Case Move of 2014 was an outstanding success!

Please stop by the new display location. It’s between the Club entrance and the cashier’s cage right across from the Douglas Aircraft display. You can see the Salute to SMC Trophies, other awards won by our chapter over the years, and the great letter we recently received from Dr Ramo which now hangs next to the case.

Finally, a huge thank you to Karen Austin from the SMC History Office who’s initiative, enthusiasm and leadership made this all possible! (Check out her painting in the auction article—quite a versatile lady.)
New Strategies for the Air Force on its 67th Birthday

denverpost.com, 17 Sep 14
by Deborah Lee James, Secretary of the Air Force
submitted by Tav Taverney, our Chapter Chairman of the Board

Air Force Gen. Bernard Schriever may be the most important military leader that most Americans don't know. Facing daunting obstacles, including his own service's entrenched bureaucracy, Schriever helped to conceive, test and develop the first intercontinental ballistic missiles in the 1950s. His dogged pursuit of that goal ensured that the Soviet Union would not have a monopoly on the most lethal nuclear weapons during the second half of the 20th century.

As described in Neil Sheehan's compelling 2009 book, "A Fiery Peace in a Cold War," Schriever embodied the qualities our military leaders need more than ever: Flexibility, foresight and imagination. Those character traits have served the Air Force well, and as we celebrate our 67th birthday this week, it seems fitting that we are once again striving to walk in the shadow of Schriever and other visionaries.

A few weeks ago, we unveiled a new, long-term strategy that outlines where the Air Force needs to go in the next 30 years, a period in which we envision a flood of rapid and unrelenting technological advancement. It's already upon us. Who, 10 years ago, could have envisioned Twitter, the proliferation of cellphones to even the poorest corners of the Earth, the promise of 3D printing or the tsunami of social media that connects people and cultures as never before.

What is painfully obvious to many of the Air Force's best minds is that we need to do business in a very different way if we hope to remain relevant in this dynamic global village. One bit of good news: Our institutional history offers many useful lessons, from the early days of flying over the trench-filled battlefields of World War I to sending unmanned aircraft to the most remote corners of the world to beam images back to the United States through satellite relays.

The term we use to describe our strategy and our future is "strategic agility," a nod to those warriors who have found different and better ways to solve seemingly unsolvable problems. What we may really be saying is that the Air Force, and perhaps our military writ large, needs to be nimble enough to keep pace and, better yet, stay ahead of the next great thing. It means developing and buying weapons much differently. It means recruiting, teaching and employing people much more flexibly than standard operating procedures of the military.

As Maj. Gen. David Allvin, the author of "A Call to the Future," so aptly put it in the New York Times: "We have to behave more like an innovative 21st-century company." So, what exactly does that mean? In the post-Vietnam-era, the United States has unquestionably emerged as the world's finest military force. But we have also grown into a ponderous bureaucracy. Some weapons programs, we know, take 10 to 20 years to bring to market. In contrast, Gen. Schriever and his colleagues were able to develop the ICBM, a complex and untested technology, in just five years. However, our challenges transcend airplanes, satellites and bombs. Our personnel methods are also due for an overhaul - the up-or-out system predicated on a 20-year retirement timeline may not be a great fit in an era in which workers are more mobile and flexible than ever.

A call to the future is in essence a framework that helps the Air Force envision how we might harness emerging technologies much more rapidly while allowing airmen to move more freely between active duty military service and the National Guard and Reserve. Perhaps that future includes hypersonic flight, the ability to fly four to five times the speed of sound. Maybe nano-technology or increasingly sophisticated unmanned aircraft will be the game changer.

History teaches us that many predictions fail, and it may be just as important to quickly adapt to new ideas rather than try to predict every possible scenario in an uncertain world. In any case, we will be better served by an institutional ethos that places more bets on more ideas and allows us to move at a speed closer to a tech startup company rather than a corporate behemoth. Sixty years ago, Bernard Schriever saw the future and got it right - in a hurry.

We have taken note.
LMU ARNOLD AIR SOCIETY CHECKING IN

Cadet Jenessa Nakagawa, who just attended one of our Board meetings, sent some pictures from a recent trip by their squadron and the Silver Wings chapter to the Arnold Air Society Area Conclave in Prescott, Arizona. They won two Awards, the "Cash Flow Award" and "Outstanding Director of Support." — Fantastic job to one of our sponsored Squadrons

JENESSA K. NAKAGAWA, C/Capt, AAS, Deputy Squadron Commander
General Ira C. Eaker Squadron, Loyola Marymount University

AIR FORCE & SPACE NEWS FROM THE 3RD QUARTER

James Tells Airmen Operations Tempo Will Remain High

During a recent visit to RAF Alconbury and RAF Molesworth, United Kingdom, Air Force Secretary Deborah Lee James emphasized the importance of the European theater moving forward. "I have full confidence that the airmen of US Air Forces in Europe-Air Forces Africa are well positioned to be forward, ready, now," James said. "I expect the operations tempo of the Air Force to remain high for what I consider to be the foreseeable future," she said. "Of course we are winding down combat operations in Afghanistan as we enter a new phase, but it's a very busy rest of the world." James said Air Force readiness "is not where I'd like it to be," but even in spite of budget cuts and force reduction plans already in place, the Air Force is "making a big push to get those readiness levels up."

Too Many Blows Already

The Air Force "has taken too many blows already" to its readiness due to budget instability, said Pentagon acquisition chief Frank Kendall recently. "The men and women of the US Air Force have coped with all of these challenges with remarkable grit, ingenuity, and dedication," he said at AFA's Air & Space Conference in National Harbor, MD. "But there are limits to what we can ask airmen … to do with quick fixes and stopgap measures. They deserve better. You deserve better," he said to the airmen and guests assembled for his keynote address. If budget sequestration returns in Fiscal 2016, the Air Force's readiness would continue to erode, eating into traditional advantages the service has enjoyed over potential opponents, such as giving its fighter pilots more time in the cockpit for training each year, he said. "Today, even with temporary relief from sequestration, a constrained budget leaves most of our fighter pilots flying an average of 160 training hours per year, about half the hours they flew a decade ago," said Kendall. "Their Chinese and Russian counterparts, meanwhile, are moving to the opposite direction, some averaging more than 100 hours a year, and elite squadrons flying up to 200," he said.
SMC Commander Meets With SpaceX Officials

Lt. Gen. Samuel Greaves, commander of the Space and Missile Systems Center, visited SpaceX recently to talk about the certification process, which will allow the company to compete for military and intelligence satellite launches, and to receive an update on the company's activities. Greaves met with SpaceX President Gwynne Shotwell and toured the Hawthorne, Calif., facility in early August. "We want to ensure a cooperative path toward SpaceX's certification," Greaves said. "Providing competitive opportunities among certified launch service providers will contribute greatly to a more robust, and affordable, assured access to space launch capability." In July, the Air Force certified the company for some "lower risk" launches to help SpaceX personnel get acclimated to Mission Assured Access requirements and to prepare the company to eventually compete for national security launches. In July, The Air Force asked industry to bid on a National Security Space mission slated to launch in 2016.

Hyten Takes Charge of Space Command

Gen. John Hyten became the 16th commander of Air Force Space Command, succeeding Gen. William Shelton in a ceremony at Peterson AFB, Colo. Chief of Staff Gen. Mark Welsh presided over the ceremony. Hyten, who had been AFSPC's vice commander since May 2012, received his fourth star prior to taking charge. He now oversees the Air Force's space and cyber forces, some 42,000 airmen and civilians worldwide. Hyten attended Harvard University on an Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps scholarship. He graduated in 1981 with a bachelor's degree in engineering and applied sciences and was commissioned as a second lieutenant. Shelton is retiring from the Air Force after more than three and a half years as AFSPC's leader and a career of 38 years in uniform.

Space Command Boss Stepping Down

Gen. William Shelton, head of Air Force Space Command, has retired after more than three and a half years leading the organization. His retirement from the Air Force formally took effect on Sept. 1, ending a career that spanned 38 years in uniform. Rep. Doug Lamborn (R-Colo.), in a recent speech on the House floor, lauded Shelton as a "vigilant advocate for national security space programs," and thanked him for his continued service. "General Shelton has served with great distinction and made countless sacrifices for our country," said Lamborn. "We commend his service, the sacrifices of his family ... and must express our great appreciation for his leadership and devotion to our nation's security," added Lamborn.
James: Airmen Remain Top Priority

Not knowing what the future holds for airmen is the No. 1 issue that Air Force Secretary Deborah Lee James said she hears about. "We will work through this uncertainty and [airmen] will continue to rise to the call with whatever we may ask of them, to include the missions ... against ISIL," she said in her opening remarks for the Spouse and Family Forum at AFA's Air & Space Conference in National Harbor, MD. "Taking care of our people" is a top priority, and it can be a "pretty tricky business when it comes to a declining budget environment [and] uncertainty," she said. In addition to working with Congress, making policy decisions, and telling the Air Force story, "the favorite part of my time has been the opportunities that I've had to get out and about and see our Air Force in action," said James. She said Active Duty members, reserve forces, and their spouses give her great optimism about the future.

Lead Change or React to it Faster

The Air Force recently rolled out its new long-term vision document. Dubbed "Strategic Agility," the plan calls for a more nimble force that is quicker at spotting geopolitical and technological change and staying ahead of it, the service's top leaders said at a Pentagon press conference. Secretary Deborah Lee James said it's the third part of a "trilogy" of white papers setting the "who, what, where" of USAF's future. The 30-year look is meant to form the backdrop to decisions affecting how USAF will organize, train, and equip, and it guides the service on keeping pace as threats and technologies accelerate. It calls for agility in adjusting requirements and a greater emphasis on "rapid prototyping" of new systems. It also calls for greater "flow" between the Active and reserve components—such that members of one component may serve with the others over a career, or even leave the Air Force and return after gaining needed expertise from the civilian world. USAF is also looking for "diversity of thought" and will seek greater connections with academia and industry. A 20-year, program-specific view is coming at the end of the year, which is to wrap together a dozen or so smaller USAF "roadmaps," and a "10-year, balanced budget" subset will accompany next year's budget submission, Chief of Staff Gen. Mark Welsh said.

A Warfighting Domain, Not Just a Science Project

Gen. John Hyten, Air Force Space Command boss, said the United States, along with the rest of the world, needs to recognize space as a warfighting domain, and needs to act, accordingly. "We need a resilient space architecture that can fight through any threat and come out on the other side," he said at AFA's Air & Space Conference in National Harbor, MD. Resilience comprises factors like disaggregation of orbital assets, he said. "Right now, we have a very small number of satellites in orbit, and our adversaries know exactly where they are. And if you know exactly here they are, then it's very easy to deny the capabilities that come off of those satellites," he said. To mitigate that threat, Hyten said the focus needs to be on spreading capabilities across a number of platforms, a response that "makes the problem [for] our adversary fundamentally different." In addition to disaggregation, "we also need to be able to defend ourselves," he said. He continued, "We also need to be able to deny an adversary the use of space, if we're called upon to do that. All of those things together" make up resilience, he said. Resilience and survivability are not the same, as "resilience is a warfighting concept that has to be able to come out of any challenge that you come to," said Hyten.

Defending Cyberspace the Right Way

Air Force Space Command recently made a huge step towards integrating onto the joint information environment "and nobody noticed," said Gen. John Hyten, commander of Air Force Space Command, at AFA's Air & Space Conference in National Harbor, MD. With the help of the Army and the Defense Information Systems Agency, AFSPC moved the Air Force network onto a joint regional security stack, "the fundamental gateway for the joint information environment," Hyten said. The move is a big deal for the command, but also for the entire Defense Department, he said. "We are all-in on building a joint information environment in the Air Force," Hyten said. Once the transition is complete "in the very near future" it will finally "allow us to defend cyberspace the way that we need to," added Hyten. The joint information environment is an DOD and DISA initiative designed to realign, restructure, and modernize the department's IT infrastructure by consolidating and standardizing the design and architecture of all DOD networks.
Beyond Perpetually Promising

Hypersonics and directed energy have exited the realm of the perpetually promising and will soon become programs of record, said Air Force Research Lab Commander Maj. Gen. Thomas Masiello. The success of the X-51 demonstrator program proved "hypersonics and scramjets are real" and could, by the early 2020s, be adapted into standoff weapons, he said in his speech at AFA's Air & Space Conference outside Washington, D.C. By the 2030s, he sees hypersonic platforms for potential "deep strike of high-value targets" or for intelligence-gathering work. By the 2040s, a "reusable, persistent" hypersonic vehicle could be manned or unmanned, he said. As for lasers, the Air Force has moved beyond the "flying HAZMAT," or hazardous materials, approach of chemical lasers and has broken new ground in electric, or solid-state lasers, said Masiello. By 2022, he anticipates a podded system on a fighter capable of "tens of kilowatts" of power, and by the late 2020s, a packaged system that could fit in a fighter with 100 kilowatts or more of power. Steerable, high-powered microwaves with the ability to precisely knock out the electronics in a building or chemical lab blockhouse have already been demonstrated aboard a cruise missile in the CHAMP program, said Masiello. That technology "is here now," he said.

Communications Satellite Retired

Members of the 3rd Space Operations Squadron at Schriever AFB, Colo., shut down the Air Force's oldest Defense Satellite Communications System spacecraft, ending the satellite's more than two decades of providing communications to US military forces and national leadership. Lt. Col. Chris Todd, 3rd SOPS commander, on July 30 completed the remaining deactivation procedures on DSCS B12, according to Air Force Space Command's release. "After 22 years, we bid farewell to this wideband communications workhorse," he said. "As with many Department of Defense satellites, DSCS B12 served the joint warfighter well beyond its 10-year projected lifespan," he added. Launched into orbit in July 1992, the satellite operated from its perch in geosynchronous orbit more than 22,000 miles above the Earth over the western Pacific region, according to the release. In preparation for its retirement, 3rd SOPS airmen in June maneuvered B12 into a super synchronous orbit another 417 miles farther out.

Last Crew Member of the B-29 Enola Gay Has Died

The last surviving crew member of the Enola Gay, the B-29 Superfortress that dropped the atomic bomb on Hiroshima, Japan, to accelerate the end of World War II, has died. Theodore Van Kirk died July 28 at a nursing home in Stone Mountain, Ga. He was 93. Van Kirk, known as "Dutch," was the navigator in the Enola Gay crew, led by Col. Paul Tibbets, who commanded the 509th Composite Bomb Group, which was formed to conduct the atomic bomb missions. Flying from an airfield on the captured Japanese Island of Tinian, the crew dropped the 9,000-pound weapon, called "Little Boy," over Hiroshima early on Aug. 6, 1945. Three days later, another B-29 from the 509th dropped a second atomic bomb on Nagasaki. Japan surrendered Aug. 15. The Enola Gay was snarled in controversy in 1994 when the Smithsonian Institution planned to use it in a display that would have depicted the Japanese as victims. A campaign led by Air Force Magazine forced the Smithsonian to cancel that exhibit, and the bomber became a popular attraction at Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum. Van Kirk always supported the atomic bombings for avoiding an invasion of Japan that could have killed hundreds of thousands of allied troops and Japanese. (See also Atomic Mission from the October 2010 issue of Air Force Magazine.)


Theodore Van Kirk
Born: February 27, 1921, Northumberland, PA
Died: July 28, 2014, Stone Mountain, GA