



NewsByte



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AFLCMC Commander Visits Maxwell AFB-Gunter Annex

By BES Strategic Communications Team—AFLCMC/HIO

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Lt Gen Thompson,
Commander, AFLCMC

MAFB—Gunter Annex, AL — On 4 November 2015, Lt Gen John F. Thompson, Commander of the Air Force Life Cycle Management Center located at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, visited the Business Enterprise Systems (BES) Directorate at Gunter Annex. The main purpose for his visit was to host Commander’s Call for 1,000-plus Airmen at Gunter Annex.

“This is the world we live in and BES is at the leading edge of developing application software for Airmen around the world.”

- Lt Gen Thompson

Gen Thompson commended BES military, civilians, and contractors for their critical role in developing, upgrading and sustaining leading edge application software and systems that are deployed globally in support of 670,000 Airmen. “You provide the “naked airman” the software and hardware needed so that the human is ready to go into battle against the various threats. I thank you for keeping

the Air Force mission possible.”

“For some of us old Airmen, we have seen the evolution of technology advance at a rapid rate during our lifetime to where technology is just a click of the mouse. The cold war era where Russia was the big threat, considering its nuclear powers, is slowly decreasing. Although, resurgent Russia's society and economy are dying, they still pose a nuclear or possible cyber threat and have a strong military force so we can not relax our efforts.”

“Secretary of Defense, Mr. Ashton Carter, said in a recent speech that “we live in the age of everything, so there is no such thing as a strategic pause.” We are all players in the global economies and policies in the military diplomatic game.” He reemphasized our number one threat is ISIS and other extremist groups. Additionally, in the emerging Pacific region, China is developing islands to gain more territory. As such, Airmen must continue to keep a diligent eye on our adversaries.

Furthermore, Gen Thompson stated “our mission is to combat threats while supporting Airmen globally.” We must always consider cyber threats to prevent hacks, but also be creative with technological innovations. Airmen must balance innovations with cost, schedule, and performance every day to truly achieve mission success. “There is always danger lurking that is stressful and fast paced,” stated Gen Thompson. “Like the bulls in the circle of safety in Aesop's Fable, we can defend against the lions.” Gen Thompson challenged everyone to get inside the circle of safety, work as a team, and create an environment of good ideas because we have “a dangerous mission, but together we will win” with true

AFLCMC Commander Visits Maxwell AFB-Gunter Annex

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**“Strong Family,
Strong Airmen,
Strong Air
Force”
- Lt Gen
Thompson**

wingmanship, a strong circle of trust, leadership, and safety. With those pillars in mind, the results are shared ideas, shared intelligence, and mission success for tomorrow. He fielded a number of questions on training, supervisory civilians, and the certification and accreditation process and related what his staff is doing to address our unique mission set and work-force.

Gen Thompson concluded Commander’s Call by presenting his coins to exceptional performers across BES:

1. Capt Scott Kubalek (HIBD) for his heroic response and assistance to Maj William Dexter (HIBD) who collapsed after the units Halloween Fun Run.
2. SSgt Chad Denton (HIAM) and SrA Chris Osborn (HIAM) for putting together the BES 2015 Combat Dining Out event.

Coins were also presented to distinguished graduates of the Airman Leadership School:

1. SrA Richard Lemieux (HIZAN) received the Commandant’s and Academic Achievement Awards.
2. SrA Jamie Ramey (Det 5/CCQ) and SrA Alex Gentry (HIA) both received the Academic Achievement and Distinguished Graduate Awards.
3. TSgt Matthew Huston (HIBD), who was not present, was a Distinguished Graduate from the Senior Non-Commissioned Officer Academy. His coin was accepted by his supervisor, Mr. Stephen Davis.



Lt Gen Thompson & Capt Scott Kubalek



Lt Gen Thompson, SSgt Chad Denton, & SrA Chris Osborn



Lt Gen Thompson & SrA Richard Lemieux



Lt Gen Thompson & SrA Jamie Ramey



Lt Gen Thompson & SrA Alex Gentry



Lt Gen Thompson & Mr. Stephen Davis, on behalf of, TSgt Matthew Huston

Honoring Veteran's Day

By SrA Richard Lemieux—AFLCMC/HIZ

MAFB—Gunter Annex, AL — In honor of Veteran's Day, the Air Force Life Cycle Management Center, Business and Enterprise Systems Directorate celebrated our heritage by performing a formal retreat ceremony. Under the command of squadron leader Maj Jesse Anderson, and flight leaders Capt Adam Corley and Lt Joyce Lewis, eighty-five military members, representing each facet of BES, proudly represented our Air Force in a marching formation. Additionally, another one-hundred and eighty-five military members participated in the static formation. During the ceremony, Amn Hanna Silveira and SrA Jaime Ramey shared their story of what it meant to be a veteran, while SrA William Emerson, SrA Jarrod Peterson, A1C Kayla Robinson, and A1C Maxwell Mageira executed the flag detail. The event was highlighted by remarks from BES Director, Mr. Robert Carl Shofner, about the importance of Veteran's Day and the significance of what Airmen do every day to support and defend the United States.

Emerson, SrA Jarrod Peterson, A1C Kayla Robinson, and A1C Maxwell Mageira executed the flag detail. The event was highlighted by remarks from BES Director, Mr. Robert Carl Shofner, about the importance of Veteran's Day and the significance of what Airmen do every day to support and defend the United States.



Flag Detail (Pictured L-R): A1C Kayla Robinson, SrA Jarrod Peterson, & SrA William Emerson



Squadron leader, Maj Jesse Anderson and BES Director, Mr. Robert Carl Shofner



Amn Hanna Silveira



SrA Jaime Ramey



Flag Detail (Pictured L-R): SrA William Emerson, SrA Jarrod Peterson (back), A1C Maxwell Mageira, & A1C Kayla Robinson



Flight leader, Capt Adam Corley, and military members



Flight leader, Lt Joyce Lewis, and military members

BES Acquisition Metrics and Myth Busting

By Acquisition Support Office—AFLCMC/HID



MAFB—Gunter Annex, AL — The Acquisition Support Office (ASO) has recently implemented several processes to collect contract and task order award metrics in an effort to improve how we do business. That business has changed over the years with more standardized processes focused on procurements utilizing more task order awards than ever before. To ensure we are working as efficiently as possible, we have started collecting data to see how we can streamline and improve those efforts. The result of that work, although in its infancy, has captured some interesting statistics.

BES now uses a four major milestone/acquisition decision concept for all procurements, which includes Early Strategy and Issues Session (ESIS), Acquisition Strategy, Request for Proposal release, and an Award Selection session. During these phase events, the programs present their plans and completed actions required to move to the next phase. After award selection, the program completes an acquisition “Hotwash” with the Deputy PEO highlighting those lessons learned from the procurement process from ESIS to award. During this session, the programs present over 60 data points which are then collected

by the ASO and analyzed for process improvement. Additionally, the ASO recently implemented vendor surveys to collect feedback from Industry on BES’s processes. Lastly, programs will complete a “Year Later” survey to assess if programs would alter how they conducted their acquisition strategy after seeing the contractors performance.

Although the processes are new, we have already collected data on 17 acquisitions that revealed some interesting statistics. These have helped us debunk some rumors that we often hear circulating BES such as, “the competitions are set up for the incumbent to win” or “all BES does is Lowest Price Technically Acceptable (LPTA) competitions.” Data has shown that LPTAs are only being used 21% of the time and the lowest bidder only won 10% of the time on Best Value competitions. Additionally, incumbents are only winning 30% of the time on average. We have also seen that most programs (80%) are communicating their requirements and requesting feedback early with the issuance of draft RFPs. This helps resolve misunderstandings and provides both parties an opportunity to give feedback.

BES Myth Busting

■ Things ASO has heard, but aren’t always true:

Statement: “BES uses LPTA for the majority of their competitions”

Fact: Only 21% of the awards over the last year have been LPTA

Statement: “Even if not LPTA, they are being treated as such and awarded to the lowest bidder”

Fact: The lowest bidder only won 10% of the time

Statement: “Acquisitions are shaped to benefit the Incumbent and they typically win”

Fact: The Incumbent or Incumbent teamed with the awardee only won 30% of the time

Statement: “RFP quality is poor and lacks info about the requirement”

Fact: DRFPs are released close to 80% of the time and programs get very little feedback for corrections—we need your input!

AFLCMC Commander and Executive Director Receive Briefing from Enterprise Service Division

By Ms. Gena Howard—AFLCMC/HIC



MAFB—Gunter Annex, AL — Lt Gen John F. Thompson, Commander of the Air Force Life Cycle Management Center and Ms. Patsy Reeves, Executive Director of Air Force Life Cycle Management Center, visited the Enterprise Services Division on 4 December 2015. A briefing on NetCents contracts was given by Ms. Gena Howard, the Application Services Program Manager. The briefing included an overview of the NETCENTS-2 Indefinite Delivery Indefinite Quantity contracts, such as Netcentric Products, Network Operations and Infrastructure Solutions

(Full and Open and Small Business), Applications Services (Full and Open and Small Business) and Enterprise Integration and Service Management contracts. All contracts have been awarded and are open for use to Air Force and Department of Defense customers. Benefits of using the contracts, such as strategic sourcing, cost avoidance, and enforcement of technical compliance and standards were highlighted. Details of the individual contracts were discussed. Current ceiling values were relayed to management along with goals that have been met by the contracts. Worth mentioning are the Small Business goals that have been accomplished for the BES Directorate. Air Force Small Business goals for FY15 were set at 33% of contracts and BES Directorate came in over that total with a resounding 41% of contracts being in the small business category. All contracts are being strongly used by Air Force customers and had a robust finish in FY15. Even with three of the contracts recently being awarded in 2015, the total values of all task orders issued on all contracts has exceeded \$2B.

33% of contracts awarded in FY15 were in Small Business Category

C-17 Flight Simulator Training for Wingman Day at Wright-Patterson AFB, OH

By Mr. Glen Janus—AFLCMC/HIB

Wright-Patterson AFB, OH — The HIBB Wingman Day included a tour of the C-17 flight training center at Wright Patterson AFB. The 445th Airlift Wing opened its C-17 training center July 16, 2013. The fully-operational C-17 training center, which includes classrooms along with the hi-tech simulators, is one of just 12 in the United States providing 445th pilots and loadmasters with vital training tools needed in gaining currency, proficiency, and experience. The system can link in with other weapons system trainers across the Air Force for cross-mission training. Flight simulators save the Air Force money while providing realistic and effective training. Each hour of training in the simulator saves 3,000 gallons of jet fuel.



TSgt Jamie Harrell, Mr. Jason Trout, Mr. Lucas Bittick, & 1Lt Brian Stenger

In addition to the tour, four lucky members of team HIBB were fortunate to fly the simulator. Mr. Jason Trout, TSgt Harrell, Mr. Lucas Bittick, and 1Lt Stenger were selected to fly the simulator and were thrilled with the experience.

Each hour of training in flight simulators saves 3,000 gallons of jet fuel

Information Technology Commodity Council— Leveraging Buying Power for Airpower

By Mr. Raheem McCormick—AFLCMC/HIC



MAFB—Gunter Annex, AL — ‘Tis the season for great holiday bargains for those seeking money saving deals for loved ones. However, did you know that the acquisition professionals of the IT Commodity Council (ITCC) are making that happen enterprise wide for our AF warfighter on a daily basis? If not, then allow me to provide a peek into how ITCC personnel are making this happen every day.

The ITCC is the AF enterprise focal point for strategically sourced IT commodity products. Our span of products include desktops, laptops, ruggedized notebooks, displays, cellular devices, and printing and imaging devices, just to name a few of the product types offered under the three major programs: Client Computing and Servers (CCS), Cellular Services and Devices (CSD), and Digital Printing and Imaging (DPI). We accomplish our mission by leveraging the full enterprise buying power of the Air Force through strategically sourced contracts or agreements with companies that can provide worldwide support, and that helps us drive down prices significantly lower, while improving technological capabilities. The ITCC obtains prices that are highly competitive with pricing that you may see at Best Buy, GSA, or even Amazon.com for much less capable systems. In doing so, we put economic power directly back into the hands of the leadership who have to make tough financial decisions in this time of government austerity to enable Air, Space, and Cyberspace Warfighting dominance over our adversaries.

But how is this done? To be simplistic, it is done by targeting product specifications to a few products rather than a wide range of products. Economies of scale help to obtain the very best pricing. In addition, the Quantum Enterprise Buy (QEB) process used under CCS restricts the available product per category to only one vendors product. Since the winning vendor essentially gets 100% of the orders during the QEB buying cycle, the vendor can offer their best price. The combination of large volume ordering with a

sole product provider gives the Air Force exceptional pricing for the most current technological products. A similar process is used for the DPI single-function printer categories. It is not uncommon to obtain 40-50% savings off the GSA prices. By the way, the QEB process is the best-in-class commodity sourcing approach in the federal space.

Who does the work? The ITCC is made up of market experts within BES that work with MAJCOM representatives developing IT specifications and other requirements for meeting AF Warfighter IT needs, including security requirements for connection with the AF Information Network. During this process, extensive market research is conducted to understand areas of trade space that deliver the most technological capability at the best possible prices. Products are awarded to both large and small vendors with products posted on AFWay. This provides a streamlined ordering process for our users to reduce their acquisition complexity and lead time.

Over the past few months, the ITCC has been working extensively to put more advance technology at your fingertips. Under CCS, the ITCC has been working closely and collaboratively with the Air Force Enterprise Configuration Management Office to ensure the new Windows 10 operating system is available for the QEB 2016 buying cycle that will run from 1 February 2016 through 31 December 2016. The ITCC is also working with MAJCOM and vendor representatives to better structure the DPI printer portfolio. Our CSD program is jointly managed with the Army and they are diligently preparing the next set of contracts.

The ITCC makes IT commodity savings a year round process. The diligent work by IT professionals in the BES Directorate supporting the Air Force mission gives the Air Force the best gift possible and ensures the Warfighter has the latest technology with the most secure capabilities available.

**The ITCC makes
IT commodity
savings
a year round
process**

Honoring Operations Division Female Leadership

By Amn Hannah Silveira—AFLCMC/HIZ



(Pictured L-R): SrA Lauren Robinson, SSgt Natasha Washington, TSgt Helen Means, CMSgt Lori Kelly, Col Kyna McCall, Ms. Mary Davis, Maj Monica Gramling, Capt Lori Granger, and 1Lt Kim Marshall

MAFB-Gunter Annex, AL — Though the phrase may go, “some are born great, some become great, and others have greatness thrust upon them,” the reality is that most become great. While carrying the weight of responsibility, ordinary people grow strong, building themselves into leaders. The Business and Enterprise Services Operations Division is fortunate to have an all female leadership. In honor of Women’s History Month this quarter, we shine a spotlight on these women and how they contribute to the Operations Division’s mission. The entire Air Force is comprised of only 19.1% women and the Operations Division may have snagged the very best.

Chief of Operations, Col Kyna McCall; Deputy, Ms. Mary Davis; and Superintendent, CMSgt Lori Kelly, serve at the head. These women are three power houses who are driven by their equally impressive three branches: HIZA—Network Operations, HIZB—Enterprise Support, and HIZC—Mission Support. As a whole, the Operations Division is responsible for the Network Control Center, Cybersecurity, Mission Support, and Air Force and DoD Enterprise level support through the Air Force Directory Services and Air Force Systems Networking programs.

Network Operations is led by Maj Monica Gramling, who joined the Air Force seeking opportunity, but found the longer she served, the greater the adventure awaited. To keep Network Operations churning, she focuses on mission moments, reminding herself that each action, no matter

how insignificant it may seem, affects a larger purpose. That is a part of the lesson she wants all Airmen to remember. “We are never off duty, we are always accountable, what may seem unimportant during time off, may have negative consequences or positive impacts on our careers.”

Capt Lori Granger is coming upon her one year mark serving in her current position as the head of Enterprise Support dealing with IT acquisitions, also leading two Enterprise level programs. In such a unique field, she reflects, “relative to the civilian world, I have it pretty good....I’ve never had to fight for equal pay or responsibilities to those of a male with equal rank.” She advises to, “take care of your people and let them take care of the mission.” It is well known that she is someone who works alongside with, and stands behind, her troops.

The Mission Support branch falls under 1Lt Kimberly Marshall. In joining, she found the Air Force to be the most genuine in their recruitment process. “They truly sought the best and didn’t want those who weren’t dedicated.” Along the way, she learned to understand the value of operations, to include, what is actually important for the mission, who needs to get it done, when a leader should step in, and when a leader should let subordinates lead themselves. At the end of the day, she has no set mantra because each situation is different. She advises, “if you rely

Honoring Operations Division Female Leadership

(Continued from Page 7)

on the Core Values and put in honest effort, it will show.”

Excellence does not stop at the top of the Operations Division, instead, it flows through the ranks inspiring Airmen to work hard for their leaders and encouraging leaders to stand up for their Airman. The following three Airmen were selected as being stand out members of their community and organizations.

SrA Lauren Robinson, in Network Operations, is the senior Airman at the Network Control Center and takes on an extra role as a mentor while also being a main System Center Configuration Manager administrator that sends out critical base-wide computer updates. She embodies the Core Values while maintaining a comfortable, productive work space while urging others to reach their potential.

SSgt Natasha Washington, in Enterprise Support, values the comradery of the Air Force and finds it to be the most fulfilling part of being an Airman. She serves as her unit's Booster Club President to get to know her coworkers better and to use her position to increase morale and better serve her Airmen. She was described as being “a true NCO who sets the bar high.”

Lastly, is TSgt Helen Means in Mission Support. When stepping into her cubicle you are greeted with a quote of the week, such as, “No excuses, just do it!” She clearly takes her own advice. Even with four children, she still finds time to give back to the community participating in feeding the hungry and providing care item such as blankets and clothing for the homeless. Her advice to others who plan on staying in the Air Force is to “study, study, study and of course, use your mentors—assets lose value if not utilized!”

After interviewing these six Airmen, I walked away with an understanding that each may have a different rank and a different role, but each one has the same goal—to accomplish the mission as best they can. They exemplify the Air Force Core Values and offer a wealth of lessons through their individual experiences. In the 68 years that women have been able to join the Air Force, there have been a variety of changes made to operations. Now with combat roles being opened to both genders, further opportunities are expanded for women to add to Women's History and the Air Force Heritage alike. Operations Division is fortunate to have such bright examples of excellence who motivate and mentor those around them all while supporting the mission.

Air Force Systems Networking—Supporting the Network Top To Bottom

By Mr. Bernie Goodrich—AFLCMC/HIZ

AFSN personnel provide critical services that give you the ability to do your job and access applications

MAFB-Gunter Annex, AL — You may not be aware there is an entity other than the Network Control Center within the AFLCMC/HIZ Operations Division whose mission can directly affect your ability to do your job. For over two decades, the Air Force Systems Networking (AFSN) office has provided the depth of diverse knowledge and expertise required to successfully engineer, implement/install, and help sustain, the Air Force network from the base to the Enterprise (Air Force) level. AFSN played an integral role in the establishment of the 16 Air Force Gateways. These Gateways provide an “Enterprise” or “Air Force” network level security boundary. In 2013, AFSN was an important implementation partner in the modernization of the Air Force Gateways which

greatly enhanced/increased the network performance of the security boundaries. Today, AFSN continues to provide sustainment. Two very important responsibilities AFSN has, as part of its network support mission, are the Air Force Internet Protocol (IP) and Long Haul Communications Management. Both are essential to you and your application users, as they provide host or network identification, location address (IP address), and the transport means (Long Haul communications circuits) through which your software releases are delivered and your system users access their required applications. Without AFSN personnel providing these two critical services, the ability for you to do your job, and the user's ability to access their

Air Force Systems Networking—Supporting the Network Top To Bottom

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applications, would become seriously encumbered or nonexistent. Breaking it down even further, perhaps on a more personal level, without these services, you would not have email nor would you have internet access.

AFSN personnel provide “soup to nuts” network project implementation support services. These include, design, design review, site surveys, project technical and management documentation as well as site acceptance testing and documentation post installation. AFSN does this in support of AFLCMC/HNI (Global Combat Support System) project implementations, as well as, for the Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA) Joint Regional Security Stack (JRSS) project.

In support of AFLCMC/HNI, AFSN project managers, engineers and technical personnel are engaged in the implementation of the Base Information Transport Infrastructure (BITI) Recapitalization Program. BITI is a two pronged program that provides a secure infrastructure for both wired and wireless environments. It includes features like intrusion detection and monitoring. It also provides central administration which incorporates high-availability and multi-tiered network administration for

entry into base local area networks (LAN) at Air Force bases worldwide. Over the past year, AFSN has conducted six site surveys at bases in four countries and two US territories. AFSN also completed the first AFSN-led BITI installation at US operating location in the middle of the Indian Ocean. This location serves as a staging area for military operations in the CENTCOM area of responsibility. The AFSN installation team installed and configured nearly one million dollars’ worth of base network equipment in 12 days across 25 separate base facilities. All devices were configured to DISA Security Technical Implementation Guide (STIG) requirements. The team accomplished this with no reported anomalies during the upgrades, and little or no downtime to the user.

From the enterprise down to the base level, AFSN plays an all important role in ensuring Air Force networks provide enhanced and secure capability, and maximum availability, in support of the Air Force mission to “Fly, Fight, and Win!”



AFSN Team Members

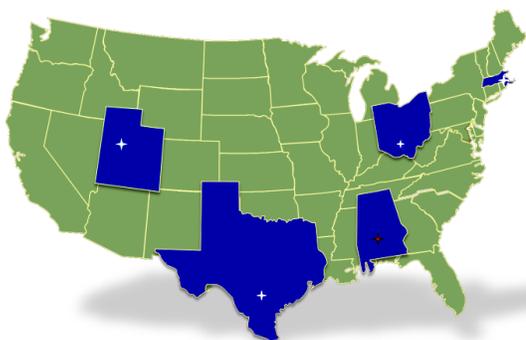


BES At A GLANCE

MISSION

Acquiring, operating, sustaining & enabling enterprise IT capabilities while accelerating the modernization of infrastructure to support the warfighter across the spectrum of combat & mission support...

**Driving IT Acquisition Reform...
 Enabling EVERY AIRMAN to...
 Aim High...Fly—Fight—Win!**



2,300+
 Officers, Enlisted,
 Civilians, & Contractors
Across 5 States

**Alabama, Ohio, Texas,
 Massachusetts, & Utah**

**BES is the leader
 for the
 Air Force Community & DoD...
 Delivering comprehensive IT solutions
 & providing expert contracting, acquisition,
 & program management**

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